

"I may need your help with something. "She straightforwardly stated her purpose.

"Oh? With what?" He tried to act nonchalant, but his heart was on the verge of exploding. One had to know that Li Lanni was usually cold to him. Yet today, she had not only actively sought him; she was even asking for his help? This must be a dream!

Unaware of the turmoil in a certain person's heart, Li Lanni proceeded to ask, "You mentioned before that you are in good terms with people from Star Art International. If it's not troublesome, please help me set up a meeting with Vice CEO Si."

"That's doable, but why do you want to meet her?" The only reason he could think of was that Li Lanni wanted to go to Star Art International, but since she won that contest, she should have received that opportunity naturally, shouldn't she?

"It's for my friend." Li Lanni said, understanding his train of thought.

"Mmh." Ji Xiehan was a little disappointed that she was not seeking help for herself but for someone else. But he still took out his personal phone and dialed a number.

"What do you want?" As soon as Jiang Xingyu lifted the phone, he impatiently asked.

"Get to my office right this instant." Ji Xiehan hung up with just a few words, not giving his friend the chance to refute.

Li Lanni looked on curiously. Did he call Si Yulin?

If he did, then she would have to admire him. He could even order the Vice CEO of Star Art International around with just a few words.

Jiang Xingyu didn't waste time. He whined his way into Ji Xiehan's office within half an hour.

Jiang Corporation building was just close by, and he knew that Ji Xiehan wouldn't seek him so urgently for trivial matters, so he hurried over thinking that there might be some urgent matter.

"Yo, what do you want from me? I have already satisfied your...request..."

The whiny Jiang Xingyu froze, his eyes widening when he saw Li Lanni in his office.

Ji Xiehan was uncomfortable. Even though she is beautiful enough to freeze people into statues, she is his, alright? Is that reaction really appropriate? Stop looking at her... Jiang Xingyu!

Jiang Xingyu finally felt the dagger-like glare and snapped back. I was only looking at her, jeez! Why does he have to overreact?

If Ji Xiehan felt uncomfortable about Jiang Xingyu's gaze, obviously Li Lanni would feel even worse.

Nonetheless, she remained silent. From this man's casual entry, he must be Ji Xiehan's close friend. Pfft. As expected, one is recognized by the company one keeps. Perverts would only befriend fellow perverts.

If Ji Xehan had known Li Lanni's thoughts, he sure would have seethed with rage. He was innocent, okay! He was not a pervert. How could he be compared to that asshole Jiang Xingyu?

Of course, as Ji Xiehan was not aware of her thoughts, he could only be silently degraded by Li Lanni in her mind.

Ji Xiehan coughed and looked at Li Lanni. "This is Jiang Xingyu. You can discuss the matter with him."

"Jiang Xingyu? CEO Jiang?" Li Lanni was in disbelief. She had only wanted to meet the Vice CEO of Star Art International, but this guy brought the big boss of the mother company? How efficient...

Since he was already here, Li Lanni took out the drafts she had brought. Her first impression of Jiang Xingyu was much worse than what she thought of Ji Xiehan. She didn't want to have a private meeting with him, so she asked for Ji Xiehan's permission to discuss in his office.

It was no private matter, so Ji Xiehan let them use part of his office while he checked some documents that he had allowed Qiao Luna to bring. That's precisely what Ji Xiehan secretly hoped for too. Using this as an excuse, he could spend time with his Lanni though there was a third wheel in between, which couldn't be helped. All was normal until Li Lanni presented Cheng Yu's drafts to Jiang Xingyu. His mind was ablaze with questions, and he couldn't hold them in anymore. "What's your name?" Li Lanni was stunned by the sudden shift of focus, but she answered, "I already said, my name is Li Lanni." Jiang Xingyu scrutinized her with all his curiosity piqued. "CEO Jiang, is something the matter?" She felt goosebumps on her skin under his gaze. No one would feel comfortable under that gaze, okay? Jiang Xingyu understood that he had gone overboard with his gaze and coughed to avoid his embarrassment. "Little girl, do you know Cheng Yu?" Li Lanni frowned but still answered. "Yes, she's my friend." "You went to the same school?"

Jiang Xingyu had 'I knew it' written all over his face. "Which high school did you go to?"

"Is this an interview?" Li Lanni asked uncomfortably.

"Yes."

Ji Xiehan, who was eavesdropping from the side, glared at him. He was annoying his Lanni. "No, of course not." Jiang Xingyu laughed awkwardly, realizing he was scaring Ji Xiehan's little beauty. Li Lanni knew that this guy would most likely investigate her if she didn't answer, so she answered it. "Royalty High School." Jiang Xingyu frowned, his mood significantly changing. That girl didn't go to Royalty High School. And Li Lanni didn't look like she was lying. After a series of thoughts, he decided the answer still lay in Cheng Yu. "Can you help me meet Cheng Yu? I like her paintings." Li Lanni was relieved that they were finally back to the main point. "I will tell her about it." "Okay." Although it was concluded, Jiang Xingyu still felt there was more to this girl. There was no way such shocking coincidences existed in real life. Even if Moonlight was a coincidence and Cheng Yu was a coincidence too, Li Lanni would be something else.

in one of those imaginary fictions about parallel worlds, it couldn't happen.

How could two different people have the same characteristics as well as the same friends? Unless it was

Li Lanni was still wondering why Jiang Xingyu hadn't stopped scrutinizing her when another question came. "Has Cheng Yu ever lost her memory or changed her identity?"

This was getting overboard now. "I don't know." Li Lanni replied with a blank face.

Jiang Xingyu then significantly lowered his tone and carefully asked. "What about you?"
"Huh?"
"Have you ever lost your memory?"
Chapter 72 - Have You Gone Crazy?
Not just Li Lanni and Ji Xiehan, even Qiao Luna, who had just arrived with a new stack of documents, was shocked.
"Enough!" Ji Xiehan couldn't stand it anymore. Even a fool wouldn't interrogate his friend's wife that way!
Jiang Xingyu understood that he had crossed the line, and awkwardly apologized, "I'm sorry, I went a little overboard."
Li Lanni's mouth slightly twitched. A little? CEO Jiang, you are being too humble. You went way too overboard!
Even so, she smiled modestly to express that it was alright. But, in her brain, she had already killed Jiang Xingyu a thousand times and was concocting a revenge plan. One day when she had the opportunity, she would make him regret interrogating her.

As she was already done with the negotiation, not wasting any more time, Li Lanni hurriedly slipped away. Damn it! That white-haired pervert was dangerous, but his friends were even more dangerous!
As soon as Li Lanni left, Ji Xiehan sent Qiao Luna away and glared daggers at his friend. "What was all that about?"
"Don't look at me like that! I was only asking a few questions to confirm my suspicions." Jiang Xingyu urgently defended himself. He felt that if looks could kill anyone, he would have been brutally murdered by his friend.
Ji Xiehan continued glaring at him wordlessly, so Jiang Xingyu could only explain helplessly, "There are too many obscure facts regarding my Little Xia. There are too many coincidences, and your Lanni is tied up with almost all of them."
Ji Xiehan still stared at him with a blank face, not buying his explanation. Looking at his friend's expression Jing Xingyu understood that he did not believe in him. He awkwardly coughed and revealed. "Ahem, well Little Xia was Xiao Yu's best friend, and they both disappeared at around the same time."
Ji Xiehan finally had a reaction. "So, have you proved that Cheng Yu is this Little Xia you speak of? If so, stay away from my Lanni. You have already scared her enough."
Jiang Xingyu looked extremely troubled then he sighed. "This is where a ticking time bomb lies."
"What do you mean?" Ji Xiehan felt something terrible coming.

"I trailed Cheng Yu last night and confirmed that she is Xiao Yu, not little Xia as you think."

Ji Xiehan's spine went cold as he stared at Jiang Xingyu with a blank face. "What are you trying to say?"

Jiang Xingyu didn't want to say this either, but it was real, and the sooner they faced it, the better it would be for them. "I don't know why she doesn't recognize me nor why her temperament has changed, but I just confirmed that Li Lanni is Little Xia."

The pen in Ji Xiehan's hand snapped in half. "What?!"

Li Lanni, was that girl? Ji Xiehan didn't usually care about his friends' private matters, but what the heck was this?

His little beauty was Jiang Xingyu's Little Xia?

"You must have gone crazy from looking for her. There's no way my Lanni can be some Little Xia you lost!"

Jiang Xingyu looked even more lifeless. "I don't want to believe it either. But can two people have similar characteristics, including their looks? Not even cloning can produce that result. There's only one truth."

Ji Xiehan was losing it. "Just two days ago, you were looking for Cheng Yu because of her painting. Isn't it because that painting called moonlight was made by this Little Xia you speak of?"

Jiang Xingyu frowned. "You must have misunderstood something. "Moonlight" was Little Xia's painting, but it was gifted by her best friend Xiao Yu, and it was more important to her than anything else. I only wanted to look for Cheng Yu because I believed that if she is really the same Xiao Yu from back then, she would know where Xia is."

Thinking of something, he took out his phone and looked for that painting before mumbling. "Eyes like the moon, soul like the stars but a personality like a sun. This statement was Xiao Yu's way of describing Little Xia. Don't you think it matches Lanni?"

Ji Xiehan's eyes darkened when he thought about it. Eyes like the moon... if that was meant to describe Li Lanni's eye color, then the description was correct.

But what about the latter two?

A soul like the stars? A personality like a sun? What the heck was that?

As though reading his mind, Jiang Xingyu continued, "I don't know what 'soul like the stars' means either. But 'personality like the sun,' surely you have always described her this way too. She can be warm sometimes, but when someone crosses her bottom line, she can be fatally dangerous."

"I never said Lanni is like that." Ji Xiehan denied.

"But Xia is."

"That's Xia. Not Lanni."

Actually, he was in disbelief too. He would never accept that the girl he had fallen in love with could be his best friend's love who appeared and disappeared mysteriously.

In actual fact, he had never met that girl. All he knew was that Jiang Xingyu had fallen in love with a girl who he described to be "so beautiful that even angels would die of jealousy." He and Lin Jian didn't believe his nonsense, so they had spent days mocking him and laughing at his insane exaggeration. Out of frustration, he promised to let them see her.

But on the day he was going to introduce her to his friends, that girl simply vanished. Not only that, but Jiang Xingyu also couldn't find anything about her no matter how hard he tried. It was as though the girl didn't exist to begin with.

He and Lin Jian had then believed that it was all made up. But now... he was claiming that the so-called beauty from another universe was his Lanni? Preposterous!

He was starting to think that Jiang Xingyu might have a loose screw in his head.

Jiang Xingyu was pissed off now. Won't you accept it? "Fine. You don't believe me? Then look at this."

He searched for a long time before finding a picture in one of his social media posts from more than a year ago.
The man in the picture was Jiang Xingyu, and a girl was clinging onto his arm, she was wearing a cute white dress and looked like a teenager. If he didn't trust his friend's morality, Ji Xiehan would have believed that the girl wasn't legal yet.
But the most shocking thing was that girl was
"Lanni?!"
Chapter 73 - Ji Xiehan's Little Beauty Is Jiang Xingyu's Little Xia?!
Ji Xiehan couldn't believe what he saw in the photo. He was shocked beyond words.
Ji Xiehan carefully scrutinized the girl. There was no way he would believe that this girl was Lanni. But no matter what angle he looked, it was her. Whether it was her eyes, her nose, her neck, or her ears, it was the same. Even the estimated height was the same. The way the girl smiled was also similar. He thought of countless possibilities but eliminated them one at a time until he had no choice but to face reality. The girl indeed was Li Lanni. He was forced to accept that he and his best friend had fallen in love with

the same woman. No wonder the way Jiang Xiehan stared at Li Lanni earlier was odd. He looked at Jiang

Xingyu in askance, but he had, 'I told you so' written all over his face.

'What the..." His brain froze for a second; he did not know what to say.

Looking at his friend's dumb expression, Jiang Xingyu wanted to say something to comfort him, but he too didn't know what to say. Minutes passed. Both of then stared at each other, each wanting to say something but not knowing how to say it.

Unaware of the storm she had just created, Li Lanni continued her life normally.

Star Art International was very efficient; on Wednesday morning, they delivered Cheng Yu's admission contract to Li Lanni's home.

Li Lanni was very excited when the butler gave her the contract. She could not wait to tell Cheng Yu the good news.

But there was a slight, no, a huge problem. She had forgotten to tell Cheng Yu her intention!

Training at Star Art International would start from tomorrow. How could Cheng Yu prepare for training within one day? But she couldn't be blamed. She wasn't sure that she would secure this contract for her friend. If she shot her mouth off and failed, it would only bring more pain to Cheng Yu, who was still nursing her disappointment. She could only tell her about it today. Luckily it had arrived before she left for school.

Li Lanni kept the contract in her bag and left the house excitedly. Since early in the morning, her mother was already busy painting, so she didn't disturb her.

Li Lanni eagerly wanted to share the news with her friend, so she reached school early. When Li Lanni arrived, only Cheng Yu was there.

Li Lanni sighed in relief, 'Fortunately, Cheng Yu also came early today.' But for some reason, today, Cheng Yu didn't look well. She was absentmindedly stroking a paintbrush over the canvas before her. She didn't even seem to notice that she had smudged the painting.

"Are you alright?" Li Lanni asked as she pulled a chair to sit beside her, concern written all over her face.

"I'm alright." Cheng Yu answered half-heartedly.

"Is it about your parents again?" Li Lanni asked cautiously.

Cheng Yu sighed. Since she had already been exposed, she might as well come open with it. More importantly, she needed nothing more than a pair of ears to listen to her and a shoulder to lean on. "It couldn't be about anything else. I refused to withdraw from the art class, so we were already in bad terms. Then I failed in my only way to prove myself to them. Now they're using the hard way. They have given me an ultimatum. If I don't drop out of the art class, they will discontinue my learning."

"That's so absurd. How could they fall so low to threaten you?" Li Lanni felt bad for Cheng Yu. How could they do such a thing?

Cheng Yu had already given up on convincing her parents. She let out a chuckle self mockingly. "It's not a threat. They will do it if it means proving to me that I'm nothing without them."

Li Lanni's heart ached when she saw Cheng Yu chuckle self mockingly. She couldn't bear to see Cheng Yu sad. She quickly took the contract out of her bag and presented to Cheng Yu, "Forget about them. Look what I have got for you."

Cheng Yu curiously opened the contract and was greeted with Star Art International on top of the page. She was dumbstruck for a while when she saw that it was an admission letter for her. She woke up from the daze when she heard Li Lanni say, "Don't worry, you are still something without them. Congratulations! You are now a trainee at Star Art International! Go through the contract once and sign your name on it. I am sorry I didn't tell you this earlier..."

"Ah!!!" Li Lanni was still rambling when Cheng Yu jumped from her seat and screeched in excitement. She suddenly hugged Li Lanni. "You're not kidding! You're not kidding, right?"

Li Lanni was shocked by Cheng Yi's sudden outburst. She quickly shushed her. "Cheng Yu, keep it down."

There was no one aside from them in class because they were early, but that didn't mean someone wouldn't come in.

"Lanni, I really have been admitted to the Star Art International! HahahaI can't believe it! I really can't believe it! Lanni, you really made my day. I can't stop myself from being excited over it!" Chen Yu continued with her musings. Her mood was a stark contrast to what it was before a few seconds. Li Lanni was also happy for her friend and waited for her to stop shrieking before continuing where she had been interrupted earlier. "Yes, you really received an admission letter from Star Art International, but the training lessons start tomorrow. Will you be able to prepare for it?"
Cheng Yu's excitement was still at its peak and shrugged it off. "What about it? I would be ready even if they started right now!"
Li Lanni chuckled. Well, she had been worried about nothing.
After a few minutes of doing a few happy dances, Cheng Yu finally calmed down and thought about it carefully.
"What's wrong?" Li Lanni asked when she suddenly saw her frowning.
"Lanni, how did you get this contract?" Cheng Yu asked carefully.
Chapter 74 - Lanni's Past (1)
"I had a meeting with people from Star Art International." She answered vaguely, mainly because she didn't want to talk about Jiang Xingyu. She didn't want to remember him.

Cheng Yu was even more convinced by her previous hypothesis. "Lanni, although I really want to go to Star Art International, I want to use my own abilities. You didn't need to bother your mom about this."

Li Lanni tittered. So the girl thought that she had used her mother's name to secure the contract for her?

One had to know that as long as it was anything related to painting, Li Yuming's name was akin to having a cheating machine. There was no request Star Art International wouldn't fulfill. They would totally overlook everything else.

But Li Lanni didn't want to use this approach because she knew what her friend was thinking. Seeing that she was right, a smile escaped her lips as she hugged the helpless girl. "Don't worry! I didn't ask my mom for help. In truth, I only presented your drafts to someone in Star Art International, and they liked it, so they sent this contract to me. This should be considered using your own abilities, right?"

"Really?" Cheng Yu felt flattered that people from Star Art took an interest in her work. No wonder Li Lanni had taken many of her drafts the day before. She had thought that Li Lanni only wanted to admire them.

"Thanks, Lanni. I can't express my gratitude in words." Cheng Yu felt indebted to her.

"Xiao Yu, we are friends."

Cheng Yu was stunned. Li Lanni had not addressed her so intimately in a long time.

But this name did remind her of something that had almost slipped her mind.

"Lanni, about..."

Just as she was about to speak, Li Lanni's phone rang.

Li Lanni excused herself before cautiously answering. It was an unknown contact number, but she had an inkling of who it might be.

"Lanni, have you already left home?"
When she heard that voice, she knew that she had been right. It was the pervert.
"Uhm. I'm in school."
Ji Xiehan sounded slightly dissatisfied. "The contract should be sent to you soon. Since you want to be in the same class as your friend, it might be too late if you only get it this evening. I'll ask them to send it to your school instead."
When she heard that he was concerned about making her and her friend happy, Li Lanni couldn't resist the smile that surfaced on her lips. So that pervert wasn't entirely useless. "Thank you for your concern, but I received the contract already."
Hearing this, Ji Xiehan was relieved. "That's good then."
"Thank you."
"Huh?" Ji Xiehan was shocked by the sudden expression of gratitude by Li Lanni.
Li Lanni unknowingly gripped her phone. "I forgot to thank you yesterday."
A light smile appeared on Ji Xiehan's face. He wouldn't feel this happy even if he signed a contract worth hundreds of billions. But how could he let go of such a golden opportunity? He sounded like he had bee dealt an enormous deal of injustice. "Lanni, is that all you have to say? A verbal thank you? Where is your sincerity?"
And so, Li Lanni was guilt-tripped yet again. She didn't like owing people.

When he didn't hear her say a word, Ji Xiehan was happy that he had achieved his goal, so he said,

"Have a meal with me this evening."

Li Lanni coughed. Just how much did guys like having meals with girls? First, it was Ah Chen and now Ji Xiehan?

But unfortunately, "I have an appointment this evening. Maybe we can reschedule it?"

The previous evening, she was mentally exhausted after leaving Feng Ji International, so she had asked Ah Chen to reschedule their dinner to today.

What kind of appointment would be scheduled in the evening? Ji Xiehan wondered.

It must be a dinner, and from his manly instincts, it had to be one of the same purposes as his. Someone must be trying to pursue his Lanni.

Gritting his teeth, he agreed to go on the next day before hanging up.

What the heck!

Why were there so many men going after his little beauty? Now, even his best friend had joined the queue. How troublesome. It seemed... he would have to step up his approach.

The call on Li Lanni's phone was like a wake-up for Cheng Yu. She had become too sentimental earlier when Li Lanni suddenly called her Xiao Yu. She was about to come clean and tell Lanni everything.

But now that she thought about it, that might have hurt Lanni's feelings. She wouldn't be able to beat it if Li Lanni got angry and stopped speaking to her. She was her best friend ever. Moreover, it wasn't an appropriate time to confess.

When Cheng Yu saw that Lanni was done with the call, she quickly adjusted her mood and hopped over to her and drowned with her so many why's, what's and how's regarding the upcoming training classes.

But while doing so, she secretly wondered if the person Li Lanni was speaking to just now was Ah Chen.

If it was Ah Chen, that would be good. Not many people knew it, but Cheng Yu was aware of Ji Xiehan's intentions towards Li Lanni.
Although he was respectable and all that, he was Ji Feifei's brother. Just for this reason, Cheng Yu didn't trust him either.
A snake could only come from a family of snakes. Since such a vile creature as Ji Feifei came from the Ji family, it said a lot about their child-upbringing skills.
That evening, Li Lanni had a meal with Ah Chen.
Contrary to her expectation, the guy was rather calm. He didn't bring up any unpleasant conversations, and they simply had their meal like normal friends would.
Li Lanni didn't know that while she was having a meal with a senior schoolmate, a certain someone was having a meal with her mother.
Who else could it be?
Chapter 75 - Lanni's Past (2)

Obviously, Ji Xiehan was the only man who could get within ten steps of Li Yuming.

Other mothers would be upset if someone pursued their nineteen-year-old daughter, but Li Yuming was, in fact, happy.

Don't get it wrong. She was only happy because the other person was Ji Xiehan. Anyone else would have been kicked out by her at the very least.

"Xiao Han, do you have something on your mind?" Halfway through the meal, Li Yuming realized that Ji Xiehan seemed nervous. It must be for this reason that he came to have dinner with her. Especially since he came when Li Lanni wasn't home, it wasn't hard to make a guess.

He smiled slightly. "Erm, yes. Aunty Li is sure attentive."

Li Yuming chuckled a bit. She was a mother. Of course, she would know. "What is it? You can tell Aunty anything."

Ji Xiehan thought about his words for a while, and after a few seconds of consideration, he decided that this was the best timing. "Aunty, can you tell me about Lanni?"

As soon as his words fell, Li Yuming's eyes widened then she set down her cutlery. A smile bloomed on her face.

Ji Xiehan knew that she had misunderstood the reason behind his question, but he didn't explain. She wasn't entirely wrong. He did indeed want to know more about her because he loved her. Only that this time, there was a more significant reason.

"What exactly do you want to know?" Li Yuming asked after calming her excitement.

Ji Xiehan calculated in his mind before slowly saying, "everything from a year ago... and a little more than a year ago maybe."

Li Yuming didn't think much about it. It was only reasonable for a man to single out a girl's adulthood. The childhood years wouldn't help much since she was still unreasonable anyway.

JiXiehan set down his cutlery and patiently waited for her to continue. But for some reason, Li Yuming was a little gloomy when she recalled that period. Or maybe she was just nostalgic. "Well, Lanni has always been sensible. She was quite popular in school, had many friends, and was as cheerful as a young girl can be. Not only that, but her grades have also always been excellent. As for outside school, nothing really fazed her."

"What about her relationship with people she was close to?" Ji Xiehan asked indirectly. He wanted to know if Jiang Xingyu and Li Lanni were really in a relationship.

Li Yuming only thought that he was curious about Li Lanni's previous relationships and was very amused. "Well, she did have a boyfriend for a while, a senior from her school. Their relationship started on a whim, and when they realized that they didn't really like each other, they became friends."

That must be Yang Su, Ji Xiehan thought. From his investigation, Lanni was with someone else when she had that accident. At this point, he gave himself a good scolding in his heart. He had already known that Li Lanni was with someone else at the time. Why did he still come to ask? It must be because that Jiang Xingyu made him overthink.

"Does she have amnesia?". Even though he knew that she did because he had investigated her a little, he felt obligated to ask as a good future son-in-law. He didn't want to leave a bad impression of himself before his future mother-in-law, so he ignorantly asked.

Li Yuming was a little sad. "She had an accident about nine months ago. It resulted in temporary amnesia. The doctors said she would recover her memory with time."

Ji Xiehan knew this too.

"Could you tell me more about this accident?"

Although she felt it was a little private, Li Yuming recalled her own suspicions. She had always believed that what happened at that time was not an accident but someone's attempt to hurt Lanni. But the

police had long closed the investigation because there was nothing to prove that it was not an accident. She knew that Ji Xiehan might be of help. If there were anything one mind couldn't solve, two minds would solve. And Ji Xiehan liked her Lanni so it shouldn't be a problem.

"I just said Lanni was always obedient and sensible, right? Well, that was until she turned eighteen. But later, she strangely got estranged to me. It's not the usual mother-daughter scuffle. She hated me to the core.

She didn't tell me why she did either. She only kept saying that I'm a liar, and her whole life had been a lie."

When Ji Xiehan saw the pain and sorrow in her eyes, he felt guilty. He wondered whether he had done the right thing by asking. He seemed to have jabbed a scar in Li Yuming's heart.

Li Yuming had kept it in for too long, and now that the wound had been opened, she really wanted to let it out. "Every day was a nightmare. She would lock herself up in her room and ignore everyone. She wouldn't tell anyone what was happening. As a mother, I just couldn't stand my daughter giving me the cold shoulder all the time. I really wanted to know what was going on, but she wouldn't even speak to me. I was worried that something had happened to her or that she might be in trouble. I was most concerned that she might fall into depression by keeping all her feelings to herself.

So I wanted to hire a therapist.

But then I realized that she had started meeting someone in secret."

Ji Xiehan's back went stiff. This must be where Jiang Xingyu came in.

"After meeting that person, she became happier.

She gradually stopped locking herself up. I was happy for her and happy that she was getting back to normal.

But that was simply the calm before the storm.



He wasn't being pessimistic. His sister had tried to hurt Li Lanni not once but twice, and he had discovered it both times. Added to this, it should be thrice. He really wanted just to go and kill her, but what could he do? She was his blood-sister.

He was sure that the damned girl knew that Li Lanni was going somewhere else but intentionally lied to Li Yuming. If things blew up, a pretentious actress like her would simply cry and say that she thought Lanni was going to her home, too.

And her only reason for lying could only be... she had a role to play in that accident.

It seemed... he had been wrong. He shouldn't have considered their blood relationship. He should have punished her when he had the chance.

But, wait, Li Lanni was going to the west?!

His home was not far from Li Lanni's, and neither was Jiang Xingyu's.

Wait! That idiot Jiang Xingyu had a private villa in a district in the west.

Was this a coincidence?

Ji Xiehan! You're focusing on a minor point. He berated himself before asking, "Who found them?" Was this where Ji Feifei came in?

"I don't know either. The cops said that it was a passerby who found them. But there is one thing that I wasn't able to understand until now and it doesn't make any sense to me. They said that she managed to crawl out of the car before she fell unconscious, but I went to the scene to check it out before it was cleared. If you saw that scene, you would know that it's impossible to get yourself out. The car door at her side was severely damaged, and it would be impossible to open it from inside using her strength alone. Not only that, but they also found a phone in the car. They thought it was Lanni's and gave it to me, but it was neither Lanni's nor her friend's. Someone must have dropped it there, and surely, people don't often walk into accident scenes, right? I believe there was one more person at the site of the accident, who had helped Li Lanni out of the car."

Ji Xiehan didn't know what to say. He had come seeking answers. But instead, he was rewarded with a head full of questions.
Was she really going to meet Jiang Xingyu that night?
If she was, why would she be with another man?
If she wasn't going to Jiang Xingyu's place, where were they going?
Who dropped that phone? Was it her savior?
Li Yuming finally said her speculations after a brief pause with a sigh. "I know this sounds ridiculous, but I think Lanni must have offended someone. I believe it was no way an accident. Someone really was after her life, and that person is still out there. He could come for her life again. Just this thought alone had me spend many sleepless nights in fear. And the person who helped Li Lanni out of the car, was he a friend or foe? Either he wanted to save her or take her away but wasn't able to do so, probably because some passerby was alerted by the accident. Or I maybe I'm just being too paranoid. But what can I do? She is my only daughter and my whole world."
Ji Xiehan also felt that the person was only helping Lanni. A foe would not use so much effort to get the victim out. Since there must be broken shards at the scene, why not stab her right away?
On the other hand, if that were someone who knew Li Lanni, he would obviously save her first. As for why he didn't save Yang Su, Ji Xiehan passed it off as a lack of time on the savior's part.
With a heavy mood, Li Yuming sent off Ji Xiehan.
On the way back, he started analyzing Li Lanni's accident.
From Li Yuming's narration about her accident, Ji Xiehan understood a few things.

Jiang Xingyu did not meet Li Lanni on that day. Jiang Xingyu's girlfriend also disappeared on the day Li Lanni had the accident. If Li Lanni was indeed his girlfriend, then her accident must be the reason why she didn't meet him again and her amnesia would explain why she didn't recognize him when she came to his company.

And the reason why Jiang Xingyu couldn't find her might be because she had been in a six month coma and Li Yuming had heightened the security around her.

But why did Jiang Xingyu keep calling Li Lanni 'Xia'? As he was wondering about it, he recalled something.

When he was a child, he had met Li Yuming's ex husband a few times and he remembered that his surname was Xia. That was most likely Lanni's father as well.

Did she use her father's surname? But why would she? She had never met her dad, right? Or had she?

Just how many secrets did his Lanni have?

And as for the person who helped Li Lanni out of the car, he shouldn't be a foe. Since he was a friend, he wouldn't bother to investigate him.

He had a more important task: to investigate Ji Feifei's involvement in the accident.

Chapter 77 - Lanni's Past (4)

He did not want to jump into conclusions regarding her involvement, but if she did really did have a role to play in Li Lanni's accident, then she would have crossed his bottom line. Until now, the only reason he had been sparing her was that she was his sister. But if he had any evidence regarding her involvement, he wouldn't care about this anymore.

If Ji Xiehan knew just how important that 'savior' was, he would not have tossed him aside so casually.

...

After he went home, he called Jiang Xingyu to his place to have a chat.

"Did you ask your Aunt Li about it?" As soon as Jiang Xingyu arrived, he threw a question at him, his tone laced with envy. Ji Xiehan had managed to get on Li Yuming's good side before he did. When he was obviously Lanni's first love...

He knew that being Li Lanni's love had nothing to do with anything. Li Yuming only favored Ji Xiehan because their families had been a bit close, and she had taken care of him a few times when he was a kid. This must be the only reason why they were close. But still, he couldn't help but grit his teeth in envy. If only he had been close to Li Yuming as a child too...

Ji Xiehan was unaware of his friend's jealousy, so he invited him to have a chat over a glass of wine and explained what he had heard from Li Yuming. He tactfully left out the overly sensitive details like how the accident seemed to be premeditated since Jiang Xingyu didn't need such details anyway.

When he was done, he asked, "Her name is Li Lanni. Why do you call her Xia?"

Jiang Xingyu seemed to recall something. "That's her surname. She said to call her Miss Xia and not ask about her first name. I didn't investigate her either because I respected her privacy."

Ji Xiehan nodded. It was indeed as he had thought. "What of her family?" He asked to confirm if his part was in line with what Li Yuming had said.

"When I asked to meet her parents, she became defensive, so I assumed she wasn't ready and stopped asking."

As though recalling something, Jiang Xingyu fidgeted in his seat. It was somehow unrelated to what they were talking about but at this point, even the slightest piece of information might be useful. "I always felt she had something on her mind. She was a bit... complicated. She had a bunch of taboo topics and would flip up if I tried to know her better. She rarely talked about anything personal, but a few weeks before she disappeared, she asked about you."

"Me?" Ji Xiehan was shocked.

Jiang Xingyu nodded. "Not you specifically, but your family in general. Apparently, your family had some past with her mother, and she thought you could help her answer some questions. I recommended that she ask your sister since they were of the same age, but she said..."

"You can just say it." Ji Xiehan knew it was not pleasant.

"She said Feifei was a pretentious b*tch, a backstabber and that she was the reason why her family could not reunite as well as the Ji family's future downfall." He could remember it word by word because it was the only time his little Xia revealed her thoughts in front of him.

"Heh. Is that so?" Ji Xiehan laughed.

When Jiang Xingyu heard his friend's laugh, for some reason, he felt chills down his spine. Was he being overly sensitive?

Ji Xiehan twirled his wine glass. So his Lanni wasn't that clueless. He had been worried that she would blame him if he did anything to Ji Feifei, considering their 'friendship'.

Then he figured out a problem.

That was in the past. Since she had lost her memory, what if she thought that Ji Feifei was her friend? He might need to warn her.

Obviously, he didn't know that even in the present, Li Lanni had long figured out Ji Feifei's motives and was currently weaving a trap full of vengeance.

After exchanging a few more pieces of information, Ji Xiehan looked at his friend. "It doesn't matter what happened between you and Lanni in the past. Since she has chosen to forget you, that's up to you. I'm still going to pursue her. Don't you force her to do anything."

Jiang Xingyu had expected this already. From what he had heard from Ji Xiehan before, he knew that his friend had fallen deeply in love with Lanni. It was the first time Ji Xiehan was showing interest in a woman. How could he let go so easily?

But the problem was, he loved her too, alright?

"But if she recovers her memory, remembers me and chooses to rekindle our relationship, you cannot force her into anything either." He finally said.

Ji Xiehan raised an eyebrow. Indeed, that statement troubled him. Li Lanni hadn't even shown interest in him yet. What if in her subconscience, she still loved Jiang Xingyu and wouldn't fall for another man? For some reason, he selfishly hoped she wouldn't recover her memory.

But he brushed that thought aside when he thought of their relationship and mocked his friend. "Even if she does remember you, you would be only an ex-boyfriend. Either that or she would remember you as a guy who she dated only on spur because she was emotionally low. After all, she didn't really tell you anything about herself. She even gave you a fake name. That goes to show how 'sincere' she was towards you."

Jiang Xingyu remained silent, but in his mind, he mocked, 'she hasn't told you about herself either. You had to ask her mother. Not just that, in her mind, you are even lower than an ex-boyfriend. You're a pervert.'

Of course, he loved his life very much, so he didn't dare to say this out aloud.



Li Yuming was pleased. Although she had bodyguards, she couldn't really trust them after what happened the last time. She had wanted to employ new ones, but that lad from the Ji family had decided to send over two of the most highly trained bodyguards. She had wanted to reject the offer, but this was about Li Lanni's safety, so she could only thank Ji Xiehan. But even then, they would start their work in two days. These two days were still important.

Since Lanni had promised to be careful, she felt relieved. Li Yuming dotingly rubbed her hair. Li Lanni's hair was quite soft and nice to the touch and over the years, Li Yuming had gotten quite used to rubbing it as a way of expressing her affection. "Your art classes in Star Art International start tomorrow. What do you think about it?"

"Nothing much." Li Lanni was indifferent. "It doesn't matter which class I go to, right? Cheng Yu is going with me so I won't be bored."

Her exam results would be out in a few days. After that, they would have a break before the next semester. Li Lanni was thinking of switching to online learning after that.

"Lanni," Li Yuming suddenly called.

"What is it, mom?"

Li Yuming tousled her daughter's hair, as though scared this might be the last time she was doing so. "Some things aren't always as they seem on the surface. You must always remember to think and never make decisions when you're not calm enough, alright?"

"Yes, mom." Li Lanni only took this as a mother educating her daughter. That was what mothers should do anyway, so she didn't overthink it.

"You must also remember that no matter what, mother loves you more than anything, and mother always wants the best for you."

This time, Li Lanni felt it was strange. "Yes, mom, but why are you telling me all this right now?"

Li Yuming flashed a gentle smile and brought Lanni closer into her embrace and kissed her forehead. "That's because I love my Lanni. Why can't I say it?"

Li Lanni knew this already, but it still made her happier. She also returned her mother's hug and said with a light chuckle, "Mom, you sound like a bride's mother parting with her daughter."

Her crazy analogy amused Li Yuming. "I just realized my Lanni is growing up so fast. There are only a few months before you turn twenty. You will soon start making decisions entirely on your own. Not long later, you might meet someone you like and get married; then, I will not be able to see you and hug you every day."

Li Lanni chuckled. Were all mothers so reluctant to see their daughters grow up?

Of course, she didn't know that her growing up was the least of Li Yuming's concerns. Her biggest fear right now was not that Li Lanni would grow up, but that when she recovered her memory, they might become estranged yet again. But then again, only by recovering her memory would Li Lanni be able to tell her what actually went wrong. There was no hiding from it.

"You have a long day ahead of you. Have a nice bath and go to bed early." Li Yuming tousled her daughter's hair again and let her go.

"Okay, mom. Goodnight." Li Lanni kissed her mother's cheek and ran off to her room upstairs.

The smile on Li Yuming's face slowly disappeared as she sighed. She could only hope that even after her daughter regained her memory, Lanni would sit with her and have a good talk with her.

The next day, Li Lanni arrived at Star Art International quite early. Cheng Yu arrived even sooner than her and was already waiting for her.

"Lanni, you're here." Cheng Yu chirped.

"You look super happy today. What's the good news?"

Cheng Yu passed over a white plastic bag. "My brother baked cookies this morning. I brought some for you."

Li Lanni was overjoyed. "Really? Thank you!" But she subconsciously touched her belly and grumbled, "But my mom especially made me breakfast this morning, and it was even so delicious. I'm stuffed already. What should I do?"

"Pfft. You must have eaten your IQ along with your breakfast. Of course, you can eat the cookies later, dummy!" Cheng Yu mocked jokingly.

On that happy note, the girls made their way into the building.

Their tutor had sent them temporary passes as well as maps of Star Art International on their phones. They knew where exactly to go.

When they reached the trainee department, they both halted when they saw two familiar faces.

"Ruby Chan and Cedric?" Cheng Yu was the first to express her surprise.

"It's understandable for Cedric to be here since he's an artist too. But what is Ruby Chan doing here?" Li Lanni whispered to Cheng Yu, puzzled.

Cheng Yu answered dismissively. "She must be here to spend her daddy's money. It's not like she hasn't done it before."

Li Lanni was amused. Why did it feel fun watching Cheng Yu mock Ruby Chan?

Chapter 79 - Let's Meet Up (2) It wasn't that she hated Ruby - they were not even familiar, to begin with, but Cheng Yu's expression when she mocked Ruby was just too hilarious. When Ruby Chan noticed them, she rushed over and naturally clung to Li Lanni's arm. "Lanni, I knew you would come. Now I won't have to worry about being bored amidst unfamiliar people." "Eer..." Li Lanni felt awkward. Was she considered familiar? "Come on. I'll show you something you will really love." Without waiting for Li Lanni's response, she simply dragged her away. The ignored Cheng Yu stomped. "She did that on purpose!" "Are you really going to get jealous of a girl over another girl? You do know that you're all girls, right?" A voice mocked beside her ear. Cheng Yu did not even bother to look who was speaking. She only expressed her displeasure. "Do you know what's the best scientifically proven method to have a long and peaceful life?" "I don't. What is it?" The man asked ignorantly. "Minding your own business."

The man chuckled. "But I want to mind your business. What should I do?"

Cheng Yu finally felt something wasn't right and turned robotically.
Cedric??!
What the heck was he doing here?
No, wait. He was speaking to her?
"Ahem" Cheng Yu would never let herself lose her cool in the presence of a man. "No wonder your painting skills have deteriorated. Turns out you've been spending more time poking your nose where it's least needed than painting."
Cedric was speechless as he watched her walk away. His painting skills had deteriorated? How come he didn't know that?

After looking for a while, Cheng Yu finally saw Li Lanni. Ruby Chan had plastered herself onto her like a kitten. It made one go speechless.
She wasn't so brainless as to be jealous simply because someone else had dragged Li Lanni away. It was only because the person was Ruby that she was cautious. After all, Ruby was Ji Feifei's friend. Who knew what she was up to?
She was just about to walk over when she saw someone that made her brain go ablaze.
Jiang Xingyu!
Her first reaction was to hide behind a wall.

Oh no Jiang Xingyu?
What the hell was he doing here?
If that man saw her, he would drown her with millions of questions that she was not ready to answer.
Just as she thought of what to do, she remembered an important fact: Star Art International was a subsidiary of Jiang Corporation.
She took deep breaths to calm down. He was just here for inspection.
He must be.
It had nothing to do with her; she was just overthinking it.
But in the next moment, her face froze. The man went right towards Li Lanni and Ruby Chan and naturally pulled Li Lanni aside!
The pitiful Ruby Chan was mercilessly shoved aside when she tried to stop him. Cedric, who was not far away, understandingly grabbed her elbow and left with her to the classrooms to not disturb their reunion.
Behind the wall, Cheng Yu closed her eyes tightly. This was getting out of hand. How could she forget such an important thing?
She had walked right into that man's turf and brought Li Lanni along with her!
This man didn't seem surprised to see Li Lanni. Had they already met?
Worst of all, Li Lanni had lost her memory. This was so not going to be funny. A war was going to erupt soon.

...

In another corridor, Li Lanni was shocked when Jiang Xingyu suddenly grabbed her hand and pulled her away.

"CEO Jiang?"

The man looked into her eyes then suddenly hugged her. "Xia, my Little Xia."

Li Lanni pushed him away violently, anger brimming in her eyes. "CEO Jiang, behave yourself!"

Jiang Xingyu looked even more emotional. "Sorry, I forgot. You didn't like being hugged in the past either."

Li Lanni growled in her heart. "I love being hugged, but only by my mom and my friend, alright!"

Jiang Xingyu kept a slight distance to avoid offending her. "Xia, I'm sorry. I misunderstood you all these months. I thought you had dumped me. I finally know what really happened. I'm sorry I didn't protect you well enough."

Li Lanni had initially thought that this man was simply misbehaving, but now she felt something was terribly wrong. She waved a hand in front of Jiang Xingyu's eyes. "CEO Jiang, are you okay? You may want to have your eyes tested. I'm Li Lanni."

Jiang Xingyu knew she would say this. "I know. But you told me your name was Xia. So I'll only call you that."

Li Lanni was stunned and gritted her teeth and replied seriously. "I suggest you get your brain checked along with your eyes."

Jiang Xingyu felt his heart break. But he understood that he couldn't rush things. He patiently told her, "I'll wait for you to recover your memory. Then you will remember me, okay?"

Li Lanni was tongue-tied. How did he know? Had he really investigated her? How dare he!

Before she broke down from not knowing what to do, Jiang Xingyu glanced at his watch. "Xia, I only wanted to take a glance at you. I have a meeting to attend in a few minutes. See you again."

Li Lanni didn't show it on her face, but she was relieved that the weirdo was leaving. That was one strange method of 'taking a glance'.

Ji Xiehan's friends were even more dangerous than she thought.

Speaking of Ji Xiehan, they were having a meal this evening, but he still had not told her the venue. Was he waiting for her to make a choice?

Wait. Did he just invade her thoughts again? What's wrong with her? She stood in a daze for a while.

...

Cheng Yu felt relieved that nothing serious had happened and only came out of hiding once Jiang Xingyu left. "Lanni, we'll be late for our first class. We don't want to leave a bad first impression." Cheng Yu quickly dragged the dazed Li Lanni away.

Li Lanni only returned to herself when she felt Cheng Yu dragging her away. She quickly brushed away her thoughts and followed Cheng Yu.. Both of them reached their designated rooms using the map provided.



"Hey! Why did you pinch me?" Cheng Yu complained.

Li Lanni was still making fun of her when she saw a tall man from the corner of her eye. Amid the young trainees, he looked totally out of place in his blue suit, but he was quite charming too.

Li Lanni was surprised when she saw him clearly. Ji Xiehan!?

The man casually walked up to them like it was the most natural thing to do.

"Hey, how was your class? Fun?"

"Quite fun." Li Lanni answered honestly. She may not be extremely interested in it, but at least it wasn't dull either.

Ji Xiehan was happy that she wasn't as cold as she usually was when she saw him. "Aunty Li asked me to pick you up."

"Huh?" Li Lanni was surprised. Why would her mother ask him to pick her up? Wasn't there a chauffeur?

Ji Xiehan wondered why he felt like Lanni's friend had something against him. She was practically glaring at him accusingly. If looks could burn, he might have been burnt down to ashes by Cheng Yu's heated glare. He ignored her and said to Li Lanni. "It doesn't make much of a difference. Besides, we agreed to have a meal today, right?"

"In the evening." Li Lanni reminded.

"We can turn it into lunch instead. In fact, it's a better option because Aunty Li will have my head if I let you stay out too late."

The way he made it sound... it was as though he and Li Yuming were so close that she was almost the outsider. Li Lanni was speechless.

Nevertheless, she agreed to have a meal with him; it didn't matter much whether it was lunch or dinner. And she also didn't want to be late again, since her mother had warned her, just the night before, to not stay out too late.

Ji Xiehan was overjoyed after recieving her consent and led them to his car.

He knew that Li Lanni would have loved to have this meal with Cheng Yu, too, but he wanted to have some time alone with her, so he didn't suggest it.

Cheng Yu very much wanted to stop Li Lanni from going to a lunch date with that bastard. But she couldn't say anything since this cunning fellow already had Li Yuming's consent. Thus, the displeased Cheng Yu was dropped home.

...

At the restaurant, Ji Xiehan ordered Li Lanni's favorite dishes naturally, as though he had known them for years.

Li Lanni wasn't too surprised. He must have asked Li Yuming beforehand. Nothing impressive.

Ji Xiehan couldn't think of the right topic to talk about without making her uncomfortable. She was still quite distant.

He was still racking his brains when he received a notification on his phone. He excused himself and took a look. It was a message from Qiao Luna.

Ji Xiehan couldn't help raising his brows. That woman was quite weird. On the one hand, she was seducing him, but on the other hand, she was helping him chase Li Lanni. As expected, she must have been seducing him under his father's orders.

Just now, she had reminded him that flowers and gifts were essential for a date. She must have guessed that he was going to find Li Lanni when he left the office. But whatever the reason, it did remind him of

something. Li Lanni didn't like flowers. She thought of them as a fake gesture, at least that was what Li Yuming had said. While Ji Xiehan racked his brain on how to have a decent conversation with her, Li Lanni excused herself and went to the washroom. He quickly used the chance to check on the fashion news using his phone. All women loved fashion, right? At least he would have a common topic to discuss with her if he talked about fashion. So he searched for news about clothing brands that were popular among girls of Li Lanni's age group. When she came back, he smiled at her. "I just saw that B&S will be holding a fashion show over the weekend. Do you want to go together? They must have some nice products that you will like." Li Lanni's eyes widened and she choked on her own saliva when she heard his words. As soon as the words left his mouth, Ji Xiehan remembered what B&S was. It was the nation's most famous underwear and lingerie brand! It was famed for producing the sexiest and most flimsy types of lingerie one could imagine. Ji Xiehan's face turned red; he had never embarrassed himself this badly. FML! What did he just say?! The first time he asked her out, he asked to go to a lingerie and underwear fashion show?

He had finally lived up to her nickname of him. He was now a true pervert.

Li Lanni's cheeks flushed at the thought of what he had just said, but when she looked at him...

Crap why did it feel like the pervert was quite handsome when he blushed?
Howcharming!
Li Lanni now understood why people said that Ji Xiehan was especially gorgeous . Now that she took a good look at him, none of that was a lie. Especially his eyes, they looked like they had the ability to draw people in like a vortex
Wait, what?!
Lanni, what are you thinking about?!