

## Daddy CEO 261

### Chapter 261 Another Cinderella Story

The next day.

Ran Xueyi couldn't see a shadow of the underworld princess the entire day. Her guts told her that Jian Yiling was up to no good again, but since she already agreed to let her do her makeup and dress her up, Ran Xueyi could only wait in the manor.

Meanwhile, Jian Yiling stayed up all night to contact some of her friends. Since the Royal Court Masquerade was a ball that was desired by many to attend, she couldn't let her dearest Ran Xueyi be looked down upon by the elites that will also attend the party.

Ran Xueyi was by no means any lesser than any one of them. So, naturally, Jian Yiling cannot let her wear simply, which Ran Xueyi liked to do often, in front of everyone else.

Around eight in the evening, Ran Xueyi was already sitting inside the dressing room, waiting for a certain someone to arrive. At exactly 8:10 P.M, Jian Yiling popped her head into the dressing room. She carried two dresses covered in plastic and a makeup bag with her other hand. Behind her back, a young man with brownish curls walked into the room with languid motion.

"Hello, hello! I'm back!" Jian Yiling didn't look like someone who was worried about being late. Well, in truth, she wasn't the one who's about to arrive at the palace late, but Ran Xueyi.

Ran Xueyi glanced at her from the mirror and sighed, "You're late. You only have 30 minutes to do your magic, Fairy Godmother."

The Fairy Godmother apologized profusely before Ran Xueyi could forgive her. Anyway, they don't have time to mess around now.

Jian Yiling didn't forget to introduce the young man who had come with her. She said, "This is Master Louis. He's a great makeup artist I've known a few years ago. I was late because I had to come and pick him up to help me make you the Belle in the masquerade."

A flash appeared in her eyes. Ran Xueyi heard of Master Louis. A makeup artist who can create a thousand faces by using makeup. He can make a person who lost their beauty look beautiful again.

If facial reconstructive surgery did not exist, he would be the only one who could make a person look like how they used to. Many people suffered from different circumstances that cost them their lives, but most of the time, some people were revived and survived the ordeal in their lives. However, in return, they lost one thing as compensation.

From what she heard, Master Louis was constantly chased after by people who wanted him to do their makeup. Even a doctor cannot rewind time and do a surgery that would restore a person's face completely. However, with his magical touch, Master Louis was able to do it, albeit only temporary and washable with water.

But that was enough for these people.

Now, that same person, who was chased by many people and paid millions of dollars for a single makeup session with him, was now standing in front of her.

She had to say, Jian Yiling was truly remarkable for being able to find him and let him do her makeup.

Master Louis glanced over At Ran Xueyi and merely raised an eyebrow. When Jian Yiling came rushing to his hideout, she kept on rambling that he should do her friend's makeup. At first, Louis didn't listen to her request. Even if Jian Yiling was a childhood friend he recently just reconnected with, he cannot give her so much credit and advantage.

'She's willing to become your last muse!'

With this, Louis' interest was finally aroused.

Only a few people knew about Louis' obsession with painting. He wanted to capture a person's struggle in life and paint it. He had a perverse obsession with mundane human desires and mythology. The last piece he wanted to paint was Psyche's Tears.

Only Jian Yiling knew that he had trouble painting his last piece for almost six years. Louis brushed shoulders with Ran Xueyi two years ago, but she never met him, it was only him, who got a glimpse of her.

Well, it wasn't really a glimpse, since he started to watch every movie she appeared in and became fanatical. He wanted her... She's his last muse.

Ran Xueyi did not know what Jian Yiling offered to Louis so he would do her makeup. She could only guess that it wasn't a simple request.

Sending Jian Yiling a suspicious gaze, Ran Xueyi really wanted to pull her outside and ask her what she offered.

Jian Yiling, slightly guilty for her momentarily blurting words without thinking, looked away uncomfortably. Though she abruptly told Louis that Ran Xueyi agreed to become his last muse, by the time he asks for it, she will tell him that she tricked him in passing.

Louis will be angered by the truth, but Jian Yiling could reduce the heat and distract. What she fears most is that Ran Xueyi would definitely behead her if she finds out the truth.

Wiping the sweat that slipped down her cheeks, Jian Yiling busied herself with arranging the dress she took from someone's collection.

Thirty minutes later.

The whole room did not make a sound. The sounds of breathing were the only sound that could be heard. Ran Xueyi slowly opened her eyes and looked in the mirror.

She finally knew why everyone was silent – the woman before her, inside the mirror, was undoubtedly still her. However, if nobody told her or she wasn't aware that she was looking at herself in the mirror, Ran Xueyi would even question herself if she was still looking at a human or not.

A beautiful being was born. The lashes she was extremely proud of were curled; framing the cat-shaped eyes and made it even look seductive without being too provocative like a vixen. The lips were shiny with gloss and looked like it was tempting you to taste it like a forbidden fruit in paradise.

The dress was even more extravagant.

A golden mini dress framed her petite figure, the curves were all displayed and an ample amount of her milky, soft cleavages were out in the open. The front bodice formed an X and feather-like

texture made it appear like it was made for angels to wear; the slightly voluminous skirt stopped at her mid thigh, but a pair of slender and pale legs peeked under it.

"Woah..." Jian Yiling couldn't stop admiring the look of her best friend. At this moment, she only realized that she has been holding her breath since earlier.

Louis calmly stared at the angel he created with a satisfied grin. He based her entire look with what he envisioned as Psyche, a mortal who was compared to Aphrodite because of her beauty. It was said that Psyche even made the goddess Aphrodite angry because she inevitably stole her worshippers away with only her beauty. People even said that she was even more beautiful than the goddess.

Naturally, Louis wanted Ran Xueyi to do the same "to steal everybody's breath.

Taking something out of his bag, Louis stood behind Ran Xueyi and gently put a golden sun halo crown on her head, perfecting the look. Sadly, they made haste to come here so he wasn't able to bring the fairy wings that would make the attire complete.

Nevertheless, her current look still adheres to the angel-goddess look that Louis wanted to show.

Ran Xueyi breathlessly stared at herself in the mirror for a few seconds. She looked a bit too beautiful and it was too dazzling. As much as she wanted to appreciate this look, she didn't want it to be this beautiful.

After all, she didn't want to go there with ambiguous intentions. She just wanted to make connections and meet the person who gave her the invitation card.

Moreover, who was to know the gender of that person.

It was alright if that person was a woman, but otherwise? Ran Xueyi didn't want the other person to think that she spent extreme effort to look beautiful.

Thankfully, the only life-saving grace was the ball needed everyone to wear masks. She wasn't too worried about people recognizing her since everybody was covering their faces.

"Maybe we can take off the crown and reduce a bit of my makeup?" Ran Xueyi tentatively said, which only received two glares from Louis and Jian Yiling.

"Are you crazy? If I was in your position, I would never ever wipe my makeup off and even wear that dress at my funeral!"

Louis also said, "Certainly not. Not under my watch..."

He finally got to create an image of what he wanted to paint. He wouldn't allow her to waste his energy and time he spent creating this masterpiece!

The expression on their faces could only be described as; if you say another word, we will skin you alive.

Thus, Ran Xueyi could only accept their arrangement.

It was nearing the time for the party. She only has a few minutes to arrive at the palace, thanks to the fact that the manor was located relatively close to it. Changing her entire appearance will absolutely take a lot of time.

And so, Ran Xueyi rushed to the palace as if this was another Cinderella story.

Chapter 262 Royal Court Masquerade (1)

The white van slowly drove to the asphalt streets. A crowd of reporters and journalists were already standing on the side with their notes, pens, and cameras out. Every one of them came out not to play around. Today was the Royal Court Masquerade, a ball in which only a few lucky people could attend by being personally handed an invitation letter. The rest of the guests, who didn't need to be given invitation cards, were of course, those of who belonged to the royal ancestries and relatives.

Several vans like the one Ran Xueyi was in lined up in front of the tall, metal gate that spread from one end to another. If one were to closely observe it, you wouldn't be able to find where the entire palace would start and end.

"Call me if anything happens. You will be staying in the Palace for a few days so be careful." The palace was already isolated from the outside world, only those who were given permission could stroll around as they wanted. Jian Yiling was worried that something would happen inside and she couldn't go inside when it happened.

Ran Xueyi withdrew her gaze from the crowd and turned to look at her instead. "I know. I'm not foolish enough to offend anyone inside the palace. So, you don't have to worry about me so much."

The true purpose of her attending the ball was to make connections as well as to find out the identity of the person who sent the card to her.

It would be detrimental if she ended up achieving neither and also offend someone inside the party. Ran Xueyi already knew this and didn't think she'd be stupid enough to do that too.

Fortunately, she could look around without exposing her identity for the first night of the Royal Court Masquerade since everyone has to wear their own masks and special attire.

"Make sure to call me, okay?"

"I will. Take care of Xiao Zhanzhan while I'm not there."

"Of course!"

The car soon stopped before the iron gates. Two guards wearing a specialized uniform stepped forward and knocked on the window.

Jian Yiling pulled down the window and showed the invitation card before pointing behind her, where Ran Xueyi was sitting.

The guards who checked that this was indeed an invited guest, slowly nodded their heads before making an okay gesture to the one pulling the gates open. The car drove past the iron gate and the guards as well as the crowds gathered outside. Nobody knew that a certain popular international actress was invited and entered the royal palace as a dignified guest.

If the world found out... it would make headlines and stay in the hot topic for several weeks for people to talk about.

"This is where we part. Make sure to take care of yourself," Jian Yiling repeatedly told her like a worried hen towards its chick.

Ran Xueyi leaned forward to give the other a kiss on the cheek before she waited for another guard to pull the car door open.

A white, creamy castle that stood in the middle of the grounds looked herculian compared to the castles that Ran Xueyi had been to while filming in some movies. They couldn't even compare to how beautiful and grand the castle appeared. Ivy, roses, and trees of varying names and kinds surrounded the white castle like walls. The rolling greens and forests were too wide that she barely saw the distant line where it ended.

Stifling a gasp, Ran Xueyi was led inside the castle, led by a woman in a maid frilly uniform.

"Welcome to the Palace of Rosa, milady," the maid said as she gestured for Ran Xueyi to follow her inside.

Palace of Roses... No wonder the surrounding area was too colorful and smelled like flowers. The palace was precisely bathing in roses.

As much as Ran Xueyi wanted to admire the sceneries, the statues, paintings, and other furnishings with prices she might never find out, she had to calm down first and start acting like she was no less than any other guests invited to the ball.

However, even if she wanted to continue her nonchalance, she still feel a bit overwhelmed. After all, after entering the castle, the outside world became a blur. The world inside the palace had a perfect resemblance of what everyone would call – fantasy world.

As Ran Xueyi was led to her room, where she would be resting for a short time while waiting for other guests to arrive, inside a room filled with small television screens that showed the scenes that appeared in different places, several people wearing masks, sat in couches and held a goblet with wine inside.

"Another lovely butterfly entered the spider's web. Brother Francisco, which one do you think will be able to resist not staying in the palace?" a young lady wearing a grand dress with pale skin, said with delight and curiosity.

She turned to look at the man sitting beside her.

However, the man didn't look like he heard her words. His eyes were focused on the screen that showed a long corridor where two figures walked through it.

The young lady furrowed her perfectly trimmed brows, annoyed after being ignored. She wanted to complain to the other man sitting on her other side, but that man was also looking at the screens.

But it wasn't only her brothers who seemed to be enchanted by something in front of them. Each man faced the screens and was looking at one particular screen.

The young lady followed their gaze and found a woman wearing a golden mini dress and golden halo crown. A maid seemed to be leading her to her room.

Gritting her teeth, the princess glared at the screen for a second before turning to look at the seat behind them where lights coming from the screens barely illuminated the masked man sitting there.

Unlike the other men inside that room, the masked man didn't even glance at the screens. He swirled the red wine in his glass as if nothing could interest him at all.

Sighing in relief, Princess Lydia smiled contentedly when she saw this. Thankfully, this man was not interested in admiring that beauty.

Just as Princess Lydia turned around with a smile, the masked man finally looked up.

A thin, devious smile appeared in his lips before it disappeared quickly.

...

Ran Xueyi did not know how the order of the ball would be arranged. The maid told her to wait inside her room, a spacious and beautiful room, which has a touch of modern interior designs.

Looking around the room, Ran Xueyi was glad that it still has some modern touch in it. She would have already assumed that she entered another world had it not appeared.

"Ha... I'm bored."



Ran Xueyi looked at the golden clock hung up in the wall. The card said that the ball would start at 9 in the evening but it was already past nine-thirty. This could only mean that the ball would officially start at around ten o'clock whether the last few guests arrived or not.

Since she had nothing to do and even if she does, her movements could be limited by her dress, Ran Xueyi explored the room.

Soon, time passed quickly and the clock's hand pointed at ten o'clock.

– Knock, knock...

Ran Xueyi slowly approached the door and turned the knob. The white door slowly opened and revealed the young maid from earlier behind it.

"Has everyone arrived?" Ran Xueyi asked.

The young maid shook her head, "There are two guests who didn't make it. The guards already closed the gates."

Ran Xueyi nodded her head. As she had already expected.

That means only 18 guests made it to the ball.

Well, it didn't matter to her anyway.

"Let's go," the maid uttered.

Ran Xueyi nodded and followed her to the banquet hall.

As she walked along the maid, two men wearing masks and elegant suits stood in the corridor. As soon as they heard their voices, the men turned the side to glance their way.

Ran Xueyi merely greeted them with a nod when she passed them after seeing the maid bow respectfully towards them while calling them 'Your Highness'.

Ran Xueyi did not need any introductions. She could already guess which one is the prince from the two.

Prince Francisco, still wearing a mask, flashed her a bright and harmless smile.

"Are you leading her to where the ball is?"

The maid nodded and affirmed it.

"A coincidence then... We were also planning to go there." Prince Francisco still had a soft smile on his lips, but his eyes leered at the woman behind the maid, wearing a golden dress and looked like a real goddess.

The man beside him also shared the same expression on his face.

"Since everyone's heading there, why don't I lead the way instead of this little maid? I know my way here since I lived in the palace for a long time so we will never get lost," Prince Francisco suggested with his tone having finality in it.

Ran Xueyi frowned at his words as she was about to refuse his offer.

Just as she was about to open her soft lips to speak, rich sounds of footsteps, slowly and calmly approaching, came from behind her...

Chapter 263 The Royal Court Masquerade (2)

The footsteps came out of nowhere.

Ran Xueyi, Prince Francisco, and the other man turned around to glance behind them. A man in an attire that was a mix of a military uniform and a business suit emerged out from the darkness. His shiny shoes made a crisp sound against the marbled ground.

His tall figure easily overwhelmed the prince and his friend even though he was still walking towards them. His presence could not even compare to any men that Ran Xueyi met in the past. Well, there was one man who could. However, Ran Xueyi didn't think that man would come here. There was no reason for him to attend the ball.

The man continued to walk towards them. His bauta full-faced feathered mask covered his face, making him be shrouded with mystery. His dark hair as ink was long and tied in a white silk ribbon before the tail of his hair fell gently on his left shoulder.

Unlike Prince Francisco, who has a unique grace of a prince true to him from birth, then the man has an impossibly kingly grace with the way he carried himself.

Could it be the second prince, Prince Adrienne?

She had heard that the second prince was only a year younger than Prince Francisco and also a bit taller. He did not stay in the palace and spent most of his years staying outside, traveling, and living in common places.

Ran Xueyi observed the man as he finally arrived at the spot where everyone was standing. A cool minty and woody scent wafted off of him as he stood a few steps away from her.

"You're here?" Prince Francisco's previous haughty attitude diminished slightly and he looked like he was feeling a bit uncomfortable with the man's presence.

The man did not respond. He merely moved his dark golden eyes to gaze at them.

Under his gaze, both Prince Francisco and the other man, whose name hasn't been announced yet, shifted uncomfortably on their feet. They looked like a student standing before their strict professor.

"You... Are you going in to the ball as well?" asked prince's friend.

The mysterious man glanced at him for a second before striding forward.

His silent action was enough for an answer. Both Prince Francisco and the other man turned to look at each other before they decided that they should follow the mysterious man.

Due to his sudden appearance, the prince and his friend wasn't able to do what they had initially planned. They no longer stayed in there and didn't even look at Ran Xueyi as they disappeared in a corner.

The maid, who stood beside her, said, "Thankfully, his Lordship came."

"His Lordship?"

Ran Xueyi was surprised to hear that the maid would first strike a conversation with her.

The maid nodded.

"He's the new Earl, His Majesty personally gave an earldom title to him two years ago."

Ran Xueyi became thoughtful.

Two years ago, there were two men who was given an official royal title. One of which was an Earl and a Baron. Both titles weren't that much compared to the title of a Duke or a Prince, however, having given an official title without sharing an ounce of blood with the Royal Family was still an amazing feat no one could ever wish to get in this lifetime.

The identity of the two men were still in secret, aside from the royal family, no one knew who became an Earl or a Baron. Hence, not many were informed or believed that two titles were given to someone outside of the royal bloodline.

But from what Ran xueyi found out from one of the many reports her subordinates had given to her, the Baron and Earl received their titles due to their meritorious deeds as well as the financial help they've given to the royal family.

It seems that the royal budget truly suffered greatly two years ago if the King was forced to hand two titles at the same time.

"I heard he wasn't planning to attend this year's Royal Court Masquerade again..."

Ran Xueyi no longer listened to the mumbles of the maid as they make their way to the banquet hall.

...

"You're really going to attend the ball?" Prince Francisco followed the man like a mother hen. He continued to say, "For the past two years that we invited you to come... no, the past years we sent invitation cards to you, you returned them without a care. What made you change your mind?"

The man walked with his back straight like a major in the army. Being questioned by the prince, he couldn't find a reason to answer immediately. If it were some other people, they would instantly fawn-over the prince.

But even though the prince still didn't receive an answer from the man as they walked forward, he wasn't bothered. This man acted the same way since they were children in the same classroom. Cold and indifferent and arrogant.

If he wasn't born and aware of his title as a prince, Prince Francisco would even confuse their status and real heritage.

"Did my father call you for an important matter? You know... me and my younger brother had an intense fight a week ago. So, my father might have a hard time choosing his successor," continued Prince Francisco.

"If the time comes... won't the Earl side with me? After all, I'm the firstborn between me and my brother."

Suddenly, the man, who was identified as the Earl, stopped walking. If Prince Francisco didn't stop quickly, he would have bumped his head against him. Thankfully, he stopped quickly.

"The selection of successor... It doesn't have anything to do with me," said the man with his voice deep and low. "Your Highness and Prince Adrienne can ask the other officials to become your babysitters."

With that, he left the stunned prince and walked to a connecting corridor to the right side.

Seeing him leave after calling him and his brother a 'baby', Prince Francisco felt humiliated. However, he could only curse the Earl inwardly.

"Your Highness, how can you let that lowly man act so rude towards you?" his friend furrowed his brows.

"What do you know?" Prince Francisco snapped. "Even my father has to act respectfully and humbly towards that man. Should I, a prince, show some attitude and lose my father's respect as well?"

The prince's friend was visibly shocked at his words. When did the King of the Ren Country showed a delicate and humble side of himself?

Prince Francisco sighed. "Anyway, don't try to offend that man, Peron. He have so much power and money that the three royal families dare not go against him openly."

Peron gravely nodded his head. If even the three royal families in the world did not want to anger that man, where could he find the guts to do it?

"Then, what about that woman earlier? Are we still going after her?" Peron reminded him.

Prince Francisco slowly smiled. "What do you think? I've never seen such a beautiful woman like her enter the palace. If I let her go, wouldn't I waste such a god-given chance to taste someone like her?"

Peron chuckled, "Then, I will arrange things as planned."

Prince Francisco nodded.

When he saw the woman through the screens set up inside the monitor room with the others, he was doubtful. How could an extremely beautiful woman enter the palace alone? There must be a reason why she came... But no matter what reason she had to enter the palace without any guard, Prince Francisco would never allow anyone else to take her from his sight.

Other men inside that room probably had the same intentions. So, he couldn't waste a lot of time.

After tonight's ball, he will keep that beautiful woman inside his room until the end of the Royal Court Masquerade, which will end three days later.

Thinking of the things he would do to her, a bulge slowly appeared in the center of his pants.

He wondered how she would taste when he finally get her.

...

Stopping as soon as the prince and his friend disappeared, the Earl closed his eyes. The beating of his heart was almost akin to a drum being beaten with force, making several loud thudding sounds.

Haa...

He almost lost control of himself.

He knew too well of what the prince intended to do. If he hadn't appeared earlier, Ran Xueyi would be forced to be taken to another place instead, like many other girls that went missing during the royal ball.

Taking a long breath, the Earl sighed.

Although she wore a mask and wearing a costume to cover her true identity, Song Yu Han could easily find out who she was in just a glance.

Ran Xueyi...

The woman he was obsessed with appeared in front of him again. And she was even wearing a dress that he would very much love to rip off her so he could admire her naked body.

His throat was parched as the dormant fire inside him starting to burn again at the distant memories they shared coming back to him again.

When the fire gradually cooled down as he stayed standing there, Song Yu Han, who planned to go to the banquet hall this time, stopped his breath.

Across from him, just several steps away from where he stood, was Ran Xueyi, who also turned as if she noticed his presence from afar.

#### Chapter 264 Butterfly

Ran Xueyi stopped walking forward when she saw a figure blending in the darkness from the left corridor. It was the man from earlier, the Earl, who was spiraled in mystery.

Because she was standing several steps away from and a full-face mask covered his face, she didn't know whether the man also saw her as he stood there for a long time.

Ran Xueyi was the first to surrender and turned to continue her steps, sighing deeply.

But as she was about to take a step forward, the figure in the darkness moved with grace like a falcon flying through sky with elegance. He was walking towards her.

Of course, Ran Xueyi wouldn't delude herself into thinking that he was walking towards her, really. Maybe he was just on his way to the banquet hall where others guests were in, just like her.

"Should we wait for him?" the maid's eyes were bright as she asked this. Obviously, she wanted to walk alongside that man.

Ran Xueyi shook her head indifferently, "No. We're not close enough to walk side to side with someone as the Earl."

Without waiting for the maid to say anything else, she no longer hesitated to step forward, not knowing that from her hindsight, the man, who was leisurely walking towards them, visibly froze in his steps before he continued to step as if nothing happened.

His eyes, however, had a hint of bantering within them and a smile that wasn't a smile appeared on his lips.

The maid was slightly dejected and disappointed, however, she was currently doing her task of servicing and leading the guest that was handed to her. She couldn't allow the guest to find out that she had an opposing idea.

It was really too bad that they couldn't walk together that man. If they had done that, just how many people would gloat and envy them?



Ran Xueyi wasn't privy of what the two were thinking as she expressionlessly closed into the banquet hall. The alabaster huge pair of doors that two royal guards standing on each side were tightly closed, only to be opened when a guest was done being announced and enter the hall.

The royal guards' had seen her figure from afar but they still hadn't snapped out from their trance. When they saw her, they couldn't help but suck in their breaths as they wondered where this woman in golden dress, looking like a Greek goddess, came from.

But they knew that they cannot ask questions that they should have.

Just as they were about to announce an entrance of another guests to the people inside the hall, they saw someone emerging from behind the woman.

It was the Earl.

Ran Xueyi waited for two seconds for the guards to do their job, but even after three seconds had passed, they still didn't do it.

She was just about to say something when she realized that someone was standing behind her.

Forcing herself not to look back, Ran Xueyi could almost guess who was standing behind her.

It should be that man.

But wasn't he way back behind her?

And why didn't she hear him come up next to her?

Besides, why did he have to come just when she was about to enter? He could have waited for a minute until she completely entered the hall. Now, she had to stand next to him when the door opens.

Although she had so many questions left unanswered, she didn't show them to her face, quickly throwing all concerns and doubts she had in the back of her mind as she waited for the door to be opened.

Thankfully, the royal guards seemed to have, for once, has a tacit understanding with her.

Slowly, the door groaned softly as it was pushed and the hustle and bustle from inside the banquet hall soon spilled out from it and entered her ears.

There were several round tables surrounded by two or more people. There were servers in a tuxedo swiftly walking around while holding a tray. And the most noticeable thing was that everyone was dressed differently as if there was no theme arranged and discussed beforehand.

And as soon as the door revealed the two figure outside the hall, the masked and well-dressed guests looked over curiously. It was merely a passing glance since everyone here was wearing a costume and masks so nobody could tell who was who.

Nevertheless, the moment the two figures started to step down the winding alabaster stairs, front and back, everyone couldn't help but stare at them for a bit longer.

What they saw in front of them was an angel in golden dress elegantly stepping down. Her golden crown on top of her head became a real halo as the lights inside the banquet hall reflected on the crystals and gold on the crown.

She looked fantastic and unreal.

On the other hand, the man, who walked languidly behind her, was also note-worthy.

The man wore dark clothes with golden patterns and intricate designs embroidered on his coat while his feathered mask swayed along his steps.

The two looked like two opposing sides.

Black and white.

A demon and an angel.

However, the two looked too well matched that nobody didn't think that their outfits clashed.

Prince Adrienne mumbled, "Heh... And here I was worried he got lost and didn't know where the hall was located. It turns out he got lost after meeting an angel."

Though he was just saying this as a mere, nobody in that table believed him. Even the prince didn't believe his words.

He watched as the two people who grabbed everyone's attention separate and took their own path as soon as their feet touched the leveled ground.

The table where Prince Adrienne was standing was closer to where the stairs was located and waited until the great demon arrived at their table.

"What got you so long? We've been waiting for you since earlier," Prince Adrienne asked in passing.

Song Yu Han glanced at him and had a smile that wasn't a smile under his mask.

His voice lazily said, "I saw an angel walk past my way... I had to stop to admire her beauty just like everybody else."

"...."

Everyone at the table was silenced by his remarks, wondering if he heard what the prince said just now.

What they didn't know, however, was that Song Yu Han was definitely not joking when he said this.

His eyes languidly moved around the place and stopped briefly to the seductive figure attracting everyone's attention like a fluttering butterfly.

They darkened possessively and obsessively as he thought of how to subdue and tie this butterfly to his side tonight.

Chapter 265 "Because I'm A Fan"

Ran Xueyi walked to find an empty table, which was an impossible task since there were too many people inside the banquet hall despite hearing that the guests invited to the ball would be fewer than usual.

Nevertheless, Ran Xueyi didn't plan to be a loner in that place and found a table where other female guests stationed themselves.

When these female guests saw her walking towards their table, they stiffened before relaxing. They were all thinking that no matter what they do, they could not surpass the woman's beauty and they quickly gave in.

"Hello, is this table full?" Ran Xueyi asked as she stood next to the table.

The woman in a silver sequined dress shook her head, she was level-headed than others, and smiled at her. "No, you can join us if you want."

"Thank you," she said, moving forward to mingle with the others.

The woman in the silver dress was named Olivia. Unlike the others, who were still awkwardly acting and speaking to the other girls, she was very friendly and talked with Ran Xueyi as if the two had met in the past and a long-time friend.

"Where did you buy this dress? Is it designed by Emanuel, the German designer? Or was it Josephine, the French haute couture designer?"

Ran Xueyi smiled. "To tell you the truth, I don't know."

"You don't? Pray tell, why don't you know?" Olivia appeared to be surprised at her response.

Ran Xueyi honestly told her that it was her friend who forced her into that golden dress, acting like the Fairy Godmother, who magically dressed her like Cinderella.

"Honestly, I am impressed. I would love to meet and befriend this friendly fairy godmother," Olivia uttered her intentions.

Ran Xueyi, of course, wouldn't refuse. All of the guests were all hot-shots that were all at the top of their own games. It would be stupid of her to reject any offer of friendship that she could harbor in the royal ball.

The royal family was also in attendance, albeit only the royal heirs. Only the two monarchs, the King and Queen, still haven't made an appearance.

But that didn't stop everyone from getting in contact with one another. Some had already revealed their identities, taking off their masks, while some still wore it and pulled some girls in the center where a few dancing couples were hitting it off on the dance floor.

At this time, Prince Adrienne and the Earl were making their way towards them. Olivia, who seemed to be not interested in the ball earlier, finally reacted and took an elegant pose to enhance her beautiful features.

Needless to say, the other girls at their table were the same.

It was only Ran Xueyi, who showed no interest like the other girls towards these two men. Her gaze was filled with more curiosity than affection.

Prince Adrienne chuckled, "It seems that the angel is truly an angel. Us, mortals can't even rouse her interest... I wonder if someone in the ball could do that."

He continued, "Do you think she would accept if I ask her to dance with me?"

Song Yu Han, who had the identity of an Earl tonight, refused to say anything. He calmly walked beside the prince and stopped only when they arrived at the girls' table.

But before the prince could speak again, Song Yu Han, was quick to beat him this time, and asked the angel in question first, "May I have this dance?"

...

Ran Xueyi saw the two men walking towards them. Unlike everyone, who was absolutely taken by their graceful walk, she was preoccupied with her own thoughts. She just wanted to know the identity of the person who sent her an entrance to this ball and also to gather as much connection as she could get for future uses. Ran Xueyi didn't even care about what other people were doing, saying, or thinking.

She even planned to become a wallflower tonight and stand in the corner if she couldn't befriend or talk to anyone.

However, fate has clearly different thoughts.

As she was thinking, a deep, sexy, and masculine voice sounded from her right, breaking her out from her reverie.

"May I have this dance?"

Before Ran Xueyi could react, the man had already taken a hold of her hand and pulled her out there, while everyone, even the prince, who planned to take away the angel, was surprised at the turn of events.

He whisked her away just like that.

However, Ran Xueyi didn't want to dance with him or with anyone at all.

She struggled to take his big paws off her, but the more she pried his hand, the more it tightened around her like a viper ready to attack its prey.

"I... um, I don't –"

Hearing her speak, Song Yu Han could already guess that she wanted to refuse to dance with him. It warmed his heart to the fullest while thinking that she had done so for his sake, but he still didn't want to let her go.

So, before she could complete her words, he said, "Treat it as part of the payment for getting a free-entrance to this place."

"...It's you?" Ran Xueyi raised her eyes to look at him, but because he was pulling her forward, she could only see the side of his mask, his wide shoulders and back

However, due to his words, she was able to quickly guess what he meant by it.

The mystery behind the person's identity, who had sent her the invitation card, turned out to be him.

At first, Ran Xueyi thought that when she finds out who it was, she would be able to at least act amiably towards them. If it was a woman, her intention was either she was a fan of hers, for a business venture, or to become friends with her. If it was a man, he could be a fan too or he could have other intentions towards her, which Ran Xueyi would easily and directly turn down.

In any case, their intentions were something she could easily grasp.

But when it ended up to be the Earl, everything that she planned and thought previously crumbled one by one.

For one, the Earl was a mysterious and important man. Even now, she couldn't believe that he turned out to be that person. More so towards his intentions in giving her the card.

As her brows continued to gather in the center, she heard a deep chuckle from the man.

"A penny for your thoughts?"

Ran Xueyi quickly recovered and honestly asked what she had been curious about, "Why me?"

The man didn't answer until they stood in the center of the dancefloor.

With his height at almost two meters tall, he basically had to lower his head down to look at her.

Then, he said...

"Because I'm a fan."

Ran Xueyi almost thought that he was mocking her since the high-society always thought differently towards people working in the entertainment industry. However, his steel grayish eyes looked at her as if the surrounding melted away and he could only see her in front of him.

He almost looked enchanted by her...

"Do you think I would believe that?" Ran Xueyi narrowed her eyes.

The man squinted his eyes at her while saying, "You don't believe me?"

"I would even believe it if you said you stole an invitation card from the King and sent it to me because you saw me somewhere and were mesmerized by my face. But you said you're my fan... not only me, but everyone who hears it would definitely not believe it," said Ran Xueyi.

The man took her hand and gently placed it on top of his right shoulder and held the other in his hand.

A smile played on his lips as he said, "Your imagination impressed me. You have made a good suggestion. Next time, I will steal some from the King and when they catch me, I will tell them your name as the mastermind behind my actions."

Ran Xueyi was glad he was holding her hand. Had he not done so, she would probably slap him by now.

Gritting her teeth, she retorted, "I am in awe of your superb interpretation."

"Not as amazed as I am right now," said the man before he abruptly slipped his hand behind her waist and pulled her in closer. With the mask, he whispered in her ear, "But believe me, I am truly a fan of yours. Dangerously so."



Frowning, Ran Xueyi wanted to step away from him. He held her so tightly that there was no distance between their bodies. It made her uncomfortable with the thought that this man was a stranger. She really wanted to pull away from him.

But why was her heart pounding so startlingly loud?

And strangely, she didn't feel as disgusted as she thought she was when he held her. His scent even made her feel nostalgic for a moment.

Without thinking, she asked him a question, "Who are you?"