## Daddy CEO 556

Chapter 556 Trapped in Snow

At the same time. Ran Xueyi quietly sat in the back of the car and had never uttered a single word since their conversation stopped. Strangely, the man who was tasked with abducting her was more talkative than she thought. Of course, he wasn't really spilling his employer's secrets to her.

"Hey, are you sleeping?" "That can't be."

"Even though the place we're going to may not be a place where a lot of people live, the scenery should be spectacular and picture-perfect!"

The more he spoke, the less Ran Xueyi took him seriously.

Just what was wrong with him? Clearly, she was being held hostage. Shouldn't they act tougher and harsher? Although Ran Xueyi preferred them not hurting either her or Alina, seeing this kind of abduction style seemed a tad different from what she was expecting. "There's still half an hour before we get to our destination. I'd prefer to relax a bit and take some of these." Ran Xueyi, who just wanted to close her eyes, watched the man pull open the mini-fridge inside the car. The inside wasn't that big, but it was still filled with a variety of drinks, from water to alcoholic beverages.

The man, whose name she still didn't get to know, plucked a bottle from one of the alcoholic beverages and pressed a few buttons. Then two champagne glasses appeared in his hand when he turned to her. With a smile, he poured the wine into the glasses, each filled to the brim, before handing one to her. Naturally, Ran Xueyi didn't want to accept or drink anything from these people. However, before she could refuse, the man had already thrust the glass in her way, forcing her to take it from him, as she was afraid he'd spill it all over her clothes. "Perfect!" the man gleefully praised before he poured himself a glass. Then, before Ran Xueyi could wonder if the wine had been tampered with, he took a huge gulp and licked his lips.

The night was deepening. Holding the glass of wine in her hand, Ran Xueyi didn't know what to think. The man was undoubtedly dangerous, and even her current situation was terrifying. Yet, why does she feel like it didn't seem like it, too?

Or maybe this was his plan all along? To make her relax. Then, when she finally puts her guard down...

He'll shed his mask away.

Spending the next thirty minutes in silence had Ran Xueyi all nervous and a little sleepy. If she had taken a sip from the glass of wine, she'd really suspect it was tampered with. But it clearly wasn't.

She was just exhausted from flying to another country and having to sit down in a car where she was soon to be shipped to the person who abducted her friend.

Fortunately, the car stopped before she could sleep.

"We're here." The man announced. However, Ran Xueyi widened her eyes in surprise and frowned at what she was seeing. "We're here?" she questioned him. The man smiled. "Well, not technically. We still have to fly to get to the island."

In front of them was the sea. And surrounded by armed men was their mode of transportation—a helicopter.

"Let's go." The man held out his hand for her to take. Of course, she didn't do it.

Ran Xueyi stared at the helicopter in contemplation. Trying to escape now that they're in the open was probably the best. But with the guns arming the men, it was now an impossible thing to do.

Besides, Ran Xueyi didn't even consider escaping.

Thus, she stepped into the helicopter without further instructions from the man.

Once inside, Ran Xueyi no longer felt sleepy. She wanted to know where they were taking her. If possible, she wanted to send her location to Lapis. However, it seemed that these people didn't come unprepared, as the locator, hidden in her coat, no longer buzzed. That could only mean that either there was a jammer inside the yacht or they were so far away that not even Lapis could do something about it.

Nevertheless, Ran Xueyi became even more level-headed. The trip to the island was faster this time. The island was situated in the middle of the sea. From afar, it looked tiny, like a dot of ink on a

blank sheet of white paper. But upon getting close, the island became a fortress that forced one to feel trapped.

Under their boots, the thick snow crunched with each step, pristine and untouched by mankind. It was a silent reminder that the island they were traveling across was almost deserted. And in addition to that was the abundance of snow-capped trees, which they passed through as they rode on snowmobiles. Out of the corner of her eyes, amidst the whiteness of the land, Ran Xueyi saw a creature from a distance. Was that a white tiger?

"Impressed?"

Ran Xueyi's attention was diverted when a voice from the front interrupted.

Not being bothered about not getting a reply, the man said in a patient voice, "This island was bought by the Vorona family a century ago. However, with the amount of wealth they have in their pockets, they didn't have any idea what to do with this place. But honestly, I think they forgot about it and didn't carefully think about what to do with it."

Ran Xueyi stiffened at what she heard.

She raised her head and looked at the man driving the snowmobile. However, since he was sitting in front of her, she could only see the back of his head.

Vorona.

She came across another person with the surname Vorona. However, that man was a member of An Hun. Percy Vorona.

"I heard you like the winter season out of all seasons. This place...do you think it's beautiful?"

The man continued.

Ran Xueyi snapped her attention back to the side, where a vast expanse of white and nature lay before her eyes. But instead of seeing what was in front of her, a memory she thought she had long discarded and forgotten suddenly flashed in front of her.

"It's finally snowing, Xueyi."

Chapter 557 Isolated Island (1)

10 years ago. The boat swayed in the ocean. The sea-smelling breeze entered through the gaps of the crate they were transported in, mixing with the scent of sweat, tears, and the almost tangible fear that was on every young girl's and boy's faces inside the crate.

"I want to go home."

These words resonated with everyone. They'd been locked inside there for three days already. In the beginning, they assumed they were being filmed and, thus, didn't show genuine panic. However, when hours passed and still no other sound was heard from outside, nor did anyone come to take them out of there, they soon felt dread being injected through their system. Were they still filming at this point? Were they being pranked? How long are they going to stay in there?

But these questions soon became useless. They were tired. Hungry. And emotionally stressed. And overwhelmed by the ocean's ambiguous motions, some of them couldn't take it and started to feel extremely sick, and vomited. The space inside the crate was too small to cage twenty children between the ages of thirteen and sixteen. They weren't as tall as adults, but the air supply inside was too limited.

They spent another day inside the crate, feeling hopeful and helpless that maybe the rescue was being delayed because of the storm. Then, the much-awaited day finally came. 'Knock, knock.'

Inside the crate, the children didn't stir at first. This kind of hallucination of having someone come find them now seemed like a dream in a faraway land. So, they didn't believe it.

'Bang!'

"Janice, stop banging the crate! We're trying to sleep here." 'Bang!'

"I'm not doing it!" Janice groaned with her eyes closed, feeling annoyed at being elbowed by Adeline.

'Bang!'

"I said stop it." 'Bang!'

## "I ALREADY SAID IT WAS NOT ME!"

At the same time as Janice's shout sounded, the crate shook as a beam of light penetrated through a gap. The surge of light seemed like an illusion, yet it blinded each one of the children, who were now opening their eyes to see what was happening. The doors of the crate have opened. "It's open."

Someone among them whispered weakly. But those two words were enough to even make the weakest among them have the strength to stand up. One by one, they rose from their sleep, turning to the doors of the crate. At once, they were overjoyed, and tears welled up in their eyes. Finally!

They could finally get out of this hellish place and go out!

They scrambled up on their feet, some tripping to the ground because of how weak their bodies had become.

But their eyes burned with determination. They want to reach and touch the source of light before them. Food. Water. Air. They no longer care about materialistic things. Just these three were enough for them.

Seeing the children slowly walking towards them, wary and exhausted, the people who opened the door of the crate looked at each other. Each of their own expressions shifted between being disgusted, disdainful, and excited. But for these children, who have suffered for days without water or food, these small things are easily overlooked. All they could think about was being saved! For as long as they could get out of there and see the sun again, it didn't matter who had saved them. "Children, you've suffered a lot."

An older man, clad in an orange raincoat, approached them. His steps halted for a second because of the pungent smell that finally revealed itself after the door opened. His finely brushed eyebrows moved closer to each other, frowning and cringing at the disgusting things inside the crate. But he held on. "My men and I came across your boat. We were just about to pass, but we noticed that there was something strange. So, we came here to check," the old man explained to the children. What he said was a lie. There was never another boat. The boat they were in and the boat that the crate the children were trapped in were one and the same.

But who would tell the truth to these little children? No one.

With his hand gesturing, he solemnly continued, "Fortunately, we did. Or else, what would happen to the rest of you? Oh, you poor little thing." The old man approached one of the kids nearby him. However, he was hit by the disgusting smell coming from the kid, making him almost stumble back and sit on his ass. He quickly bit his tongue to stop the bile rising up his throat, cursing inwardly before redirecting his hand to another kid. However, he noticed that everyone was filthy and smelled revolting. Thus, he ended up doing the last thing he could to cover up his actions just now. He picked a girl from the bunch. She looked dirty. But her scent wasn't as intense or disgusting as that of the other children.

A beautiful little creature with the most dazzling brown eyes he had ever seen. His heart picked up its pace, beating so rapidly.

His grubby hand rested on the top of her head as he said, "Such a good girl. You'll be safe."

The girl raised her eyes to stare at him. Her tiny body trembled in the cold.

The old man smiled contentedly, but he was a little disappointed. The girl's appearance was the best out of everyone, even with the stains of dust and sweat on her. But her eyes seemed empty, like an abyss of void. Nonetheless, he wasn't the least bit disheartened. A little flaw from the toy he found can be fixed. Once she's his, he can turn her into the most enchanting doll of all the dolls he had his hands on. Just like the other girls he had taken from their parents and like many others who have surrendered under his authority.

"Little girl, what's your name?" "Ran Xueyi."

Chapter 558 Isolated Island (2)

The old man was even more satisfied when he heard the little girl's voice.

So sweet! So adorable!

In his head, he was already finished picking out the seedlings he wanted from the bunch.

The other men also entered the crate. However, unlike the old man, they didn't approach them too closely and only observed them after taking a few steps.

After a while, these men finally let the kids out of the crate.

Once they were out of that dark place that had caged them for days, each of them sighed in relief, and even some of them teared up while thanking the men who had saved them.

"Thank you!"

"You helped us!"

"We will never forget this day!"

The children expressed their gratitude with words. But who would tell them that these words would become a curse for them someday in the future?

"Come, come. Let's get all of you some food to eat."

The men kindly guided them deeper inside the yacht. Surprisingly, it was a luxurious one with separate rooms and lounges. What's even more impressive was that there were a few crews that were on standby to serve the food on a long dining table.

Seeing all the food, fresh and still steaming, their stomachs immediately grumbled in protest.

Many of the kids couldn't resist the temptation of it, diving straight to grab a handle of bread and meat. Some were too thirsty to eat, so they started with several glasses of water.

In the grand-looking yacht, this inharmonious scene seemed too difficult to look at.

Nonetheless, the yacht's crew and the men who had saved them didn't say a word. Especially the old man, who now sat at the head of the table, glancing at Ran Xueyi with a smile.

"Eat. Don't feel embarrassed to eat in front of me," said the old man.

Ran Xueyi looked at him and nodded.

Under the old man's gaze, she tore off a roasted chicken leg before gingerly biting off some of its meat. Even though she was starving, she was afraid of upsetting her stomach for eating too much. Anyway, they were saved, and there were tons of opportunities to eat now that they were outside of the crate.

But after being trapped inside the crate for a couple of days, Ran Xueyi sneaked some food and hid it in her clothes to save some to eat later when she felt hungry at night.

Thankfully, nobody noticed. Or maybe they simply didn't take it in their eyes and played it off as childish behavior.

After their sumptuous meal, the children finally relaxed a bit. Some of them even confidently asked for a bath and a change of clothes.

Howev,

"Sorry, kids. We've been traveling in the ocean for a couple of days now, so the water supply is limited." The old man also pointed out one of their concerns with a solemn look. "As for the clothes, there's really nothing that could fit you."

The children who heard this were disappointed. However, they didn't make a huge scene just because of this.

"Well, we haven't taken a bath for days. So a day more wouldn't really matter, right?"

"That's true..."

"But—"

"We can still wear our clothes and wait until the boat arrives at the shore."

This immediately silenced those who wanted to complain. Thinking about it, once they're back on land, they could do anything. Besides, they really shouldn't express their disappointment towards the people who saved them.

Thus, the children were convinced and decided not to take a bath.

When the time to go to sleep arrived, the children let the adults choose where they'd sleep first. It was alright for them to sleep anywhere for as long as it wasn't a crate.

But aside from the old man, who had his own room, the rest of the rooms on the yacht were given to them.

"Xueyi, can I share the room with you?"

Ran Xueyi turned to the girl and saw that it was Janice, the sleep-talker in their group.

She honestly didn't have any impressions of Janice, aside from the fact that they slept in the same corner inside the crate.

Honestly, after being saved, Ran Xueyi wanted to sleep in a quiet and undisturbed place.

But sleeping alone now was slightly unpleasant.

So she agreed.

A few hours later, the children were tucked in their beds and deeply asleep. In the quiet of the night, with the sound of waves crashing against the yacht and the roar of the yacht's engine, a strange sound shattered the peace.

A sound like a pin dropping or chalk dropping to the ground was heard.

It wasn't worthy of attention. However, for someone who is a light sleeper like Ran Xueyi, this sound was a bit too distracting.

causing her not to go back to sleep. Standing up, Ran Xueyi avoided the other girls sprawled across the room. The restroom was located outside, so she needed to get out of there to finish her business. But who would have thought she would come across an eerie situation? "Ugh." "What's wrong?" "My stomach hurts." "Are you serious?!" "Of course! These kids ate too much and left nothing for us to eat. I barely even ate bread tonight." "Shh! Don't shout so loudly. What if they hear us?" "I don't care. Anyway, these kids are leaving." "Still..." The other voice hesitated but still sighed in the end. "There should be a chocolate bar in my bag. I'll give you some later." "Thanks, bro." They continued walking down the hallway.

In addition, she had drank a lot of water during their meal, so the urge to pee suddenly came,

Ran Xueyi didn't think too much of their conversation. They really did eat a lot earlier, after all.

Feeling the urge to pee surging inside her again, Ran Xueyi stepped out of the door when the men suddenly continued talking.

"The harvest today is perfect. Mister Park seemed to have taken a liking to that young girl."

"Oh, the pretty one? What was her name again?"

"I think it was...Ran Xueyi?"

Ran Xueyi quickly retrieved her foot that was out of the room and soundlessly closed the door until there was a tiny gap that allowed her to hear the men talk.

Thankfully, they didn't notice her and continued.

"Speaking of the harvest, do you think we can have our turn next? I heard the last interns got their turns and enjoyed their time."

"Who knows when it'll be our turn? But if we do get our turn, which one do you think is the best one out of all of them?"

"I like the girl with the redhead. She seems loud. It'll be fun hearing her scream. What about you?"

Babump!

Ran Xueyi gripped the doorknob as tightly as she could. She couldn't completely understand what they were talking about. However, she felt an ominous feeling coming from their conversation.

Especially after hearing the other man speak.

"Hm, I like that girl named Ran Xueyi. She's pretty, has a fair complexion, and is soft. She'd be so adorable when I played with her."



"Ran Xueyi, are you still dreaming? Why do you look so afraid?" Is that what she looks like right now? Ran Xueyi didn't ponder over this too much and explained, "There's something wrong here. I hear two men talking about us." Although she just wanted to sleep, Janice still used her ears to listen to her. "Oh, what did they say?" "I don't know...I don't understand what they were talking about. But I have this feeling that it's not something good." Ran Xueyi looked at Janice, hoping that she would believe her. "Look, I know we just got out of that crate, but don't you think it's weird?" Janice replied, "It is." Ran Xueyi was happy that Janice shared the same thoughts as her. Unfortunately... "It's weird that you woke me up. It's even stranger that you would accuse the people who saved us of being bad." Janice patted her hand and laid back to bed. "Ran Xueyi, we've stayed in that crate for days. What you're thinking is just part of a dream." "But I really heard them." Janice didn't listen to her. "Now, go back to sleep. Who knows? Maybe when we wake up, we're on land." Will it really be the case? Ran Xueyi wanted to believe it was as Janice said. She just needed to sleep in and think of nothing else. Maybe, just maybe, when they wake up tomorrow, they'll be back in their own homes.

Seeing no movement from Janice, Ran Xueyi tried to wake up the other kids. She told them the same thing, but most of them annoyingly ignored her and even cussed her out. A few of them listened, but they were too tired to move, and even if they heard her, not one of them actually believed what Ran Xueyi told them.

In the end, it was only Ran Xueyi who stayed up at night.

She stood next to the door, and when the clock struck 2 in the morning, she slipped out of the room and headed somewhere secluded.

The yacht wasn't as large as a cruise ship. However, it still has several rooms for people to stay in. There was also a huge space outside to lounge and watch the waves of the ocean.

Since it was in the middle of the night, not a lot of people were awake. She only saw a few men walking around, but none of them looked hard enough to find her walking past them when they weren't looking.

She looked for a lifeboat. A silly decision for someone who doesn't know how to use or even paddle against the angry waves of the sea. But Ran Xueyi couldn't think of anything else.

Was the lifeboat really a better choice than staying here? Ran Xueyi pondered this question seriously. But she couldn't come up with a good reason or answer.

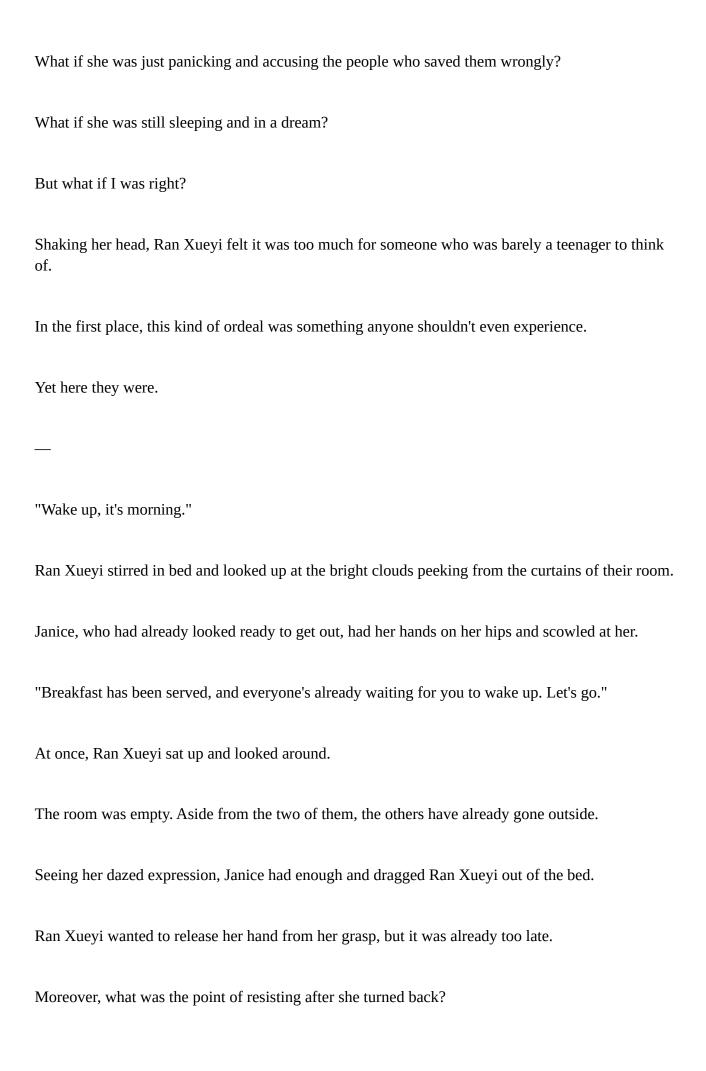
Besides, she was filled with doubts after taking a round trip around the yacht.

Strangely, there were no dangerous weapons found there. It really looked like they were tourists who came to enjoy the sea.

But she couldn't shake the strange feeling from earlier.

Moreover, what those men said didn't sit right with her.

But what if Janice was right?



That's right. Instead of sneaking out in the middle of the night, which was a dangerous act and possibly a suicidal thing to do, Ran Xueyi returned to their room and forced herself to sleep.

When she thought about it, what could a teenager like her really do in the middle of the ocean? And alone?

Ran Xueyi didn't stop Janice from dragging her across the yacht. Although her eyes busily scanned the place.

And once they arrived in the dining room, Ran Xueyi was once again arranged to sit next to the old man, whose name she now knew.

Mister Park's eyes sparkled upon sighting her. Initially, Ran Xueyi thought that this old man was looking at her fondly with those wrinkles around his eyes.

But now...

His eyes seemed sinister and filled with malicious intentions; things that she would rather not find out.

Had he been looking at me with those eyes since last night?

"Ran Xueyi, we've been waiting for you. Don't be shy to try the things I've picked for you."

On the plate in front of her, Mister Park chose scrambled eggs, sliced tomatoes, hotdogs, and toasted bread. The classic breakfast one might order in a restaurant first thing in the morning.

Had it been last night, she might have accepted it with a smile and ate her fill with it.

However, right now. All she could see in front of her was her last meal before she was served next as a dish.

Sadly, it was already too late to realize that a twist of fate made the beautiful scene of being saved now look like they had been pushed further inside the Lion's cage.

## Chapter 560 Isolated Island (4)

"We're here, kids!" Mister Park announced, standing on the yacht's bow, as they got nearer an island. The sun's rays made the white sand on the beach glisten while the waves splashed and the wind carried the scent of the sea, warming everyone's hearts.

Seeing the island coming closer and closer, the children, who have suffered for many days, finally let their anxious hearts down. Finally, they can touch the land! Many of them sang inside their minds, hugging each other and clapping each other's backs. It was a joyous scene that could even move a monk to tears.

"Ran Xueyi, we can finally go home!" Janice hugged her, but Ran Xueyi couldn't muster a smile on her lips. Similar to other kids, she felt relieved that they were finally out of the sea. However, she just couldn't drive the words she heard from the men last night out of her head. Ran Xueyi didn't voice her thoughts to Janice, knowing that no one would listen to her.

Once the boat finally stopped by the ramp, the men arranged for the kids to line up. Thinking that there were too many people who would walk on the ramp, the kids obediently followed their instructions.

At the back of the line, the kids couldn't stop talking with glee. "What are you going to do after you get back home?"

"I want to take a bath."

"I'll hug my parents to death and tell them I love them!"

Everyone voiced their wishes. "I'm going to the salon and bring my hair back alive!" Janice pinched a coarse strand of her brown hair. "What about you, Ran Xueyi?"

Ran Xueyi flattened her lips before she replied, "I—"

"Alright, kids! We're here!" One man shouted at them. "Line up according to your age, from youngest to oldest!"

The children, who were still talking among each other, quietened up and followed the orders. Among the twenty children, five of them were eleven or twelve years old. Two were thirteen or fourteen. And the rest were fifteen or seventeen.

Ran Xueyi looked at the kids hurrying up to their lines. After thinking for a moment, she finally moved her feet towards the end of the line. "What are you doing?" Janice quickly grabbed her arm. "You're the same age as me. Come with me." Shaking her head, Ran Xueyi said, "Janice, do you trust me?"

Janice never saw Ran Xueyi look so grave before. She sighed. "Is this about your dream last night again?"

"Janice—"

"Shh. I know what you're thinking, but it's not going to happen." Janice laughed. "You're just worrying too much." Ran Xueyi frowned and opened her mouth, but her voice was stuck in her throat. How could she make Janice believe her? Or trust her when she's dismissing her words? Feeling that she was a bit harsh to her, Janice comforted her and said, "Okay, how about we do this? I'll line up here and you go to the end of the line? But don't blame me if they scold you for lining up in the wrong line."

Ran Xueyi reluctantly nodded her head and watched as Janice moved towards the other line.

"What's wrong? Why didn't you take her with you?" one kid on her line asked. Janice paused to look at Ran Xueyi, who was moving towards the end of the line. Then, she shook her head and said, "Why take her here? She's older than us." It was a lie. But Janice didn't want to tell the truth either, since she had already promised Ran Xueyi. Anyway, it was just a simple thing. As for what Ran Xueyi was worried about, Janice sighed. Ran Xueyi and she were part of the same entertainment company. But Ran Xueyi was more advanced than them. Having already acted in many movies and drama films, Ran Xueyi certainly didn't act like an amateur, naïve child. However, there was a strange rumor going around the company. A rumor that made Ran Xueyi look like a monster who couldn't separate herself from the film's character.

And Ran Xueyi recently played in a thriller movie where her role got kidnapped. Could it be that she still hasn't moved on from that movie and mixed reality with the fake one? Janice pondered.

"It's our turn to go down." Janice didn't have time to brood over it as she got pushed from behind.

\*\*\*

Ran Xueyi didn't say a word upon standing at the end of the line. She watched from her vantage point as a car escorted the children, who descended first, out of there. Each of the kids, who lined up according to their ages, hopped into a car. "Ugh, I'm so excited to go home!"

Glancing at the person who had just spoken, Ran Xueyi opened her lips, as if she were about to say something, but in the end, she closed her mouth and looked away.

Home? Where? She had been observing from the boat, and from what she gathered, the place where they were now was an island, not the way home. If it was, where were their parents? Who should have been here to wait and escort them back home? What about the police? The people who should investigate why they had to be trapped inside a crate and stranded by the sea.

Ran Xueyi still wanted to believe that everything she heard last night was just a part of her dream, that she could trust the men who had found them, and that they really wanted to save them. But looking at the situation before her and having her questions unanswered, Ran Xueyi had no one to trust but herself.

"It's almost our turn."

A teenager whispered in front of her. She turned to the side and saw that the car Janice had gone to was already driving away. "Excuse me, I feel a little uncomfortable. Can I go to the restroom?" Ran Xueyi approached the man standing a couple of feet away from them when the others weren't looking. The man looked over at her once and shook his head. "Just endure it and wait until you arrive at your destination." "But I really need to go!" Ran Xueyi fidgeted and clenched her legs tightly. "Please, I don't want to dirty my pants!"

Even after hearing this, the man still wanted to refuse. However, he recognized the face of the girl in front of him. Wasn't this the girl Mister Park has his eyes on?

If he remembered correctly, Mister Park put special attention on her. He glanced at his watch for a second, then finally nodded. "Alright, go ahead. And be quick about it; it will be your line's turn soon!"

"Thank you!" Ran Xueyi turned around and ran inside the yacht. She really looked like she was in a hurry. However, as soon as she was out of their sights and no one was around, Ran Xueyi, who was a few steps away from the restroom, made a U-turn and dashed towards the side of the yacht. Then, without hesitation, she jumped off the yacht, submerged in the sea, and swam away.