

## Daddy CEO 571

### Chapter 571 Karma and Drama

The call connected pretty much instantly.

The people Song Yongrui wanted to meet were none other than the gangs in some clubs in the city. Although they ruled these clubs that didn't even pass his elite standards, they were pretty much more than okay, considering they were all booming with customers every night.

Moreover, this gang is the ring leader among the other gangs in the city.

It frightened Song Yongrui, but he had already seen how they acted towards him. They were currying favor with him. It's just that he doesn't know what they want from him.

'What else could they want from me? It's just more money to spend, right?' Song Yongrui laughed mockingly.

The gang wasn't even in his eyes. They're just turds on the ground. He could choose to avoid them or step on them.

After waiting under a shaded part of the road, Song Yongrui finally saw several bikes rushing through the street. It wasn't the normal-looking motorcycles you could see everywhere on the national road. It was the kind a motorcycle gang would ride when they were going on a strike at night.

In the middle of the group, a black Rolls-Royce was being escorted.

"Whew! Now that's how I like it!" Song Yongrui peeled himself away from the tree he was leaning against. He whistled, looking at the group of bad-looking men.

Right now, he was feeling the excitement he could never feel with his old friends. Those friends were becoming boring anyway.

And this type of excitement was just what he wanted on the day he ran away from his mother's grasp.

But, is this really okay?

He looked back the way he had come from and shook his head. If he stayed inside the mansion for even a minute, he might grow mushrooms all over his body.

Besides, his mother has become increasingly controlling over him.

Just for today. Let me have fun. "Young master Song!" a big burly man stepped out of the black Rolls Royce. His entire body looked like it was a wall of muscles.

Song Yongrui's face brightened up. He gleefully hopped towards the muscle man. With a smile, he said, "Brother Gu! You're finally here!"

Brother Gu, or his full name, Gu Ming, is the current ring leader of the gang Dog Bound. He overlooks most mid-tier clubs in the city, which was sixty percent of the clubs in the city.

"Didn't I tell you not to call me young master? Aren't we buddies already? Just call me Yongrui." Song Yongrui approached Gu Ming with a frown.

Gu Ming guffawed satisfyingly at his words. He clapped his hand on Song Yongrui's shoulder. The force literally shook his entire body, but the latter didn't flinch.

"Good! From now on, we're brothers!" Gu Ming didn't stand on ceremony and readily accepted his offer.

Song Yongrui's lips twitched. He wanted to tell the other that it was just him speaking in courtesy, but never mind that, it was better to have more allies than enemies. Plus, having Brother Gu on his side gave him some confidence in going against his mother that night.

"My mother should be looking for me now. We should go quickly."

Gu Ming signaled his men as he led Song Yongrui inside his car.

"Don't worry, I will take care of you, brother."

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As Gu Ming promised, he really did take care of him.

Soon after they cruised through the city, they stopped at an establishment. Compared to the other buildings that proudly advertised themselves as clubs, this one probably was the most decent-looking one.

Gu Ming took him inside. What surprised Song Yongrui was that in contrast to its decent exterior, it was extremely different inside.

Chandeliers hang on the ceilings. But they weren't just normal chandeliers that had crystals hanging on them. Instead, scantily dressed females had their slender and soft legs wrapped around them, dancing and swaying along with it.

Below, people filled the scattered tables. Each table had females, who barely wore anything on their bodies. Naturally, drinks and some snacks were on the tables.

"This..." Song Yongrui stared in awe at the sight before him.

He had been to many playgrounds before. But those couldn't beat the place in front of him.

"Is this a brothel?" Song Yongrui asked as his head turned from side to side to check each corner with his eyes wide.

Who would have thought a normal-looking building would have something fun inside it?

"Do you like it?" Gu Ming asked, folding his sleeves inward.

"Like it?" Song Yongrui panted. "I f\*cking love it! What is this place?"

Gu Ming chuckled at the childish expression on Song Yongrui's face.

"Is this a brothel?" Song Yongrui asked as his head turned from side to side to check each corner with his eyes wide.

Gu Ming scoffed and replied, "This place is too wonderful to compare to a cheap brothel. This is Hell's Paradise. The only place where the bad can get the good. And the good can get the bad."

He turned to walk to a staircase guarded by two huge bouncers. "There're too many eyes here. Let's go up."

Song Yongrui didn't object and followed Gu Ming without a trace of doubt.

They entered a room that looked like one of the VIP rooms. This time, the room was all for Song Yongrui to use.

They sat down and spoke to each other for a couple of minutes when a group of young ladies entered. Unlike the women downstairs, these ladies were prettier and more voluptuous.

"Uh... brother Gu, I don't think I should," Song Yongrui wasn't too dumb to not know what Gu Ming meant by bringing these ladies into his VIP room.

He obviously wanted them to serve Song Yongrui.

But Song Yongrui wanted to be cautious. He didn't want to cause any lasting trouble to the Song and Cao family.

Gu Ming narrowed his eyes. He understood Song Yongrui's hesitation.

"Didn't I tell you I'd take care of you tonight? Just relax and let these ladies do what they have to do. Or are you telling me they're not what you preferred?" Gu Ming mischievously looked at Song Yongrui. "Then, forgive me, brother. You should've told me you want the other kind of fun."

With a wave of his hand, the staff in the room turned to the door, ready to leave under Gu Ming's order.

Seeing this, Song Yongrui immediately blushed and shook his head. "No, that's not what I mean. I just don't think I should indulge in this."

"All right, I won't force you then." Gu Ming gave up, pouring Song Yongrui a drink, and said, "Instead, why don't we drink a year's worth tonight?"

Song Yongrui sighed in relief and agreed.

But he didn't notice that the moment he drank the entire drink in his glass, the corner of Gu Ming's lips turned upward.

The rest of the night became a blur.

When Song Yongrui woke up, he was already inside the police's interrogation room, where a police officer was questioning him about what happened last night and whether he remembered murdering the woman he slept with.

Chapter 572 An Unexpected Sight

Back on the island, Ran Xueyi couldn't sleep at night.

She was tossing and turning, feeling a gut-wrenching sensation in her stomach. After what Evgenia told her earlier, she just couldn't take a wink of sleep. And without her husband and son beside her, she wanted to find some comfort from somebody else.

Heading outside her room, Ran Xueyi walked down the empty hallway. Her door was strangely not guarded by some of Evgenia's men. His confidence and arrogance irked Ran Xueyi, but he was right to think that there was no use in putting bodyguards outside her room, as she wouldn't think of escaping alone.

Her only purpose in allowing her kidnappers to take her was to see if Alina was safe and sound.

And that goal was already achieved.

But it wasn't enough.

Just seeing her alive didn't make Ran Xueyi feel satisfied. She wanted to know what happened between her and Evgenia. And to what extent of damage had she done for him to seek revenge from her?

As she took the stairs, a maid coincidentally made a corner. The two almost bumped into each other and were surprised to find somebody walking outside of their rooms in the middle of the night.

"Miss? What are you doing down here?" asked the maid, shooting her doubtful look.

Ran Xueyi knew the maid must be thinking she was trying to escape, so she hurriedly explained before the maid could raise an alarm, "I'm here to find Alina."

Unsure if the maid knew who she was talking about, Ran Xueyi added, "The other girl who came out to greet Evgenia."

Recognition lit up inside the maid's eyes as she said, "Miss Alina is in the basement."

"In what direction is it?"

The maid pointed behind her and directed her, "After that corner, there will be a stair leading down. The guards guarding that place should be able to lead you there."

After thanking the maid, Ran Xueyi hurriedly went to the direction the maid told her. Hearing the word 'basement' made her fear what Evgenia was doing to Alina.

There could be many things that can be done inside a basement. And Ran Xueyi had seen some of them in person when she was young...

Wait, did I?

Stopping in her tracks, Ran Xueyi blinked her eyes a few times. As she did, images that she seemed to be familiar with but couldn't recognize appeared before her eyes.

A narrow and dark hallway filled with a pungent, metallic scent. Doors lined up evenly spaced on either side. The squelching sound of her feet dragging on the cold and wet tiled floor. The lights above flickered along with the sound of the harsh beating of a hard object against a soft one.

And horrific and painful screams bounced against the walls.

Ran Xueyi felt her breath catch up to her throat as if it were burning inside her. She felt unsteady on her feet as she reached her hand toward the wall beside her, but her vision was turning upside down, pulling her to the ground.

Thud.

"What was that?" asked Ran Xueyi in a breathy voice.

Her head was hurting, but it was not so painful that she couldn't tolerate it. Her attention was completely consumed by the images that appeared in her mind.

Were those her memories? Or was it something she'd seen from somewhere else? A movie? A news report? Shaking her head, Ran Xueyi couldn't answer her question. She had so many questions in her head that if she continued thinking, her mind would explode.

At this moment, a guard lurking around the area found her.

"Miss, what are you doing here?"

Ran Xueyi glanced up and asked, "Where's the basement?"

The guard fell silent for a brief moment, then replied, "Do you want to see Alina?"

She nodded to his question.

But strangely, he took a moment to respond to her, as if he found her request hard to accept.

"Is something wrong with Alina?" Ran Xueyi worriedly asked, remembering Alina still had a wound on her stomach. "Did her wound worsen?"

Seeing her panic, the guard quickly responded, "No. Her wound was carefully treated by Dr. Misha and should be fully recovered soon."

"Then lead me to her."

Seeing her resoluteness, the guard didn't find it in himself to refuse her. He also received an order, like everyone else in the mansion, from their master to follow her every request other than escaping the island.

This should be the same as following her request, right?

The guard was unsure if he was doing the right thing. He had just seen Master Evgenia enter the basement room where Alina was staying. It has been an hour since his master entered the room, and he hasn't left since. Although he didn't want to speculate, his master had changed ever since Alina arrived.

When that woman was first captured and taken to the mansion, Master Evgenia only came to see her once a week. The most was once every other day to check if she was still alive.

But the longer she stayed there, Evgenia's visiting hours also increased. He would personally bring her out of the basement and let her sit at the same dining table as him. He'd even accept simple requests from her.

And the strangest thing was that the white fox he had made his pet was now in the hands of that woman. It was the pet that made trouble for everyone. A guard even lost his hands because he touched the animal.

Yet, Alina was safe even after touching it.

The guard looked at Ran Xueyi and wondered why their master had brought her to that place. Does he really plan to make her stay there? What about Miss Alina?



Shaking his head, the guard didn't want to tire himself by trying to guess what his master was thinking. He should just do his job better and guard the place.

"We're here."

They stopped in front of a door.

"Alina is inside that room?" Ran Xueyi's question was answered with a single nod from the guard.

Feeling a bit suffocated, Ran Xueyi thought of the worst.

Behind that door, what would she see if she opened it?

Fear, apprehension, and anger. All three emotions bubbled inside her.

Alina's safety was her priority. If Evgenia dared to harm her, she would make him pay tenfold, regardless of their grievances.

At the same time, Ran Xueyi was perplexed about her feelings. In addition to the three emotions, she was filled with anticipation. It was as if she was looking forward to what would happen in front of her.

Then she realized.

Her anticipation was targeted at triggering a memory hidden in her brain.

"Open it."

Ran Xueyi ordered the guard, who responded with action.

The door swung slowly with an eerie creak.

And then, the scene before her took away her breath.

This...

What the hell is happening...?

### Chapter 573 Honey Trap? (Announcement)

Ran Xueyi had prepared herself for what was behind that door. She imagines that when she opens that door, Evgenia will have his hands on her friend, who teeters between life and death as she is unable to call for help. But no one had braced her for what was in front of her.

Perhaps, not only her. No one expected the scene right in front of their eyes.

Alina was safe and sound. She was more alive than she was when they saw each other a few hours ago. Her hands were obscured from sight at the back of Evgenia's neck, and her legs parted as she straddled his strong and thick thighs. Her face was planted on the man's face while her lips busily sucked on his lower lips. The same thing could also be said about Evgenia. His hands rested on the small back of her friend, adding pressure to the friction and the space that no longer existed between their lower bodies. The sound that came from their mouths as they distractedly made out on the chair was like an unexpected blow of the horn for the Day of Judgment.

With her jaw forgotten on the ground, Ran Xueyi gaped at her best friend and Evgenia practically all over each other.

Never would she have thought that their relationship had turned into something more. When did it start? How? And why didn't Alina say anything about the fact that she had something going on with her captor?

Feeling slightly embarrassed walking in on her best friend making out with who was their enemy, Ran Xueyi found herself torn between dragging Alina out of the room or punching Evgenia for seducing her best friend. Right now, she just wants to rewind to the time when her eyes were still clean and ignorant about their progressing albeit toxic relationship.

"Boss." The big guy who led her into this room appeared behind her.

As soon as his voice landed in their ears, three people froze.

Three pairs of eyes glanced at each other. Ran Xueyi felt it was too hard to keep a neutral expression when the two who had been caught making out were staring at her in shock.

Then, in a matter of seconds, Alina flew from Evgenia's lap and stumbled on the floor. Her heart caught in her throat as she tried to utter some semblance of explanation, but came short as her mouth copied that of a dying fish. A pink hue overtook the color of her wheat-colored skin.

"Xueyi, this is." Alina paused, unsure what to say. Should she tell Ran Xueyi that she was blinded with anger and decided that since she had no way to make Evgenia suffer, she assaulted him by kissing him? But that wouldn't explain why he had to kiss her back. Now, why didn't he push her away?

Turning to the man in question, whose lower lip was busted from her biting and sucking, Alina cursed inwardly as her eyes inevitably traveled lower to where a tent was already forming between his inner thighs. There was no way she could explain that to Ran Xueyi either, right?

Ran Xueyi crossed her arm across her chest and tilted her head slightly, trying hard not to look like a mother who had just caught her teenage daughter sneaking a man inside her room.

"Care to tell me if this is just a fling or something?"

"One-time fling."

"Something."

Both culprits simultaneously answered, but different words came out of their mouths.

Alina gritted out. "A one-time thing."

Evgenia met her gaze for a few seconds and shrugged. "I can't guarantee that."

Glaring at him, Alina approached Ran Xueyi. "Why are you here, by the way?"

Ran Xueyi continued staring between the two of them, not totally buying what her best friend had just said. Settling her gaze on Alina, she answered with a sigh. "I was going to accompany you tonight. But I guess you have that already covered."

Alina felt the rush of blood in her cheeks, feeling even more embarrassed. When Ran Xueyi flew across the globe to rescue her, she was on her way to bedding her captor. Just kill me. Alina groaned.

Suddenly, a warm touch ghosted against her arm. When Alina looked up, Evgenia had already walked past her, making his way to the door. She watched as he spoke to the muscular bodyguard who stood near the door. Their voices were low as they spoke.

"I didn't think you would sleep with him." Ran Xueyi entered the room and sat on the edge of the bed.

"I wasn't going to."

Ran Xueyi arched her eyebrows. "Really?"

"Really." Alina leveled her gaze with hers, trying to look more convincing.

"I'm not criticizing you, Alina." Ran Xueyi held her gaze. "I just think doesn't this work well for all of us?"

"What do you mean?"

Ran Xueyi smiled.

"No." Alina refused immediately.

There was no way she was going to use a honey trap to make Evgenia do everything she want even if that idea sounds so freaking delicious and appealing.

Besides, what was the use of saying this when the man was right outside and could be hearing what they had just said?

But, deep down, Alina was leaning into doing it. Not because she wanted to use him. But because she was curious. She imagined what sleeping with him would feel like and taste like. His woodsy and minty scent lingered in her nose even when he was standing feet away from her. The feel of his hard and muscular body could make any woman reluctant to get up. And she wondered how his hands would feel underneath her clothes.

And that tent she saw earlier. At a glance, she knew he would be big. But what would he feel, smell, and taste like?

Fuck. Now she's drooling over him.

It had been over two years since she last got laid, using only her fingers and toys to relieve the ache and itch between her thighs because any man wouldn't do. No one. Her life was too messed up and dangerous for anyone to stay long. And she didn't want any passing one-night stand that could be used against her.

And Evgenia was a forbidden fruit she shouldn't even think of devouring. He was not just any man. He was the reason why she was in that place and why Ran Xueyi had to come here in hopes of rescuing her.

He was as sinful as he was dangerous.

Yet Alina couldn't deny that, despite everything and anything, that should make her hate him. She didn't. Call her fickle or whatever. Her mind was just wired differently from your ordinary, good girl. She liked her men bad. And Evgenia? He's more than that.

A flurry of footsteps entered their ears, and a couple of bodyguards appeared in front of the room.

Alina stopped her musing and looked at Ran Xueyi, who was already alerted by their appearance.

"What's going on?" Ran Xueyi walked to the door.

Evgenia set his jaws hard, his lips forming a line. "Intruders have come."

The light flickered once before plunging the room into sudden, complete darkness.

## Chapter 574 Carnage

"Intruders?" Ran Xueyi frowned.

"The island has sensor signals that allow my men to know when an intruder is entering without permission." Evgenia walked past the door, followed closely by Ran Xueyi and Alina.

"What if it's just a wild animal?" Alina asked.

Evgenia shook his head. "Then my men wouldn't need to alert me like this."

Ran Xueyi thought the same. She wouldn't let a wild animal pass if she installed an alarm sensor in her territory. Animals may not have evil intentions like humans, but they're still just as deadly. If Evgenia's men thought there were intruders on the island that were more threatening than wild animals, they would do everything they could to report their findings. It's better to be cautious than to die an early death because of arrogance.

With darkness filling their surroundings, rendering their sights useless, Ran Xueyi and the others have to rely on their other senses. That is if no one gets to them before they can get out of the basement.

Hearts in their throats, Ran Xueyi stood with her back against the wall. She could hear the ruffling sounds of fabrics rubbing against skin and the bated breaths of her companions. It should've made her feel relieved, but in this dire situation, she couldn't allow herself to trust her life in somebody's hands.

"Alina, come here."

Ran Xueyi's voice bounced against the walls, echoing loudly in this deafening silence. She felt herself bumping against someone. But with the darkness still blocking her vision, she wasn't certain whose body it belonged to.

"It's okay, Xueyi. It's a little cramped with everyone, so I'll stay where I am," Alina's answer came from a near distance. Ran Xueyi deduced they were a couple of steps away from each other.

She would've crossed to that side, but a hand wrapped around her wrist kept her from moving towards her friends.

She wanted to struggle so the hand could let her go, but she heard Evgenia's baritone voice from beside her.

"We still don't know what's going on, so don't let your guard down. Keep close and do not risk your lives by acting hastily," Evgenia instructed in the dark.

Ran Xueyi stopped moving, but her face turned in the direction where she assumed Alina would be.

"I need to go to Alina," she whispered.

"Stay still." His hand around her wrist tightened.

"No, she's injured." Ran Xueyi struggled to be released.

She didn't think she could overpower Evgenia's strength, but she still tried to make him release her.

Too bad, Evgenia was adamant about not letting her out of his sight.

"Your friend is more capable of taking care of yourself, Xueyi," Evgenia reminded her. "Right now, you're the most vulnerable out of everyone in this place. So, don't even think of running. Or are you planning to get a repeat of the past?"

Ran Xueyi frowned at the last line. "What do you mean?"

Evgenia no longer responded to her, pulling her slowly as he stepped forward.

But his silence made her even more confused. What does he mean by repeating the past? Had something similar happened to her before? Ran Xueyi sensed she was edging closer to finding the answers to the past that had been blocked from her memories. Yet, Evgenia, the only person who holds the key to piecing the puzzle, refused to tell her anymore.

After walking in the darkness for a few minutes, they finally reached the first step of the stairs that could lead them out of the basement. There was light seeping through the door and removing the suffocating and uncomfortable darkness that wrapped around them like a chain.

But no one stepped forward to get the door when they saw it.

It was too quiet. Strange. Ran Xueyi anxiously chewed on her lower lip as she realized that although they anonymously didn't speak and they shortly got used to the silence in the basement, the unsettling sensation prickling at them when they sensed the eerie silence outside the door was not a good sign.

No one expressed their opinion. But ultimately, everyone agreed on one thing.

What they were sensing was the calm before the storm.

And no one wants to trek towards the storm unprepared.

With the tiny salvation coming from the lights outside, Ran Xueyi saw Evgenia gesturing towards his men with a couple of hand signals. Then, before she could understand what they meant, three men surged forward, pushing the door with abandon.

Bang!

As they came out of the basement, one of the three got shot in the legs, forcing him to drop down and clutch his wounded leg. The other two returned fire, guns stretched outward and continuously spitting bullets.

"Run!" Evgenia shouted his order in a grave tone. Then, the first gunshot came.

As they came out of the basement, one of the three got shot in the legs, forcing him to drop down and clutch his wounded leg. The other two returned fire, guns stretched outward and continuously spitting bullets.

"Run!" Evgenia shouted his order in a grave tone. "Alina!"



Ran Xueyi scrambled to her feet as fast as she could. She followed Evgenia closely behind her and was relieved to see Alina running just two feet behind her. A gun was in her friend's hand.

"Run, Xueyi! Don't look back!" Alina worried and glanced in her direction while keeping the corners of her eyes focused on any foreign movements.

Ran Xueyi nodded and ran quicker.

The mansion was enormous, and the area where one could walk was spacious. It should take a minute to reach the other end if they walk at a normal pace. But at this time, Ran Xueyi felt like they had been running for eternity. Her back was soaked in sweat, and her heart drummed against her ears.

She swept her eyes around. Evgenia stood on her right, while Alina was on her left. A few other men were also standing against the wall, much closer to the opening where the unknown enemy was shooting their bullets their way. Shouts and grunts went past her ears as many filled their bodies with bullets.

It was a scene of carnage.

Alina and Evgenia weren't new to this type of situation. They lived their whole lives wiping the guns they held in their hands even in sleep, the screams and blood of their enemies a blanket covering them.

But for an ordinary person like Ran Xueyi, who had never been in the midst of a sea of bullets, it was terrifying.

Yet why does she feel that this is not her first time?

A nagging thought told her that this was a scene that had been repeated in the past. A scene where all the horrors she wanted to escape from were born.

"Xueyi..."

"Xueyi!"

Ran Xueyi snapped and looked beside her. Alina had gone white, as if all her blood had been drained from her body.

Turning to face forward, she saw herself in the glass window.

She saw her reflection staring back at her with a dazed look, completely unaware of the red dot that now appeared on the spot between her eyebrows.

Chapter 575 Run, Run, Little One

Song recommendation: Lullaby of Woe by Ashley Serena

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"Do not move, Xueyi."

Ran Xueyi didn't need anyone to tell her she shouldn't move. The red dot that links across where somebody could be sniping at her was enough for her heart to stop pumping blood.

With every breath she took, the sniper could be caressing the trigger like a baby's butt. They could be smiling, stroking their sadistic egos to bring out the primal fear of death inside her.

"We need to get her out of the sniper's range," Alina said.

"Easier said than done."

"Well, is there anything else you can do then?"

"I'm thinking."

"Something more productive than that."

Evgenia shot her a look. "What about you?"

Alina gritted her teeth. "Moral support."

The two bickered even in this situation. Although it was not the right time to do this, Ran Xueyi's nerves relaxed, and she could breathe more now. Alina and Evgenia were a good distraction for her not to think about the sniper who could blow her head into smithereens.

It was impossible to get rid of the sniper at this distance, but at least her head was no longer cloudy.

"I'm going to jump." Ran Xueyi looked at herself in the window.

"What?" Alina stopped glaring at Evgenia and looked at her friend in disbelief.

"I'm going to jump from the window," Ran Xueyi repeated. "The sniper must be somewhere in the trees, expecting me not to move. He probably wants me not to."

"That's crazy. I won't allow it!" Evgenia wanted to reach out to drag her to his side, but Ran Xueyi kept her hands far from his reach. "Ran Xueyi, this isn't a good idea. You could die if you move."

"And I will still die if I don't." Ran Xueyi let her eyes move to look at him before looking at the window again, where the tall trees now appear like monsters with claws and fangs. "The sniper won't be able to shoot me accurately if I move around, especially if I jump out of the window. Anyway, I'm just informing you beforehand."

Alina wanted to stop her, but Ran Xueyi ran before she or Evgenia could say anything to protest against her decision.

It was a gamble. Her life hung in the balance, with the Grim Reaper waiting for the slightest trigger.

Ran Xueyi knew that. But she didn't want to become a burden to Alina and Evgenia. These two could well protect themselves and survive in any perilous situation. And with her dragging them across the feet, it was clear they would end up dead one way or another.

Fortunately, she trained herself during her stay in Ren Country.

And right now, she's using everything at her disposal to save her life.

"Fuck!" Alina cried out as she tried to follow her friend.

However, before she could come out, Evgenia suddenly hugged her and sent them to the ground, out of the window's view and obscured from the sniper's eyes.

But as soon as the target was out of his range, the sniper started to unload his gun, making holes in the wall where Ran Xueyi was standing earlier and the wall below the windows. No matter how much he shot below the windows, none of the bullets hit the target he was looking for or pierced through the reinforced walls.

"What are you doing? Get off, you bastard!" Alina struggled to fight back. "Xueyi! You bitch! You better be alive or I'll kill you myself!"

"Calm down." Evgenia's voice came from above her head.

Alina punched him in the gut, earning a painful grunt from him. "My friend jumped in the window, and you're telling me to calm down? You heartless jerk. Didn't you want to see her? Now, you're just letting her die!"

Evgenia peeled himself off her and sat against the wall. He pointed a thumb in one direction and said, "She's fine."

Alina followed the direction he was pointing in and gaped.

Ran Xueyi, who said she would jump from the window, was lying on her stomach on the floor. When she caught Alina's incredulous stare, she even waved as if to say 'hi'.

"You..." Alina fumed. She had a lot of things to say, but other words came out of her mouth. "I'm glad you're alive."

"Thanks." Ran Xueyi grinned.

After escaping the sniper's line of sight, Ran Xueyi and the others still have one more problem. How would they get out of the mansion without being caught?

Truthfully, she did want to jump out of the window. But seconds before she could act on her threat, her mind suddenly told her not to do it. Not only was she going to be left outside alone, but she'd also be prey to all the other snipers who could be hiding in the trees.

Thus, instead of doing that, she decided to throw herself to the floor so the walls below the window could hide her. Fortunately, Evgenia caught on to her plans and followed her. Alina was the only one distracted among them.

After escaping the sniper's line of sight, Ran Xueyi and the others still have one more problem. How would they get out of the mansion without being caught?

"Let's go to the left wing of the mansion. There's a cellar that will connect us to a bunker." Evgenia nodded to one of his men to lead the path.

"Is it far?"

"No, it's just around the corner."

They remained walking in a crouched manner. Evgenia's men held their rifles tightly against their bodies, ready to take out any enemy who would come out of nowhere. But strangely, as they got closer and closer to the cellar, no one had come their way.

"Did they find out we're here?" Ran Xueyi looked around the dimly lit, narrow space.

It was eerily quiet, and no wind passed through them, making their clothes stick to their skin as they sweated out.

Evgenia shook his head. The former owner of the mansion has completely forgotten this bunker, which hasn't been used for fifty years. I only came across it three years ago and didn't have the time to have it completed.

"It won't cave in, right?" Alina cast a worried look at the old-looking bulb attached to the ceiling, flickering on and off just like in snuff and horror films. Dust fell off the walls and ceilings.

Evgenia arched a brow. "Let's hope it won't before we get out of here."

Ran Xueyi looked up ahead. Her feet moved by themselves, pushing her forward. She was once again experiencing this odd sense of familiarity. She was certain she had never been in this tunnel. It was her first time coming to this island. Yet she couldn't shake off the feeling that she was retracing the steps she had taken in the past.

The smell of soot, filth, and mud stuck to her nostrils, making her stomach churn.

'Tap. Tap. Tap.'

The sound of water splattering as someone ran, splashing the dirty water on their calves whenever they hit the water.

And a heavier and more resounding splash followed closely behind.

"Haa..." her soft pants came out of her trembling lips. "Where are you, little girl?" a voice echoed in the tunnel.

"Why don't you stop running and come here? I'll give you a lollipop and a bed to sleep in."

The footsteps grew, as if more people were chasing after her.

Then, they started singing. Their voices have a harrowing tone that sends tiny spiders underneath her skin.

"Run, run, little one, as fast as you can.

The Master is on your heels, and he has a plan.

Run, run, little one, don't you stop. The Master is coming, creeping on your back.

Run, run, little one, don't look back.

Ran Xueyi stopped walking as she slowly turned around, compelled to look behind her.

For some unexplainable reason, she felt like she would find something there. Someone was at the other end of the tunnel, staring at her.