

PROTEGE 156

Chapter 156: THE OVER PROTECTIVE FATTY

"Ling, I promise you, I will make you the happiest woman. I will take care of you and the children as long as I live," Four Eyes whispered, his voice filled with unwavering determination. His eyes locked onto hers, conveying a depth of love and devotion that made Ling Li's tears well up.

Ling Li's eyes filled with tears, her heart swelling with joy. She reached up, her fingers intertwining with his, their hands creating an unbreakable connection. "Chu Yan, I've never been more certain of anything in my life. I want to spend the rest of my days with you," she replied, her voice cracking with emotion.

Four Eyes leaned in, his lips brushing against her forehead in a tender kiss. "Then it's settled. We'll face everything and grow old together," he murmured, his breath warm against her skin. The weight of his words settled over them like a protective blanket, wrapping them in the promise of a future built on love and trust.

The room seemed to pulse with the promise of their future, the air heavy with unspoken vows and the certainty of their love. Ling Li could feel the steady rhythm of Four Eyes' heartbeat against her own, a reassuring reminder that they were no longer alone. They had each other, and together, they would face whatever challenges lay ahead.

Four Eyes couldn't let this precious moment pass; as if he was refreshed by the good news, he ravished Ling Li again with a newfound power.

Ling Li "...."

As they lay there, lost in each other's love, the world outside continued to move, but within their embrace, nothing else mattered. The time was theirs, a canvas upon which they would paint the story of their love, their hearts beating in perfect harmony.

It was already late afternoon when everyone emerged from their respective rooms, well-rested and ready to face the evening. Only Lily had not taken a break; she had spent the entire afternoon engrossed in her gymnastic training. Fatty, her ever-loyal companion, chose to forego his rest and stayed by his little girlfriend, Lily's side, witnessing her grueling training regimen for the first time.

Fatty's heart ached for Lily as he observed the intensity and rigor of her exercises. With the renowned international gymnastics Coach Carlos pushing Lily to the brink of perfection, Fatty's protective instincts flared. He wanted to rush forward and confront Coach Carlos, but he knew that any interference would be counterproductive. He understood Lily's determination to perfect each routine after an exhaustive warm-up. Fatty could only endure his heartache silently, supporting Lily with gritted teeth, clenched fists, and a heavy heart.

When Fatty saw Lily's uneven bar routine for the first time, his heart nearly leaped out of his chest. His instinct was to run to her side and catch her, but Coach Carlos's fierce glare held him in place. If looks could kill, Fatty would have been laid to rest many times over by now. Fatty sat still and could only endure his anxiety, his eyes fixed on Lily, watching her every move from a distance.

Fatty's internal struggle was palpable. His hands clenched into tight fists, and beads of sweat formed on his forehead as he silently willed Lily to succeed. His mind raced with a flurry of emotions—fear, admiration, and helplessness all mingling together. Each time Lily launched herself into the air, Fatty held his breath, praying for her safe landing.

Lily's uneven bar routine was indeed a spectacle, especially for someone naive about gymnastics. She was attempting one of the most challenging routines in the sport, rated G, known as the 'Full Twister-Gienger.' The routine began with a powerful run-up, followed by a leap to the high bar. The first component, the 'full twist,' required Lily to perform a 360-degree twist in mid-air while gripping the high bar. This twist showcased her control and precision, leaving the audience in awe.

As the twist is completed, Lily releases the bar and transitions into the 'Gienger flip,' a backflip executed with grace and speed. Fatty and Coach Carlos' assistants gasped, their eyes fixed on her elegant form. Lily's agility and coordination were nothing short of remarkable. The routine then transitioned to the 're-grasping the bar,' where Lily reached out and re-grasped the bar with perfect timing, seamlessly catching it in mid-air. Fatty and the rest couldn't help but applaud their admiration for her growing with each move.

The routine concluded with the 'dismount.' Lily swung forward, released the bar once more, and executed a final flip before landing solidly on the mat. The combination of twisting and flipping required immense strength, precision, and artistry, making the Full Twister-Gienger a spectacular highlight in any gymnastics performance.

Fatty was utterly flabbergasted, his mouth agape in astonishment. He was brought back to reality by Coach Carlos's loud voice. "Good, you executed the routine without a fall, but we need it to be more solid. I want to see more strength, power, and speed."

"I will work harder, Coach," Lily replied politely, determination gleaming in her eyes.

"Let's do it again," Coach Carlos commanded.

Fatty's face turned black, worse than a pot.

After several more attempts, Coach Carlos finally said, "Let's call it a day. Do your cool-down exercises."

"Thank you, Coach," Lily said with a smile, content with her days training.

Fatty's face was as dark as a storm cloud. In his eyes, each of Lily's performances had been flawless, but what did he know about the intricacies of gymnastics?

When Coach Carlos saw Fatty's expression, he snorted coldly. He muttered, "Overprotective, aren't we?" before walking away, leaving Fatty to simmer in his frustration.

Fatty "..."

Fatty sat on the bench, his eyes never leaving Lily as she performed her cool-down exercises under the watchful eye of Coach Carlos's subordinate. Each stretch and movement she made only heightened his admiration and concern. He clenched his fists, feeling a storm of emotions swirl inside him.

When Lily finally finished, she bounded over to Fatty with a spring in her step, her face beaming with satisfaction. However, her smile faltered when she saw the stormy expression on his face.

Chapter 157: WHO LIKES TO STUDY?

"You! What's wrong? Who made you angry?" Lily asked, her brows furrowed in confusion.

"Lily, you've worked so hard. My heart ached while watching you. Are you tired? Let me send you to your room so you can rest," Fatty said, his voice filled with emotion as he enveloped Lily in a protective embrace.

Lily, still brimming with energy from her training, was taken aback by Fatty's concern. "What made you think I'm tired? I feel energized after my training! You don't have to worry about me. You should be the one resting after coming back from the Mystic Mountain," she replied, her voice gentle but firm.

With Leeroy and Reginald's guidance, Lily had learned to harness her internal energy during training. Not only did it prevent her from feeling exhausted, but the physical exertion also helped refine her body for her martial arts cultivation. She had finally broken through to the first stage of the gathering realm.

Fatty's eyes softened as he held Lily, feeling the warmth of her small frame against his. "No, I'm not tired. I'd rather be with you than rest," he said, his voice a mixture of tenderness and resolve. Fatty was a towering six foot two inches, while Lily stood at a petite five foot two inches. Despite their difference in height, they fit perfectly in each other's arms, their connection palpable.

Lily looked up at Fatty, her eyes filled with gratitude and affection. "You really worry too much, Quan Ye. I'm stronger than I look," she said, gently patting his chest.

Fatty chuckled softly, his tension easing. "I know you're strong, but I can't help it. Seeing you push yourself like that... it just gets to me."

Lily smiled, her eyes twinkling with mischief. "Well, if it makes you feel any better, you can keep being my personal cheerleader. I could use the extra support."

Fatty laughed, the sound rich and hearty. "Deal. But don't think I won't step in if I ever feel you're overdoing it."

Lily's smile widened, and she stood on her tiptoes to plant a soft kiss on Fatty's cheek. "Thank you, Quan Ye. I appreciate you always looking out for me."

The two stayed in each other's arms, savoring the warmth and comfort of their embrace. They were startled when Leeroy came to find them, his footsteps echoing in the training room.

Leeroy, who was not expecting to see such an intimate scene, felt a pang of jealousy. He coughed awkwardly, feeling as if he had swallowed a mouthful of dog food. The sight of the sweet couple surrounded by pink bubbles was almost too much for a singleton like him to bear.

"Cough, cough, Young Miss, Master, dinner is almost ready," Leeroy announced, his face flushed as he rubbed his nose in embarrassment.

Lily, hearing Leeroy's voice, buried her face in Fatty's chest, mortified to be caught being lovey-dovey with Fatty by her personal bodyguard. Her face turned as red as a cooked shrimp. Fatty found her reaction amusing and couldn't help but chuckle. "We'll be out in a moment, thank you," Fatty replied to Leeroy.

Leeroy quickly exited the room, leaving the couple alone once more. "It's your fault!" Lily exclaimed, playfully hitting Fatty's chest. Her actions only made Fatty feel warmer and happier.

"Yeah, it's my fault, I'm sorry," Fatty said, rubbing Lily's hair lovingly.

They stood there for a moment, wrapped in each other's warmth, before Lily playfully tugged at Fatty's hand. "Come on, let's grab something to eat. I'm starving!"

"Um, let's go. We should go back before others come looking for us." Fatty agreed, reluctantly letting go of Lily.

Fatty grinned and followed Lily's lead, his heart swelling with pride and affection. Together, they headed towards the dining hall.

As they walked towards the dining hall, Fatty, holding Lily's little hand on his, couldn't help but feel a surge of pride and affection for Lily. Despite the rigorous training and the challenges they faced, their bond remained unbreakable.

Lily and Fatty arrived hand in hand, their faces still glowing from the training room encounter. They found their seats and joined the group, grateful for the warmth and camaraderie of their friends and family.

Four Eyes and Ling Li were the last to arrive at the dining hall, each carrying one of their precious twins in their arms. Kim Kim, nestled in Four Eyes' arms, was a bundle of energy and joy. She kept giving her father small kisses, expressing how much she had missed him. In contrast, Chin Chin, cradled in her mother's arms, was sleepy and a little grumpy after finishing her tutoring session.

"The little beanies have grown so much in just two months!" Chatty exclaimed, his eyes wide with amazement. He hadn't seen the twins for some time and was struck by how quickly they were growing.

"Indeed, and they are already learning to walk," Ren chimed in happily, her eyes twinkling with pride.

Chatty approached Kim Kim with a big smile. "Kim Kim, remember Uncle Murphy?" he asked, gently holding her little hand.

"U...cle Mu...py," Kim Kim repeated, following Chatty's lead. The room erupted in cheers and laughter at her adorable attempt to say his name. "Good girl,"

Chatty, delighted by Kim Kim's response, turned his attention to Chin Chin. "Chin Chin, it's Uncle Murphy. Do you remember me?" he asked, his voice soft and encouraging.

Chin Chin stared at Chatty for a moment, her eyes large and solemn. Then, without warning, she burst into tears. "Ahhhh... hu hu hu hu..." Chin Chin wailed, her cries filling the room and making everyone uneasy.

Chatty "!!!!"

Chatty's face went pale, and he froze in place, his eyes wide with panic. He was scared to death since Chin Chin was in Ling Li's arms.

"It's alright," Ling Li said soothingly as she gently swayed Chin Chin in her arms. Her calm demeanor immediately eased the tension in the room. Chatty, feeling a wave of relief and pardoned, hurried back to his seat, his heart still pounding.

"The twins just finished their tutoring session, and Chin Chin doesn't enjoy studying as much as Kim Kim. She's always grumpy afterward." Ling Li explained.

Everyone in the room exchanged knowing looks. "Who likes to study, anyway?" someone muttered under their breath, causing a ripple of laughter.

Chapter 158: THE HEAVENLY DAO

Four Eyes and Ling Li carefully placed the twins in their high chairs. "Everyone, let's eat," Ling Li announced, signaling the start of the meal.

As everyone picked up their chopsticks and began serving themselves, the dining hall filled with the sounds of clinking dishes and cheerful conversation. The twins, now seated at the table, watched with wide eyes, their earlier moods forgotten as they observed the lively scene around them. The air was thick with the aroma of delicious food, and the warmth of camaraderie enveloped the room.

The dinner was very lively; everyone was eager to share their experiences from the last two months of being away from each other. The group from the mystic mountain shared their unforgettable fight with the demonic beast; Lily and Ren shared their updates on their training and studies. Ling Li's side shared how they entered Camp Phoenix and discovered the android project and how Otako fought the thousands of soldiers in two strikes.

"Whooooaaaa! Otako is truly awesome!" Everyone in the dining room was thrilled.

"Killing more than five thousand in two strikes! How can it not be awesome!" one of them exclaimed, their eyes wide with admiration.

"Not only that! Remember, the Mystic Mountain Azure Dragon said that Otako is immortal!" Shun added, his voice filled with awe.

"Mom, is Otako truly immortal?" Ren curiously asked, her eyes shining with curiosity.

Ling Li's heart skipped a beat, but she recovered in an instant. These split-second changes didn't escape Four Eyes. "Yes, it is true. Otako became immortal several years ago. That is why Otako has been

preparing to look for his protege to take over his legacy. Because in time, Otako has to return to the Heavenly Dao where immortals belong.”

“Mom, is the Heavenly Dao you are referring to the Hidden Valley?” Ren once again asked, his curiosity piqued.

“Yes, it’s the Hidden Valley,” Ling Li confirmed.

“What is the Hidden Valley, and where is it?” Chatty raised a question that some of them had the same in mind.

“Hidden Valley is a place where all martial artists are registered. Also, only martial artists can go in. They are like the government of all martial artists; that is why everyone has to be registered so martial artists won’t get out of hand in the mortal world,” Shi Min explained.

“Oooohhhh...” Everyone was astonished to find out there was such a place.

“In time, you will visit this place to cultivate. This place is very special; it is best for cultivation. And you will participate in competitions,” Shi Min added.

“Competition???” Chatty asked as he almost choked on his food.

“Yes, every four years, there’s a family competition. The next competition will be next year. Don’t worry about it for now,” Shi Min clarified.

“Big Brother, did you actually make human androids?” Lily asked in excitement, her eyes sparkling with anticipation.

“Lily, you don’t seem to believe in your brother’s capability? You Brat! Are you looking down at me?!” Shi Min declared sheepishly, a playful grin on his face.

“No, no, no, big brother, you are awesome! I want to see them!” Lily cheekily said, her excitement palpable.

Shi Min snorted as he continued to eat, a satisfied smile on his face.

“Lily, you had your first major breakthrough,” Ling Li remarked, her voice filled with pride.

“Yes, Mom, I did!” Lily exclaimed happily, her eyes shining with joy.

“Good for you. Everyone, starting tomorrow, every five in the morning, each one will join me for training at the back courtyard. No one is exempted,” Ling Li declared, her tone firm and authoritative.

“Mom, my dance practice starts at six in the morning,” Lily said, her voice tinged with concern.

“Leeroy will adjust your schedule and coordinate with your coaches. He will inform you of your final schedules,” Ling Li replied, her tone reassuring.

Despite the challenges and busy schedules, moments like these reminded them of the importance of togetherness and the bonds that held them all together.

After dinner, “Ling, I’ll go visit my parents first,” Four Eyes said, his voice gentle.

“Yes, let me go with you,” Ling Li replied, her eyes filled with concern.

“No need, you can visit them tomorrow, you should rest first,” Four Eyes insisted. How can he let Ling Li join him; visiting his parents is only a way out for him to meet the guys later to ask for their help with his wedding proposal he plans to surprise Ling Li.

“Ooh,” Ling Li could sense that Four Eyes had something that he didn’t want her to know, so she gave in. Four Eyes gave her a kiss before leaving, his heart pounding with excitement.

Since Ling Li couldn't join Four Eyes, she turned to her son. "Shi Min, come to my study," Ling Li said firmly.

Shi Min, intrigued by the unusual request, followed his mother to her study. As he entered, his curiosity was palpable. "Mom, is everything alright?"

Ling Li took a deep breath before revealing, "Otako called and informed me of Azure bone and Ruby Coral in his possession. With the snow ginseng that your Paps brought back from Mystic Mountain, I can refine pills that will help you break through to the end of the Exalt Realm. You've been at this bottleneck for many years."

Shi Min's eyes widened. This was a significant breakthrough. He thought in excitement.

"I hope you can break through before the family competition next year. Go into seclusion and take Wushing with you. He could also use this time to strengthen himself," Ling Li suggested, her voice determined and resolute.

Shi Min hesitated, concern etched on his face. "How can I take Wushing with me? He manages all my businesses when I'm not around. Also, how can I go into seclusion at this crucial time? Shun has to train twice as much, and we only have until next year to prepare for Otako's order to take over the Chinese government."

Ling Li's expression softened but remained firm. "You don't have to worry about these trivial matters; I will take care of it. If you can't take Wushing, take Dane with you. The human androids will handle Camp Phoenix. You can leave after the wedding," she insisted.

Chapter 159: I NEED ALL YOUR HELP

Shi Min sighed, his resolve wavering. "Mom, let me think about it. There is no rush. I'm not in a hurry to break through. Besides, Lily will join the competitions, and I also want to be there to support her."

Ling Li pondered for a moment and nodded, understanding his hesitation. "Alright, I'll prepare the pills. Let me know whenever you decide to go."

"Thanks, Mom. And you should be careful and rest more with my three brothers in your womb," Shi Min said with a playful grin, unable to resist teasing his mother before leaving the study.

Ling Li chuckled, her laughter filling the room. It always made her laugh every time Shi Min referred to the babies in her womb as brothers. She rubbed her belly lovingly, thinking of the triplets growing inside her. The warmth of her touch seemed to resonate with the life within, and she felt a deep sense of connection and anticipation for the future.

Ling Li, with a weary sigh, moved quietly to check on the twins. She smiled softly, her maternal instincts making her heart swell with love. She gently kissed their foreheads before finally retreating to her room. The pregnancy had made her feel increasingly exhausted, a constant reminder of the new life growing inside her. She changed into her nightgown, her movements slow and deliberate. She hoped for a restful sleep, knowing her days would only get busier.

Meanwhile, After Four Eyes visited his parents and made sure they were both well and doing great, Four Eyes, on his way back to the main house feeling a mix of excitement and nerves, reached for his phone. He needed support from the people who had been constants in his life. With a determined breath, he called his best friends Fatty and Chatty to meet him at the gazebo. He also calls Shun, who was his constant companion from their mystical adventures on Mystic Mountain.

The thought crossed his mind whether to include Shi Min in this sudden assembly. Still, his hesitation melted away as Shi Min answered and, without a moment's pause, agreed to come.

Everyone arrived with a mixture of curiosity and concern, their shared history urging them to respond promptly to such a call. Ren, too, had shown interest in joining, but Shun insisted that he attend alone. "Since Uncle said for me to go, I should go alone. I'll just tell you about it when I come back; stay here and wait for me." Ren reluctantly agreed, her curiosity piqued but her faith in Shun unshaken.

With all eyes now on Four Eyes, the usually reserved man found himself grappling with words. His friends could sense his inner turmoil. Fatty, always the one to break the ice, spoke up, "Chu Yan, is something the matter?"

Four Eyes remained silent, lost in thought. His hesitation was palpable, and the group grew restless. Shi Min, ever perceptive, said, "Pap's, we know you don't speak much, but if you have something in your mind, you have to say it. We can't read your mind." Then, with a mischievous glint, he added, "Oh, on second thought, I could read your thoughts if you don't mind." Indeed, Shi Min's Mystic power allowed him to delve into the minds of others.

Four Eye “...”

The silence stretched, and just when it seemed endless, Four Eyes let out a heavy sigh. “I... I want to propose to your Mother,” he finally admitted, his voice filled with a mix of determination and nervousness. “I need all your help to prepare.”

Gasps of surprise echoed around the room, except from Shi Min, who had already sensed his intentions. One by one, they congratulated Four Eyes with genuine warmth.

“Chu Yan! Congratulations! You are truly my man!” Chatty cheered, his excitement palpable.

“Uncle, congratulations,” Shun echoed, his eyes shining with pride.

“Bro, I’m so happy for you,” Fatty added, giving Four Eyes a hearty pat on the shoulder.

Shi Min, moved by his stepfather’s intention, said, “Paps, thank you. Mom will surely be delighted.” The realization that Four Eyes was planning a formal wedding proposal for his mother filled him with pride and satisfaction.

Four Eyes, overwhelmed by their support and joy, felt a sense of certainty and happiness. “This is what I should do,” he told Shi Min, his resolve clear.

Shi Min, seizing the moment, asked, “Then Paps, what do you have in mind? Do you need my help with the rings?”

“Yes, can the engagement ring be done in a week?” Four Eyes’ anxiety was evident in his voice.

Shi Min reassured him, “Paps, leave the production of the rings to me. However, do you have any designs in mind?”

Four Eyes nodded, "I will leave the final design of the ring to you. I only have several requests; I hope the engagement ring has something to symbolize my presence and the twins, while the wedding ring symbolizes infinity."

Shi Min's eyes sparkled with approval, "Got it, leave it to me."

Fatty, eager to contribute, asked, "What about us? What do you plan for us to help you with?"

Four Eyes, scratching his head in mild confusion, replied, "Um, where and what to do?"

The room erupted in laughter at his innocence. Shi Min declared, "I think we need the women's team here."

Shun agreed, "I think so too. Women have more imagination and creativity regarding this matter."

With that, Shi Min pulled out his phone, "Let me call Pharsa."

Shun followed suit, "Let me call Ren."

Fatty, his face turning a shade of red, said, "Oh, then let me call Lily."

Chatty, feigning indignation, not wanting to be outdone, interjected, "Hey, Shi Min, let me call Pharsa. How can I let you call her?"

Shi Min rolled his eyes playfully. "Do you all have to flaunt your love lives in front of a singleton like me?" he declared with a loud snort. "Fine, I'll call Mushu," he added, determined not to suffer alone.

Soon, the women arrived, their faces filled with curiosity and excitement. Reginald and Leeroy, who had been chatting with Mushu, tagged along uninvited, eager to see what the fuss was about.

Clearing his throat, Shi Min tried to steer the moment, "Cough... cough... Paps, why don't you explain to them your plan."

Chapter 160: LOVE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING

Four Eyes looked at Shi Min, his eyes silently pleading, 'Please do it for me.'

Shi Min "... " What other choice does he have?

Shi Min, shook his helpless head. Accepting the unspoken request with a sigh, took charge. "Cough... cough..." he began, ensuring he had everyone's attention. "Paps is planning to give Mom a surprise wedding proposal, and he needs all our help," he explained.

Pharsa, Ren, and Lily were immediately filled with excitement. Though Pharsa had known about the planned wedding, she, like Shi Min, didn't anticipate Four Eyes' intention of giving Ling Li a proper wedding proposal. The thrill and anticipation among the women were palpable, ready to dive into planning this unforgettable event.

The moon cast a silvery glow over the gazebo, where the group had gathered for an impromptu meeting. The air was thick with anticipation and excitement as they huddled together, discussing the grand surprise wedding proposal for Ling Li. The serene ambiance of the garden, with its blooming flowers and gentle breeze, added a touch of romance to the scene.

Four Eyes, the mastermind behind the proposal, stood at the center of the group, his eyes sparkling with perseverance. His heart raced with the weight of the moment.

"Alright, everyone, we need to make this proposal unforgettable. Ling Li deserves the best, and we want all of your ideas to make this happen." Pharsa declared, her voice steady and confident.

Ren, the ever-creative artist, was the first to speak up, her hands gesturing passionately. "How about we set up a series of paintings that depict your journey together? Each painting can be a significant moment in your relationship, leading up to the final one where you propose."

Everyone nodded in agreement, their faces lighting up with enthusiasm. Ren's artistic vision was a brilliant start, but they knew they needed more. Four Eyes felt a surge of hope, his mind racing with possibilities.

Mushu, the tech-savvy genius, chimed in next, his eyes glinting with excitement. "We could use some holographic technology to bring the paintings to life. Imagine the scenes moving and interacting as Madam walks through them. It would be like stepping into a living, breathing love story."

The group gasped at the idea, their imaginations running wild. Four Eyes couldn't help but grin, feeling the momentum building. The thought of Ling Li experiencing their love story in such an immersive way filled him with joy.

Pharsa, the hopeless romantic, added her thoughts, her voice filled with emotion. "What if we incorporate music? Ling Li loves that song you two danced to during the twins' celebration. We could have a live band play it as you guide her through the paintings."

Four Eyes' heart swelled with emotion at the thought. The memory of their first dance was one of his most cherished moments, and incorporating it into the proposal would make it even more special. He imagined Ling Li's face lighting up as she heard the familiar melody.

Mushu, the practical planner, brought them back to reality, his tone serious. "We need to make sure the logistics are flawless. Timing is everything. We can't have any technical glitches or delays."

The group nodded, understanding the importance of precision. Mushu's attention to detail was crucial to the success of the proposal. His meticulous planning had saved them from disasters in the past, and they trusted his judgment completely.

Lily, the adventurous spirit, couldn't resist adding a touch of excitement, her eyes sparkling with mischief. "How about we end with a breathtaking fireworks display? Just as Paps gets down on one knee, the sky lights up with a spectacular show. It would be the perfect finale."

The group's excitement was palpable, and Four Eyes felt a surge of gratitude for his friends' support. Each idea was a piece of the puzzle, coming together to create a proposal that Ling Li would never forget. The love and dedication they poured into the plan was a testament to their friendship and their belief in his relationship with Ling Li.

As they continued to brainstorm and fine-tune their plan, the bond between them grew stronger. They laughed, teased, and shared stories, their camaraderie evident in every interaction. The air was filled with a sense of unity and purpose.

Ren sketched out her vision of the paintings, her hands moving swiftly and skillfully. Mushu tinkered with his holographic technology, his mind completely absorbed in his work. Pharsa listed her song choice for the band, humming the tune softly to herself. Mushu meticulously coordinated the timeline, his eyes scanning every detail. Lily scouted for the perfect fireworks provider, her phone buzzing with updates despite the time.

Four Eyes watched in awe as his friends worked tirelessly to make his dream proposal a reality. He felt a deep sense of gratitude for their unwavering support.

"I will take charge of the decorations. Lily, you must order the most beautiful cake," Ren excitedly declared, her eyes shining with determination.

"Sure thing!" Lily cheerfully replied, her voice filled with enthusiasm. The thought of surprising Ling Li with a stunning cake added an extra layer of excitement to the plan.

As the night wore on, the group finally settled on a finalized plan. They stood together in the gazebo, their hearts filled with hope and excitement. The garden was breathtaking, and the stars seemed to shine brighter as if in approval of their plan.

Four Eyes took a deep breath, feeling a mix of nerves and anticipation. "Thank you, everyone. This means more to me than you'll ever know." His voice was filled with emotion, and his eyes glistened with tears of gratitude.

Ren smiled warmly, her eyes twinkling. "We're all in this together, Paps. Mom is going to be over the moon." Her voice was filled with confidence, and her smile was reassuring.

Shi Min gave his stepfather a reassuring pat on the back. "We've got your back. This proposal is going to be epic." His voice was steady and confident, and his presence was a source of strength for Four Eyes.

Lily's eyes shimmered with emotion. "Love is a beautiful thing, and we're honored to be a part of your journey." Her voice was filled with sincerity, and her eyes were filled with warmth.