

THE REAL PROTEGE

#Chapter 1: THE WEDDING - Read THE REAL PROTEGE Chapter 1: THE WEDDING

Chapter 1: THE WEDDING

"Xu Chu Yan, do you take Ling Li as your lawful wife," he began, "to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do you part?"

Chu Yan gazed at the woman before him—her expression serene, her eyes unwavering — and smiled.

"Yes," he said with conviction. "Yes, I do."

A soft murmur of approval swept through the pews.

The priest turned, looking upon Ling Li. "And do you, Ling Li, take Xu Chu Yan as your lawful husband..."

Her breath hitched just barely, but her voice was poised, ready.

But before she could speak...

"Stop!"

The cry split through the air like a thunderclap.

Gasps exploded from every corner of the cathedral. Heads turned. Whispers turned into stunned silence.

Ling Li's lashes lifted slowly toward the entrance.

There — framed by the arched doorway, silhouetted by the light — stood a woman clutching the hand of a small boy, no older than six. Her hair was windblown, her face streaked with tears, her voice trembling with urgency and emotion.

Chu Yan froze.

His hands, which had been holding Ling Li's so tenderly, fell limp.

The moment shattered.

Ling Li's heart cracked — not in confusion, but in sharp, bitter confirmation. She'd read the energy from the start. Her instincts whispered lies draped in silk. But what she couldn't read... was his reaction. And there it was.

That stagger in his breath. That flinch. That recognition.

He knew her.

"Chu Yan..." the woman continued, stepping forward. "I've been looking for you. They said you were abroad, that no one knew where. This..." She turned to the boy, "This is our son."

A strangled silence wrapped the cathedral.

It was her, Charissa. His first love. The woman lost to tragedy six years ago, presumed dead when the cruise ship vanished beneath merciless waves.

Chu Yan stepped back, lips parted, eyes clouding with something...

And in that moment, he released Ling Li's hand.

The absence of that touch echoed louder than any scream.

Ling Li's spine straightened ever so slightly.

She had survived ambushes in alleyways, poison in porcelain cups, and betrayal through blade and blood. But that single moment — watching his hand fall away from hers — was the heaviest blow she had ever taken.

Yet her composure did not break.

Without a word, she turned from the altar, her gown trailing behind her like the tail of a phoenix descending in sorrow. She walked down the marble aisle, past guests too stunned to rise. Her twins rushed to her side, their wide eyes fearful.

She knelt to them, kissed their foreheads, and turned to Mushu and Pharsa, voice low and commanding, "Take the twins to Bayside Castle. Now."

Pharsa moved immediately. Mushu hesitated — torn — but nodded.

Then Ling Li left.

Alone.

Not a single soul dared follow.

Chu Yan tried to breathe, to step after her, to say something — but he was paralyzed. Torn between past and present, haunted by a ghost that never should have returned.

"Chu Yan," Charissa cried, her voice cracking. "I was rescued... I lost everything. My memory, my home. But when I remembered who I was, I came back. I had to. For him... for you."

Her tears spilled fast and unrestrained. The boy looked up, confused, clutching her sleeve. It would have been a tragic reunion — if not for the silence that followed.

And then—

An electric chill swept through the cathedral.

The stained glass flickered. Candle flames stilled.

A presence emerged at the doors.

Power draped in samurai silk, footsteps silent, the mask gleaming with deathless grace. A hush deeper than fear cloaked the hall.

Otako had arrived.

Every soul went still.

He stood with the gravity of a mountain, his voice slicing through the air like a blade unsheathed.

"I warned you, Chu Yan," he roared, his voice thunder-rolling through the stone arches. "That to betray Ling Li... would cost everything."

He raised a single hand.

Chu Yan collapsed.

His knees hit marble, a cry of pain ripping from his chest as something inside him burned, stripped from the soul down.

Guests screamed. Fatty tried to wheel forward but was blocked by an invisible force. Shi Min stepped forward, but Otako raised a single finger, stopping time itself.

"Why would you choose this over Ling Li? This impostor! This illusion!"

And with a single gesture—

The woman's face peeled away. The lifelike mask fell to the floor.

It wasn't Charissa.

It was Nina.

The room erupted in cries.

Chu Yan's scream tore through the cathedral. "NINA?!"

"Surprised, Brother?" she snarled, her voice mocking. "I wanted you to see how fragile your trust is. If I couldn't have your luxurious life, no one would."

Otako's presence ignited.

With a wave of his hand, masked warriors appeared from thin air, seized Nina, and disappeared into the shadows.

Silence returned.

Except for Otako's final words — words that would remain burned into every witness's soul:

"Ling Li is gone now. And with her, everything you once had. Your powers. Your future. Your place in this world. You betrayed her in the one moment that mattered — and now, you will wake up as nothing."

He raised his palm one last time.

Chu Yan fell silent, unconscious.

And Otako vanished.

The altar stood empty. Petals scattered like ashes.

The wedding was no longer the beginning.

It was a warning.

Meanwhile...

Ling Li burst through the mansion's front doors, still in the remains of her ceremonial gown, the train half-dragged over grass and stone.

She climbed the staircase without breathing.

Up. Up. Until she reached her room.

She shut the door, bracing it with trembling hands, and finally collapsed to her knees in front of the tall, ornate mirror that had seen her try on veil after veil, necklace after necklace, for this day that would never come.

Her hands pressed against the cold marble floor as her breath came in shudders.

Her reflection stared back, pale, composed—and yet broken beneath the surface.

'How could I have let this happen to me?'

The memory of Chu Yan letting go of her hand returned in perfect clarity. No blade had ever pierced her like that one motion.

'I warned myself,' she thought bitterly. 'Over and over. Not to trust. Not to love.'

The tears finally fell. Silent. Slow.

One by one until they rolled down her jawline and splashed soundlessly onto her dress.

She looked at herself — truly looked — and whispered, "How did it all begin?"

In the mirror, the woman staring back was a warrior.

But right now... she was just a woman betrayed.

Please join Ling Li on her mysterious journey side by side with Otako.

Updates of my novels are every Tuesday and Friday.

Sirius M

Chapter 2: FLASHBACK: PORT ACCIDENT

Ling Li observed herself in the waiting area of the domestic airport when suddenly, her ears caught small portions of conversation from three young men. Their words carried a sense of intrigue and intricacy as they discussed the mysterious person, Otako Sentoki. Her curiosity was piqued. She had just arrived in the Country on the way home to her city.

"Are you planning to visit the Country? What is your place of origin and your intended destination?" Ling Li inquired.

It appeared that the two gentlemen were struggling with their English, as only one could speak the language fluently and respond to her.

"We are from China, and we are heading to, um..." One of the men said and paused, showing her a picture of their destination on his phone.

"Wow, you're going to Boracay, Long Island Beach! The place is absolutely breathtaking." Ling Li responded.

Ling Li was eager to learn more about Otako from these men. However, their conversation was abruptly interrupted when Ling Li's assistant rushed to their side with urgent news. One of their vessels had been involved in a major accident while docking at the port.

"Which vessel?" Ling Li sought clarification.

"King Hero." The assistant responded.

"Please immediately connect me to the governor and divert our flight," Ling Li firmly instructed.

"So, what is your intended duration of stay in the country?" Ling Li asked the young Chinese man.

"Just ten days."

"I'm sorry, but the governor's assistant informed me that he is currently in session and is unable to speak at the moment," her assistant prompted just as Ling Li was speaking.

"Hand over the phone.

Who is this? Tell me again that you won't let me speak with the Governor. Who is with him? Oh, I see.

Connect me to Mayor Co," Ling Li told her assistant.

The Mayor promptly answered her call.

"Mayor, this is Ling Li speaking. Are you currently in the presence of the Governor?" Ling Li asked assertively.

"Yes, I am, Madam. Shall I pass on the phone to him?" the Mayor asked, sensing Ling Li's urgency.

"Indeed, I would like that. Thank you very much."

"Governor, I apologize for interrupting your session," Ling Li said firmly.

"Absolutely not. I'm always available whenever it's you," the Governor said with remarkable generosity.

"Unfortunately, your assistant doesn't share the same sentiment, so I contacted Mayor Co. It's good that you're in the company of all the mayors. My vessel had an accident while it was at the port. It would be best if you dispatched your ambulances immediately, and all hospitals must be prepared to accept and care for any patients who have traveled with us.

Our company has partnered with the Red Cross to ensure the utmost care and support in times of emergency. We have gathered a highly skilled team of doctors dedicated to providing immediate first-aid assistance. They will be swiftly deployed to the port to ensure prompt response and aid.

We deeply regret the unfortunate incident and will ensure that all the injured passengers are duly compensated for the inconvenience they have experienced. Furthermore, please help us restrict the media exposure." Ling Li passionately conveyed the gravity of the situation to the Governor, and her tone reflected their long-standing professional relationship.

"I understand. We'll be on our way." The Governor acted swiftly, demonstrating his political acumen.

As Ling Li and the Governor were deep in conversation, a downpour of rain suddenly began. Ling Li calmly continued giving instructions to her assistant, even as another assistant delivered the news that their flight had been canceled due to adverse weather.

The assistant informed Ling Li about the presence of their helicopters at the hangar as an alternative option should she opt to use them.

The next flight is in five hours. Ling Li must address the accident without any delay. They possess a copy of the most recent flight manifesto. Ling Li also learned that all flights to Boracay had been unexpectedly canceled without indicating when they would resume.

"Eh, your flight has been canceled. The flight to your destination is only available four times per week, and today is the last day for this week; rebooking your flight would take forever this time.

Why don't you visit my place and use one of my choppers? Our area has many beautiful beaches. I will have one of my assistants accompany you. "If I finish my work early enough, I'll try to visit and follow you," Ling Li proposed.

The three companions appear to have no choice but to accept her offer.

"Just hand over your boarding passes to them. They will take care of your baggage and issue a refund. Let us go." Ling Li gave the three directions.

The assistant quickly organized the boarding process, ensuring a smooth transition onto the helicopter.

As Ling Li led the way, the three gentlemen followed her instructions to the nearest helipad. The sound of the chopper blades cutting through the air filled them with excitement.

The rain poured relentlessly, but Ling Li's company was granted access to their exclusive hangar, where they were guided to board their chopper. The three gentlemen were taken aback as they boarded a six-seater helicopter while Ling Li departed on her own.

Ling Li smiled as she watched her guests settle in, ready for their adventure to begin.

As they took off, "Take them to the Pink Sand Castle." Ling Li made an order.

"Roger that," the pilot acknowledged.

"It is a private island that our Madam owns." Ling Li's assistant informed the guests, her voice beaming with pride.

The three gentlemen looked at each other with their mouths rounded to say, "Oooh." They were all wearing headsets, but they could still communicate through them.

"Do you want to stop by where Madam is going before heading to your destination?" the assistant inquired, her voice filled with curiosity and concern.

"Would she mind if we followed her?"

"No, not at all. Our Madam is exceptionally kind and generous. She won't mind. She is very friendly with visitors. Because she would always travel alone and be extremely grateful to locals who treated her well," Ling Li's assistant disclosed

"Seeing her vessel would be a delightful experience," the young man responded enthusiastically.

"Absolutely!" The flight attendant promptly directed the pilot to adjust their course.

"But here's the thing: You need to change to suit; this is SOP. Even Madam has to change so that you would camouflage among us," the assistant explained.

But the three gentlemen were looking at the assistant, who was a woman.

'How could they change in front of a woman?' The three gentlemen are looking at each other and thinking the same thing.

The assistant caught their attention quickly.

"Don't worry about me. We are all professionally trained. We see, but we don't look. We hear, but we don't listen. We touch, but we don't feel. We taste, but we don't savor. We smell, but we don't sniff. There is no malice in us." The assistant clarifies.

The three gentlemen still feel hesitant.

"Madam herself would change in front of her bodyguards. Should you be concerned, I have witnessed numerous bodies that are, um... more impressive than yours." The assistant rolled her eyes as she attempted to persuade her visitors.

"Otherwise, you can't go where our Madam is." She said it with finality.

The three gentlemen looked at each other. It implied that they had no choice but to change, and they did.

Chapter 3: THE VISITORS TAGGED ALONG

The journey to their destination was bumpy due to the heavy rain, and it took them almost two hours to navigate through. The dark clouds loomed overhead, and the sound of thunder echoed through the air, adding to the sense of urgency. Cars were already lined up, waiting for their turn to approach the makeshift helipad created due to the adverse weather conditions. Their choppers could only land one at a time, causing a delay in the arrival of Ling Li and her entourage. The bodyguards, dressed in sleek black suits, stood stoically in the rain, their eyes scanning the area for any potential threats as they awaited their Madams' arrival.

As they finally arrived at the port where the accident occurred, the scene was chaotic. Several thousand individuals filled the area, creating a sense of urgency and commotion. The flashing lights of emergency vehicles illuminated the surroundings, with ambulances constantly arriving and departing, ferrying the injured to nearby hospitals.

The presence of Ling Li's group's massive tents, adorned with the Red Cross logo, dominated the scene, creating a sense of organized chaos. Volunteers worked tirelessly to provide aid and comfort to the victims, while food stalls generously offered unlimited food to all those in need. Security personnel, identifiable by their high-visibility vests, diligently ensured order and safety throughout the area, directing the flow of people and vehicles with precision and expertise.

As the entourage approached the main office, the Governor and several Mayors hurried to greet them. The Governor, his suit drenched from the rain, stepped forward to welcome Ling Li and her group.

"Madam Li, we heard you have just arrived from abroad and flown directly into the city. You must be exhausted," the Governor remarked with genuine concern, his voice barely audible over the sounds of the bustling port.

"Madam, we have tried our best to send all the most severely injured to the hospital first," one of the mayors said, his expression reflecting the gravity of the situation.

"Thank you for all your hard work," Ling Li replied politely, her eyes scanning the area, taking in the enormity of the scene before her.

"Can I have a copy of the manifesto? Do we have a VVIP on Board?" Ling Li asked, her tone firm and authoritative.

"Indeed, we have, Madam, the two Young Mistresses of the Chanto family," the Port Manager declared, his voice carrying over the din of activity, and three other tourists with their families.

"The Chanto Family of the Chanto?" Ling Li inquired, her curiosity piqued.

The Chanto family also runs a shipping line company, their most significant and sole competitor. As the pieces of the puzzle started to fall into place, Ling Li's expression remained unreadable, her mind already at work, carefully calculating her next move in this unexpected and high-stakes situation.

"Yes, Madam, they are the young mistresses of the Chanto family of the Chanto Shipping Company." The Port Manager confirmed.

"Hmmm. Interesting. The Chanto's were on board our biggest vessel and suddenly got into an accident. Where are they?" Ling Li asked

"They were in our VVIP suite, so they were immediately sent to the best hospital for a check-up." The port manager replied.

"I received an update a few minutes ago that one of them seems to have broken her ankle while the other had a concussion." The Governor reported.

"Yes, I heard that too." One of the mayors said it as well.

Ling Li glanced at her two most reliable companions, whom she affectionately called 'Mushu' and 'Pharsa.' With just a single look, they understood exactly what their Madam expected of them.

They went out to fulfill the command. And that is, given the Chanto family's desire for a challenge, they will demonstrate the true meaning of trouble.

Mushu organized the transfer of the Chanto sisters to the Li family's most prestigious hospital in the capital city and ensured that it had round-the-clock security and strict visitor restrictions.

Pharsa instructed the hospital's President, as per Ling Li's order, to give the two sisters a 'comprehensive check-up' before discharging them because they are VVIPs, after all.

The President of the hospital got the point. "I know what to do."

"Make sure everyone is well compensated and signs the proper affidavits. Are our lawyers here?" Ling Li asked her manager while returning the papers.

"Yes, they are all here and are working hard." The port manager politely replied.

"Governor, is this your assistant?" Looking at the man beside him, Ling Li asked the Governor with her brow raised.

"Yes, yes, Madam, this is..."

Before the Governor could finish his sentence, Ling Li cut him off.

"The election is just around the corner. I don't think your assistant is any good for you. An assistant like him will bring you down." Ling Li said it directly.

"But..." The Governor wants to point out that his assistant is his brother, but he never got the chance.

"Your popularity is currently in a tough situation. It would be best if you worked it out. Otherwise,

I have no choice but to let my nephew run in your position." Ling Li directly told the Governor, without waiting for any reply, she stood up and walked out of the office to look around at the passengers still in the queue.

Ling Li's three guests followed her wherever she went. The enormous size of the vessel and the sizable port area added to their surprise when they learned that the Li family owned the port privately.

Just before sundown, Ling Li signaled to her assistant that they were leaving.

After a brief forty-five-minute journey, their helicopters landed on a secluded island. The stunning sunset served as a perfect backdrop for their arrival, creating an unforgettable scene. The entire island staff, alongside extra security personnel, were eagerly gathered to ensure a warm and secure reception.

The sight left the guests absolutely flabbergasted. It's no wonder the place is named 'Pink Sand Castle.' The sands on the shore sported an authentic pink hue, with a grand structure nestled in the midst of the towering trees.

"Goodness, it's a genuine castle!" exclaimed one of the gentlemen as they made their way toward the magnificent structure. It became apparent that their luggage had already been set out for them, patiently awaiting their arrival.

"Welcome, Madam. It has been a long time since your last visit.

Young Masters, welcome to Pink Sand Castle." The Butler cheerfully greeted them.

The three guests were amused when the Butler addressed them as 'Masters.'

Ling Li realized that she didn't even know their names, but she had mentally given them nicknames. The guy who spoke English and talked a lot she called 'Chatty' because he was a chatterbox. The other guy, who was tall and fat, she called 'Fatty.'

The last guy was somewhat attractive, tall, and masculine, with wavy hair and eyeglasses. Ling Li was surprised at finding someone attractive and shook her head, thinking, 'Wait, since when did I find anyone attractive?'

Ling Li, with an exasperated huff, shook her head as she looked at the man wearing eyeglasses, whom she referred to as 'Four Eyes.' She had already checked with Mushu and confirmed that they were all law-abiding citizens of China.

Ah! Do you think the relationship between Ling Li and Four Eyes will blossom?

Chapter 4: INJURED BY A SHARK

"Madam, would you like to freshen up first, or would you rather have dinner now?" the Butler asked.

"Let's eat. I'm so hungry I could eat a horse!" Ling Li replied, her steps echoing as she made her way towards the dining hall with the guest following close behind.

When everyone was seated, Ling Li proudly introduced Mushu and Pharsa to her guests. "I'd like to introduce you to my two trusted assistants, Mushu and Pharsa. They are like family to me, and we've been through so much together.

If you need any help, please don't hesitate to ask them. I value their words as much as my own. That's how much they mean to me," Ling Li expressed with a sense of pride.

The three guests showed their respect by bowing and acknowledging their importance to their host. This time, they took the opportunity to introduce themselves.

"I am Chu Yan," said Four Eyes.

"I'm Quan Ye," said Fatty.

"I'm Murphy. I'm the only one among us with an English name, but my Chinese name is Tong Xue (which translates to 'classmate' in English)," he said with enthusiasm. Pharsa couldn't help but chuckle when she heard his Chinese. Chatty looked at her curiously.

"I should mention, however, that your Chinese name is quite unique. Perhaps I ought to adopt the nickname 'Peng You' (which directly translates to 'friend' in English)," Pharsa said jokingly, her eyes glinting mischievously.

"That would be great. Then we could be best friends!" Chatty replied with certainty, his eyes filled with excitement.

Pharsa's face returned to her usual seriousness as she said, "Who wants to be your friend?" and rolled her eyes.

Before Chatty could reply, the parade of food came out and was laid before them, making their stomachs growl.

"Eat up, and don't be shy. It is prepared especially for all of us." Ling Li said.

"Mushu, please organize some activities for them. They can go whale-watching and scuba diving. Let's also arrange for parasailing and let them try spearfishing, but we must ensure their safety," Ling Li instructed.

"Take them to the next island and let them experience surfing, or perhaps take them wakeboarding," Ling Li added.

"Why not suggest water skiing? It could be more fun!" Pharsa suggested.

Mushu almost choked. He knew how challenging it is for an ordinary individual to learn how to water ski.

But Pharsa looked at him and asked, "Why? Don't you agree?" Mushu knows that Pharsa is targeting Chatty. "I understand your point," Mushu could only agree with her. Pharsa happily winks at him.

After dinner, Ling Li told her guests to enjoy the castle. The resort offered an outdoor pool, a jacuzzi, and a variety of other activities, allowing guests to laze out on the beach.

Because tonight she is going spearfishing and has been looking forward to it.

Not only is she very fond of night spearfishing, but she is also skilled at it. With her eight-man team, who usually accompany her, they have formed a great troupe.

That night, they sailed their boat and dived into their usual spot. Their bows, spears, arrows, gadgets, equipment, and suits are all state-of-the-art, custom-made, and specially tailored for their needs.

Once they arrived at their desired site, they began fishing. Their spears had high-speed rollers, allowing them to retrieve their catches with their bows quickly. Ling Li and Mushu both caught a sizable tuna and were ecstatic."

While they were swimming in a new location, they suddenly noticed two mysterious figures gliding through the water nearby. A pair of creatures was spotted swimming swiftly just a few yards ahead. At first glance, they seemed like dolphins, known for their fast swimming abilities, commonly found in these waters.

As they continued swimming, the creatures disappeared but then reappeared, heading straight toward them at high speed. It's possible that the two sharks, which were hunting, were attracted to the blood of the fish they had caught.

Ling Li found herself in a difficult predicament as a colossal shark suddenly lunged at her. Despite her valiant efforts, she quickly realized that confronting such a massive creature alone would be an immensely difficult task.

Everyone on the team, including Mushu, put forth an incredible effort. Pharsa found herself in a fierce encounter with a smaller shark. With astonishing speed, she expertly launched a knife and a bow simultaneously, instilling fear in her attacker. Despite her agility, the shark managed to inflict a savage bite on Pharsa's body before swiftly disappearing into the deep waters.

Ling Li bravely battled a colossal shark, which relentlessly clung to her body, causing her to lose consciousness. Despite being shot multiple times, the shark held onto Ling Li tightly. Mushu and Pharsa had to act swiftly, using their daggers to cut into the shark's mouth meticulously.

The team fearlessly battled the creature until it released its grip on Ling Li's unconscious body. Urgently needing to reach the surface, they faced challenges due to their deep-sea location. Pharsa desperately wrapped Ling Li's body, applying intense pressure to the most severely wounded area. Ling Li lay motionless, and Pharsa also bore the marks of the fierce battle.

Upon boarding their boat, Mushu adeptly tends to Ling Li's injuries. All her bodyguards, especially Mushu and Pharsa, are highly trained in medicine. Their extensive training goes beyond ordinary expectations.

Mushu carefully removed Ling Li's wetsuit, revealing the extent of her injuries. He carefully tended to her injuries, gently cleansing them with pure water.

'Damn!!! These wounds require immediate stitches!' Mushu pondered deeply. 'We must delay this until their arrival. This boat is incredibly bumpy.' Mushu decided as he carefully secured the heavy gauge, ensuring it was tightly wrapped with a bandage.

"Faster! She's losing a lot of blood and radio to prepare for the infirmary." Mushu spoke with complete urgency and concern in his voice.

Rockie is also working on Pharsa's injuries; like Ling Li, she also needs several stitches.

Upon reaching the shore, the Butler and the entire staff were already waiting. Despite the early hour, everyone had gathered upon hearing that their Madam was injured.

The sudden commotion from the castle roused the guests from their slumber. Upon learning of Ling Li's injury, they, too, became anxious and waited at the shore.

Mushu acted swiftly, carrying Ling Li's unconscious body in his arms. Simultaneously, Rocky also carried Pharsa, and they made their way to the castle.

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From here onwards,

Chu Yan will be referred to as "FOUR EYES"

Tong Xue as "CHATTY or MURPHY"

Qyan Ye as 'FATTY"

Chapter 5: SHE IS TOUGHER

At six o'clock in the morning, Mushu emerged from the clinic with reassuring news.

"Madam will be fine. She had several deep wounds and required numerous stitches. That shark was tough on her, but she is tougher," Mushu comforted the household staff with a hint of humor. The tension among everyone waiting for an update about Madam lifted slightly.

"How is Pharsa, Sir?" inquired one of the servants.

"How dare she leave before our boss? Of course, she's alive and kicking," Mushu quipped in response. He then added, "She's truly fine; just a few stitches, and now she is taking care of Madam. You've been here since dawn. Madam wouldn't want you neglecting your rest for her."

Mushu noticed the three guests were also present. He asked their guests, "What about you? Would you like to have breakfast now, or would you like to go back to sleep?"

The guests replied, "We'll go back to sleep."

Mushu then informed them, "Usually, breakfast is served at seven-thirty or eight in the morning. Since it is already six o'clock, we might have it at nine today. Will that be alright with you?"

"Sounds good to us."

Afterward, they went their separate ways.

By eight that morning, choppers landed one after the other at the Pink Sand Castle. The first to arrive was Shi Min, Ling Li's only son, who was notified that his mother was injured. He was so anxious that he had to rush over.

Two individuals who shortly arrived after were loyal allies of Ling Li and held her in high esteem. They discovered the shocking news of her grave injuries and flew to ascertain her condition. They would be eager to learn how they can support and help her in any way possible. They are incredibly close.

When they landed, they were informed that Ling Li had not woken up yet, so they were led to their respective rooms to rest for the time being. Only Shi Min was allowed to see his mother.

When Shi Min saw how badly injured his mother was, he could not resist asking Pharsa what really happened with his crisscrossed brows. Shi Min could only shake his head after he heard Pharsa's story.

"How can she still do such dangerous activities when she has a lot on her plate? Why can't she can't this hobby? I hope this will mark a big halt to this." Shi Min said with a deep frown and weariness evident on his face.

By Nine o'clock, Mushu knocked and invited Shi Min and Pharsa for breakfast. However, Pharsa refused.

"Pharsa, you haven't slept since last night, even though you are also injured and stayed beside Madam. Now you won't even eat? Do you think Madam would be happy with what you are doing if she finds out?" Mushu reprimanded her, "Let Rockie take over for now."

But Pharsa insisted on staying by Ling Li's side.

"Pharsa, you've been working hard. Come and let's eat." Shi Min told her. "Mom won't be glad to know you're starving yourself because of her."

Pharsa could refuse Mushu but could not disobey Shi Min, so she had to follow them reluctantly, and Rockie stayed with Ling Li.

The breakfast was prepared at the beachfront and included fresh seafood, particularly sashimi, sushi, and other Japanese delicacies. Two Japanese Michelin chefs, whom Ling Li invited for today, were preparing their food, intending to feast on the fish they caught last night.

Shi Min introduced himself to the guests, and they did the same and greeted each other.

They were all startled and stunned as they ate and chatted when they saw Ling Li walking towards them with Rockie following behind, who had a flushed face. Rockie was powerless to prevent his Madam from rising, causing him great embarrassment due to his incompetence in the presence of Shi Min.

Shi Min stood up briskly and assisted his mother.

"Mom, why are you up?" Shi Min asked, expressing his concern.

"Hello, son. I miss you so much, and why can't I get up?" Her mother replied cheerfully.

"Mom, you're severely injured, and your wounds are no joke." Shi Min reminded her mother as he assisted her in sitting with them for breakfast.

"Don't worry, my dear son; I know my body well. I will eat, and I will rest again." Ling Li reassured her son.

"Mom, don't eat those raw foods for now. It won't be good for your wounds." Shi Min reminded her.

"Your son is right." Four Eyes commented as well.

It was the first time Ling Li heard him talk aside from introducing his name. He has such a soft voice and seems to have difficulty speaking English, though he can clearly understand.

"But I really came because I want to eat sashimi." Ling Li replied with pouty lips.

"Madam, you have two other guests that flew in this morning. Let me get them." Mushu said this to lighten Ling Li's mood.

"Really? Who are they?" Ling Li asked.

"Just wait and see." Shi Min told her. "Mom, have this millet porridge. I asked the chef to cook this for you."

Ling Li's brows furrowed in frustration as she questioned in her thought why she was eating millet porridge while everyone else indulged in a lavish Japanese feast. Her heart races as she stares at the tantalizing platter of Japanese wraps on the table, her mouth salivating in anticipation.

Just then, "Madam, how could you hurt yourself?" Ling Li knew that voice, so she turned around and was right.

"El Padre! El Capitan! You both came in a short time." Ling Li exclaimed.

"Why won't we? We heard that a shark attacked you!" Said El Capitan.

"How could there be sharks there?! We have been diving in this place and have never encountered big sharks! When he called to inform me, I thought I'd have a heart attack!" Said El Padre with exaggeration while holding his chest.

"Hahahahaha! Come, join us. Here! Here! Sit beside me, El Padre." Ling Li said.

"We thought it was dolphins; it was our fault to put our guards down.

But my son won't let me eat anything besides millet porridge!" She said, whining like a little child to El Padre.

"Definitely, I agree. I would say you have a good son who knows how to take care of his mother. You certainly can not eat seafood and definitely not raw foods. Have you gone insane?" El Padre snapped his forefingers on Ling Li's forehead like a father teaching his daughter. "Be good. Eat your porridge."

Ling Li pouted her mouth like a pufferfish, and everyone laughed.