

THE REAL PROTÉGÉ

#Chapter 11: HE IS FOUR EYES - Read THE REAL PROTEGE Chapter 11: HE IS FOUR EYES

Chapter 11: HE IS FOUR EYES

"Ah, this is what I always look forward to when I'm with Madam: the top-notch variety of food!" El Capitan exclaimed while helping himself to a considerable-sized lobster.

"I'm already anticipating the delightful surprise of my special dessert tonight," the Cuban President remarked slyly, exchanging a knowing glance with El Capitan.

"Madam, a lot has happened in a short period here. Take a little rest and leave this place as soon as possible. I have brought several of my best men with me. I shall leave them with you here," stated the Russian President, his voice tinged with urgency and concern.

"Indeed, I brought some of my most trusted security team with me as well," added the Chinese President, his stance reflecting a sense of vigilance.

"And I have also brought additional personnel and weaponry," declared the Cuban President, his tone indicating a readiness for any potential threat.

"Um, I will. Thank you for all your concern and hard work," Ling Li replied, her voice reflecting a sense of appreciation amidst the tension.

After hearing Ling Li's words of gratitude, The Chinese President expressed "Her words brought tears streaming down my face just like heavy rain." The Russian President joined in, humorously confessing, "My eyes are like overflowing rivers." Their lighthearted exchange filled the room with laughter.

As they savored their meal, the atmosphere was filled with joyful conversation and shared laughter. El Padre was particularly watchful of Ling Li's meal, displaying a level of strictness that resembled a tiger carefully observing its prey.

Ling Li found herself pleasantly surprised and a bit startled when Four Eyes handed her a selection of tempting side dishes with a soft-spoken assurance, "This is suitable for you." Four eyes spoke in a hushed tone, glanced downwards, and then resumed his own meal.

Not everyone, including the Presidents, Mushu, and Pharsa, especially men, dares to put food on Ling Li's plate. Pharsa is the only person who can touch Ling Li. Not even

the tip of her hair can be touched by anyone. Mushu can only do so if it is life or death; otherwise, they risk losing their hands.

Pharsa was astonished as she observed Ling Li willingly enjoying the dish that Four Eyes had served to her. It was a rare occurrence, as Ling Li typically only ate food given to her by her parents and three children.

Even El Padre was dumbfounded. "This man is got some balls! He has no idea who he's dealing with."

Following dinner, Ling Li rose from her seat, headed over to where the General was and settled into a comfortable lounge chair. The rest of the group followed suit, taking their places around her.

"It has been a while, General." Ling Li spoke to get the General's attention. The General is losing control of his body due to his torturous pain.

"Madam," the General muttered remorsefully, "I accept my crime. I don't deserve your forgiveness."

"So, what information have you disclosed?" Ling Li inquired sharply.

"I did not say anything. I informed those individuals that I do not have access to you and that I am solely responsible for securities," the General responded, his voice tinged with exasperation.

"Do you truly expect me to believe that? What information are they seeking to extract?" Ling Li sternly contested.

"They believe you are personally connected to Otako, and if they hurt your family, Otako will intervene," the General explained solemnly.

"And you agreed to hurt my son!" Ling Li yelled at him and swung her hand toward the General; in an instant, The General was dead.

The three Chinese visitors were visibly stunned by the unfolding events, their eyes widening in a mixture of shock and disbelief. Meanwhile, the remaining members of the group carried on with their conversations, seemingly oblivious to the dramatic scene playing out before them.

El Capitan issued a firm command to his subordinates, directing them to remove the General from the immediate vicinity.

Pharsa interjected, expressing her concern: "You didn't inquire about the Chanto family," she pointed out.

In response, Ling Li nonchalantly remarked, "They are insignificant players, mere ants attempting to engage in our game."

At that moment, the Chinese President's aide approached, presenting him with a set of documents. As the President perused the contents, a faint smile crossed his face before he passed the papers over to Ling Li, who accepted them with a curious expression.

"That's interesting. Chu Yan and Quan Ye, you are both CEOs of your respective companies." Ling Li was amused.

After reading the papers, it appeared that the Chinese President had his subordinates thoroughly check the three guests' identities. Although Mushu also did, Ling Li never made time to read as long as they were clean. It was good enough to know. Ling Li trusts Mushu's ability.

The two friends shared a knowing look, suggesting that they had indeed come under scrutiny. After a moment of contemplation, they both nodded in acknowledgment.

The night was filled with laughter and camaraderie as Ling Li attempted to address her guest, "Fatty.... Eh, Quan Ye..." But before Ling Li could continue, the whole group teased her.

However, her attempt to reverse the name was met with good-natured teasing from the group. "You have called him Fatty. Why call him Quan Ye!" The Chinese President joined in on the light-hearted banter.

"Yeah, we are all friends anyway." El Padre added to the festive atmosphere, expressing his happiness.

Adding to the merriment, "As far as I know, Madam calls him Chatty." Pharsa playfully pointed to Murphy with smiles up to her ears.

Ling Li is embarrassed; her face is now as red as a plum. She could only blame herself for calling her guest's funny names and slipping her tongue in front of them. 'Blame it on the anesthesia! Dang!' Ling Li thought.

"Now, what do you call the last guy?" The Cuban President asked excitedly, adding to the fire.

Ling Li, her lips pressed together in a tight line, unable to hide her despair.

"Oh, come on, he must have one, too. Tell us already!" El Capitan insisted, leaning in with anticipation.

Ling Li's eyes darted over to Chu Yan, finding him looking rather unhappy with the situation. Feeling cornered and helpless, she had no choice but to speak up.

"He is Four Eyes," Ling Li said, her voice almost catching in her throat. Laughter erupted among the group, and Chu Yan shot her a sharp, quizzical look.

Chapter 12: PHARSA'S MATE

Ling Li, a confident and determined businesswoman, boldly declared to Quan Ye that she was interested in investing in his company. "Anyway, Quan Ye, I have a company that aligns with yours. I can invest in your business, but I need you to add a workforce and increase your production capacity. I'll have a team to help your company with the transition," Ling Li expressed, while Fatty was astonished.

"Chu Yan, I have heard of your company. So, you are the owner of this. Your business is really traditional. I've done quite a bit of research on this. You and Quan Ye can even collaborate. Don't you want to be more aggressive and expand or diversify?" Ling Li probed.

Four Eyes just shrugged his shoulders in reply, which made Ling Li raise her brows.

"I'll give you a proposal." Ling Li eventually told him.

Amidst these serious conversations, "Witwew!" Ling Li whistled, "Murphy! You're a bar owner with five over-speeding tickets! 220 km/hr! Shut down your bar and make more money in car racing!" Ling Li expressed, showcasing her candid and direct nature.

Chatty looked at her, his face flushed from embarrassment; he could only chuckle nervously and glanced at Ling Li. 'Did I just expose myself?'

"Do you think I'm joking?" Ling Li examined him closely.

Realizing the sincerity behind Ling Li's words and unwavering demeanor that commanded attention, only then did Chatty's laughter fade.

The following is a reconstruction of the original text:

Ling Li leaned forward, her eyes filled with excitement as she shared her proposition with Chatty. "We race cars for money. There's a lot of money involved in car racing. Since you enjoy driving fast, we might as well let you race and make money from it in a legal manner."

Ling Li's eyes twinkled as she continued, "For every race, you can make millions and gain prestige: I, Pharsa, Mushu, and Rockie, all races, local and international. I will have Pharsa train you. She is one of my best drivers."

Pharsa's eyebrow arched in disbelief as she protested, "Why me?"

Ling Li grinned and replied, "Why not you? You're the best in this field next to me."

"But he is a man!" Pharsa shot back.

Ling Li sheepishly clarified, "All I suggested was that you train him. I never insinuated that you get involved with him sexually."

Pharsa "...."

Everyone laughed, teasing Pharsa.

Mushu interrupted them, "Madam, Shinsei is here."

Ling Li gracefully rose from her seat to warmly greet Shinsei, a prominent Master from a revered temple and a cherished advisor to the Li family. Shinsei, a devoted Buddhist Monk, held a deep aversion to air travel, preferring arduous land journeys whenever feasible. Leading him to a plush lounge chair, Ling Li extended her hand to guide him to the seat beside her.

Before settling down, Shinsei's perceptive gaze landed on three distinguished gentlemen, focusing intently on Four Eyes and Chatty. After a contemplative pause, he softly murmured, "Hmmm... interesting."

Intrigued, Ling Li inquired, "What is it, Shinsei?"

With uncontainable joy, Shinsei confidently divulged his belief: "That young man, haha... I think... No, no. I believe he is Pharsa's soulmate."

Shinsei's connection with Pharsa ran deep as he had nurtured her in the temple after discovering her abandoned as an infant. It was he who presented Pharsa to the esteemed Old Master Li, enabling Pharsa to have a proper education. Pharsa and Ling Li had grown up as close companions, forming a sisterly bond owing to Ling Li's lack of a sibling.

Ling Li gazed in the direction of Shinsei's indication and was taken aback to see that it was none other than Chatty.

'Chatty?' Ling Li arched her eyebrows in surprise. Ever since they had arrived, these two had been like the cartoon characters from a never-ending saga, Tom and Jerry, constantly engaged in verbal battles and bickering.

This sight made Ling Li erupt into laughter, and even Mushu couldn't help but join in. "Mushu, are you reading my thoughts?" she asked, amazed.

"Loud and clear, Madam," Mushu chuckled in response.

However, Pharsa's expression remained dour. "Shinsei, how could you say such a thing? You should consult the ancient tomes and refer to the celestial charts. You didn't

even inquire about the precise date and time of birth. How can you be so sure? You're mocking me!" Pharsa complained. Ling Li gazed in the direction of Shinsei's indication and was taken aback to see that it was none other than Chatty.

Shinsei playfully taunted Pharsa, "Since when have you doubted my ability? You know I can tell it accurately just by looking at one's face, but now that it is related to you, you won't trust my word? You're such a disloyal daughter. Brat!"

Pharsa, with a hint of annoyance, rolled her eyes in response.

In the midst of a conversation, Shinsei turned to Ling Li and inquired, "How could you allow yourself to be hurt?"

Meanwhile, El Capitan amused himself by teasing Pharsa and Chatty.

As the others chatted, Chatty suddenly realized the implication of the monk's words. 'So that monk actually said that Pharsa and I are destined for each other? Not bad! But this woman is a handful! She's savage!' Chatty couldn't help but swallow hard as he observed Pharsa's stern demeanor.

As the night grew late, Ling advised everyone to rest, urging them to leave herself and Shinsei alone for a while. The crowd dispersed and retreated to the castle, leaving Mushu and Pharsa behind, though they kept their distance, as did the rest of the guards.

After some time, Ling and Shinsei made their way to the shore, settling down on the soft sand. Ling Li sat in front of Shinsei with her back facing him; Ling Li removed the top of her Kimono, and they assumed a meditative position.

Shinsei began channeling his internal energy to Ling Li, recognizing the severity of her injuries and their potential impact on her energy levels. Despite his age, Shinsei's internal energy was formidable, even surpassing that of Mushu. Upon completion, both stood up, and it was apparent that Ling Li had experienced a remarkable surge of strength. Her vitality was evident, and there was a marked improvement in her complexion.

Ling Li's voice echoed through the halls as she instructed Mushu: "Mushu, please assist Shinsei to his room and ensure that he receives immediate food."

Understanding the urgency of the situation, Mushu knew that Shinsei, a pure vegetarian, must be feeling weak due to a sudden loss of energy. He made it his priority to guide Shinsei to his room and oversee the careful preparation of his meal, ensuring no cross-contamination occurred to accommodate Shinsei's monk dietary requirements.

Meanwhile, Pharsa, eager to help change Ling Li's wound dressing, patiently waited for her boss. However, she was unexpectedly dismissed.

What do you think, guys? Will Pharsa find Chatty cute in the future?

Chapter 13: I WAS PERMITTED

In one of the guest rooms, Ling Li's three guests were engrossed in an animated conversation. Chatty's eyes lit up as he enthusiastically exclaimed, "Did you see those influential figures?"

Fatty leaned forward with curiosity and asked, "Do you think Madam Li is related to Otako, or perhaps even Otako herself?"

Four Eyes interjected flatly, "I don't think she's Otako; Otako speaks Chinese, and she doesn't."

Chatty nodded in agreement, adding, "Yes, I heard Otako Sentoki can speak seven languages!"

Fatty's excitement was palpable as he exclaimed, "Still, Madam Li is one hell of a big shot! And she's investing in my company. I'm going to be wealthy!" He grinned at his friends, anticipation shining in his eyes.

Chatty playfully tapped Fatty on the shoulder and exclaimed, "You should give me a commission!"

Fatty raised an eyebrow and asked, "For what?"

Chatty, with a self-satisfied smirk, replied, "If not for my English skills, who would've chatted with Madam Li at the airport? I mean, I'm even tagged as Chatty."

Fatty retorted, "I'm tagged as Fatty, and he is Four Eyes." They both chuckled, but Four Eyes didn't find it amusing at all.

"Don't pay him any attention. He always has a poker face," Fatty said, attempting to diffuse the tension as they continued to laugh.

Turning serious, Chatty asked Four Eyes, "So, if Madam Li gives you a proposal, will you accept it?"

Four Eyes just shrugged in response.

Chatty finished the conversation, and the two departed from his bedroom. The castle stood before them, colossal and imposing. All the guest rooms were situated on the ground floor, with the second floor exclusively reserved for Ling Li and her family.

Access to the second floor was strictly prohibited, and only specially chosen housekeepers were allowed to serve there.

During this particular night, the ground floor was bustling with multiple guests. Ling Li, feeling hungry past midnight after being restricted to porridge for dinner, quietly made her way down to the kitchen, "Now is my chance to eat!" Ling Li mumbled.

As Ling Li approached the dimly lit kitchen, a figure caught her eye. There, sitting on a high stool at the kitchen counter, was the shadowy silhouette of a person. Ling Li flicked the light switch and was startled to find Four Eyes holding a glass of water in his hand.

Ling Li asked, "Why are you awake at this late hour?"

Four Eyes remained silent, but he gestured for Ling Li to listen carefully.

"Harder! Harder! Yes! Yes!....

Faster! Yes! I'm coming! Yes!"

When Ling Li heard what was going on, her entire face turned red. Some people are engaging in wild and vulgar sex.

"...."

Ling Li suggested, "Sorry. Why don't you move to the room on the second floor? When you go up, the first door is on your right. That is vacant." She looked away as she muttered, "Go. "

"Why are you here?" Four Eyes inquired.

"I'm quite hungry," responded Ling Li. She walked over to the fridge in search of something to eat. She gathered bread, ham, salami, pepperoni, mayo, chicken, tomatoes, lettuce, and three kinds of cheese, envisioning a huge sandwich.

"No chicken," advised Four Eyes.

Ling Li questioned, "What's the issue?"

"Chicken makes wounds itchy," explained Four Eyes.

Ling Li reluctantly pushed the chicken back, rolling her eyes.

Ling Li politely offered, "Would you like some?" to which Four Eyes simply replied, "OK."

Ling Li then skillfully crafted two huge sandwiches, poured two glasses of milk, and they both ate their meal in silence.

The noise around them was so boisterous and vulgar that they struggled to ignore it despite their efforts. Ling Li would occasionally blush, a sign that Four Eyes couldn't help but notice.

As they finished their food, Ling Li suggested, "Come, let me show you to your room." Four Eyes readily followed her, as he couldn't bear the thought of staying in his room.

Upon reaching the second floor, Ling Li led Four Eyes to his new room, saying, "Here, you can move into this room. I'll have the servants transfer your belongings tomorrow. If you need anything, my quarters are just next door." She gestured towards two imposing doors beside his new bedroom.

"Go ahead and rest. Goodnight," Ling Li said before turning and leaving the room.

When Four Eyes finally entered the room and flipped on the lights, he was struck by the grandeur of the interior. The room was spacious with a distinctly masculine design, exuding an air of sophistication. He couldn't help but notice the adjoining door that led to Ling Li's room, prompting him to wonder about its owner.

As Four Eyes flicked on the light next to his bed and turned off the rest, he marveled at the luxuriousness of the bed. To his surprise, he realized it was a waterbed. "Cool!" Four Eyes exclaimed before drifting off to sleep almost instantly.

Meanwhile, Ling Li lay on her bed, fuming. "It must be El Capitan, El Padre, and the Cuban President," she seethed. "Those three rascals! Shameless!"

Each time the thought of Ling Li's embarrassing encounter with Four Eyes crossed her mind, her face flushed crimson. "Dammit!" she muttered before drifting off to sleep.

The next day, Mushu and Pharsa, who habitually waited at the staircase for Ling Li, were taken aback to see Four Eyes making his way down the stairs.

Pharsa's voice reverberated through the corridor as she sternly questioned, "Why are you coming down from the second floor?"

Four Eyes, with a carefree demeanor, countered, "I was permitted," and continued his descent, unfazed by Pharsa's authority.

Meanwhile, his friends - concerned and curious - approached him, frantically asking, "We've been looking for you. Where have you been?"

With a casual air, Four Eyes replied, "I just woke up."

Perplexed, his friends pressed on, "But you were not in your room."

"I was upstairs. Let me change first," was Four Eyes' curt reply as he walked away, leaving his friends bewildered.

Not far away, Pharsa instructed Mushu to keep an eye on Ling Li while she pursued the gentlemen to the beachfront breakfast table, where Shinsei and his assistant were already seated.

Gesturing enthusiastically, Shinsei beckoned Four Eyes to sit beside him, unaware of the scrutiny he was about to face. As Shinsei examined his hand, he inquired, "Young lad, what is your Chinese zodiac?"

Without hesitation, Four Eyes retorted, "Pig."

Excitedly, Shinsei proclaimed, "I knew it!"

Chapter 14: THE ONE

Shinsei was bursting with excitement as he made his announcement to Pharsa. "Pharsa! I finally found 'the one!'"

Pharsa's face lit up with joy as she comprehended the significance of his words. "Really?!" Pharsa exclaimed, unable to contain her enthusiasm.

Ling Li, noticing Pharsa's elation, inquired, "What are you so excited about?"

"Madam, Shinsei has found 'the one!'" Pharsa shared with a beaming smile.

Ling Li couldn't hide her amusement. Of course, Ling Li knew what it meant; It was her soul mate! 'Duh,' Ling Li thought as she rolled her eyes. "And who is 'the one'?" she asked curiously after briefly reflecting.

El Padre and El Capitan joined the group, with El Padre jumping into the conversation, "Yeah, who is 'the one'? Tell us already!" Both of them were well aware of the significance of 'the one.'

Soon after, the three Presidents arrived shortly, completely clueless about the preceding conversation.

"Yeah, tell us who kept us awake all night last night! Look at my precious eyes; they now look like my pandas at home," the Chinese President remarked in a lighthearted manner as they gathered around the long table.

In a lighthearted moment, the Russian President remarked humorously, "Yeah, look at my eyes. They have shrunk like tarsiers' eyes!" This remark brought about laughter among the crowd.

Ling Li chimed in, "What?! The tarsier is indeed small, but it has big, round eyes!" Her remark added to the pleasant atmosphere.

The Russian President, playing along, humorously lamented, "See what you did! I even got the animals mixed up! Then my eyes are now like goldfish!"

To this, Ling Li humorously queried, "And what do goldfish have to do with your sleepless eyes?" The President replied in a mock pitiful tone, "It's now all puffy, and my eyes are priceless as gold!" As he puffed his face, the room erupted in laughter.

The Russian President's fantastic sense of humor endeared him to those around him, making every moment in his company a delightful one.

The scene by the shore was filled with joyous laughter, together with the rich aroma of coffee and the faint scent of a cigar. The Cuban President sat back in his chair, puffing on his cigar thoughtfully as he remarked, "I guess I must puff my cigar all day to keep me awake."

El Padre stood tall, a cup of 'Cuban' brewed coffee in hand, emphasizing the word 'Cuban' as he announced, "Ehem, I will be drinking 'Cuban' brewed coffee all day to keep my eyes open."

As the conversation continued, El Capitan became complained, "You see, I was sleeping soundly last night, but I keep hearing someone shouting, 'Harder! Harder! Faster! Faster! I'm coming!' Damn, how can you even sleep!"

The mention of the previous night's noisy disturbance caused Ling Li's face to flush bright red, her embarrassment evident to Four Eyes. It was clear that she recognized the source of the vulgar commotion. Four Eyes, observing her reaction, noticed her red ears. It made the corner of Four Eyes' lips slightly raised.

The room was filled with laughter as Chatty blurted out loudly, "I heard that too!" causing everyone to chuckle.

El Padre, with a teasing tone, pointed an accusatory finger at El Capitan, "I thought it was coming from your room!" revealing that the source of the disturbance was indeed from his room. 'How dare he spill it on us!' El Padre snorted.

Meanwhile, El Capitan almost choked on the tea he was sipping.

"Alright, let's eat. The food is here. You're not even embarrassed to talk about these in front of Shinsei," reprimanded Ling Li, directing a disapproving glance at them.

Shinsei waved his hand and smiled at them.

"Anyway, it's the whale watching season, and this weather is perfect for it. Since you are all here and I know you haven't done it before, why don't you try it today?" Ling Li suggested to her guests.

"Do we need to go deep down under the sea? Like Scuba diving?" Chatty asked.

"No!"

"No!" Ling Li and El Padre replied simultaneously.

"Really?"

"It's freediving," Ling Li explained eagerly, her eyes shining with excitement. "You can even see whale sharks if you stay on the boat. They are enormous, majestic creatures." She paused, her voice tinged with awe. "You can swim with them if you like. Just don't touch them, so they don't panic or get hurt by accident."

"Wow," Chatty exclaimed with a big, beaming smile.

"Why don't we all go?" Ling Li inquired, her voice filled with enthusiasm. "Mushu, prepare everything," she ordered.

When Ling Li says, "Everyone goes," everyone follows without hesitation. Nobody dares to say no.

They were divided into different groups, each with its unique composition. The pros were paired with newbies, along with security personnel and the local whale spotters they had hired. The three guests were separated, and Mushu and Pharsa were divided. Ling Li assigned El Capitan and Pharsa to be with Chatty and one of the Presidents. At the same time, Mushu accompanied Fatty and one of the Presidents. Ling Li herself was with El Padre, Shinsei, and Four Eyes. Several boats of security personnel followed closely behind.

After they arrived at a specific spot, the spotter instructed them to turn down the engines of their boats, sail silently for a while, and wait patiently. These whale spotters assured them that it was the time of year so that it would take little time. True to their words, in just about thirty minutes of waiting, several whale sharks gracefully emerged from the depths of the sea.

Men from other boats began leaping into the water, joining El Padre, who had already jumped out. Shinsei is expected to observe from above.

However, Ling Li was curious about 'Four Eyes,' who remained seated. "What about you? Are you not joining?" Ling Li, seeking answers.

Four Eyes shook his head in response.

"You don't know how to swim?" Ling Li probed further.

Four Eyes remained tight-lipped, refusing to respond.

Understanding the situation, Ling Li, an expert swimmer who had trained many in swimming and rescue techniques, offered a helping hand. "Come, take my hand. I'll look out for you," Ling Li assured.

But Four Eyes still shook his head, visibly hesitant.

Undeterred, Ling Li took a snorkel, put one on her own, and put another on Four Eyes, leaving Four Eyes speechless.

"...."

Before Four Eyes could react, Ling Li acted swiftly, tightly embracing Four Eyes before they both plunged into the water in a rapid, seamless motion.

"...."

Chapter 15: THE BLUE ROOM

Ling Li effortlessly kept them afloat, allowing Four Eyes to breathe through his snorkel as she guided him through the water. With Four Eyes holding onto Ling Li's waist and her arm supporting him, they moved smoothly, with Ling Li as the only one wearing fins, giving her the ability to navigate. Ling Li swam purposefully with Four Eyes, eager to catch up with one of the magnificent whale sharks.

Rockie was taken aback by the sight of Ling Li carrying Four Eyes in her arms, trailing behind them. His Madam could have let him do it, but 'why would she personally do this with this man?' Rockie wondered.

Four Eyes were overjoyed to witness the majesty of the whale shark and the diverse marine life beneath the ocean's surface. It was his first experience swimming in the sea, and he found himself immersed in its depths.

'Incredible! I definitely need to learn how to swim,' Four Eyes thought to himself. Despite his friends' previous encouragements, he had always dismissed the idea. Now, however, he was certain that he had been missing out on so much.

After an exhilarating swim with the majestic whale sharks and a mesmerizing encounter with a diverse array of vibrant fish and enchanting corals, the entire group made their way back to their designated boats; they made their journey back to the island.

"Thank you," Four Eyes graciously expressed his gratitude to Ling Li.

Ling Li responded with a nod and a warm smile, unable to shake the feeling of being charmed by Four Eyes. "Why do I find this man so charming? I couldn't even meet his gaze. Dang!" Ling Li scolded herself in frustration.

"We'll meet for lunch in an hour," Ling Li announced to the group.

With that, they all dispersed to freshen up. Ling Li turned to find Four Eyes following behind her.

"Your belongings have been moved to the second floor," Ling Li informed him.

Four Eyes bowed in appreciation, his expression conveying his gratitude, yet he remained silent.

As the group entered the castle, they were taken aback to see Four Eyes following closely behind Ling Li as they climbed the stairs to the second floor.

Pharsa's commanding voice echoed through the grand hall as she announced the unexpected news, "He was given access to the blue room."

Pharsa's words seemed to shock the crowd, frozen in disbelief. For years, they had frequented this place, but the second floor had always been off-limits. And now, the privilege to spend the night in the elusive blue room was never bestowed upon them.

"Move it! Move it!" Pharsa's voice and persistent clapping, urging everyone to move, broke the stunned silence that had enveloped the room.

Meanwhile, El Padre muttered a remark under his breath, expressing his astonishment and perhaps a tinge of frustration. "Dammed luck!"

The Russian President, with a triumphant smile, raised his hand in a victorious gesture, "Ding! Ding! Ding! Ding!" As if he had just hit the jackpot on a slot machine, bringing forth a chorus of laughter from the assembled guests.

Following a shared lunch, Ling Li informed the group of her unavoidable absence for the rest of the day, "I will have several video conferences to attend; I won't be able to attend to you for the rest of the day. Please feel free to do anything and just let Mushu and Pharsa know whatever you need."

Ling Li encouraged them to make the most of their time and assured them that Mushu and Pharsa were at their disposal for any assistance.

As the delightful aroma of the traditional Chinese meal wafted through the room, "Ling, I need to leave after this meal. If your son hadn't informed me of your accident, I might not have had the pleasure of seeing you for such a long time. You naughty one," Shinsei sweetly murmured.

"Forgive me, Shinsei. I promise to make an effort to visit you more frequently and bring Pharsa along with me," Ling Li responded apologetically.

"Absolutely, I'll be eagerly awaiting the two of you. You're missed by everyone there," Shinsei calmly replied.

"Madam, I must also take my leave. You're aware of how much I have on my plate," the Chinese President explained.

"Who doesn't know how much you have on your plate? Just take a look at your waist! Everyone can tell!" the Russian President quipped, prompting laughter from everyone once again.

"Your presence here has been deeply appreciated, and the time you've spent means a lot. You should head back now," Ling Li politely expressed.

"Are you thanking me yet again? Oh, my, my eyes are welling up with tears," the Chinese President joked once more.

As the sun began to set over the horizon, amidst the grandeur of the castle, it was like a gathering of world leaders was taking place. The Russian President, with a serious look on his face, uttered the words, "I can leave tomorrow." His statement was met with agreement from the Cuban President, who nodded and said, "Me too."

Elegantly dressed, the Chinese President turned to Madam, offering words of comfort and support. "Keep Madam company for a while," he said, "As I have said, Madam, recover and leave this place. Call if you need anything." With a polite bow, he then left the castle, followed by Shinsei.

Meanwhile, Ling Li gracefully excused herself from the group, stating that she needed to return to work. The two Presidents, El Padre, and El Capitan, decided to indulge in a game of poker, their laughter echoing through the halls.

Not too far away, Rockie, following Madam Li's instructions, approached Four Eyes. "Master, I'm Rockie," he began, "Madam Li has asked me to teach you how to swim. We have an indoor pool in the castle."

Four Eyes, realizing that this may be part of Ling Li's plan for him to swim in the ocean in the future, nodded in understanding and obediently followed Rockie.

Fatty and Chatty jolted with surprise, their eyes widening in confusion. "Where are you heading off to?" Chatty inquired, his voice filled with curiosity as he and Fatty trailed behind Four Eyes.

As always, Four Eyes remained enigmatic, with a penchant for brevity. He only spoke when necessary, leaving his friends in the dark about his intentions.