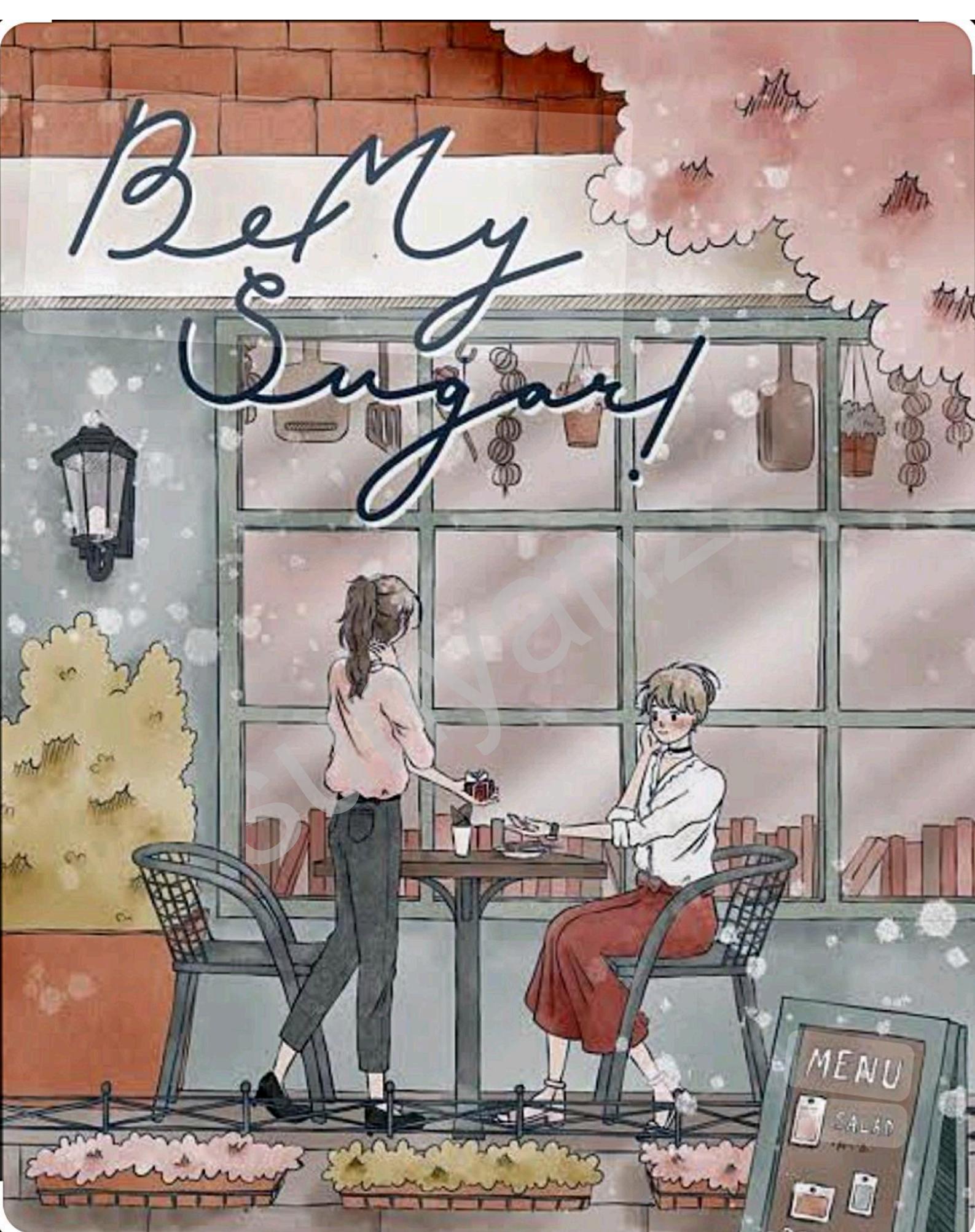


daphne.shn@gmail.com

Betty Sugard!



MENU

SALAD

INTRODUCTION

Bangkok has nothing pleasant to offer when it's raining heavily like this because a severe traffic jam always follows. The roads will be flooded with foul-smelling water, and a massive number of people will be stuck on awful public transportation. It's a disaster specially on a Friday evening like this, and you can't get away from it no matter how much of a hurry you are in.

All of the above are the reasons that Peeraya hasn't left her office but has chosen to sit with one leg crossed over another and her chin resting on her palm on the ground of her office building as she lets the time pass. She plans to leave when she is certain that she will not be frustrated by the traffic when she drives home. She prefers to drive herself rather than have others drive for her.

She drums the tips of her fingers on her check. The bored and expressionless face makes her employees not dare pay respect as they leave. They hesitate, then eventually walk out, looking down on the floor, pretending not to see her.

That is good because Peraya is not in the mood to pretend to look upbeat either.

There are many things crashing is on her whether it's work or personal matters. It's overbearing and has sucked all the energy out of her. If there is an indicator, such as a mobile phone's battery power status, she believe that it will show 2% remaining power. She's about to shut down.

Her eyes are wandering, looking at the people who walk in and out of the large glass door, until they pause when she sees someone. It's a woman in high heels and a Mandarin collar shirt that is stucked into her blacks slacks. Her hair is tied into a bun on top of her head, and she's wearing a black choker around her neck. Her slender arms are filled with black folders that contain so many documents that the arms may break at any second.

That woman grabs her interest more than all the other people walking by, so Peeraya's striking eyes follow her intently. She just wants to look at her without being intrusive in any way. A middle aged man with neatly swept back gray hair, a full suit, and eyeglasses walks over to greet her wearily, as if he's been waiting for her.

Peeraya realizes immediately that they are father and daughter. The facial features and the look in their eyes are like photocopies of each other. It wouldn't be as interesting if that man wasn't the one facing fraud charges from church from her company.

The two talk for a while before the father places his thick palm on his daughter's head as she lift her slender hand to wipe her tears. Even looking from a far, Peeraya can see that they are close. But why is she crying?

When the two walk over in Peeraya's direction, she quickly hides herself behind a newspaper. The two sit down three chairs away from her, with the daughter sitting on Peraya's side. Peeraya's eyes are on the newspaper, yet her ears are listening in on their conversation.

"The traffic is so bad, you shouldn't have come." The father's voice sound tired but kind.

"It's not that bad. I took the skytrain and then a taxi. It didn't take long."

The daughter replies with as bright a smile as she can muster. Her father look at her, sigh, and then smiles weakly back. He then asks wearily.

"I didn't do it. You believe me, right, Pim?"

"Yes, I do. If I didn't, I wouldn't be here."

"Concerning Weeraphon, you don't have to worry. There is no way that I would do something like that."

"We can talk about that later."

"I will not give you to anyone people, Pipim. Do you understand?"

Pongsathorn sounds stressed because, despite receiving an offer, he would have to allow his daughter to become a toy for a man she doesn't love.

"I understand." Pipim replies with a smile.

The striking eyes peek over the newspaper to survey the situation of the father and daughter. Once the father leaves, the daughter, who acted tough all along, sigh. Her smile fades away as she leans on the sofa wearily. Her eyelids shut down, while Peraya's interest is ignited.

Pipim leaves with her father after waiting for almost 2 hours. It's at this time that Peeraya gets up and immediately call her trusted assistant. What she wasn't interested in before has become her keen interest after one big downpour.

And it will undoubtedly change someone's life forever.

01. THE DEAL

Peeraya's energy surged because something caught her interest. As she drives home, her capable assistant sends her the information she requested in a very timely manner. It contains all the personal information of the three member of a family : Pongsathorn, Pipim, and Papie.

As soon as she get the information, the tip of her thumb swipes the mobile phone's screen Pipim's information first when she is stuck at the red traffic light. She quickly scans and memorizes Pipim personal data: name, surname, profession, and current address.

Something tell her that this woman is the perfect candidate for what she has planned. Every person has an instinct, a hunch, and a first impression that maybe different from one another. And everything is telling her that this person is the one.

She has the character, the qualifications, the profession and the personal problem that I ties her to Peeraya. Hence, a plan is being put together quickly in her head.

"I'm sorry, Pipim. But it has to be you."

When the traffic light change to green, Peraya lock her mobile phone and throws it on the front passenger seat on top of a pink card. The card is one of the reasons for her heavy heart. A smile spreads on her face, like she's mocking herself every time she sees that card. Yet she has never thought of throwing it away since she got it 3 weeks ago because it is a good reminder that her love has fallen apart at the hands of someone she used to trust.

However this time the smile on her face is not bitter, mocking or desperate anymore. Because now Pipim's face is floating in her head. Peraya is a certain that this is not love at first sight or anything like that. She can not love someone new this quickly. Yet the interest that Pipim has ignited is not negligible either.

Peeraya is a businesswoman whose hand aren't exactly spotless. They are paint both black and white until they are gray. Therefore, the way she intends to approach Pipim obviously involves exploiting Pipim's father problem.

The tips of her fingers are drumming onto the steering wheel as her foot is stepping on the accelerator. When she gets home, the tall lady walk straight to see her father, who is probably still in his workroom, to inform him what she wants.

"Dad, I will handle the Pongsathorn charges."

" I thought you wanted the legal team to handle it?"

Her father asks back curiously. The beautiful face lets out a smile.

"Let's just say that, now, it's my responsibility."

"Oh."

Peeraya pauses as she's walking out of the room and turns to look at her father.

"I will go to our relative's wedding. You don't have to make an excuse for me anymore."

"What's going on? Why is everything so sudden?"

He's only daughter doesn't respond. She just smiles from the corner of her mouth and walks away, not paying any attention to his confused look. She comes and goes as quick as the wind.

Peeraya has a chance to meet Pipim properly at a cafe. She seems tired and fatigued but acts as if she's full of energy. That is very impressive. Peraya admire her fighting spirit. And from the information she has, she is quite confident that helping Pipim out will not be a waste of effort. So after meeting Pipim, Peeraya immediately puts her plan into action.

Pipim is quiet anxious because Peraya has gone quiet despite telling her that she will get back to her. It makes her frustratingly lose concentration when lecturing and reviewing her student's work. She is so frustrated that things aren't going as she had to hope that she decides to contact Peraya because she fears she will go insane if she just sits there and does nothing.

(Hello.)

"Hello, Miss Peeraya. This is Pipim."

(I know. What can I help you with?)

Peraya asks with a smile on her face because she's been waiting for Pipim to call her.

"About my father's matter."

(I have been waiting for you to call about that.)

"Huh?"

Pipim frowns. Does this mean that if she doesn't call, Peeraya we'll just disappear?

(Can we meet?)

"I have to lecture all day. I will only be available in the evening."

(I can wait. Let's meet at the same place as last time.)

"Miss Peeraya."

(Yes?)

"Do you intend to help me?"

Pipim question causes Peeraya to laugh softly before answering with a serious tone of voice.

(Of course. If I couldn't help you, I wouldn't have met up with you in the first place. It's not that I don't care about you. I just needed to get more information.)

"....."

(What you need to do is trust me. That's the only thing you can and should do.)

So annoying.... so full of herself!

That's the emotion that's rising within Pipim. But she has to undeniably admit that 'trusting Peraya' is the only thing that she can do right now.

"Okay see you at the same place."

(Pipim.)

"Yes."

(You can call me Perth.)

"Huh?"

The young professor is becoming confused. What is this Peeraya person like? Is she the serious or annoying type?

(That's how I want you to call me.)

"Ok Perth."

Pipim didn't intend to sigh, but she unconsciously did.

(Agreeable. I like that. See you.)

The other end of the line says that, sounding very delighted, while the person on this end of the line can only reply shortly with a headache.

"Ok."

Self - Centered.....

That's another emotion that arises side by side with a annoyance. This person brings out many emotions, but all are in the direction of calling for cute aggression. If she wasn't her only choice that gave her hope, Pipim wouldn't bring herself close to someone like this. She would rather stay as far away from her as possible.

Pipim doesn't know what time is considerate evening for Peraya, so she goes to wait as soon as her class ends. Using the skytrain helps save a lot of time, but it comes with a crowd. If she get too sits, it's her lucky day. If not, she can only pray that she is not pressed into an A4 sheet of paper.

She enter the cafe and, with just a few glances, recognizes the person she's looking for waving at her as though she's been waiting. Pipim take a deep breath to gather herself as well as her courage. She's not sure why she has to do that. She only knows that Peeraya's help is crucial for her family. Her annoyance suddenly turns into fear.

When she can only hear Peeraya's voice, it is not that frightening. But when she meets her in real life, she suddenly becomes frightened. Pipim is afraid that Peraya will change her mind or that only one piece of evidence is not enough to convince her. She's afraid of everything because, to be honest, Peraya is a stranger to her. Consequently, it is a uncertain whether Peraya's motives for offering assistance will entail a steep price.

"You look stressed again."

Peeraya greets the young professor as soon as she's within reach.

"....."

"Does seeing me make you that stressed, Pipim?"

"No."

Pipim shakes her head and sit down when Peraya sweeps her hand to the chair on her opposite side. She then immediately gets to the point.

"Why do you want to meet up with me?"

"Why did you call me?"

"I want to talk about my father's issue."

Peeraya nods.

"That's it. That's why I want us to meet up."

"Ok."

The young professor tried to keep her emotions hidden behind her emotionless expression.

"I will not beat around the bush, as it's a waste of time."

"Ok."

Pipim's cool composure make Peraya frown, but it's not from frustration. She just doesn't like the distance look, like she's a stranger, that she's getting because the deal she wants to make requires them to be closer than they should be.

"I'm not helping you for free, I told you that, right?"

"Yes, I remember."

Pipim sits with her back straight. Her professor's image shines, and when she's listening with such concentration, Peeraya pauses her gaze for a moment before quickly gathering herself.

She likes Pipim's seriousness and determination.

"I want you to be my girlfriend."

"What!?"

Pipim's response makes Peeraya unconsciously bite her lips from the inside nervously. It's not that she doesn't feel anything about having to say something like this. But from the first moment she saw Pipim, she knew it must be her. It must be Pipim.

And Peeraya always believes in her Instincts. What ties them together is no coincidence either. She tied Pipim's path to hers, so she will not take no for an answer no matter what.

"I mean, pretend to be my girlfriend."

"I don't understand."

Pipim asks as she frowns. This is no different from Weeraphon's offer.

"This is my only offer, you have 4 months to become my ideal girlfriend."

"Perth, you may have misunderstood me. I didn't offer myself in exchange for your help."

Pipim's voice clearly became stern.

"I know that, and I'm not demeaning you by doing or thinking that."

"....."

"You need my help, and I need yours."

Peeraya opens up but only a small part of her truth. And when Pipim hears that, her

anger storm starts to dissipate, but not all of it.

"Why did you choose me? And why did you think that I would help you? It's unreasonable for you to come ask for this kind of help from someone you have only met a few times."

This question makes Peeraya smile. *First* of all, you are interesting. *Secondly*, the concern you have for your father impressed me. I like someone who loves her family. *Third*, you try to be strong even though you are stressed and in distress. I like your fighting spirit.

Forth... **you like a woman.**"

"....."

"There maybe more after this, but for now, that's all I have."

Peeraya is still smiling as she lifts one leg like to cross over the other relaxingly before she ask another question.

"Am I correct on my fourth reason?"

Pipim is still getting a smile from Peeraya. This is surprising because this is very different from what Jaojay has told her, which is that Peraya rarely smiles. The young professor feels that her smile is so cunning, mischievous, and childishly naughty. She still not giving her response.

"I understand that you need time to think about it. After you have thought it over, please give me a call. I will be waiting."

"How long?"

"What do you mean? How long do you have to think, or how long do you have to be my girlfriend?"

"The latter one."

Peeraya's smile slowly fades. "There is no specific timeframe. I cannot speculate how many months or years my relationship with someone will last."

Pipim frowns.

"But it's only for pretending?"

"Yes. But I cannot give you my word that I will not want you as my real girlfriend along the way."

"What?"

"That's that."

"I am at a disadvantage in every way, Perth."

"Yes. This is how I am. That's how a businesswoman treats someone. If you want me to treat you like a girlfriend, just say yes."

That sentence makes Pipim sigh again.

"What if I say no?"

"I won't help you. I told you already that I am not doing anything for free."

"Then after you help me, I can just break our deal?"

Peeraya laughs out loud at that question but is still kind enough to answer it.

"On that matter, I can't force you to stay or not to leave. But if I help you out, will you really not help me?"

"....."

"Will you be so mean as to break your promise, Pipim?"

"I'm just asking so that if I really do that, you will not have to waste time looking for me."

Peeraya slowly lets out a smile.

"My dear Pipim, you can try to run if you think you can get away from me."

It's unclear how long the staring contest lasted. But in the end, Pipim gives up because those naughty, mischievous eyes break all her concentration.

"I'm leaving."

"Ok."

The professor's beautiful eyes sweep over to look at Peeraya as her annoyance rises once again before she speak.

"Please do your job as my girlfriend by dropping me off at home."

"If this is your answer, I will grab my car key right now."

Pipim sighs before answering with a sarcastic tone of voice. Yet her answer makes the person on the receiving end smile broadly.

"Then please grab your car key because I don't have much choice."

02. PIPIM'S

As Peeraya, the person who devised the plan, leads Pipim to her car, she turns to emphasize something with such seriousness that Pipim becomes serious as well.

"Only we can know about our deal."

"...."

"This means that your family must also believe that we are lovers, Pipim."

That sentence makes the young professor frown. She believes she can at least tell her family because she's doing this to help her father. She sees no reason to hide this from him.

"I don't understand. At least my family should be able to know the truth."

When Peeraya doesn't smile she seems intimidating and all serious, as if she's exuding a certain aura that turns Pipim into a small rabbit. There is no sign of mischief in those eyes like before. Right now she's like the new Peeraya that Pipim just met.

The word "we" means you and me Pipim. For whatever reasons, it should be between us only, that's how I want it."

"Is it the same reason why I have to be your girlfriend?"

"...."

"Do you want to be sarcastic or prove something to someone?. Those questions make Peeraya go silent before she replies.

"You don't have to be in such a hurry to find out about all that,Pipim."

"...."

"You will undoubtedly find out one day."

"Ok."

Pipim's flat response is not what Peeraya expected to hear. The vice president was expecting to see her more frustrated than this. It's not that she doesn't like it, but it's mean that Pipim can control her feelings well.

Therefore, Peeraya straight face slowly change to a smiling one. The owner of the expensive car opens the door before she invite Pipim in, as she tells her something.

"One thing I can tell you now is that I didn't choose you to ridicule someone, Pipim." That's the only truth she can tell now.

The silent in the car doesn't make Peeraya feel uncomfortable in any way because she expected this. She would be more surprised if it wasn't silent like this. See glances at Pipim from time to time, pretending to be looking at the side mirror, and she keeps her eyes on the road. She realized that the beautiful face is not paying attention to the views or herself but is focusing on the work papers in her hands.

Realizing that, she reaches over to turn on the passenger seat light for her out of

concerned that relying solely on the lights from the outside would be harmful to her eyes. The face shows signs of weariness.

Peeraya can guess that it's from the trip over to the cafe, her work load, and also, her family problem. Her fighting spirit is something Peeraya admires so much that she brings herself to be near Pipim, though it's via a not so nice approach.

But with her around, Pipim will not have to be this tired. Being hers, Pipim should be happier and smile more. Peeraya can guess that father's issue weighs heavily on her mind.

"It's dark in the car, it's bad for your eyes."

Peeraya says the softly and gets a similar tune of voice back "

"Thank you."

"Do you have a lot of work on your hands?"

Peeraya starts a conversation to break the silence.

"From time to time. A lot of students handed in their projects this period, so I have to review and suggest some revisions."

"I can help."

"It's ok. I won't bother you."

Peeraya just give a shrug and doesn't push the issue. She just continues to drive at a pace that is neither to slow or not to fast. Eventually the car is parked in front of a two-story compact size house. There is space for only one car in front of the house and a car is already parked there.

The gate light and the lights inside the house are on. You can sense the vibrancy all around the area. This is also not surprising because Peeraya can already sense how warm and close the family members are, even though the mother is no longer with them.

"Thank you. You can go back now."

Though Pipim says this Peeraya does the opposite by releasing herself belt and turning off the engine. She then turns to speak with a face that is not all sympathetic, which is the opposite of the request.

"Can I have dinner with you? I'm dying of hunger."

Yet Pipim is not that mean. Peeraya drove her home, so returning the favor with dinner is not too much of a problem. But the young professor completely forgot that Peeraya is not Sitang. It's unusual for someone with such a high position in the company for which her father works to come to her house for dinner. Moreover, they come together.

"Vice president."

Pongsathorn is visibly shocked. The other woman in the house just raises her hands to show respect in a polite manner, though her face clearly shows that she's not welcoming the guest and may even want to chase the guest away.

"Oh..Mr. Pongsathorn."

Peeraya sounds very surprised, which makes Pipim turn to look at her. How could she possibly have forgotten that this woman is annoyingly cunning.

"What brings you here, vice president?"

Pongsathorn blinks as he turned to look between his daughter and his guest, like he's curious about something but doesn't dare ask.

"I am dropping Pipim off."

"....."

"We are lovers."

At the end of the sentence, Pipim immediately wants to bite her on tongue. She knew something was off. She shouldn't have gone soft and let this woman step into her house. So this is why Peeraya emphasized that no one else could know about their deal. She intend to do this!

"Is that true, Phi Pim?"

The person who's asked turn to give Peeraya a threatening look before unavoidably nodding as a response.

"Not alone time ago."

She replies to her younger sister softly because she doesn't want to lie.

"And does Phi..."

"Go get an extra plate, Pleng."

Pipim cuts the conversation short before her younger sister can say anything inappropriate. Peeraya doesn't seem to have caught that. She's looking around and walking after Pongsathorn into the house.

Pipim finally sees the rarely smiling version of Peeraya. She looks so quiet and serious that everyone is uneasy. Therefore, as the person who is sitting next to her, Pipim has to whisper into Peeraya's ears, making it seem like lovers are talking.

"Please don't look so serious. My younger sister and father are losing their appetites."

"What do I have to do?"

"Try smiling at them like you smile at me. You can use your straight face with anyone you want, but not with my family. You have to smile at them, Perth. This is our first rule."

"Ok."

Peeraya nods before she starts to be a good girlfriend by complimenting the taste of the food and the house, as well as how cute Pipim is...In the meantime, Papie, who is sitting on the opposite side of the table, squint, trying to find fault with both her sister and the guest because you cannot believe that they are really lovers.

After dinner is over, instead of going back like she should, Peeraya whispers to Pipim that she wants to talk to Pongsathorn about the law suits. She gets a very eager response back, unlike before.

"Why are you looking so happy? I just want to have a chat."

"If my father knows that you are helping him, he will feel better."

"I'm not saying that I'm going to help him."

"What?"

Pipim gives Peeraya a hard gaze.

"I mean, I'm not going to tell your father that I'm going to help. I just want to have a talk with him first."

Peeraya hurriedly explains, which makes Pipim stop looking at her sternly.

"Up to you then. But if there's anything that you are sure that you can help him with, I want you to tell him."

"Roger that."

Pipim's reaction makes Peeraya want to pat her on the head as a consolation. She wants to tell her that she already said that she would help, so she would do everything in her power to do so.

Pipim expects the talk to take a while, so she plans to take a bath and change to freshen herself up as she let's them talk. But the interrogating eyes off Papie force her to change her mind and let her younger sister follow her into her room.

"You suddenly have a girlfriend?"

"It's not sudden. We have been talking for a while."

She avoids looking into her sister's interrogating eyes as she replies.

"How about Phi Sitang?"

"She's where she always is."

Pipim's voice becomes stern as she is about to scold her younger sister for mentioning her best friend's name in this conversation.

"But you love Phi Si. How can you be with someone else?"

Papie wouldn't give in. Though she's afraid of her older sister, her concerned on protectiveness outweigh it. If her sister's lover is the one she just mentioned, she would not get in the way at all.

"Si has a lover, why can't I have one too?"

"What?"

"You heard it, so don't say something like this again."

"Wait, Phi Pim."

"Pleng, I beg you."

Papie goes quiet when she sees her sister's reaction before letting out a big sigh and quickly turning to walk away. Her reaction shows that she's not happy but will not interfere.

But before Pipim can do anything, there is a knock on the door. Her sister come and place a chubby, orange cat on the floor.

"Take care of your cat. I am busy."

That's all she said before she went back to her room. Pipim shakes her head a bit. She's not frustrated at all. All she has is adoration for her younger sister's usual sulking. When her sister sulk, she will bring Paul to her, whereas Papie normally sleep with this chubby cat every night. Her sister loves and is protective of this cat even more than she is of her.

Pipim bathes and goes on with her personal business until she's finished before taking her work documents and Paul down to the living room. She wants to at least walk

Peeraya out when she leaves. If she cannot be found, she's afraid the mischievous Peeraya will find an excuse to go to her room.

She doesn't know what Peeraya and her father talk about, but it took them quite a while before they finished.

"Thank you, vice president."

Pongsathorn looks better, like Pipim had hoped.

"That's ok. I'm happy to help."

Peeraya smiles in response to his thankfulness.

"Take care of your girlfriend, Pim."

One thing she knows is that, after the long talk, her father really believes that Peeraya is her girlfriend. After Pongsathorn leaves, Peeraya sits next to her on the sofa. Her mischievous and cheerful character is back.

"You have a cat?"

Peeraya asked as she looks at the grumpy cat.

"Yes."

"What is the name?"

"Paul."

"A male."

"Yes."

Peeraya try to play with Paul, but it seems like he's being snobby around a stranger because he keeps moving away and looks at her like he is irritated. In the end, Pipim loses her patience and tell Peeraya.

"Paul doesn't like strangers."

"Then I have to visit more often so that I am not one."

"That's not what I meant."

"That's how I take it."

Pipim is out of words concerning Paul, so she changes to asked about what's on her mind.

"When will you go back?"

"In a bit."

"It's late. How much longer will you stay?"

"A bit more."

"Don't act like you are a kid sneaking out, Perth. Go home already."

"I'm playing with Paul, Pipim. Don't be rude."

There is she goes. The young professor sigh before she stops paying attention to her. If Peeraya wants to stay, stay. But if she's trying to find an excuse to sleepover, the sofa will be her bed. Don't even think of stepping foot into her room.

Peeraya smiles from the corner of her mouth, seeing that Pipim is annoyed. She's not sure why, but seeing that reaction from Pipim amazingly uplifts her mood.

"Pipim."

"Yes."

"The cat is exactly like the owner."

"How is he like me?"

"Both don't like strangers and like to treat them."

Pipim frowns before smiling when she see the interaction between the cat and the guest. She's less frustrated by the teasing just because she see Paul doing the job of expressing his annoyance towards the strangers diligently.

"You are wrong. I think the cat has protective instinct when it comes to its owner. He probably knows who means well and who doesn't. He's not like me."

That sentence causes the smile on Peeraya's face as she looks at the orange cat to fade. She then turns to give the young professor s serious look before speaking with a voice that calls for cute aggression, as always.

"I only have your best interest at heart, my dear Pipim."

And the sentence makes 'my dear', whom Peeraya called, sigh. She lets the stranger and the house can get to know each other without thinking of interfering again. At least for now.

But the teasing, or was it an introduction is heard, though she's not trying to listen in on the conversation.

"Pipim's cat, do you know that I'm also Pipim's."

It's so annoyingly cute! When did she become Pipim's!?

03. LOVERS RAFFLE

She was stubborn as usual. The 'a bit' celebration dragged on for hours. Pipim sat and watched the stranger and the cat, who were still not very friendly to each other, tired. The work in her hands was not as important as before now because there were other things that interested her. Peeraya was very persistent, unlike the others. While Paul was still arrogant when he had to meet strangers.

They got along oddly well.

Another character of Peeraya that Pipim could feel without trying at all was that she was very good at turning a deaf ear. Look at her. Pipim had directly told her to go back, but she wouldn't go. Was she going to wait until the new day? It was already past 10 p.m. If she left now, wouldn't it be really late when she got home?

"Go back, Perth."

Pipim urged her again.

"....."

"I'm not telling you this time. I'm ordering you."

Her harsh voice made Peeraya stare at her like a child being scolded.

"Can't I stay a little longer?"

"It's been a little while. If you like Paul that much, come back later. You're an adult, don't be so stubborn."

"Remember that you've extended an invitation to me."

"What?"

"You said I could visit again. Then, I'll come back now."

Pipim sighed. Her own words were binding her again. It wasn't surprising, but Peeraya was binding herself to her.

The deal was just to be a pretend girlfriend. It wasn't a big deal, and it didn't have to be this close. But never mind. Pipim didn't want to think too much about it because she already had a lot on her mind.

As long as Peeraya didn't create any more trouble for her and could really help her father, she could do whatever Peeraya wanted for now.

The vice president rose from the crossed-legged position where she had been sitting to play with Paul and turned to smile at Pipim.

"What time is your class tomorrow?"

"Do I have to tell you that?"

Pipim asked with a frown. She wasn't sure how the question related to Peeraya going home.

"Yes. I want to know."

Peeraya replied with a straight face.

"Then find the answer yourself. I know you can."

Peeraya smiled at the response.

"I'm just trying to find out as much as I should, Pipim. I'm asking because I want to hear the answer directly from you. It's nothing complicated."

"...."

"Do you think your lover wants the answer from you or from someone else?"

"If you want the answer from me, you'll have to try harder, Perth."

And the meaning of 'try' in this sense is in everything, no matter what Peeraya has planned.

"So, I have to wait until you want to tell me the answer?"

"Very clever, vice president."

Pipim smiled so much that Peeraya couldn't tell what she was thinking.

Nevertheless, she moved her feet towards the door as she was pushed from behind until she was standing on the porch in front of the house. The soft touch, even through the cloth, was like a hot iron that made her feel hot. And, yes, it could easily warm Peeraya's broken heart.

"I've brought you here. Go back already."

"Pipim."

Peeraya called before the young professor returned to her house.

"Yes?"

"Good evening."

The warm smile, in contrast to Peeraya's stubborn nature, made Pipim stunned. Pipim just nodded and gave a little smile back.

"Good evening to you too, Perth."

Peeraya nodded back, put on her shoes, and turned to walk out the front gate. But before she could get into her car, there was a call from the other side of the gate.

"Perth."

"Yes?"

Peeraya turned around and looked back with a confused expression.

Soon after, her confusion turned into a smile when she heard Pipim's short request.

"I know that you already have my number. So, if it's not too much trouble, please send me a message to let me know that you've arrived home safely. And thank you for dropping me off."

"Thank you also for letting me drop you off."

"Go already."

This time, the person who was kicked out laughed because she had heard those words

more than ten times tonight. But she just realized that there was a hint of worry in them.

"If you want me to leave, come in first."

"My house is just a step away. It doesn't affect when you leave."

"Are you worried about me?"

"Please go home, Perth."

The young professor repeated it tiredly, but couldn't remove the warm smile from the corner of Peeraya's mouth.

"Concern is pronounced like this, my dear. Not 'go home.'"

Peeraya teased softly. Her eyes shone in a way that Pipim didn't know what it meant, except that it was very attractive. Though they weren't as calm and still as her best friend's, they were just as attractive. The only difference was that these eyes were reachable, and the sparkle was real.

"Since when did I become your lover?"

"If you ask me one more question, I'll walk back into the house and tell your father that I'm spending the night, Pipim."

The young professor immediately scrunched up her face when she heard that. She tightened her lips in frustration and let out a heavy sigh for Peeraya to hear.

"Whether or not you go back is your business. I sent you here."

Pipim turned to walk back into the house as soon as she finished that sentence, leaving Peeraya to smile alone because she loved that reaction from Pipim so much.

"You're becoming more attractive by the second, Pipim."

And, of course, after she got home safely, Peeraya texted Pipim. And, as expected, she didn't get any response back.

The next morning.

Pipim got another surprise when she walked out the door and saw the same car that dropped her off the night before parked out front.

Leaning against the car was a tall woman in a pink work shirt, tapping on her phone with a straight face, not caring about what was happening around her.

"What are you doing here so early?"

The question caused Peeraya to immediately close her phone and put it in her pants pocket. A small smile began to spread across that straight face.

"You wouldn't tell me what time your class was, so I came to wait since morning."

"What if I don't come out? Will you wait here aimlessly?"

Pipim's question was filled with curiosity and nagging at the same time. Her beautiful eyes stared at Peeraya firmly, as was her nature. This made Peeraya stop smiling.

"What made you so angry, Pipim?"

Peeraya asked softly because she had no plans to tease Pipim when she acted like this. At least Peeraya knew what and when was the right time to say something.

"You. I'm so mad at you."

"You're mad because I wanted to pick you up?"

But Peeraya was wrong because Pipim's next sentence was completely unexpected.

"What time did you sleep last night? You sent me a message at 11:30 p.m., so by the time you took a shower and went to bed, it was already morning."

"And it's only 7 a.m.."

Peeraya frowned. She still didn't understand how the time she went to bed and woke up could be related to the young professor's current frustration.

"Have you had breakfast?"

"Ah...not yet."

Pipim sighed again. Although Peeraya looked normal without any signs of fatigue, the body could accumulate fatigue without anyone realizing it.

"You slept late, woke up early, and skipped meals so you could come pick me up?"

"Yes."

Peeraya answered honestly because staying up late, waking up early, and combining breakfast with lunch were what she did normally. Therefore, it was not a problem for her at all. But this did not seem to be the case for Pipim.

"Next time, if you don't take care of yourself, please don't bother taking care of me, Perth."

"....."

"I can take care of myself well. Therefore, I don't like you not taking care of yourself to take care of others."

In the end, Peeraya clearly understood Pipim's frustration. So she slowly smiled before responding.

"I'm sorry. Please don't be angry."

"Tell me that you won't do this again."

"Okay. I'll take care of myself before I take care of you, Pipim."

It was that simple. That was all it took to get rid of Pipim's frustration in the blink of an eye. The young professor checked her watch before replying.

"Come in with me."

"Huh?"

"You should have breakfast, Perth."

And Peeraya's breakfast was a warm, inviting sandwich served with hot tea. Though she asked for black coffee, she was given hot tea on recommendation.

"Coffee is bad for your health."

Okay. Peeraya left some decisions to Pipim without thinking of making them a problem in the future. Pipim wasn't fierce, just a little strict. She was serious, but she was definitely tough on the outside but soft on the inside.

She was exactly like Paul. She may seem arrogant, but Peeraya could feel that deep down, this woman was very gentle. Look at how Pipim treated her. Peeraya approached her with an agenda and pressured her to make a deal, but Pipim still

cared about her, albeit with obvious exhaustion.

"Next time, call before you come to pick me up. Don't come waiting like this; it's a waste of time."

"You won't answer me but tell me to try myself, Pipim. I did what you told me to do."

"Aren't you a businesswoman? Every second counts. Why are you wasting your time waiting for something without a purpose?"

"You're worth the wait, Pipim."

Pipim sighed.

"You have to get what you want, huh?"

"That's me, sugar."

The sentence not only surprised Pipim but also Papie, who walked grumpily to the kitchen. Of course, Peeraya had seen Pipim's sister heading this way. That's why she deliberately said "sugar" for her to hear. And when there were other people in the area, Pipim couldn't help but use the word 'sugar'.

"Yours is on the table, Pleng. I've made one for you."

The young professor told her sister, pretending to ignore the word 'sugar' on purpose.

"Thank you."

"Do you have class? Let's go together."

Pipim invited her younger sister.

"Huh?"

"Perth volunteered to drive us to the university, so she was here to wait for us this morning."

Papie didn't reply but stared at Peeraya and her sister, trying to find fault. But since she couldn't do anything, she just nodded because she wanted to observe them more to see if they were really lovers.

"But let me tell you this. I still don't believe that you and Phi Pim are a couple."

Papie deliberately turned around to tell Peeraya this, like she was announcing that she didn't accept or believe it. Peeraya just smiled back without saying anything.

Peeraya never imagined that at the age of 32, she would act like a teenager in love. But his heart was not calm... it was trembling somehow. And it was so obvious and intense that it wasn't hard to tell what caused it. She just didn't want to accept it yet.

She wanted to, at least, give herself the illusion that she wasn't falling in love with someone so quickly. However, it appeared that, at this moment, there was no valid justification for his irrational behavior.

Peeraya wasn't lying; The sandwich she had for breakfast was so delicious that she asked his secretary to order one for her for lunch. But it wasn't like what Pipim had made for her. Her sharp eyes looked out the large window without thinking. The view of the tall buildings in the bright sky didn't lessen his longing one bit.

She wanted to do something about it. Something that would tie her to Pipim so that we weren't too far apart but also not so close that it was suffocating. The tips of her fingers drummed on the table before stopping as she picked up a pen and some paper to diligently write something down over and over again.

That same afternoon, Pipim received a call from Peeraya and was told to wait at the university. Not long after that, a familiar car slowly parked in front of the faculty building where he taught. The expensive car was clearly the center of attention, similar to Pipim's beauty, which was known by word of mouth.

The classes where the beautiful young professor taught were always full. All the seats were always occupied. In addition, the male students were constantly teasing Pipim.

All eyes on Pipim made the person waiting in the car frown and bite the inside of her lip in frustration.

"Why did you pick me up?"

Pipi asked as soon as she got into the car.

"I have something to give you."

"What is it?"

"I'll tell you when we get home."

And, yes, Paul welcomed the same guest again today. Pipim could guess that Peeraya wouldn't come back easily after dropping her off, so she didn't mind her coming into the house.

"What do you want to give me?"

Pipi asked as she watched Peeraya walk back to her car and take a jar filled with small rolls of paper to hand to Pipim.

"What is it?"

"Love Draw."

"What?"

"There's your name and mine in there. We can draw from the jar once a week. Whoever's name is on the roll of paper has to decide the activity we'll do that day. This is for us to bond and get to know each other better."

Pipim want to laugh, but she didn't dare to do so when she see Peeraya's serious face.

"I'm 28 years old, Perth. Do we really know each other with such a childish approach? We're not 14 years old."

"You don't like the idea?"

Peeraya asked softly, suddenly looking sad. It made the person who saw it feel nervous.

"It's not that I don't like it. It's kind of funny."

Pipim, then, added another sentence.

"I didn't think that someone as cunning as you would have this side to you."

"Does this mean you agree to do it?"

"Okay. I can't say no anyway, can I, Perth?"

As soon as Pipim said that, there was an indefinable vibe that softly floated in the air. Peeraya couldn't help but ask.

"Can I stay a little longer? I promise that I won't be home late today."

"Please keep your promise. I don't like someone who can't keep their promises."

Peeraya eagerly nodded enthusiastically.

Peeraya had been picking Pipim up in the morning for weeks.

Even though she could guess the class schedule by now, Pipim could still hear the sound of cars parking in front of her house at the same time every morning. Then Peeraya would make puppy eyes and ask for a sandwich.

"Are you picking me up or getting a sandwich here?"

Pipim couldn't help but ask.

"Both. The sandwich is just the icing on the cake."

"If you want to eat a sandwich, just ask someone at home to prepare it for you. Why did you come all the way here?"

"That's not the same."

Peeraya protested.

"Your sandwich gave me a bad habit; did you know that? I only want to eat what you prepare for me."

Pipim didn't know how to respond to that.

"It's just a sandwich, Perth."

"Pipim, my dear. What other people do for me is very different from what you do for me."

"....."

"I want to eat what you prepare for me, even if it's not a sandwich."

Peeraya's words and eyes forced Pipim to say something that clearly displayed some of the strange feelings Peeraya had for her.

"Perth. To be honest, I'm starting to think that you don't see me as your fake girlfriend."

Peeraya smiled before replying. "I'll be honest with you in return."

"....."

"You can think of anything you want, Pipim. I will always comply."

"!!!!"

04. CHILDISH ADULT

Pipim couldn't understand what Peeraya liked so much about her sandwich. She didn't add anything special to it, just the standard sandwich ingredients. But she would admit that Peeraya really liked it, as if it was so delicious, making her heart surprisingly full and warm.

It was nice to have someone who appreciated the little things you did. Peeraya made the once plain and meaningless sandwich into something important between them just because of the genuine and sparkling smile in her eyes when she said that she wanted to eat it so much that she came all the way here for breakfast.

But it seemed like something not so good happened to her sandwich lover. Because she suddenly disappeared and let the sandwich go to waste because no one came to claim it.

Pipim later found out that Peeraya was rushed to the hospital because of food poisoning. It was unclear what caused it. She had just fainted at a party. When she first found out, Peeraya empathized in a serious tone that there was no need for her to visit. But not even a day had passed when Peeraya called back to ask her to visit in such a sweet voice.

"What are you thinking? Do you want me to take you?"

Pipim asked as soon as she saw Peeraya, who was wearing a t-shirt and pants. She still looked pale and weak. She had to stay in the hospital, but she chose to go home. Pipim looked around but couldn't find any family members with her.

"I didn't think so, but I'm starting to now that you asked."

"Huh?"

"I suddenly realized that it would be nice to introduce my father to his daughter-in-law."

Peeraya said it in a way that made it unclear whether she was joking or serious. But it caused the person listening to stop.

"....."

"Don't look like you're going to scold me, Pipim. I just want you to pretend to be my girlfriend."

"How is that different from what you just said?"

Peeraya thought about it before replying.

"Not much different. Because I have to tell my family who you are."

"My dear Pim, I'm not forcing you to love me. If one day you really don't want to help me anymore, you can tell me. I won't force you. And I will help you with your father's problem as best I can, according to our agreement. I just need time to do it."

Her tone became serious and trustworthy when she saw that Pipim had been silent.

"But until that day, I have to do what you want, right? Besides, I don't think you'll go back on your word. Those are just some things that trigger my curiosity."

Peeraya paused to think for a moment before she realized that since they had made the deal, she was the one making all the requests. That was probably too much and made the young professor feel bad. Once she realized that, she smiled dryly.

"I'm already happy that you came to visit at my request. You don't have to do anything more."

Normally, Peeraya was very confident. But something had knocked her confidence down, and she hadn't been able to fully regain it.

"Come on. I'll drop you off before I go home."

Peeraya grabbed the few things she had. Actually, her family hadn't abandoned her. She had only asked them not to come pick her up. Especially since she knew who was waiting for her at home, she didn't want to be accused of demanding too much attention.

At the same time, Pipim carefully examined Peeraya's reaction. Her voice showed no signs of frustration, but her eyes showed something that made her feel uneasy. It worried her.

When Peeraya wasn't smiling, she had this stoic beauty, but it was tainted with a certain sadness that made her seem so fragile. Like she was a lost child.

"I'm not a bad person, Perth. Therefore, sending off my own girlfriend isn't something I'm forced to do. I just don't understand why a fake girlfriend has to be introduced to your family."

"Do I have to make you my real girlfriend before I can take you home?"

Peeraya asked again with her normal small smile at the corner of her mouth.

Pipim shrugged.

"That might be the problem. But it doesn't mean I don't dare to enter your house now."

Peeraya laughed softly. Oddly enough, her gray mood slowly became more colorful.

"I really like you, Pipim."

This time, the young professor stared before she asked with what looked like a smile on her face.

"Do you like me or the fact that I dare to go to your house?"

Peeraya laughed out loud this time and walked over to stand so close to Pipim that their toes were almost touching. The taller smiled and looked at Pipim's face with unreadable sparkling eyes. She slowly raised her hand and reached her thumb to gently caress the glowing cheek.

"My dear Pipim, I know that you know what I like."

The response she got completely surprised Peeraya.

"I don't know. If you want me to know, you have to tell me."

This was probably the first time Peeraya had lost a mile to Pipim. But it was a loss that made her very happy.

"And if you're going to say that you love me, don't you need to get rid of the person in

your heart first?"

She asked flatly, but she looked at Peeraya without any sign of giving up. Peeraya smiled softly.

"I don't see anyone in my heart. Do you want to go in and check?"

And, once again, Pipim smiled back before answering without giving up.

"Not now."

Peeraya's house was not quiet at all. On the contrary, there were many members when they entered the house. A whisper followed by firmly holding Pipim's palm at the right time.

"I apologize that you had to deal with this earlier than I told you, Pipim."

A woman quickly got up and walked, leaning towards running, before Peeraya's family had a chance to greet them.

"Why didn't you take care of yourself, Phi Perth?"

She asked with concern, but Peeraya answered in a different tone of voice than when she spoke to Pipim. Pipim could feel that this was not the same Peeraya when she was alone with her.

"Well, who would have known that someone would give up their poison to drink?"

The sentence seemed to make the woman stop for a moment before a tall man with a deep voice and facial features similar to Peeraya walked over.

"Perth."

The voice seemed to be scolding Peeraya for saying what she had just said.

"Perth is telling the truth, father. The drink contained poison. Luckily I didn't drink much, or it would have taken me longer to wake up and stand here."

Pipim began to become confused because she couldn't understand everything. She thought Peeraya had just eaten something unhygienic or was allergic. She didn't expect it to be poison.

"Why do you have to say it like my fiancé has something to do with it?"

At this time, a handsome man walked over and wrapped his arm around the woman's waist. The woman turned pale, while the man looked serious.

"I haven't said anything bad to anyone, before. Is your fiancée overthinking?"

"We're here waiting for you because we're worried about you. But you're acting like you always do."

First said this like he wanted to start a fight. Pipim lost her patience. The young professor pulled the hand that was holding her gently because she didn't want the confrontation to continue. More importantly, she was uncomfortable with all the curious eyes on her, especially the eyes of the person Peeraya called 'dad'.

And if her senses weren't completely damaged, there was something going on between the woman and Peeraya.

"Ah."

Peeraya shouted as if she had just realized it.

"Dad, this is Pipim, Perth's girlfriend."

At the end of that sentence, it was like time stopped. Even Pipim felt like she was holding her breath. Peeraya had only asked her to take her home. She didn't tell her that she was going to announce their relationship in a big way! She even thought that Peeraya was joking about it at first.

But it seemed like someone didn't believe it. The expression on her face, eyes, and voice clearly showed that.

"That's obviously a lie, Phi Perth. Whose girlfriend are you talking about?"

Peeraya frowned before she argued. Although from the outside, this seemed like one big happy family, it was a war zone on the inside. Since Peeraya's grandparents (on her father's side) had many children, she also had many cousins. This came with competition.

Wealth destroyed family ties. It had been like this since she could remember. And since she was the only child of the eldest son, all the pressure was inevitably on her.

Even her own family members wanted to push her down and step on her so that they could be on top instead. Therefore, arguing without giving in was something normal for her (fake) family.

"You're so pale, my dear Perth. Come sit down."

My dear Perth... from Pipim, immediately turned to look at Pipim. The young professor was able to calm Peeraya down with soothing words. At the same time, the hands that were holding each other were released as Pipim raised her hands to politely salute the seniors.

"I apologize that Perth has to introduce me in a situation like this."

Being four years younger than Peeraya, Pipim should have called her Phi Perth. But because she was upset that someone else had already done it, she simply cut off the word 'Phi'. Pipim preferred it this way.

"It's okay. I'm fine with whoever Perth chooses."

The most authoritative man in the house said this before he placed his gaze on the two guests.

"You said you wanted to visit her, but why did you fight with her, Grace? First?"

"I'm sorry, Uncle."

The man named First hurriedly bowed to apologize as he pulled his girlfriend's arm to do the same. Up until now, Peeraya's father had only less power than grandfather and grandmother. So confronting him head on wasn't a smart move at all.

"So someone's after your life?"

Pipim asked once she was alone with Peeraya. She was in Peeraya's private room, not by choice but because there was no other choice. Dropping off a sick girlfriend but not staying to take care of her at all would be very strange.

"Something like that."

"Perth! This is a big deal. Why are you acting like it's normal?"

Peeraya sighed before she smiled softly.

"It's always been like this, so I'm used to it. I can't trust anyone. If I give you even the slightest chance, I'll be at a disadvantage."

"That's not something you should get used to!" Pipim scolded her.

"But it's always been like this, Pipim. It's like a threat for me to step down from my position and hand over the power I have to someone hidden in the dark."

"Are you a businesswoman or a mafia member?"

Pipim asked with a sigh, not understanding Peeraya's business world at all.

"But you can put your mind at ease. I won't let anyone make you go to your girlfriend's funeral."

Peeraya added to reassure Pipim.

"My family is too big. It's no surprise that someone wants my power."

"....."

"But no one dares to take my life. What I drank was the same. It only made me lose consciousness and strength. It didn't kill me. Otherwise, I wouldn't be standing here now."

"I'm telling you again, Perth. It's not something you should get used to."

"I know. I'm trying to change that."

"....."

"I want to leave everything behind, Pipim. But I can't destroy my parent's pride in me."

Peeraya seemed to dive deep into her own thoughts after she said that, so only silence remained between us. It was unlike Pipim for someone who lived like the sun, like Peeraya, to turn into a dark sky because of another family member.

Besides, she suspected that the woman used to be someone important to her. But why was she the fiancée of her younger cousin? Thin lips parted to ask to change the topic so that Peeraya would no longer dwell in these gloomy thoughts, even if it was only for a brief moment.

"Was it your plan to ask me to escort you from the start?"

The question pulled Peeraya out of her deep thoughts.

"Part of it. But I didn't expect someone else to be here."

"Is that woman the reason I have to be your fake girlfriend?"

Pipim interrogated. Since everything was tying her up so quickly, she had the right to know and ask.

"Part of it"

"..... "

But before Pipi could feel more disappointed.

"I was just looking for some justification when my heart was beating fast because of you, Pipim."

This time, the young professor bit her lip because the sentence was like a confession. But all her curiosity managed to. It was easy to push her feelings aside.

"Do you want to see the person you used to love suffer?"

Peeraya immediately shook her head.

"On the contrary, I want her to see that I am happy and have someone as good as you as my girlfriend."

"...."

"And most importantly, just because someone doesn't love me doesn't make me not love myself."

"Even if that's the case, I'm just a fake girlfriend. So this might all end, and I might have to leave you in the future."

Peeraya laughed softly, as if she felt better with every second she spent with Pipim.

"My dear Pipim, I won't protest if you want to be my real girlfriend. I've told you that I will obey all your wishes."

"Then I want to go home to rest."

Pipim quickly replied before someone whined and asked her to spend the night for some reason.

"Except for this."

Peeraya immediately interrupted, even though she had only said that she would obey everything.

"Don't be stubborn. I have work to do."

"But your girlfriend is sick, Pipim. Are you really going back?"

"You should rest."

"Please believe that the soft rustling sound of you working can relax me too. It also makes me feel peaceful and safe."

"How is that possible?"

Pipim frowned.

"Your smell and voice make me feel good, Pipim. More importantly, even though it's not safe out there, in this house, you and I will be safe."

"I didn't come prepared to spend the night. And why do I feel unsafe?"

Pipim asked, raising her eyebrows.

"You're under surveillance now because you're my girlfriend, Pipim."

"But I promise that I won't let anyone do anything to you."

"I'm not afraid that someone will hurt me. I'm just tired of certain childish adults. I have work to do. How can I not go home, Perth?"

The young professor emphasized this to Peeraya.

"So you're going to stay?"

"Does my question not match your answer, Perth?"

Pipim couldn't believe that the person who was all acting up and wouldn't give in to anyone was now the one who made her front ear deaf like this. Peeraya laughing and

walk tiredly to her closet to choose a plain pajamas and a new towel to hand to the beautiful professor.

"I'll answer you after you take a shower."

Pipim sighed again. It seemed like she was being pressured, but she didn't feel bad about it. Instead, there seemed to be a certain warmth embracing her.

"Are you looking at me?"

She couldn't help but ask. How could someone be this annoyingly cute all the time?

Peeraya smiled.

"Do you really want me to answer you now?"

The sparkling eyes made Pipim unconsciously bite the inside of her lips before she shook her head lightly.

"I'm going to take a shower."

"Good. But no matter when you answer that question, my answer will be the same."

"I don't care who's in your heart. Like you said, I'm selfish and childish."

"I'll press myself there. I'm not asking you to stop loving or caring for that person, Pipim. I know you can't do that, and I respect the person in your heart that you always care about."

The tall one smiled and gave herself permission to gently stroke the young professor's cheek with her right hand. That sentence surprisingly lifted the heavy burden that was in Pipim's heart.

She was glad that Peeraya wouldn't try to control her feelings or the person who would always have an important place in her heart too much. No matter who he loved in the future, Sitang would always be someone she loved and hoped for.

But that didn't mean that someone else couldn't take an important place in her heart in the future. If that day came, she would happily give that place in her heart to that person without affecting anyone who was already there. Peeraya might even be more important someday.

"Go take a bath so you feel more comfortable. I promise that I won't take advantage of you."

It seemed like she was standing in her head and heart again. Pipim nodded and returned the car keys to her. The young professor understood his own vulnerability. Now she had decided to stop loves her relatives, her fragile heart is ready to cling to those who are close. But it would take more time for her to find out who was worthy.

"Can you help me get the course documents ahead of me? I have some work to do."

"Gladly."

After Peeraya left, Pipim could not stop thinking about how love could hurt someone like him cold-blooded that that person was still around Peeraya like this. In her eyes, Peeraya was a childish adult who couldn't hurt anyone. Although she was mischievous, Pipim could sense that it was just one of her many hidden sides.

When she looked back at how Peeraya treated her, Peeraya should never be harmed in any way, physically or emotionally.

daphne.shn@gmail.com

sunyan✓

05. HER SMILE

Again, Peeraya surprised the young professor. Not only did she not disturb her while she worked, but she sat quietly next to her own corner, like she's working too. The only difference was that she left her work desk for her, while she used her iPad to read her work in bed. When Pipim was taking a bath, Peeraya also disappears for a long time to give her personal space and not disturb her at all. Pipim was impressed by Peeraya's small show of action treat her with respect.

Actually, Pipim's work can wait. It's not as urgent as when she shares a new project. She just prefers to give feedback immediately after students submit their work so that they have time to make necessary adjustments. So most of the work she brings in are proposals and case studies that she has to review to make sure that the students are on the right track because some have a sophisticated mindset whereas others are so ordinary that they lack creativity and are not suited to their title.

The sound of turning pages and the writing of a pen, as well as a warm aura she emitted when Peeraya turned to look, tell Peeraya that she was no longer alone in this room. The petite one, who usually had a bun on her head, now let her hair flow smoothly down her back. The attractive aroma that Peeraya inhaled helped calm her heart. She was so calm that she petaled her eyes slowly closed without her realizing.

Peeraya regained consciousness when she accidentally swung her fist to hit another body that was sleeping soundly on the bed with her. Pipim's sleeping face easily made Peeraya smile. Pipim slept, leaving a large space between them, but Peeraya moved in her sleep until they were close to each other.

Peeraya moved back silently, so that the space between them remained unchanged from before. Although she wanted to pretend to unconsciously hug Pipim, she did not want to take advantage of others. If she wanted to hug or do more, she wanted it when Pipim consciously and willingly let her.

What she dared to do at this point was to reach out and use her fingers to gently brush Pipim's hair, which had fallen to cover her face. She sneaked a peek at the face that calmed her heart until she fell asleep again.

Pipim found out the next morning why Peeraya said that she could not destroy the pride in her parents' eyes. Because not only that, but their eyes were also filled with the love they had for their only daughter.

"Pim, do you know why I named my daughter Perth?"

The question made the young professor turn to look at her pretend girlfriend and saw that Peeraya was already smiling at her. Peeraya seemed very happy that her father had started a conversation with Pipim.

"No, I don't know."

"I fell in love with her mother in Perth. We became lovers and got married there before we returned to Thailand."

The face of the person who told the story was clearly filled with joy.

"You must love Perth very much, sir."

"Of course. Although everyone said that because Perth is a woman, she cannot be as capable as all the men in the family, she has never disappointed me. Therefore, no matter who my daughter chooses, I will not interfere. Because the happiness of my family members is the most important."

Pipim nodded in understanding. She suddenly became a little closer to Peeraya.

"Can I ask you something too?"

"Yes?"

"Why are you with Perth? What do you like about my daughter?"

It was difficult... Pipim didn't know how to respond. She had only just met Peeraya, so she didn't know much about her. Therefore, if she had to give an answer, it would be something that she could clearly see that Peeraya treated her differently from others, namely...

"Her smile."

"Huh?"

It was clear from her expression that Pipim's answer had completely surprised Pipat. This wasn't what she expected to hear. In other words, it wasn't something she thought she would ever hear. Her answer was completely unexpected.

How could that be? Peeraya's smile was very rare, except when she was with his wife and himself. For Pipim to accept that, it was clear that Peeraya's feelings for her were very deep. Her doubts about their relationship had finally disappeared.

"Your answer surprised me."

Pipat laughed softly as she looked at her daughter teasingly. But what she got back was a proud smile. It was as if the child was proud of that answer.

"Someone told me that she rarely smiles."

Pipim explained.

"..."

"Therefore, for me to receive her smile, that means I'm special, right?"

At the end of her last sentence, Pipim turned to look at Peeraya, like she was asking her. And of course, the answer she got was a crazy smile on Peeraya's face. But it was a crazy smile that warmed her heart.

"Right."

And this was one of those mornings when Peeraya smiled more than any other morning.

It seemed that aside from the smile, which Pipim got more than others, another thing she also got more than others was Peeraya's strong will. It wasn't that she always got what she wanted, but Peeraya would stick and repeat what she wanted endlessly. Even when the topic changed, she would find a way to smoothly pull him back to her topic.

"I'm starting to think you're lying about being 32. Are you still a child?"

The young professor said this tiredly.

"It's my day off today. Why can't a sick person take sick leave?"

"You can, but why don't you take a break?"

Pipim wanted to pinch someone. Especially someone who wouldn't listen to her and who happened to be her girlfriend. If they got closer to each other, she was sure Peeraya would scream in pain because of her.

"I don't want to rest at home."

"You're more stubborn than my little sister, Perth."

"Of course. Perth is your girlfriend, not your sister."

Arrggggggg. Pipim couldn't take it anymore. Close or not, she lost her patience with Peeraya. Her slender hands reached under her white shirt to pinch and twist her bare skin.

"It hurts, it hurts, it hurts."

Peeraya immediately twisted her face. And, if her eyes weren't deceiving her, Pipim saw tears welling up in those eyes. But who cared! Good for her! How could someone be so stubborn and whiny and turn a deaf ear like this? She deserved what she got.

"I pinched you so much that it hurt."

"Pipim is mean."

There she went...

"You should rest when you're sick, Perth. Why did you follow me to university?"

Pipim's voice became more serious, so Peeraya dropped her playfulness and answered seriously again.

"I'm using my sick leave, not my girlfriend's. I've heard that my girlfriend is a speaker at the university, so I want to see with my own eyes how sexy my girlfriend is."

"You're babbling."

"My dear, in case you don't know this already, your girlfriend is very possessive."

Peeraya told Pipim that. Pipim was tired of arguing, so she just let it go. Peeraya could do whatever she wanted. Pipim also wanted to know how long Peeraya's interest in her would last.

"Then, let me tell you now. If you cause me a headache or trouble while I'm working, I'll pinch you until you turn purple."

Peeraya laughed softly.

"I'm shaking with fear, my dear. I won't be naughty or stubborn."

So funny... Pipim didn't expect these words to come back to her.

Why is he like this? Instead of staying home to rest when he is sick, she goes out to harass her. She uses the time she can work on to cling to her. Isn't the time of a businesswoman like Peeraya more valuable than gold?

Pipim had to go home to change clothes first, so Peeraya couldn't avoid meeting Papie again. This time they stared at Peeraya with laser-sharp eyes like she was cutting her skin for taking her sister out overnight. Papie's eyes were like lie detectors that recorded every move of her sister and her sister's girlfriend, every second.

"Why are you staring at me like that, Pleng?"

"I'm just looking around. What are you afraid of, Phi Pim?"

"I'm not afraid of anything except you being rude."

The young professor scolded her sister gently because the way Papie looked at Peeraya was not very friendly. If it weren't for her, Papie might have thrown Peeraya out of the house.

"I know manners."

That was all she said before she walked off to her room, but she left a scornful and pressing look towards her sister. Pipim didn't let it bother her because she knew her little sister well. Papie loved her very much and was protective of her. When she suddenly said she had a girlfriend, who was someone she had never met or even heard of before, it was understandable that she wasn't too good about it.

After Papie left, the two walked out of the house to get into the car. But Pipim stopped Peeraya before they got into the car.

"Wait a minute, Perth."

Pipim called before Peeraya could open the car door.

"Yes?"

"Is my sister watching?"

Peeraya nodded after she glanced at the second-floor window to see Papie staring at them with her arms crossed over her chest. Peeraya was surprised and became tense when Pipi moved closer and placed her palm on Peeraya's cheek.

"I really can't tell anyone about our deal?"

Peeraya nodded again, so Pipim tightened her lips before asking softly.

"I'm really uncomfortable with Pleng watching us all the time like this. So if I were to do something to make our relationship seem more real, would you be okay with that?"

If it seemed real, her little sister would think that this relationship was genuine and serious. That might soften her up a bit. Honestly, being under her sister's scrutiny when she never kept it a secret made Pipim feel bad.

"How?"

Pipim bited her lip, then replied.

"Like hugging, kissing, or pecking."

Peeraya tried not to smile.

"My dear Pipim, you can do all the things you just told me."

The young professor sighed before standing on tiptoes to press her lips on Peeraya's cheek and quickly pulling away. But that quick kiss created a deep impact on Peeraya's heart. It penetrated deep into her emotions and had a huge impact that could not be seen with the naked eye.

"Is that all?"

"That's all. Pleng will be less skeptical seeing that I initiated the touch."

Peeraya smiled softly before speaking.

"I wanted to come to your house so that Pleng can watch over us more often like now, Pipim."

"...."

"Your sister disappeared. Are you sure that will be okay?"

Although she wanted to tease Pipim more, she couldn't help but do so when she saw the look on Pipim's face. She knew that she had put Pipim under a lot of pressure, but she couldn't go back now, both from the lies they told and from her feelings for Pipim.

"Pleng knows me well. She will gradually accept it, seeing what I just did."

"But there is one thing on your to-do list when you date me, and that is Papie. You know that if Papie doesn't accept you, I can't choose you, right?"

"I know that very well, and I'm sure that *Nong Pleng* will get along well with me in the future."

Pipim noticed Peeraya staring at her while the car was stuck at a red light on the way to university, so she turned to raise her eyebrows in question.

"What are you looking at?"

"I just realized something"

"????"

"You always wear your hair like this, but I just realized that it makes the nape of your neck so attractive to look at."

"Should I be happy because you said that?"

"I said it because I really like looking at it. I hope I didn't make you feel threatened."

"What if I said you did?"

Peeraya turned pale before replying in a serious voice as she kept her eyes on the road without looking at the person next to her anymore.

"I'll apologize and try not to look at you or make you feel that way again."

Silence crept into the car, and eventually, Pipim couldn't help but laugh softly when she saw how stiff Peeraya was. She tried not to look at Pipim, as she had said, and didn't even look in the passenger side mirror.

The reaction was cute, wasn't it...

She liked that the stubborn Peeraya always obeyed her and treated her with respect. That was another aspect she liked besides her smile.

"You can look if you want. Although I don't understand what you like about it, you looking at my neck doesn't make me feel bad in any way."

Peeraya glanced at the young professor, who was still staring at her, before a slight smile finally spread across her face.

"Why are you staring at me?"

"How does it feel to receive such a deep gaze?"

"Embarrassed."

Pipim nodded to that before she turned her gaze back to the road instead.

"That's how I feel."

Pipim was like another person she had just met while she was teaching.

Her authoritative appearance yet soft voice, as well as her intent and attentive gaze towards every student who asked her questions, made her professor's personality emerge more clearly than ever.

Peeraya thought that this was a charm that couldn't be found anywhere else. What could be more appealing to the eye than a woman who did something with such care and passion?

In her eyes, nothing could beat that. Pipim may not be the most beautiful woman, but she is more beautiful than anyone else in her eyes. It is partly because of her feelings for Pipim.

Every individual views a woman's beauty differently. Some think one is beautiful, while others may not. But if you see someone who has strong feelings for you, believe me, that woman will always be the most beautiful and extraordinary woman in your eyes. And that is how Peeraya feels right now.

But her eyebrows began to furrow when the young professor was teased right in class. Although Pipim just kept quiet and smiled, the possessive one was not happy. When she observed closely, she saw that almost every student took their work to consult with Pipim, each taking more than five minutes. And there was a flirtatious male student who took twice as much time as the others.

"Would you like to have lunch with me?"

"I've prepared lunch from home. Thank you."

"If I have more questions, can I contact you?"

"You can email me. I'll answer when I have time."

Each question was answered vaguely. Peeraya was not happy with the way Pipim carried herself, but she was frustrated with herself and the flirtatious male student. She was frustrated that her feelings had arisen so quickly, even though Pipim had done almost nothing. And she was frustrated that the students didn't know that Pipim was hers.

But it seemed that Peeraya's grumpiness made Pipim happy because as soon as class was over and all the students had left the room, the young professor walked in and smiled a smile that made Peeraya go blind while her heart skipped a beat.

"Class is over. Can you stop looking so grumpy?"

"No one told me that you were this beautiful."

Peeraya was still grumpy because the answer she got had awakened the possessiveness in her once again.

"You need someone to tell you that?"

"....."

"I only know how it feels when someone is possessive of me."

The young professor muttered to himself.

"What does it feel like?"

"Well..."

Pipim seemed to be searching for the right words before she answered.

"It's fun to see you lose control like this, I guess."

"I shouldn't have come to observe you, Pipim."

"Why?"

Peeraya sighed and replied with a serious look.

"How can I do my job in peace when a stranger is flirting with my girlfriend every day?"

"That doesn't mean you're going to come watch me every day, right?"

"I won't do that, Pipim. I know it's rude for you."

"Good. Then get up. You have to take your girlfriend to lunch before someone else invited her, possessive one."

06. YOURS

It was a crazy day when Peeraya came to the same place at the same time to wait for her sandwich. And when Pipim was not there, her face looked serious, as usual. This time, the reason was to find the person who poisoned her drink. There was a suspect, but she didn't want to accuse anyone because it would tarnish other people's good names. At the same time, she also asked her trusted assistant to gather information to help Pipim's father.

The sooner the better.

The sound of the gate opening made her look away from the phone and look up. Papie was standing there with an unfriendly expression, just like any other day. But it seemed like the wall wasn't as high as before. What Pipim did that day might have worked.

"Why are you here every day? Aren't you bored?"

"I'm here to pick up your sister and wait for my breakfast"

"I know. But why are you here every day?"

Peeraya smiled slightly from the corner of her mouth. While Pipim was worried that her little sister would be rude, to Peeraya, Papie was very adorable.

If Pipim was an adult cat, Papie was just a little kitten who didn't like to make friends with strangers.

"I have to do my duty as a girlfriend."

Papie sighed in frustration.

"I'll wait and see how long you can keep this up"

"If I do something bad, Nong Pleng can splash water on me to chase me away"

Papie looked at Peeraya with crossed eyes before telling her.

"If you make Phi Pim sad or cry, it's not just water that I'll splash on you."

Every day passed like this. Peeraya was in no hurry, but she was no longer alone. The relationship between Pipim and her was slow. Pipim was smart enough to know that the way Peeraya treated her was more than just a pretend girlfriend, but what changed today was that Pipim told her that her best friend, Sitang, wanted to meet Peeraya.

"If I go to see her, what will I get?"

Peeraya was just pretending to be difficult because, honestly, she still wanted to go.

"Won't you go even if you don't get anything?"

Pipim turned to talk to her with a serious look.

"..."

"Won't you go when your girlfriend asks you to?"

That was what Peeraya wanted to hear. She was always happy with Pipim's reactions.

"And if your girlfriend asks you to cook dinner for her, will you do it?"

"When?"

"Tonight"

Pipim took her organizer to check her schedule and nodded.

"I can. Where do you want me to meet you after my class?"

"My condo. I'll pick you up"

"It's okay. You better go buy the ingredients. Just buy whatever ingredients you want to eat."

"Are you saying that you can cook anything?"

Peeraya looked shocked, but the professor The young man knew that she was just acting.

"It's not hard to cook anything these days. Just a little time on the internet, and you're good to go"

Peeraya laughed before nodding in understanding.

"I'll send you the location. But if you change your mind and prefer to call me, I'll be waiting for your call"

Peeraya knew the reason behind today's meeting. Sitang wanted to meet her because she wanted to talk about something serious. Sitang was a calm, serious person, and still had a character that stood out and attracted everyone's attention.

However, what made Peeraya jealous was her closeness to her best friend, Pipim. In addition, the look that Sitang got from Pipim was very different from the one she got. Pipim had never looked at her that sweetly...

What she got was the look of someone who knew what she was thinking.

"These are the documents I have collected in addition to what I have given you. They will help you prove that Uncle is innocent."

Peeraya looked at the brown envelope containing the documents handed over in front of her and sighed before accepting it.

"You can ask Pipim to hand these documents over to me."

Sitang was silent for a moment before answering,

"I want to do that, but I also want to see with my own eyes whether you are really going to help my friend. But looking at your eyes, I believe you will, because I remember you didn't look this serious the last time we met."

Peeraya sighed again, but a smile began to appear on her face because she began to catch the signals that Sitang was sending her. Sitang's words hinted at something that matched Peeraya's feelings.

"You seem to have become closer to Pim this period, so I want to see what's

"happening with my own eyes"

"And do you know what's happening now?"

Peeraya asked.

"I think I know"

Sitang replied, but as soon as she finished saying that, she put her arm around Pipim's arm before pulling the young professor away and telling Peeraya her plan.

"Let's go. I have nothing else to discuss now that she's cleared my doubts, so we have no reason to be here anymore."

"Wait a minute"

Peeraya protested.

"Aren't you having lunch with me, Pipim?"

After that question, there was only silence. Sitang didn't say anything, and Pipim seemed to be in a difficult situation. In the end, Peeraya ended the tension because she didn't like seeing Pipim like that. She was wrong to ask that without thinking about it. They didn't have plans to meet for lunch.

"Go with your friends. Don't forget our appointment"

"Okay. See you tonight"

It didn't hurt too much that she wasn't the chosen one, because by placing herself as one of the choices, she put herself in a losing position against the person in Pipim's heart. But strangely her heart ached, as if someone was tearing it apart.

In the afternoon, after she bought all the ingredients and put them away, she chose to sit and wait for Pipim in the lobby. But there was no sign of Pipim after waiting for a long time.

She wanted to call to ask, but suddenly she lost her confidence and courage to do it. As if, deep down, she was afraid of being rejected. She was afraid that Pipim would say that she couldn't anymore, so she chose to keep waiting.

After waiting for two hours and still seeing no sign of Pipim, Peeraya gave up and returned to her room. When she saw all the ingredients she had prepared, she sighed, took an apron, and cooked quietly. There was only the sound of running water and the sound of chopping on the chopping board.

But before she could feel sorry for herself, there was a knock on the door. She opened the door and saw Pipim soaked, hugging herself in front of the door, with the security guard standing beside her looking tense.

Peeraya frowned. She wanted to hug the tiny body because Pipim was shaking like a lost cat because of the cold air.

"This woman said that she had an appointment with you, but she couldn't contact you, Khun. I felt bad, so I volunteered to bring her here. She left her professor ID on the counter."

"..."

"But if you don't know her, I'll take her downstairs and call the police right away."

That was all it took for Peeraya to stretch out her slender arms and pull the petite body into her arms.

She had hesitated before because she was curious about why Pipim was in this condition.

"I know her. Thank you for helping her"

Once they were inside the room, Peeraya immediately started her questions.

"Why are you all wet?"

She didn't scold Pipim like Pipim had expected for being late for their appointment.

"I took the bus, but it broke down. The traffic was really bad and your condo wasn't far, so I decided to walk, but it was raining"

"Why didn't you call me?"

The person who asked walked quickly to get a large white towel to wrap the little one while twisting her face.

"The battery is dead, and I don't have a power bank"

Peeraya sighed after hearing that.

"You made me worry, you know that?"

" "

Pipim slowly smiled when she saw how worried this person was.

"And I'm angry because you just disappeared like that. If you're busy, please tell me"

"I was afraid that someone would sulk, so I rushed to get here. I didn't think that there would be urgent work that I couldn't leave at the faculty."

Peeraya pretended not to hear the word sulk.

"Never mind. I really can't be mad at you. I think you should take a bath. I'll prepare clothes for you to change into. You don't have to cook today, just wait to taste my cooking"

"But you almost got mad because you thought I would leave you and go with Si, right?"

"There was a brief moment that I thought about it. But like I said, I won't interfere with the person in your heart or what you choose, so this is all I can do."

Pipim stopped and asked.

"Do you know who is in my heart?"

"Your eyes say everything, Pipim"

Hearing that, the young professor paused for a moment before answering.

"If my feelings for Sitang or the way I look at her don't change, will you still not be angry?"

"I won't be angry. I might be upset, but not angry."

Peeraya emphasized that very much, and it made Pipim smile.

"Si is an important friend to me, and that won't change. But I can't let her be the most important person anymore because *I'm yours*. Understand?"

Peeraya didn't know how to react. You could say she was embarrassed.

How could someone's heart not beat fast when hearing that? Even though she looked very serious, her sweet words of apology had an amazing effect.

"Are you seducing me?"

Pipim laughed before answering.

"Pim can't seduce Pim's girlfriend? That's too bad. Pim thinks Pim is being seduced too"

The young professor knew very well that she was giving Peeraya more chances than she had ever given anyone else. But who wouldn't if they were in her position?

Peeraya bit her lip. She was so embarrassed that her ears were covered. Her cheeks were hot and red. Hearing what Pipim said to her made it hard not to smile. Peeraya hastily urged Pipim to move quickly.

"Go take a shower before you catch a cold"

Maybe Pipim was a witch. Peeraya felt that her world was so gloomy, but with Pipim's appearance, her world just became colorful.

Pipim laughed before teasing Peeraya.

"Are your ears always this red when you don't know how to react?"

"If you tease me one more time, I'll stop it by kissing you, Pipim"

The young professor kept laughing but pulled herself to Peeraya's bathroom, following Peeraya's instructions. Even though she knew that Peeraya would never do what she had just said, Pipim still turned around to give her an order.

"Don't forget to prepare clothes for Pim, if you don't want your girlfriend to get sick"

"Pipim!"

Peeraya ran towards her, but when she was about to reach her, she felt a gust of air on her face because Pipim closed the bathroom door in front of her face. She could only stand there smiling and muttering to herself so that others could hear her.

"So naughty"

And there was a voice from the other side of the door as an answer. Even though it was only a soft voice, it made her heart scream.

"Sorry to keep you waiting. Pim has tried to hurry as fast as possible"

"How can I be angry with you when you are like this?"

" "

"But to make up for it, can you call yourself Pim like this from now on?"

There was a brief silence in the bathroom. The party didn't understand why they were talking here when there were so many other more suitable places in the room.

"I'll think about it"

"Don't take too long"

Pipim laughed. She opened the bathroom door and stuck her head out to talk to Peeraya.

"Go cook. I'm hungry"

The act was so cute that Peeraya was stunned for a moment before she nodded and walked to the kitchen with a smile.

sunnyanv

07. CAN'T SLEEP

Something was bothering Peeraya to the point that she couldn't concentrate or be her usual self. No. It was someone rather than something.

That someone was Pipim. Who was wearing Peeraya's casual clothes.

"Perth."

"Huh?"

"The food is burnt. Concentrate on what you're doing. Why are you staring at me?"

The non-nagging chatter made Peeraya even more confused.

Pipim was so petite in that outfit. When she let her hair down naturally and gave off the alluring scent of shampoo like this, Peeraya couldn't take her eyes off her. The pressure from all the difficult encounters couldn't touch her, but Pipim's gentle and pleasant gaze easily knocked her down again and again.

When she was caught, she reluctantly concentrated on cooking until dinner was finished. The meal ended quickly.

Maybe because the two of them waited for each other until late at night. When Pipim walked to where she had put her work documents from today's lecture, Peeraya quickly took them and hid them behind her back.

"You're late, I won't let you work again today."

"But..."

"Please take a break. Don't let work take up too much of your personal time."

The hand that was reaching for her things slowly dropped to the side when she heard her excuse.

"I'm not used to this. I usually have to do something before I sleep."

Hearing that, Peeraya quickly suggested,

"How about some wine?"

"You don't want me to work, but drink wine?"

"Yes. That's also something I have to do."

Pipim narrowed her eyes at Peeraya before asking bluntly.

"Are you trying to get me drunk?"

Peeraya shrugged as she answered.

"If you're not drunk, then I wouldn't have done that, right?"

"I'm not good at drinking alcohol and get drunk easily."

Pipim confessed, making the person listening smile.

"Then, just one glass. I promise you won't get drunk, I won't make you drunk"

"Okay, then."

When she got that answer, Peeraya immediately took the wine and poured it into each glass. She placed the glass on the table on the balcony and led the young professor, holding her hand. And she didn't let go of her hand, even though they were already sitting.

"You won't let go of my hand?"

"Do you want me to let go?"

Pipim sighed in response to the person who pretended not to know anything.

"Your answers are getting further and further away from my questions every day"

Even though Pipim said that, Peeraya started a conversation that was completely off-topic. The older one put the hand she was holding on the table. She placed her own hand on the table, palm facing up, with Pipim's hand on top of hers. Her thumb rubbed the back of Pipim's hand gently. The young professor let her do what she wanted because he didn't see any harm in it. She was also curious about what would happen next.

"Your hands are soft."

"There's lotion for every part of the body these days."

Peeraya nodded before taking her wine glass, and Pipim did the same.

"Are you really going to hold my hand like this?"

The young professor asked again, and this time Peeraya answered.

"I don't want to let go"

"Does this mean you won't let me go home tonight?"

"Yes. Stay here.o"

"Can I say no?"

"You can, because I will always obey you."

Pipim did not respond or reject the request, but let time pass by.

Sometimes, sitting quietly with someone by your side feels very pleasant. She seemed to be able to be herself even though Peeraya was by her side.

Enjoying the silence with one hand tightly held together made a glass of wine go down your throat quickly without you realizing it.

Especially because it was very quiet. Although there was the sound of a car engine from the street, the room was so high that only a buzzing sound could be heard. There was the constant breeze, but the body became warmer as the alcohol flowed through it.

"Would you like another glass?"

Peeraya asked.

"If you want me to drink another glass, you have to let go of my hand."

"How should I interpret that response?"

"I don't know. You have to choose rather than ask, Perth"

"I won't be able to sleep because of you, Pipim."

"It's not my fault. You're the one who took my hand"

"But you didn't push my hand away."

In the end, there was no second glass of wine, but only hands holding each other. It would have been like that for a while if not for the voice from Peeraya's phone.

"Pick up. The caller might have something important to say."

"No."

"Perth"

Pipim understood why she was stubborn. So she sighed, got up, and pulled Peeraya to where the voice came from.

"Pick it up."

"I don't know who it is."

Peeraya complained softly because it was a number she didn't save in her phone, but she picked it up. But she started to frown as soon as she heard the voice on the other end of the phone, and her smile also slowly faded.

"Grace..."

The words that came out of her mouth made Pipim frown a little too.

She felt even more uncomfortable after hearing the cry from the other end of the phone. Peeraya was confused as to why this person was calling. When she finally understood, she answered in a firm voice and put the call on speaker as Pipim tried to free her hand from her grip. She didn't know why she had to do that, but she knew it was what she had to do...

"Why did you call me? We broke up a long time ago, Grace."

The question answered Pipim's long-held doubts. The woman was close to Peeraya, as she had expected.

[First knew that I still love you]

Peeraya looked like someone who had been burned by a hot iron. It was clear that she was going to say something without thinking about the person receiving it. But before she could do that, Pipim interrupted.

"Confessing your love to someone else's girlfriend like that is not good at all."

The woman on the other end of the phone fell silent, as she had not expected Peeraya to have someone with her at this time. She didn't believe it at first, but she had to think about it again. Her ex might really have a new girlfriend. She admitted that she was possessive of what she didn't want.

She noted the fact that Peeraya never had anyone after they broke up, and no matter how much he hurt her, Peeraya never held a grudge. So she was too confident that Peeraya still loved her.

"Did you hear that? Don't call again."

Peeraya said flatly and immediately hung up the phone. But Pipim still turned to ask.

"Will there be a next time she calls?"

Peeraya paused and answered.

"I'm just making sure"

"Ah... Okay"

"..."

She got goosebumps...

Even though that was what Pipim said, Peeraya felt pressured.

"You're lucky"

"..."

"Because you won't be upset by your ex's call to confess her love to me, of course."

At first, Peeraya was afraid that Pipim wouldn't stay the night because she was upset. But she was wrong because the young professor had already walked to the bedroom. That was the reason Peeraya smiled a little because it meant that her request was granted.

For some people, no matter how upset she was, she could also be funny. And that person could only be Pipim.

"What did you see?"

She was asking for a fight... Peeraya knew from the loud voice. However, strangely, she could still smile.

"You're cute when you're possessive."

"Who's possessive? What and when is possessive?"

"It's strange that you don't know, but I do"

"...."

"I'm sure I'll have a nice dream tonight."

"Because someone called, or did you imagine me being possessive of you?"

"Do you really want to know?"

Peeraya approached the person sitting at the end of the bed. Pipim did not move away but looked straight at her. She was always brave, this woman.

"I don't know, so I don't have to answer"

"But I want you to know, so I do."

Peeraya still stared back at her, though she was a little surprised and unconsciously bit the inside of her lip as Peeraya brought her face dangerously close.

"Can I...kiss you?"

"Not now."

"Not now. Does that mean it's possible to do it in the future?"

"I don't know"

"If you don't know that already, I'm not a patient person, Pipim. And I'm definitely not a good person"

"You still can't kiss me"

"..."

"Do you want to try not to do what I say, Perth?"

The serious voice that leaned towards a threat made Peeraya step back... Ah, when Pipim made that threat, who would dare to fight her? She was a person who didn't dare.

"Then, can I hold your hand?"

"What's so special about my hand?"

"It's special because it's yours."

Peeraya answered before she repeated her question.

"So, can I hold it?"

"It's up to you. But let me tell you in advance, I'm easily offended, so I can let it out in the middle of the night. Don't whine if I do."

"I can hold it in again and again, Pipim. Don't worry."

Three days after Pipim spent the night at Peeraya's condominium, her father suddenly told her after dinner that Peeraya had brought up her embezzlement case again in a company meeting with evidence. It made Pipim think that this might be the reason why Peeraya hadn't shown up lately but had only sent a driver to pick her up and drop her off, as well as get her sandwiches.

Still, Peeraya had to tell her what she was doing...

"Perth seemed serious about this. Many people at the meeting complained about her bringing up the agent."

Her father complained to her.

Papies was out for university activities, so their house was rather quiet.

"Pim doesn't know anything about it. Perth hasn't told me either."

"Still, I want you to thank your girlfriend for not letting what others consider trivial matters get in my name again."

"Trivial? It's a big deal, Dad."

"For those who aren't affected, it's nonsense. Only the things that affect them matter."

"Dad. Being framed for embezzlement isn't a trivial matter."

"Dad knows. That's what your darling said at the meeting too."

My dear!

Even though she knew why Peeraya didn't show up, her cute aggression was still there.

First of all, her father kept saying thank you and admiration shone in his eyes as he talked endlessly about Peeraya.

Second, Peeraya didn't tell her that she was helping her father. And third, now Peeraya appeared under the building where she taught with a big smile.

"How did you know that I have a lecture here?"

"I called your father."

"Ah. You two are so close."

"Don't tell me you're possessive of me, even with your father."

"Nonsense, Perth."

Pipim looked tired, but the tall woman just laughed softly.

"I'm here to invite you to dinner. I bought all the raw materials and wanted you to show off your cooking skills"

"What if I'm not free today?"

"Then we can reschedule. I'm not in a hurry."

"Will there be wine too?"

"As I thought, you like it, huh?"

"Do I have to watch you talking on the phone with your ex again?"

When it came to that question, Peeraya began to understand that the beautiful professor didn't want to drink wine but just casually fight with her.

"My dear Pipim, I just realized how possessive you are."

"If I don't want to go, it's because of your teasing."

"Don't do that. You have to take responsibility for making me lose sleep."

"What?"

Pipim raised her eyebrows.

"You made me lose sleep"

"I didn't do anything, Perth"

"Dear Pipim, don't you know that missing someone is painful? It can make someone lose sleep and can't concentrate"

"Please don't seduce me in front of everyone"

Pipim warned Peeraya flatly.

"Are you embarrassed?"

"Yes. I've never let anyone seduce me before"

Once again... Pipim could always beat her with an honest response.

"Then, can I ask you something?"

"..."

"What should I do so I can sleep with you every night, Pipim?"

Pipim was silent, as if her brain was working hard. But that was only part of it. In fact, she looked into Peeraya's eyes to see how serious her question was, and the answer was shouted right in front of her. So her thin lips responded.

"Seduce me until I say it"

"..."

"If you want to sleep well, be a good girl, Perth"

Peeraya laughed softly before answering.

"Aren't you at all embarrassed to say that?"

"Yes, that's right. But I want to say it anyway"

She kept a straight face, even though she was embarrassed. That's what Peeraya thought before he answered.

"Then, come. I'll seduce you today"

"Don't you seduce me every day?"

"Keep your beautiful lips for me to kiss, Pipim"

"..."

"I'll kiss you in front of all these students if you say something to make me lose my cool again"

"You wouldn't dare"

"Are you sure?"

"I'm sure. You know that I'll be very angry if you do that, so you won't do anything you want. Right, sweetie?"

Peeraya sighed before she smiled. She admitted that she lost to Pipim in almost everything, both in words and actions.

"Right"

In the end, Peeraya clearly lost in the battle of words once again. But it was a defeat that made her heart soft and warm.

Maybe her insomnia would disappear completely tonight if someone would be gentle and become her aromatic body pillow.

----- -----

08. AN IMPORTANT PERSON

Finally Pipim returned to Peeraya's room. Although she was still upset, she was mature enough to hide it.

After she unconsciously revealed it when she first saw Peeraya at the university. She knew there was a good reason behind Peeraya's actions.

"What do you want to eat?"

"What do you want to cook for me?"

Peeraya asked back, so Pipim walked to the kitchen to see what ingredients Peeraya had prepared in the refrigerator.

"You said there were a lot of ingredients, why are there only a few here?"

"I didn't know what to buy, so I didn't dare to buy too much."

"Can I trust you?"

"Please believe me that I didn't plan on asking you to go shopping for groceries with me."

Pipim rolled her eyes and closed the refrigerator as Peeraya laughed at her tired expression.

"If you want to be with you, you can tell me. You don't have to do all this"

"My baby cheeks, there used to be a lot of them, but I used them to train my cooking skills."

"Training?"

"Yes. Now that I have you, I want to be a better cook without a boss."

The young professor shook her head, not realizing what Peeraya had just said.

"I am your reason."

Peeraya smiled softly. She had no intention of hiding her feelings, which were becoming more obvious with each passing day, but she was still not sure that she would get a positive response. It wasn't that Pipim had made her feel that way, but because her past experiences had taught her to be cautious. However, she wasn't sure how long her patience would last.

"I'm glad you know that."

As soon as Pipim got ready to go buy ingredients after she took a shower and changed into a t-shirt and shorts that she took from home on her way home. Peeraya was the one who kept circling around her while frowning, not wanting to leave.

"You're not a child, Perth."

Pipim said that flatly.

Even with a little nagging, she didn't seem upset. Since they were planning to go out,

Pipim hurriedly took a shower and changed into more comfortable clothes. But now Peeraya suddenly said that she didn't want to go and looked grumpy.

"Your short is too short, Pipim."

Peeraya said that in a firm voice like Pipim's.

Pipim probably forgot that her comfortable clothes weren't that comfortable for people who saw them.

"Should I not wear pants?"

"You shouldn't be as pretty as Pipim."

The young professor didn't argue but gave advice.

"I can't stop you from feeling what you feel. But if you're possessive, you just need to stay close to me, Perth"

Pipim said this as if it was normal for Peeraya to be possessive towards her.

She wasn't upset at all. Moreover, she gave advice on how Peeraya should deal with it. So Peeraya, who was so possessive that she didn't act cute, seemed to feel better.

"Won't you be upset if I get too close?"

"As long as you still treat me with respect as usual, you can walk as close to me as you can"

"I won't stray far from you"

"You're so insecure that you don't look like yourself at all."

Peeraya smiled. It was strange that Pipim could read her so easily, like she was reading a book.

"But you make me more confident that what I feel and do right now is normal behavior"

"Why? You can't do that with your ex?"

Peeraya frowned when she heard that.

"Please don't talk about dead people"

"Dead?"

"Dead in my heart"

"I just want to know"

"Are you just curious, or are you possessive of me?"

"If you compare me to someone who is dead, I have the right to know. Don't you think so?"

Peeraya smiled before extending her hand forward.

"Can I hold your hand while I tell you?"

Peeraya's story wasn't too long. It was unclear whether it was because she didn't want to talk about it or because she really didn't want to talk about dead people, as she had said before. But what made Pipim hold her hand tightly was what she told her.

"I was the third person in a relationship. Everything I did was wrong. I didn't know

why I couldn't hold hands or show my possessiveness until I found out that I was just someone who wasted time"

"...."

"Or in other words, I was the unchosen choice"

"..."

"Do you feel sorry for me?"

Peeraya asked while holding a shopping basket while walking beside Pipim in the supermarket near her condominium.

Pipim was silent, as if she was thinking about something. She hadn't taken anything, even though they had been walking for a long time.

"I don't understand."

Pipim answered while turning to Peeraya.

"You can ask. Do you have any questions?"

"Why did you agree to be in that position?"

Peeraya laughed softly before answering.

"Pipim, sweetie. I don't agree, but I don't know anything."

"It means..."

Pipim pondered and sighed softly.

"I was fooled. It's that simple"

"I don't want to know anymore. You don't need to say more"

Peeraya smiled faintly.

"You really feel sorry for me"

After a quiet dinner, Pipim borrowed Peeraya's desk because there was work to be done. After she finished the work, she didn't need to bring any work home.

But in that quiet moment, someone paced back and forth in the room non-stop. It was Peeraya. The tall one walked over to peek if Pipim was close to finishing her work. And when she got too anxious, it got to the point where she leaned her hips against the desk and picked up a pen to spin it around her finger.

"What's this?"

The pen in Peeraya's hand was neon green. Pipim was sure Peeraya knew what it was, so she wasn't sure why Peeraya asked that.

"That's a highlighter. I use it to highlight important notes when I review papers."

The young professor looked up and answered patiently.

The person who seemed to be doing nothing still couldn't keep quiet. She took the paper that Pipim had finished reviewing to turn the page, and when she saw Pipim diligently reviewing the papers, a sly smile appeared on Peeraya's face.

"Ah"

A cold touch on her upper arm startled the young professor.

When she turned to look, she saw that the person who did it was staring at him with a straight face, still holding the highlighter.

"What game are you playing? You're not a child, Perth"

"You said it was for highlighting what's important, didn't you?"

"..."

"So, I scribbled on you."

Pipim was stunned when she heard it. But she couldn't deny that her heart was beating fast. Peeraya was making strong progress!

The young woman touched the place where she was scribbled on and complained casually.

"You play like a child"

"Don't you like it?"

"It's messy."

Pipim frowned. This was the first time Peeraya saw this kind of reaction from the strict one, so she put the highlighter in Pipim's hand after scribbled on herself.

"I'm messy too."

"Perth"

The young professor shouted as if she was tired.

"You're not a child."

"My dear... A person can seduce their girlfriend no matter how old they are, right??"

"I have to work"

Pipim changed the topic, because she knew it was useless to argue with Peeraya about it.

Peeraya laughed softly before she answered.

"I won't bother you anymore. You're really grumpy."

"Who made me angry?"

"Yes. Who?"

"Are you going to continue like this?"

Peeraya laughed again when she heard the serious and scolding tone of voice. She was in a good mood when she was with Pipim. The tall one gave in and let Pipim continue working peacefully for a long time before she returned with a clear jar containing many lottery tickets inside.

As Peeray passed by, Pipim's attention was clearly diverted again.

"What now?"

"Lottery lover. It's time for us to take one"

Pipim thought for a moment before answering.

"We didn't set any schedule"

"You're wrong. I told you we'd do it once a week"

"..."

"It's okay if you don't remember because we'll do it now"

"You're naughty like a kid today. Do you know that, Perth?"

"Don't you know that I just want to talk to you, Pim?"

After that sentence, silence fell between them. Both of them didn't know what to say. Pipim bit the inside of her lip before making a request.

"Can I finish my work first? I only have a little bit to do"

"Okay. I won't bother you anymore. Call me after you're done"

The result of today's love couple lottery is Peeraya, which is a real result because the sly person only wrote her own name to put in the jar. But because Pipim didn't suspect anything, the swindler got away with it.

Actually, Peeraya had a reason to do that. When she brought up the company fraud case in a meeting, something was fishy. She felt like she was being watched, and Pipim's father told her that she had also received a threatening letter.

It seemed like the real culprit was nervous, so her father suggested that she take a break, go away for a while, and come back when she had strong evidence that Pipim's father was innocent. Once that happened, the real criminal wouldn't dare do much to avoid suspicion.

"We took your name. So what do you want to do?"

"Let's go for a walk"

Peeraya's trip came sooner than expected as it started only two days later. Pipim realized that Peeraya liked nature after they got into the car.

"I've never camped before"

"It's okay. Although it doesn't seem that comfortable, I guarantee you'll like it"

Of course, Pipim wasn't bothered at all because Peeraya set up the tent by herself and only asked Pipim to help hold the tent a little while adjusting its shape to make it perfect. In the end, the tent from a famous brand looked really good in nature.

"Are we sleeping on the ground?"

Peeraya laughed before walking to get the sleeping equipment from the trunk and explaining it to Pipim.

"This is a sleeping mat that can inflate itself so we don't have to lift a finger to set it up. We just have to twist this, and it will automatically fill with air"

Peeraya said as she demonstrated. Pipim was excited about everything. She initially didn't want to come because she was worried about her job, but her father insisted, and she didn't want to reject Peeraya, so she ended up here.

"Do you see the zipper here? We can put it together so there's enough room for the two of us."

Pipim just realized that camping and sleeping in a tent like this was just a change of

bed because Peeraya had everything to make them comfortable. It was like moving the bedroom, living room, and kitchen to the middle of nature.

"Why do you like this kind of activity?"

"It allows us to be with ourselves."

"Huh?"

"There's no phone signal, and everyone around here comes for the same reason, which is to relax. So no one will bother us"

At first, Pipim didn't really understand why Peeraya liked this kind of activity. However, the brief moment in the evening when she watched the sun setting amidst the stunning mountain scenery with the natural, unpolluted wind and no rivals or enemies present, only people taking pictures of the scenery with their cell phones without signal, was enough to bring her peace and happiness. She gave a friendly smile to the people around her before entering the tent.

"Let's take a bath before it gets colder than this."

"Please. You can stay here with me"

"Stop being naughty for a while, sweetie"

Peeraya laughing and willingly put the jar on the work table. She nodded, admitting that she had been very naughty today. But not seeing Pipim for days made her miss her very much, so when she was close to her again, she wanted to ask for Pipim's attention.

The weather was getting colder as the night went on. It seemed like the sleeping bag wasn't enough to fight the cold weather. Pipim knew the weather would be cold, but she didn't expect it to be this cold, even though it wasn't winter yet.

"Perth"

"Yes?"

In addition to the self-inflating sleeping pad that could be put together, the sleeping bag could also be used. Even though they were both sleeping in their own corners, the cool weather made Pipim move closer to Peeraya.

"I'm cold, I have a cold"

"Me too"

"Why didn't you bring a blanket or something warmer?"

"Well, there's something warmer than a blanket"

As she said that she moved very close and their shoulders touched.

"You're going to tell me that it's a hug, right?"

Pipim turned her head and saw Peeraya's smile under the dimly lit tent.

"You're good at guessing games"

"I'm smart, and am I right?"

"Yes, you're right. Can I hug you, Pipim?"

"You can't ask permission after you hug me because it's not called asking, but telling"

Peeraya laughed softly.

"It's the same because, in the end, I'll hug you when I sleep"

"Please tell me that I'm thinking too much when I think you planned all this"

"Yes, Pipim. You're thinking too much because I didn't plan to hug you when I sleep at all"

Peeraya answered, but her answer sounded like a confession.

Pipim didn't respond. The two of them remained silent as they were very close to each other. The warm bodies hugging each other made it difficult for them to fall asleep, and the hug turned into a light caress.

"If you can't sleep, keep your hands still"

Pipim had to put her hand on Peeraya's hand before she became more aroused by the touch.

Pipim's enticing scent made Peeraya bite the inside of her lip tightly before she slowly lifted herself up, propped herself on her elbows, and stared at the beautiful young professor from a very close distance.

"Pipim"

"Yes?"

Peeraya's eyes swept across Pipim's face before stopping at her lips that were tense with nervousness. The viewer had to smile because she wasn't the only one who felt nervous about how close they were.

Since there was no phone signal here, all signals from their bodies and emotions were on high alert as they focused on their surroundings and the person next to them, not on the small screen. There were no requests.

There was only a face that slowly drew closer and closer. The gaze seemed to stop everything around them except the movement between the two of them.

"Pipim"

Her voice was soft, but her hoarse voice clearly expressed desire.

"Yes?"

"I like you"

Peeraya's past actions clearly showed how she felt. But when she said it, it couldn't be denied that it made Pipim's heart flutter and tingle. There were butterflies in her stomach, and her heart was shaking so hard that Pipim unconsciously lowered her guard, both physically and emotionally.

She even forgot to refuse when the beautiful face approached with clear intentions. It was like there was a spark when Peeraya's lips touched hers.

Smooth and soft.

And the person who only meant to kiss lightly couldn't help herself. The naughty hand moved under the pajamas gently brushing the bare stomach before caressing the waist as their lips wrestled.

Pipim wanted to stop her, but it was too hard to do so when part of her liked and willingly accepted the soft touch. Peeraya shifted herself to get a more comfortable position.

The hand that was on her stomach moved to her nape to steal more sweet kisses from Pipim.

The more they wrestled... The sweeter it tasted... The deeper... The sweeter it tasted.

The tip of Peeraya's tongue matched and entered to get to know the beautiful professor, who seemed to be the favorite in this fight.

"Ah-"

A deep groan in the throat.

The more they wrestled, the more they panted, Pipim couldn't breathe, so she sent a signal by pushing Peeraya away, and Peeraya willingly obeyed.

"You said you liked me and kissed me right away?"

Pipim asked while panting before tightening her lips.

"Are you angry with me?"

The person who asked was still curled up on her face.

"I wanted to be angry, but I kissed you back"

Peeraya laughed. She liked Pipim's honesty. She lay down, hugged Pipim, and kissed the beautiful professor's head.

"So that means we kissed each other. No one is harmed, right?"

"I don't know"

"But let's say we have an understanding... Pipim"

"Yes?"

"You are an important person that I really admire, my sugar."

09. The Way You Look At Me

Pipim wasn't sure when exactly she fell asleep. It was probably when she first felt the warmth, which grew closer until she felt safe and comfortable enough to fall asleep in the cold and unfamiliar surroundings.

Pipim regained consciousness when she heard a whispered call from a short distance away. She had to regretfully open her eyes and see that Peeraya was sending her a gentle smile.

"Yes?"

"Let's watch the sunrise. It shouldn't be crowded yet."

Peeraya seemed so alive. She certainly seemed more energetic than before. Moreover, she always seemed to have a smile on the corner of her mouth, as if it was her trademark when they were together. This was completely different from when there were other people around. She clearly and consistently had double standards.

The young professor lifted herself up and brushed her messy hair back. She rubbed her eyes with the back of her hand before turning to tell Peeraya.

"Please take me to the restroom first"

It was not a request but an order, because someone who was not used to this raw nature still could not feel completely safe in this silence.

Although the people around here were not scary, there were poisonous insects...

Actually, Pipim was a sensitive person. If she was exposed to something foreign, the symptoms would be immediately visible. For example, while some people only experienced ordinary itching after being bitten by a mosquito, Pipim would experiencing a scary red itch. Besides, it took a long time for them to leave. She never told Peeraya that at this time, she was rubbing her arm because it was itchy.

And coincidentally at the same time Peeraya turned around and saw her. The tall one frowned and stopped walking immediately.

"Did you get bitten by an insect?"

"No. It's just itchy"

Pipim answered and immediately lowered her hand.

But the curious Peeraya didn't let her go. Peeraya approached before making a request.

"Let me see"

"It's okay"

"Pipim"

This time, her voice became firm.

"Please don't be stubborn with Perth"

Although it seemed like she was scolding, but because she called herself Perth, it was softer to the ear and sounded like a request at the same time.

"Stubborn..."

It was a word that no one had ever used on Pipim before. That was because Pipim had always lived her life far from that word. So when she heard it, she suddenly felt smaller. The tough front she had always tried to put up weakened like a candle being burned by fire.

So when Peeraya repeated her request, she willingly stretched out her hands without any intention of hiding it anymore.

"Where is the itch?"

"Here"

Pipim used her fingertips to point at all the red hives on her body. They were mostly in areas where clothes were not covered.

"Here too"

"So spoiled..."

Peeraya smiled from the corner of her mouth as Pipim pointed at all the red hives on her body with a pouting face and furrowed eyebrows, as if she was really angry because the insects irritated her sensitive skin.

Seeing this, Peeraya got the impression that this figure who always appeared serious and mature also had a naughty and youthful side.

"Why are the bumps not like other people's?"

"Maybe because Pim is in the sensitive group"

"..."

"I'm allergic to mosquitoes, weather, and insects"

"Why didn't you tell me?"

Peeraya wanted to scold Pipim again.

"You didn't ask me. How could I suddenly say that?"

Peeraya didn't know how to respond. Because what Pipim said was all true. So her face changed from one of scolding to one of guilt.

"Don't look like that"

Pipim told her before adding something in a serious tone.

"Because you do have to be responsible for me, whether I'm allergic or not, right?"

"Huh?"

"That's a girlfriend's job, If you don't do it, will you let someone else do it?"

Peeraya paused for a moment before she laughed uncontrollably.

"You're really good at making my heart beat fast."

Pipim shrugged before continuing to speak.

"I'm just telling the truth. But maybe you like hearing the truth from me, so your heart

beats fast"

Pipim looked at the nature around her without thinking. The trees that towered as far as the sky and the mountains that piled up like a beautiful painting. The gentle breeze seemed to want to make it cooler than it actually was, causing Peeraya and her to approach each other until their shoulders touched.

When Pipim turned to the side, she sees Peeraya putting both of her hands on the fence and taking a deep breath of fresh air, strangely her heart trembled. And when she swept her eyes over the soft lips that wrestled with her last night, suddenly a hot feeling spread from her cheeks to her ears.

Strangely, it never happened when she saw Sitang. It made her think about what she always asked herself, which was why she let this woman get so close, become so attached, and have a big impact on her feelings.

Why did she give her more chances than anyone else, like she had never done before?

Pipim never blamed her best friend for falling in love and breaking her heart. Her friend should be happy and find a good love. But maybe because Sitang had found her good love, Pipim was no longer worried about her. So she let go of the bond that her heart had secretly created. She had to admit that Peeraya came at the right time and in the right situation, helping her a lot.

She had been attracted to Peeraya since the first time they met, but she didn't expect anything or think further than wanting to help her father. It was Peeraya who approached her to care for her and tease her. Although sometimes casual and sometimes serious, Pipim allowed herself to take it seriously and got her confirmation last night from Peeraya's confession.

Even though she was lost in her own thoughts, Pipim was still aware of the gaze of the person next to her. And she knew that the nape of her neck was where Peeraya's eyes wanted to rest, right after her lips, where Peeraya had stolen her sweetness earlier.

When Pipim isn't looking at her, she is looking at...

It was strange that she didn't feel threatened by those eyes but could instead feel the fondness. It was a strange feeling, but good for someone who was not used to this kind of thing, like herself. Pipim knew that she was no less charming or beautiful than anyone.

But when Peeraya looked at her with those eyes, her confidence increased even more, even though she had never thought of comparing herself to anyone.

"What are you looking at? What's wrong with my neck that makes you unable to take your eyes off it?"

She turned to ask curiously. Those thin lips pursed unconsciously.

"Don't you know that you have a beautiful neck, Pipim? And when you style your hair like this, it's very attractive"

"And? Is it more attractive than the view of the sunrise and the sea of mist in front of us?"

Peeraya laughed softly. She reached out to hold Pipim's hand and continued to hold it loosely.

"You don't want to know my answer"

"If I want to know, won't you answer?"

"Promise me that you won't slap me if I answer you."

"I don't really like using violence, Perth."

"Does that mean you like to use it a little?"

"Do you want to test me?"

"No, I don't. I will answer"

Pipim nodded and waited. Peeraya moved her face closer to Pipim's ear.

"Your neck makes me want to bury my lips there"

"..."

"And it makes me want to kiss it lightly and inhale your tempting scent."

The person who answered only said what was on her mind, but the person who listened bit her lip tightly because she just followed the thought that made her shiver.

"Naughty. Have you been pretending to be polite all this time?"

The young professor asked in a serious tone until Peeraya laughed.

She still didn't give any answer, but she tightened her grip and changed the topic.

It was true that Pipim was beautiful. And because she was always calm, she tended to be the center of attention. Moreover, she had a gentle nature that made Peeraya want to transform into a lion and chase away all the eyes that stared at her.

But she knew that she couldn't do that because the calmer Pipim was, the more she had to respect her. She wouldn't do anything in public that would have a negative impact on herself. But if they were in their private space, she would think about it.

A few days later, they returned to Bangkok, and Peeraya stood in front of Pipim's house with a gentle smile once again, even though she knew it was Pipim's day off. They argued for a while before Pipim got into the car with her. Pipim wasn't sure how close Peeraya was to her father, but Peeraya was by her father's side more than her daughter's at the moment.

"Where are you taking me?"

"To make it clear who you are to me"

"Perth!?"

At first, Pipim thought Peeraya was just joking. But now she sat, feeling uneasy, on the top floor of a tall building.

She realized that Peeraya was serious. Pipim was under surveillance the moment she walked into this room.

"Why did you bring me here?"

"To make everyone understand that the rumors about my reason for reinvestigating your father's case are true."

The fact that Peeraya was back with Pipim meant that the evidence she had was enough. And she wanted to make the rumors that people were gossiping behind her back come true.

For those who wanted to threaten or harm Pipim's family, they should know that if they dared to do so, they were also enemies of Peeraya's family. No one wanted to risk being in that position.

But Pipim frowned, not really understanding. From what she knew, the image of people in high management positions was very important to the company. So why did Peeraya act like she didn't care?

"If you're afraid that this will affect my reputation, don't be afraid. I don't care"

It seemed like Peeraya could read her mind.

"I only care about how I can help you and your family."

Before Pipim could complain, the phone in her pocket rang. The corner of her mouth lifted automatically, and her eyes softened as she read the name on the screen.

Peeraya's reaction was the complete opposite. She was jealous of Pipim's reaction to the call, even though she shouldn't have felt that way. She said that she was fine with it, but deep down, she was sensitive and had completely lost her concentration. The pen was placed on the table as the tall girl walked over to sit on the sofa near Pipim.

The action immediately caught Pipim's attention. The young professor turned around and raised her eyebrows, as if asking what was wrong. But because the angry person didn't answer. Her attention returned to her phone call.

"It's okay... It's okay"

Peeraya wasn't sure what the other party was saying, but when she saw Pipim smiling shyly, her heart sank.

"Yes. Until now, it's okay"

Soon after, the phone call ended. But the smile on Pipim's face was still there. Why was she smiling so much?

"What's wrong? Why are you staring at me?"

Pipim turned around and asked with raised eyebrows.

"You're smiling"

"..."

"Your eyes shine with happiness when you talk to the person on the phone"

"Sitang called"

Peeraya thought she already knew who was calling, but when she heard it from Pipim, her heart still hurt. You could say she was jealous because Pipim could easily smile and be happy because of Sitang.

Just hearing her voice made Pipim happy.

"Can you tell me what's wrong now? Why do you look like that?"

Pipim was concerned because Peeraya didn't look so good.

Maybe because it was a look she wasn't familiar with. And if possible, she didn't want to get used to Peeraya's serious gaze.

"I'm jealous"

"What?"

"I'm jealous of the person in your heart. Because only her presence and her voice make you happy"

"..."

"I want to be that person for you too"

Whining...Peeraya knew that was what she was doing. But honestly, she wasn't herself when she fell in love with someone. But she still wanted to be near that person.

Pipim was stunned. Then she smiled again. Seeing Pipim smile and look at her lovingly made Peeraya feel the need to say something.

"Don't smile at me like that"

"Oh? I can't smile?"

The person who had lost her cool shook her head, got up, and went to sit on the edge of her desk. Pipim got up and chased after her, but she didn't get too close. She stood about a step away and crossed her arms in front of her chest like a professor interrogating a guilty student.

Peeraya didn't want to admit that she was acting like a little girl at 32 years old now, but the smile of the person looking at her told her that she was.

"You said you'd wait. So is it true that you're acting like this?"

"I'm just jealous. I'm not acting"

If Pipim scolded her a little more. Peeraya would be nervous. But Pipim's voice was softer than before.

"What makes you jealous? Tell me"

"Your voice. Your eyes. Your smile"

Peeraya answered before she looked into Pipim's eyes, showing her seriousness.

"I like you. I want to be on the receiving end of all of that"

Pipim laughed. This is how it feels to be liked by someone. Is this how Sitang feels when she complains to her but looks happy when Jaojay does something for her?

So this is how it feels to be loved by someone...

"Are you sulking?"

"No. I'm just jealous"

Peeraya started to frown.

"Stop looking at me like I'm a child, Pipim."

"You're acting like a 10-year-old Peeraya now, sulking and jealous like a child whose toy has been taken away"

"..."

"I don't know what your past experiences in love were like. But if it makes you more confident, please look this way"

Pipim moved closer and held the beautiful face in her hands, turning it to look into her eyes before asking softly.

"Perth?"

"..."

"Do you see me as someone who likes toying with other people's feelings?"

"..."

"Look into my eyes and tell me, do you see me as someone who gives a chance to everyone who comes into her life?"

"..."

"Look at me and tell me if I look like someone who lets just anyone kiss me"

Peeraya's heart was incredibly calm now. All her jealousy was gone in an instant. Pipi was very good at taking full control of herself.

"No"

"Good. Then, now, can you be sure that everything you want will only be yours if your feelings are real and unwavering?"

Pipim didn't blame Peeraya for acting, for her, it was funny that this older woman turned into a child like this. Also, she understood that someone who had been cheated on before might be traumatized and lose their self-confidence.

It was like a gentle breeze that blew away Peeraya's annoyance. She knew that she was smiling. She was smiling because of Pipim's direct words. She was smiling because Pipim had boosted her self-confidence. And she was smiling because of what Pipim said next.

"The Perth I know is a naughty person, not the jealous type"

So she took the little girl into her arms and hugged her tightly before answering.

"Do you want to meet her? Perth will pick her up for you."

Right after those words, her lips quickly pressed against Pipim's lips. It wasn't aggressive. She just touched and massaged those soft lips again and again. But before it got more intense, Peeraya had to step back because her waist was pinched so hard that it hurt.

"Who gave you permission?"

Pipim's other hand pushed her away.

"Yes..."

"Aren't you afraid I'll be angry?"

"Will you be angry?"

Pipim groaned in her throat before answering,

"Even though I'm not angry, it doesn't mean you can kiss me whenever you want. Understand, sweetie?"

The last part was said in a deep and threatening voice, and she also pinched her waist again to emphasize her point.

"What if I really want to kiss you?"

"Not giving up... This is Peeraya"

Pipim smiled.

"Be patient. Pim knows you are good at it"

"..."

"Don't you know that those who are patient will get great rewards?"

Peeraya sighed.

"I'm not that patient. But, okay. What's the prize? You have to make an attractive offer first, so I know if I should sign it"

"Most prizes come in a neatly wrapped box, so no one can see what's inside. Therefore, you will know when you open it"

Pipim's smile was more cunning than before.

It made Peeraya want to grind her lips with her again because of the cute aggression. But she had to be patient. So she could only pull her slender waist with her arms until their lower bodies touched.

"Enjoy your moment, Pipim. When it's my turn, you won't be able to escape."

"I'm shaking with fear."

The beautiful professor replied and patted Peeraya's cheeks twice before breaking free from Peeraya's embrace.

That was what Peeraya liked...

She liked arguments. She liked being close to this woman. If possible, she wanted to wrap her up and take her home so she could see her beautiful face and smell her interesting and unique scent as much as she wanted.

"Why are you biting your lip?"

Pipim asked.

"Because I really want to kiss you right now, Pipim"

Laughter filled the air as Pipim approached her again. She then stood on her tiptoes and pressed her lips quickly to the corner of the older woman's mouth.

"Be patient."

She said that and turned to sit on the sofa again like nothing happened, leaving Peeraya biting the inside of her lip even tighter than before when she teased her like that. But Peeraya could only make a mental note that when the chance came, she would bury her fangs into Pipim's body.

10. FALL FOR YOU

Someone once said that there are people who have a lot of patience. Pipim believed that, so there was a reason why she kept telling Perth to be patient, that is, if she easily gave some but not all, she was not sure what her reaction would be. If there was the slightest sign of annoyance, anger, or disturbance, the opportunity she gave could be easily taken away too.

That was a way to test someone...

She knew it wasn't a good thing to do, but she secretly compared Peeraya to the person in her heart. She had been in love with the same person all this time, or, more simply, she had been in love with her best friend since she knew what love was. Therefore, if she wanted to weigh the anchor she had dropped long ago somewhere else, she wanted to make sure that she would never have to weigh it again.

Some people change partners many times before they find a strong pillar to build a house or something that will not collapse over time. But that was not the case for Pipim. She hoped that her next love would be one that she would not have to weigh the anchor again. She did not like change very much.

As she moved closer to Peeraya, she wanted to make sure that the anchor she dropped could not be weighed or lifted again. She did not play with Peeraya in any way. She secretly tied her to the anchor he dropped.

She said from the beginning that she was... Interested. Therefore, once the ship left the harbor, she would not sail back until he found her destination. Pipim believed she was not evil by normal standards, but in some aspects...

She was not an angel either. No one was completely innocent, and neither was she.

The pen that was tapping on the paper stopped when there was a knock on the door. Usually, her secretary would call first if there was something important. Therefore, it was not difficult to guess that the one who knocked was not her secretary.

Peeraya turned to Pipim, who was sitting on the sofa in another corner of the room. The young professor understood, so she prepared to get up.

"Should I wait outside?"

"No. You can stay. I don't have a guest today"

"But the knock on the door..."

"It might be a guest, but it's uninvited"

"..."

"Please stay here, Pipim. Don't go anywhere"

She usually the gentle and obedient version of Peeraya, so Pipim was smart enough to guess who the uninvited guest when she sees this aggressive version of Peeraya.

When Peeraya see Pipim do what she asked, Peeraya smiled slightly before turning towards the door.

"Come in."

Peeraya made a sound in her throat when she saw that it was as she had expected. In front of his restless secretary stood a young man who was her relative.

"Why is your secretary so strict? I'm not a stranger"

First entered with his hand in his pocket. He smiled and looked down on Peeraya's secretary as if he was taller than her.

"Please go back to your work."

Peeraya did not respond but turned to speak to her secretary in a normal tone of voice, not saying anything that made her feel uncomfortable.

When the door closed, the young man invited himself to sit on the chair across from Peeraya's desk. He crossed his legs and took his hands out of his pockets to cross his arms in front of his chest.

"What do you want?"

First was one of the people Peeraya did not trust.

He was the most ambitious among her relatives and probably the one who tried to hurt her while hiding in the dark corner.

"The view from your room is good. Better than mine."

The man looked around. Not noticing the sharp gaze from the owner of the room. He stopped his gaze on Pipim.

"You brought your girlfriend to your workplace? This is not like you at all"

"Don't meddle in my business. Just tell me what you want."

Peeraya slammed the pen on the table loudly, which immediately caught First's attention. The man smiled from the corner of his mouth because he had succeeded in making Peeraya upset.

"I heard that you were going to reinvestigate the money fraud case?"

"Yes. Why?"

"Nothing. I was just curious. I heard that it was because you were involved with the suspect's daughter, so I came to ask. And it turned out to be true. You were reinvestigating the case because of personal problems"

Peeraya laughed, got up from her chair, and walked over to block First's view of Pipim.

"I'm reinvestigating not only to help her, but because I have strong evidence, First."

First blinked and swallowed his saliva unconsciously, then he exhaled slowly and smiled.

"That's good. I'm just worried."

"Worried?"

"Yes. Don't you know that I'm on your side, wanting to reinvestigate this case?"

"..."

"Oh my. Don't think that I don't love or have good intentions just because we used to share a lover"

The man stood up and straightened up.

He was a little taller than Peeraya, but because of the high heels, the height difference wasn't that much. So instead of initially wanting to look down on her, he looked her in the face directly.

"Should we share something again, P'Perth? I think your new girlfriend is beautiful."

He changed to a whisper at the end of the sentence.

Peeraya was so angry that she could feel her ears burning. But she smiled before answering.

"Have you ever asked if my girlfriend wants someone like you?"

"..."

"So, don't even think about bothering or touching my girlfriend. Or I won't keep my temper even when it comes to your parents."

"Whoever is better, wins. I share mine with you."

The man would not back down or stop trying to bother Peeraya.

"I was polite enough to let her choose too, but Grace chose me. You should realize that men can do it better than women"

"If you don't know what to say to win, use your mouth only to eat, First. Don't make me pity you more than I already do. That's disgusting"

"..."

Peeraya answer flatly. If you ask her now she is really angry. But she didn't see the point in bringing up the past or using what happened to bring each other down. Most importantly, Grace no longer mattered to her. Not even a little bit.

"Don't think of yourself as the center of the universe. The earth doesn't orbit around you or anyone else. I won't stoop to making such an argument with you just because I want to win. My Pipim is more valuable than that. And you shouldn't talk about someone you love behind their back like that"

"..."

"It's like someone who doesn't want to accept their defeat. If you think you won, why don't you sit on your throne? Why walk away from it? Or is that victory, don't you think?"

After First left, Peeraya let out a long sigh and rubbed her face with her hands. She then walked over to Pipim, who was sitting silently.

"Sorry, you have to see it again"

"It's okay"

"I don't like to act badly in front of you"

Pipim laughed softly. He knew from Peeraya's body language and facial expression that she felt very bad but was trying to control her emotions because he was here with her. So he held Peeraya's hand with his slender hand and rubbed it gently.

"Don't be angry. Don't get all worked up. This room isn't that big so I can't hear what's being said"

"You're not angry because she talked bad about you?"

"No. Because all she can do is talk. And you should know that she won't even get a chance to get close to me" Pipim added when he saw Peeraya remaining silent.

"And thank you for persistently protecting me. I'm impressed. Thank you for treating me with respect"

"Are you flirting with me?"

Peeraya teased Pipim now that she felt a little better.

Pipim laughed because Peeraya seemed to be in a good mood.

"If you like it, you can call it that"

—
Pipim's father's case moved quickly, and it seemed that the real perpetrator was keeping quiet so as not to be exposed. In other words, the criminal was ready to take off if there was an unexpected incident. At the same time, Pipim's workload was once again burdensome after the holidays, she was busy being a thesis supervisor for almost 10 students. Peeraya, who was still diligently driving Pipim back and forth, had to ask when she saw her workload.

"Why do so many students choose you as their supervisor? Are there not enough professors, so the heavy workload is on you? And you are too kind to agree to do all this rather than asking for help"

Pipim smiled.

"I've already chosen which one to accept. If I didn't do it, there would be almost 20"

"Aren't there enough professors?"

The young professor shook her head.

"There are many students. And you should know that your girlfriend is very popular among the students."

Pipim just wanted to tease Peeraya. In fact, the students thought that she was easier to talk to than other professors. Also, to get good grades, it was important to choose a kind-hearted professor.

As for whether there was another hidden agenda, Pipim didn't care. However, the possessiveness was so serious that she didn't want to start the car.

"It's not like I don't know. Why would I drop you off and pick you up like this?"

"..."

"At least those who are waiting for the opportunity will know indirectly that you are taken"

"Oh? Where's the announcement?"

The young professor teased back.

"Pipim, my dear. If I have to do it, I will kiss you in front of everyone to announce it. No need for any announcement"

"Are you threatening me?"

"Oh, right"

"Good. Because if you really intended to do that, I would have called to tell Plenga to forget about the dinner we had prepared for you"

Peeraya laughed.

"My dear. You should know that Perth will never do anything that will make me lose points"

"Then, start the engine. Or you won't get dinner tonight"

Actually, Peeraya should have gone home two hours ago, but she was talking to the young professor's father and lost track of time. So now she was on the floor, staring at Paul, who was repeatedly sighing at her while waiting for Pipim to take a shower.

"It's late. Dad said Phi Pim should let Phi sleep here. Driving late at night is dangerous" Pleng said to her flatly.

Peeraya swore that she didn't plan this, it was all Pipim's doing. And the obedient daughter willingly agreed without any argument. But Pleng who spoke gave her a hard look. If Peeraya could follow Pipim to her room, she wouldn't be sitting here with Paul.

A small body in pajamas and an alluring scent appeared after the sound of the bathroom door opening. Pipim glanced at the person sitting with Paul and felt the cute aggression again.

"Can you wear Pim's clothes?"

Pipim wasn't sure when she started using her own name when talking to Peeraya.

"Yes. Our sizes are not much different, except..."

Peeraya teased her by looking down at her breasts, so Pipim immediately threw a new towel at her.

"Don't be naughty. Go take a shower. I have work to do"

"Why is Professor Pipim working non-stop like this?"

"Go take a shower"

But as soon as Peeraya entered the bathroom, there was a knock on the door before she could even take off her clothes.

"Open the door first, Perth!"

Pipim looked at the bathroom sink counter, where there was space to put some things, as the bathroom door opened. Peeraya looked in the same direction and was surprised. She turned her gaze away from Pipim's old clothes on the counter, where a black bra and panties were neatly folded and placed on top.

Not only did she hide her figure well but she also hid her sexiness well...

Who would have imagined that someone with such a calm demeanor would wear lacy underwear? Although it was only on the edge, it wasn't the usual design you would expect when looking at it from the outside.

The slamming of the door startled Peeraya from her reverie. She walked over to lock the door before rubbing her face as she let out a sigh.

"Am I going to have a heart attack? Even though we're both women, why does my heart flutter when I see that?"

Peeraya expected to see Pipim at her desk when she came out of the bathroom, but instead she found that Paul was fast asleep and lying across the desk. Because of that,

Pipim had to move instead reading her student's thesis on the bed.

Peeraya was ignored by the owner of the room and the cat. So the ignored person walked awkwardly to dry her towel on the balcony, following Pipim's instructions. When she walked back to the room, she saw Pipim massaging her own shoulders, so she walked over and slowly sat on the edge of the bed.

"Do you feel sore?"

"Yes"

"Move a little. I'll massage you"

That sentence made Pipim look up from the book in her hand. When she saw the seriousness on Peeraya's face, she moved from leaning against the headboard to facing away from Peeraya.

"Do you know how to massage?"

"A little. I used to massage my mother"

"Unbelievable"

Pipim muttered and looked at her work.

She had a pencil in her hand. Peeraya saw that she had circled a lot of content on each page, which included misspellings, missing content, and content that did not match the concept.

And it seemed that Peeraya's massage skills were better than expected because Pipim unconsciously let out a deep groan as if she really liked it. As said, Peeraya liked to look at Pipim's neck, especially when she saw it this close. Because Pipim liked to wear her hair in a bun, although it was currently tied loosely and there were a few strands of hair hanging down covering it.

Peeraya could still see it clearly.

Pipim was shocked and shivered when she felt Peeraya's hot lips on her nape. She swallowed before turning to look at the person behind her as she bit her lower lip tightly.

"What are you doing?"

Peeraya stared into her eyes before answering softly. Pipim's closeness and alluring scent made her lose control.

"I don't want to be patient anymore"

Pipim pressed her lips tightly together as Peeraya emphasized the word no by kissing the bare skin of her neck near the shoulder area.

Pipim didn't even know when Peeraya moved forward and took the pillow and book from her lap to put on the bed. She then moved up and slowly pushed Pipim down until Pipim's back touched the soft bed. Her lips were naughty all the time. Biting Pipim's neck while inhaling Pipim's scent.

And Pipim found it harder to breathe when her waist was massaged gently before the hand slipped under her pajamas to brush her bare skin.

"P...Perth."

The voice was not enough to attract Peeraya's attention, so Pipim used both hands to push Peeraya's face out of her neck and spoke in a husky voice like before. She was just an ordinary woman, not a rock that didn't feel anything when aroused. Of course, she felt something, and she felt it very much. But this was not the time. Her cute aggression towards Peeraya was stopped because other feelings had taken over.

"Just a kiss. Can you do that for Pim?"

It was a request that she wanted Peeraya to hear and obey. Because, honestly, if Peeraya wanted it, she was afraid she wasn't strong enough to say no.

"..."

"Be patient, sweetie. Pim knows that you can do it. Because if you can't, this might be our only night"

He was very good at threats.

Peeraya sighed and pressed her lips tightly together because she knew deep down that it was too early for them to go that far. And Pipim's obedience so far was more than enough. In response, her lips pressed on the same spot, and emotions were released through the wrestling of tongues. Pipim was not yet good at kissing, and Peeraya was happy about it. Her experience told her

Peeraya believed that Pipim was an easy person to approach, but she was the lucky one.

The sweet sensation and the intertwined tongues caused moans to come out again and again. Peeraya weighed Pipim down and used her right hand to hold Pipim's beautiful face while grinding her lips repeatedly. She felt hot in the middle of her body.

Peeraya had to pull her lips away before she lost complete control and ignored Pipim's wishes and requests. She snuggled her face into Pipim's shoulder before taking a deep breath.

Pipim also bit her lip hard because she felt no different. It's hard to stop your natural instincts that want to jump out and dance.

In the end, Peeraya lifted herself up to give Pipim a kiss on her forehead and lay down beside her, instead of lying in a dangerous position like before.

The beautiful professor turned to lie on her side and smiled at the person lying on her back with her eyes closed. Trying to control herself. She poked her finger into Peeraya's cheek to get her attention.

"Yes?"

"Thank you"

"What?"

"Thank you for being patient"

Peeraya smiled before turning to lie on her side as well. She reached out to pull Pipim into her arms, resting her chin on Pipim's head.

"My feelings have been way beyond that lately. Did you know that?"

Pipi paused for a moment. Her heart was beating fast again after just calming down.

"I know. Just now. When you told me"

However, there were three knocks on the door before they could continue their conversation, then Papie called out. The two had to move away from each other. Pipim checked to make sure her clothes, face and hair were okay before she walked to open the door. Peeraya only took Pipim's pillow and her homework to read because she didn't know what to do.

"What's wrong, Ple?"

Papie narrowed her eyes at her sister before sweeping her eyes around the room. She was annoyed to see the swollen lips. Her sharp eyes swept with the intention to give Peeraya a sharp glare, but Peeraya just smiled and blinked back.

"What happened to your lips? Why are they swollen?"

"Ah..."

That was all Pipim could do because she didn't know what to say. Papie sighed before saying why she was here.

"I came to pick up Paul"

"He's asleep"

"Yes. I'll take him to sleep with me"

Pipim sighed and let her little brother come in to carry the orange cat. Papie sniffed like a gun dog, sniffing the scent.

"What's wrong?"

Pipim asked while patting her little brother's head because she didn't want him to feel that she was losing his importance.

"I smell something"

"What?"

"I smell love in the air!"

"..."

Of course... There was a strange vibration spreading throughout the room. And it shone on both of their faces as they looked embarrassed and awkward.

"I hope I didn't interrupt anything"

"Nah. Nothing. Interfering with what?"

Pipim denied it in a very high voice, but Papie didn't believe it at all. So he turned to talk to Peeraya.

"Please respect the other people in this house when you do something!"

After that, Papie stepped out of the room, taking Paul with him.
There was a soft laugh from Peeraya to send him off with admiration.

"Stop laughing, Perth"

Pipim turned to complain.

"Pleng must know what we just did"

"Then, next time we can do it at my place so we don't have to worry about other people in your house knowing"
!!!!

11. ANGEL

After that teasing sentence, Pipim could no longer restrain her cute aggression towards Peeraya. The young professor walked with wide strides to pinch Peeraya's upper arm so hard that she cried and whined. A red mark immediately appeared, although it had faded a lot.

"It hurts"

There were tears of pain in Peeraya's eyes. But Pipim did not pity her one bit because her cute behavior covered everything. Honestly, she never expected to see this side of Peeraya because of her businessman image, and when they first met, she was very serious. But it turned out that she was just like Pleng. However, when she thought back carefully, when they first met, Peeraya teased Jaojay until the young girl also looked at her with crossed eyes.

"Why did you become like this?"

"Like what?"

"How can you say that without feeling embarrassed?"

"Pipim. I'm just being honest. That's what I feel"

Pipim stared at Peeraya sharply. Even though Peeraya was in so much pain that she wanted to cry, Pipim, who looked like a fierce cat, looked adorable in her eyes. That's how it is with cats. Anyone who gets too close will be pounced on sooner or later.

"Come on, let's go to sleep"

"Aren't you going to work anymore?"

"I'm not in the mood to work"

Peeraya looked adoring. How could someone be this cute when they're angry? It was really fun to see this side of Pipim every now and then because she usually kept a straight face, as if she had no emotions. So whenever Pipim expressed her emotions through her face, Peeraya couldn't take her eyes off her.

She even kept a straight face and only raised her eyebrows when she said something that made Peeraya so embarrassed that she lost her cool. Pipim's facial expression rarely changed. Peeraya wasn't sure if she was just good at hiding her feelings or what. But for now, she didn't want to make herself worse so that she really got upset, so she hurriedly tidied up all the things on the bed and put them on the table where Paul was sleeping. Peeraya then patted the bed to invite Pipim to come to the bed, acting like she was the owner of the room.

"Move further"

The young woman said that as she sat on the bed. She gestured to the edge of the bed with her eyes, so Peeraya had to reluctantly move there. But it couldn't be that far because Pipim's single bed was only 5 feet wide. No matter how far they slept, they were very close.

"We can sleep together, but do you want to sleep this far?"

Peeraya asked while unconsciously making puppy eyes.

Seeing that, Pipim stopped and lowered her head before answering.

"Yes"

"What should I do if I want to hug you when I sleep?"

"If the person you want to hug, wants you to hug her, you will eventually hug her."

"Can I hug her tonight?"

"If you hug someone who already asleep and doesn't know it, I think you can"

"I have to wait until she fall asleep? That's going to take a long time"

"Maybe so. Why? If it takes a while, won't you wait?"

Peeraya immediately shook her head when she asked that. At this moment, she was transformed into a child who had fortunately, Pipim was able to answer all of them.

It seemed like she wouldn't let the room go quiet so easily.

"Are you having trouble sleeping, my dear Pipims?"

Peeraya had called her many times already, and Pipim didn't want her curious feelings to linger, so she asked directly.

"What are you going to call me?

"Using 'you' feels so distant. I prefer Pim, or Pipim my dear, because it makes us closer"

"Isn't this close enough?"

Pipim asked while raising her eyebrows.

But she admitted that what Peeraya said was right. She just wasn't used to it.

"I think we should be a little closer"

Peeraya didn't just communicate with her words, she also moved closer to Pipim.

"I haven't slept yet. Don't come any closer"

The soft voice became louder, as if she was scolding Peeraya, and the person who received it laughed.

Peeraya lay on her side and looked at Pipim without the slightest sign of boredom.

"Pipim my dear, can't you sleep?"

"If you want to hug me, be quiet. If we play this Q&A game all night, I won't be able to sleep"

Peeraya smiled softly and moved her face closer until she saw Pipim's sharp gaze. She paused and explained.

"I'm not hugging you. I just want to say, sweet dreams"

Peeraya pressed her lips gently against Pipim's forehead. She left a sincere touch and a gentle gaze when she said it again.

"Sweet dreams"

The funny argument completely erased the funny aggression that Pipim had towards Peeraya before. So Pipim unconsciously smiled softly at Peeraya and imitated her actions. She moved her face closer, and Peeraya was stunned by the warm touch on her forehead.

"Sweet dreams too"

Peeraya didn't have to try not to fall asleep or sleep longer than Pipim because of the soft kiss on the forehead. She didn't know how much time had passed. When she finally moved to hug Pipim, there was no rejection or complaint. So she moved to hug her back.

Her slid her arm under the little one's neck and pulled her into a hug. She pressed her lips gently against her forehead again and rested her chin on Pipim's head before she slowly closed her eyes. Aside from her trembling and pounding heart, another thing that crossed her mind was the desire to bring this happiness home to live with her. What should she do if that was what she wanted...

Pipim's presence lifted Peeraya's mood. This was obvious to the people around her, including those who looked for other people's weaknesses to exploit, such as her relatives. For those close to her, being attached to someone was a weakness.

There was a shareholders' meeting today. Since this was a family business, most of those present were close relatives. Peeraya's open support for Pongsathorn, who works in the finance department and is Pipim's father, was brought up once again. And when that topic was brought up, there were also those who wanted to oppose the reinvestigation of the case. No matter which side you were on, if it was for your own benefit, someone who didn't care if others were in trouble as long as it didn't affect them personally would step in.

"I find that unreasonable, vice president. We already have solid evidence. Why are we reinvestigating it?"

"I agree. Just file a lawsuit and get our money back."

"And you think I don't have evidence?"

Peeraya said as she swept her eyes across the room. Not forgetting to look at her father, who was sitting in the president's chair. Seeing that he did not say anything, Peeraya continued.

"I do my job as vice president. I make decisions and take actions with the best interests of the company in mind, with the goal of maximizing profits"

"..."

"Do you believe that I'm here just to play and act as I please? I don't deny that I'm reinvestigating for personal reasons. But that's because the evidence I have clearly shows that Pongsathorn, my lover's father, is innocent. If someone close to you was framed, would you just sit there and do nothing?"

"..."

"And if you all pay a little attention, you will see that the document in front of you contains specifics about what. The only thing that must be done is to bring the real criminal to justice"

At this point, the president's middle-aged secretary leaned over to whisper something. He then sighed and interjected to ease the tension created by the vice president.

"Okay. Let's skip this topic for now and talk about what's on the agenda. What the vice president has done by majority vote cannot be denied now"

Taking sides...Since the president who has the highest authority spread his wings to protect his daughter, everyone could only remain silent, swallow their words, and not make any more challenges.

However, someone stared at the Peeraya with a sharp and angry gaze and clenched fists.

Pipim had a problem. She found a student's thesis that was almost a photocopy of someone else's thesis on the internet. She could tell from reading only part of it. She called the student to ask him frankly, but the student denied it, became upset, and shouted at her.

"Does the professor have any evidence to accuse me like this? I've put the references behind"

"But you didn't explain the reason for using them. And most importantly, why did you copy all the content on the internet to use in your thesis? References are not where you copy other people's work"

"Oh my"

The young man forcefully leaned back in his chair.

"Rewrite it and hand it in next class. Otherwise, I'll have to tell the dean what you did"

"..."

"You're pursuing a degree in design. You should already be aware that every work and idea is valuable, protected by patents. And you should understand the severity of stealing someone else's work better than anyone else"

The student stared at Pipim with a sharp gaze. Her beauty was admirable, but her assertiveness and honesty were annoying.

At this point, he wanted to show her what a student like him could do.

"You'll regret telling me that"

After saying that, he immediately got up and walked out. Pipim sighed because she knew his reputation. She knew that this student was arrogant, aggressive, and would never bow to anyone because his last name was the same as a high-ranking politician.

However, Pipim had to do her job.

That night, Peeraya carried her tired body to pick up Pipim. Instead of waiting in the car like usual, she stood beside her car because she saw that there were not many people around.

The young professor had been working late like this almost every day lately. As soon as Pipim arrived, even before they got into the car, the vice president put her forehead on her shoulder from behind. The young professor tried to look at her but only see a lock of hair. This was the first time Peeraya had shown her tiredness like this.

"Are you tired?"

She willingly stood still to be Peeraya's support and asked softly. She understood well because her father tended to be like this when she came home too. And someone with a higher position like Peeraya probably didn't feel any different.

"Yes. There are so many problems today. Should I resign and give the company to someone else?"

Peeraya mumbled against Pipim's back. The soft scent of Pipim's body helped calm her down.

"That's not a good idea. It's yours,"

Pipim said softly.

"It's full of wild animals and leeches," Peeraya complained.

"Is it partly because of my father's case?"

"Some of it, but not all. Don't think too much"

Peeraya said that while still curled up in the same place. She didn't care who saw her. That was Peeraya, she didn't care about what happened around her if it didn't involve people or things that were important to her.

"I'm sorry"

Pipim apologized because her family problems made Peeraya even more tired. She raised her hand to pat Peeraya's head gently to comfort her. She also comforted her with words because she was still aware that Peeraya was older than her.

"It's okay. Take a rest if you're tired"

If you asked her if it was tiring dealing with people in her company, she should say it. But once she was comforted carefully, all her tiredness just disappeared.

Her tiredness was like an ice cube warmed by Pipim's warmth. It gradually melted until there was nothing left. Peeraya believed it wholeheartedly. It was another day that Pipim's house welcomed Peeraya.

Pipim's father had not returned from work. There were probably a lot of things to handle at the end of the month like this. As for Nong Pleng, she probably saw Peeraya looking very tired so she didn't act possessively towards her sister right now. But Peeraya also saw Pipim say something to her, so maybe that was the reason her little sister behaved well today. Deep down in her heart, she was filled with tears because Pipim had a family that she could trust, rely on, and love with all her heart.

"Are you in a hurry to go back?"

Pipim walked back to ask her, The young professor pulled the edge of his white shirt from her pants and let her hair down from its usual bun. She let her hair down casually and tied it into a ponytail.

Peeraya saw Pipim holding a black hair ribbon in her mouth while using her teeth to stretch it and continue tying her hair. She shook her head after she was done. Peeraya had to admit that just that action could make her heart flutter.

Who would have thought that one day her heart would flutter just by seeing someone tie her hair...

"If not, then wait a moment. I will cook something for you"

"I'll help..."

"No need. Today, your job is to sit still, here"

Pipi interrupted her before she could even finish her sentence and scolded her.

"Do you understand?"

"Yes, I understand"

Because of the order not to help, but no order not to approach, Peeraya stood with her arms crossed in front of her chest, leaning against the kitchen door. The beautiful professor was wearing an apron, cutting vegetables and meat. She glanced at Peeraya from time to time.

"I didn't bother you at all. Don't look like you're going to scold me, Pipim"

"If you're tired, why don't you sit down and rest? Why are you standing there staring at me like this?"

"My tiredness disappears when I see you"

Pipim didn't respond and instead cooked. Peeraya's dinner today was hot clear soup. Thai omelet, and jasmine rice. It was a simple menu that was priceless in terms of feelings. She was really comfortable when she was with Pipim. Nothing was boring at all. Although she was a simple person, Peeraya always felt comfortable when she was with her.

She never made her feel heavy-hearted, and most importantly, Pipim always boosted her low self-confidence.

Pipim assured Peeraya that if she he loved her, she would be a very lucky person.

"Come here"

Peeraya raised her eyebrows but willingly got up and walked towards Pipim. Today, they were not in a place where they could risk being too intimate like yesterday because the living room was not a place where she could do what she wanted.

Knowing that she was under Papie's supervision, she had to be very careful. She did not want to risk Pipim's family members not really liking her.

"Come sit here"

Pipim pointed to a location, and once Peeraya complied, Pipim walked to stand behind her and massaged both sides of her neck gently.

"Don't say anything. Just take what Pim does for you"

That was all it took to close the lips that wanted to say something.

Peeraya remained silent and let Pipim treat her as she wished.

"Can you massage too?"

"No. I've never massaged anyone."

"But you can do it."

"I read from the internet. It has all kinds of information."

After a shoulder massage to reduce stress, Peeraya chooses to go home. She intends to come back because she wants to give Pipim a private room too.

Pipim's personal space as well. Being so sticky might be annoying.

"Can I get a sandwich for breakfast and lunch tomorrow?"

"Why?"

"I have a meeting. I probably won't have time to go out and get real food."

"You have so many meetings"

The young professor grinned slightly as she said that.

"It's almost the end of the quarter. I'm going to invite you for a date after this"

"I didn't ask for that."

Peeraya laughing.

"Then, could Perth ask for it? Could you date me?"

Pipim narrowed her eyes before nodding.

"Go home"

"I want to take you home"

"Nonsense. You have to succeed in making me your real girlfriend first."

Peeraya smiled and moved closer to press her lips against Pipim's forehead.

"I'm leaving"

The gesture had become a ritual for both of them.

"Ah-huh. Drive safely"

There were no big gestures. Pipim was like that. She expressed herself in a straightforward manner, like a professor. However, before Peeraya could drive too far, she raised her eyebrows when Pipim called her.

"What?"

[Park first]

"Huh?"

[Take your headphones or connect to the car's Bluetooth]

"Wait, Pipim. Is everything okay? I can turn the car now"

Peeraya asked anxiously and turned on the signal as she parked on the side of the road. She was about to turn the steering wheel to make a U-turn.

[Everything is okay]

The other end of the phone went silent for a while. Peeraya had to look at the screen to make sure Pipim was still connected.

"Pipim"

[Pim can't go home with you but can stay on track like this]

"..."

Peeraya was silent. She knew that there was a smile on her face, and it was a smile filled with admiration and love.

[Can you take your headphones off now?]

"Okay, sweetie"

Pipim didn't talk much while talking on the phone. She had already stated that she would only stay on the phone until Peeraya come home. Peeraya could hear her doing this and that from time to time. But this was enough to make her feel warm inside.

The little things that showed that she cared made Peeraya's feelings for her grow exponentially.

Peeraya finally said something to him when he returned home safely.

"Pipim. I feel like someone who's in love"

[What do you mean?]

"You called to stay connected when I got home"

[...]

"Being guarded like this makes me willing to do anything, no matter how tired I am"

[That's not good]

"Huh?"

[If we were real lovers, Pipim would take care of you more than this. But most importantly, I don't like seeing my girlfriend tired]

"By saying that, do you mean to tell me to confess to you as soon as possible?"

[I don't know]

The other end of the phone answered flatly.

[Get some rest now that you're home. Sweet dreams, dear]

That was all Pipim said before hanging up. Peeraya didn't even have time to reply because she was shaken by Pipim's sweet words. She was so naughty. She knew Peeraya liked her, so she intended to make her heart tremble. If she was within reach, Peeraya swore that she would bite those soft lips until they were swollen so that Nong Pleng would notice her again.

12. BROWN EYES

You will know when you are loved by someone because the eyes will tell, the words will say it all, and the actions will be obvious.

Pipim could feel all of that from Peeraya in a short time. She became someone who had a big influence on her feelings. She now squeezed time out of her busy schedule to ask her out, as she had promised.

It seemed like the right time to talk about something Sitang had asked for.

"Perth"

"Yes?"

The driver turned around and raised her eyebrows. An overwhelming happiness emanated from her. It was hard to explain, but Pipim could also feel the sincerity radiating from her.

Pipim was afraid that she was just playing with her at first. But as the days passed, her sincerity showed that she was not like that. It was no wonder that her ex was still clinging to her.

Her ex might realize when it was too late. Maybe she regretted losing Peeraya, or maybe it was something else, but Pipim thought it was the latter. Because if you had a dream partner, why would you want to get back together with your ex-lover?

"Si said she wanted to sell all her shares to you"

"What?"

"Si wanted to sell shares that someone close to you wanted to buy in order to have more power"

"Why?"

Peeraya raised her eyebrows as she asked.

She was still focused on driving. Pipim could see her sharp nose and focused eyes.

She didn't want them at first, but she didn't want employees who were dedicated and relied on the company to lose their job"

"Ah..."

Although she said she had nothing against the person in Pipi's heart, she couldn't help but become quiet or tense just by hearing her name. Pipim seemed to know that well and did not complain. She only reached out to touch the back of Peeraya's hand on the gear knob and squeezed it lightly to comfort her.

"Jaojay changed her mind"

"So it's because of love"

If you asked Peeraya if she had negative thoughts about Sitang, she would say no. But no one could be completely comfortable with someone girlfriend loved that quickly. There must be a rebellious side.

"Something like that"

"And do you want me to help her?"

"Yes. Pim thinks you can do it well. And most importantly, you want to get back at those who want to stab your family in the back. What will happen when they realize that their new target is you?"

"..."

"They will be very angry, right?"

Peeraya laughed at that. She released the gear knob and turned her hand to hold Pipim's hand. Because her eyes were still on the road, she did not see Pipim's angry expression.

"That suits my girlfriend"

Peeraya didn't think that Pipim was someone who held a grudge like that, but hearing that made her feel happy. Because it showed that Pipim was not someone who let others hurt her unilaterally.

If someone was nice to her, she would be nice to them. But if someone tried to hurt her, she would return it more than what they did to her. Peeraya was like that too, and if someone said that it was a bad character, she had to accept it.

"At first I wasn't interested, but now I have to ask: how much did your friend ask for?"

"I'll tell you that you're interested"

Pipim smiled in response to Peeraya's question.

Because she was required to maintain a polite and serious attitude as a professor, only a few people saw her when she was angry. But deep down, she was very unhappy because someone trapped her family until she didn't see a way out. If she hadn't been lucky enough to meet Peeraya, she still didn't know if her father could smile every day like this.

The place where Peeraya took her was located in the suburbs. It was full of greenery and trees. The restaurant was decorated with whitewashed wood and warm light, which makes it more cute and cozy. The door is a glass door with an aluminum frame. All the elements make this place relaxing. There are staff members in the parking area to help customers. There are already several cars parked when they get there, indicating that the place is quite popular.

"This belongs to a junior acquaintance of mine. She resigned from her hotel chef position to become a chef here with her girlfriend."

The staff in the parking area bow to show respect and help other customers. Pipim smiles because she immediately likes this place when she sees it.

"The place is cute"

Peeraya smiles back.

"Just like the owner. She's petite and cute"

She says that while unbuckling her seatbelt.

Pipim looks at Peeraya from the corner of her eye as Peeraya compliments others. It was an automatic reaction. She didn't mean to do it.

"Why are you looking at me like that? Don't tell me you're possessive of me"

The person who received the gaze teased.

"No"

Pipim responded with a straight face.

Because she was still in the car, Peeraya bent down to press her lips against Pipim's beautiful lips.

"Your lips aren't tight"

"What?"

The careless person asked while pushing Peeraya's shoulder because her face wouldn't move away. Very close.

"If you're possessive, just say it. You don't need to stare at me that hard"

"I said that I'm not possessive. But if we're really girlfriend, maybe..."

"How are we not real girlfriend?"

Pipim stared into Peeraya's eyes before answering.

"No one has asked me yet. So I'm just your fake girlfriend, not the real one. I don't know if I can be possessive"

So funny...

That's how Peeraya felt about Pipim's aloofness. He was so good at playing it with a straight face and a loud voice. It made Peeraya want to tease him until she lost her cool.

"If I ask you, will you answer it?"

"You're not thinking of asking me now, are you?"

"Does that mean you'll definitely tell me if I ask?

"Please do it somewhere more appropriate than in a car like this"

She was always like this. How could Peeraya not feel a certain cute aggression towards her? She wanted to jump on her and tease her, so she lost her cool. Peeraya pulled the hand on her shoulder before kissing the back of it as she responded.

"Can we kiss to secure the deal first?"

"How should I respond to that? You asking means I can say no?"

"Ah... I guess you can't"

As soon as she finished saying that, Peeraya pressed her lips against Pipim's. Luckily the car windows were so dark that if you weren't right at the window to peek in, you wouldn't see anything. And that was why Peeraya could grind and devour those lips as much as she wanted. She tasted the sweet taste she wanted, her tongue moving to intertwine slowly and gently.

As time went by, she kissed the corner of Pipim's mouth before continuing to nibble her ear. The hot breath that blew against Pipim's skin made her sink into the passenger seat of the car with goosebumps.

"Ahh"

A deep moan escaped as Peeraya took the skin around Pipim's neck into her mouth. Her nose inhaled Pipim's alluring scent. Her tiredness and the emotional distance between them from their time apart faded. Each day brought a deeper sense of connection between them.

"If I were your real girlfriend, I wouldn't stop here."

Peeraya whispered to let Pipim know that if she had the right to do more, all his patience would be gone. She would be unbearable.

"Wait until the day you become my real girlfriend"

"..."

So bold....

"If you give me a glimpse of your bad behavior, I won't let you. If you want to change our status, remember that"

"..."

So good at threatening...

"You little kitten, Pipim. Look at your size. I won't get lost even if you don't threaten or try to intimidate me"

"Good. Let's start by not praising others in front of me"

Pipim pushed Peeraya away after saying that because she didn't want to be in a position where she was at risk of being taken advantage of more than this. It wasn't that she didn't trust Peeraya, sometimes she didn't even trust herself. Because in just a short time together, Peeraya had already made her feel this way.

"So you're jealous"

"No. I'm just saying. You can obey or not, it's up to you"

Peeraya laughed and didn't answer. But she believed that Pipim knew that she would definitely obey and let Pipim do what she wanted.

The petite and cute woman Peeraya was talking about was Ralilpat.

What Peeraya said was not far from the truth. She was wearing a black apron with the name of the shop in the left corner. And under the shop name, it said 'Owner' to show her status.

Pipim was not surprised that her shop was full of customers. According to firsthand experience, shops that are run by their owners tend to be more popular among customers.

Ralilpat smiled as she greeted them. She called a child with the same facial features to come greet them as well.

"Lil, this is Pipim, my girlfriend,"

Peeraya introduced them.

"Hi,"

The little chef raised her hand to greet Pipim before bowing to tell her daughter to do the same.

"Miki, say hello to Khun Bibi."

Peeraya scrunched up her face when she heard what she was called.

"How many times have I told you that I prefer Aunt Perth?"

"But P'Perth is older than me."

"Still, call me Aunt Perth."

"Hello, Aunt Perth. Hello, Aunt Pim."

The little girl raised her hand to salute, remembering the adults' conversations well. The 5-year-old girl swept her eyes left and right before tugging at her mother's apron.

"Where's Mommy?"

"Chef. Did Miki hide my music chart again? I can't find it."

Before Chef could answer, Mommy or Kirati approached and asked with a frown. Probably not realizing that they had a guest.

"Mommy's been working non-stop."

The young girl denied, claiming that she was really hiding her mother's work.

"Mommy's working"

"Mommy forgot to watch cartoons with Miki. Mommy has to be punished!"

Both of her hands were on the little girl's hips as she said that. She looked very serious.

"Okay..."

She couldn't argue. In the end, Kirati raised her hand to signal that she was raising the white flag. Her daughter was becoming more and more like a little Chef every day, which was why she loved and protected her more than anything else.

Pipim looked at the cute family and couldn't help but smile. She wanted to hold the little girl but still felt uncomfortable around them to ask for permission to do so. So she just pulled Peeraya and commented.

"That girl is so cute"

"Ah-huh. Are you interested in having her for yourself?"

"We can do that?"

Pipim tilted her head to the side as she asked.

"If Lil can do it, why can't we?"

Pipim knew what silikik meant by double meaning, so she immediately changed the topic.

"I want to play with Miki"

When Kirati realized that they had guests, she immediately nodded to show respect before smiling at the two happily because it was rare for them to be able to welcome Chef's guests. Even though Chef was married, there were still people who came to tease her so Kirati had to look fierce to chase them away all the time. Even though she knew that Chef would never respond or be interested, she still couldn't hold back her teeth at all the teasing.

"Chef take care of your staff, I'll look after the shop for you."

"Don't go serving that group of students alone"

The little chef told his girlfriend, who looked confused but willingly nodded.

"Why?"

But she asked again.

"Why do you want to interact with kids who like you?"

"Ah..."

In response to that, Kirati looked at the table and scratched her neck shyly. Even though they had been together for a long time, they were still very possessive of each other. Actually, Kirati liked that. She's just a little shy because they have friends with them. Sometimes, she's insensitive (that's what Chef said). She doesn't realize who is interested in her because she only has eyes and attention for his daughter and girlfriend.

"Why is Mommy's face all red?"

Miki said while pointing her finger at Kirati. Kirati had to bend down and kiss her daughter on both cheeks to hide her embarrassment. She then told her daughter not to be naughty with the guests and Chef before she took over the duties behind the counter in Chef's place.

Peeraya glanced at Pipim briefly because the person standing next to her showed the same possessive attitude and a little intimidation.

"See? She only said that she was possessive when he was possessive. Do you understand?"

Pipim looked back before answering flatly and softly to make sure the conversation was only between the two of them.

"You should know without me having to say it. Do you need me to do that? You're an adult"

"Even though some already know, they still want to hear it"

"Ah. Do you like me being possessive?"

"No. I like you"

Peeraya laughing softly when she sees Pipim's frowning face.

Every time she teased Pipim like this, Pipim would act awkward. Maybe she didn't like it. But Peeraya wouldn't stop teasing Pipim like this.

Almost a week after their date, photos of Pipim and Peeraya expressing their love inappropriately in the university area were spread. The source was unknown. But Peeraya got into trouble again in a company meeting.

"If the vice president still acts like this, the company's image will get worse in the eyes of the public"

"That's right. Why did you act like this without even considering your position?"

"That was on the university campus. Would people think that our top management acted without considering the situation carefully?"

"We didn't even talk about being open about being LGBT. Some seniors in the industry

can't accept it like the younger generation"

"I'm sure the vice president acted without thinking too much about the company's reputation. What do you think, president?"

Peeraya remained silent after hearing all those harsh words. She didn't want to give much value. Her father's words, however, made her stressed.

"I thought Perth would be smarter than this."

His father spoke in a serious tone. He didn't know whether it was a warning or advice.

"If you continue like this, I should reconsider whether I'm giving you too much freedom."

"Dad... I did that because I felt sad that day. Isn't it appropriate to get comfort and support from my lover?"

"It's inappropriate. But does it make people look at Perth favorably?"

"Perth doesn't care. They can think what they want"

"You can't not care. As long as you carry the position of vice president on your shoulders, you should be more careful with your actions. I also haven't talked to you about putting the Pongsathorn case on the agenda for the last meeting"

"I didn't have a problem with that before"

"Dad wouldn't have done it if my secretary hadn't reported to him that it was causing our stock to drop. It doesn't matter what people outside the industry think about it. But what people in the industry think about it. Perth should know better than anyone how damaging it is to the company's image"

"..."

"Don't you know that everyone wants your vice president position?"

"..."

Peeraya fell silent because she thought that what her father understood best was what she understood least. More importantly, she seemed to care more about the value of the company's stock than her feelings. That really hurt her.

"Keep your distance from the President this time. Don't be too obvious"

"What's too obvious to you, Dad? Expressing my feelings in public, not just in private?"

"You are hostile and emotional rather than rational, Peeraya"

"That's because Perth doesn't understand you, father"

"This is what Viruj suggested, and father agreed"

Peeraya frowned.

"It seems like whatever your secretary says is trustworthy"

"He has been with me for a long time"

"But Perth has been with you since I was born! If you can't trust and have confidence in your only daughter, I can take the position I said I had on my shoulders"

"Perth!"

Peeraya felt upset. Everything she did was aimed at making her parents proud by

having a daughter who would make their family proud. She tried as hard as a boy to overcome the belief that having a son was better than having a daughter. She had been working hard all this time.

She had pushed herself, and didn't rest until she reached this point, no matter how tired she was. Every step wasn't easy, but she had finally gotten here. But waiting at the winning line were his father's harsh words and lack of understanding.

Therefore, she saw no point in staying here any longer. She turned her back on her father and left her office without looking back, even though she called out. Outside, Viruj, his father's trusted secretary, stood with his hands clasped in front of him, looking polite. Peeraya glanced at him and warned him.

"Hold on tight to the position of your most trusted confidant"

"I only have good intentions, vice president"

When she thought of something, the first and only person she thought of was Pipim. But it was too late to meet her, and she was also not emotionally stable enough to dare to meet her. So the only thing Peeraya could do was to let time pass and be naughty by not going home. She instead stayed at a hotel near her office.

The next morning, Peeraya waited in front of Pipim's house before the usual time. Because she couldn't sleep last night, she looked very tired, and anyone who saw her could tell. However, Pipim didn't dare to say anything until her car was parked in a parking lot near her lecture place.

"You look tired"

The young professor picked up.

"I have something to think about"

Pipim paused for a moment. She looked out of the car and approached Peeraya before she kissed the corner of his lips lightly.

"Thank you for driving me, and I hope this can help reduce your fatigue"

Peeraya looked surprised, but not long after, a smile appeared on her face.

"Ah-yes"

He rubbed her fingers where she had just kissed.

"Why are you shy?"

"You suddenly did that. Of course I'm embarrassed"

"Don't overreact, you did more than this without any embarrassment at all"

Peeraya started to look better. Pipim was like her vitamin. She felt better just being close to her.

"I started it, not you"

"And don't you think I'll be embarrassed?"

"Oh? Does that mean you're embarrassed?"

"I didn't say I was embarrassed"

This time, Peeraya burst out laughing. She leaned down to kiss Pipim back, but she pressed her full lips against her soft lips, not just the corners of her mouth.

"We're even now"

"Hey"

"Lips or cheeks are the same"

"..."

"Because in the end, we kissed"

"You're so cunning. A businesswoman is very good at manipulating"

"Aren't you embarrassed at all? I want to see the beautiful professor embarrassed too"

"No"

Pipim answered with a straight face. But Peeraya knew she was just acting.

"Then... My dear Pim, please focus on your work today"

Bughh..

"What did you just say!"

"I'm supporting my girlfriend"

"Geez. Why are you being like this? You're an adult"

"I wonder if you're embarrassed. So, anyway. You're a bit too aggressive"

"Go to work"

Peeraya laughed.

"Didn't you say, my dear Perth, please focus on your work today?"

Pipim narrowed her eyes at Peeraya.

"Are you sure you want to hear me say that?"

"Yes"

This time, a sly smile appeared on Pipim's face. Peeraya was surprised to see it, but she wanted to see what Pipim would do next.

"Sweetie, please focus on your work today"

"..."

"Are you happy now, P'Perth?"

Every word Pipim used to call Peeraya made her happy and on the verge of a heart attack. Pipim was one sly woman who was hard to understand...

"I'm happy. Therefore, I won't work today. I will stick to my girlfriend"

"You're an adult"

"Adults can be naughty too"

Pipim sighed, but Peeraya was more tired than usual, she chose to let him do what she wanted.

"It's up to you then. But in the afternoon, there will be students coming to consult about their theses. You can't be Phi Perth angel sticky and naughty, okay?"

Phi Perth again.

Didn't she know that those words would give the person receivingj a heart attack...

"I'll only stay for half the morning"

In class

Peeraya's eyes made Pipim lose focus even more than the last time she was here. The young professor even made a few mistakes. She tried to avoid eye contact, but every time she looked, Peeraya always sent her a gentle and adoring smile. Strangely, she liked that Peeraya was always paying attention to her like this.

After class, when only the two of them were left, Peeraya approached Pipim.

"Does the professor know that she's really hot when she's concentrating on her lecture? She's so stunning when she scolds that flirtatious student. Oh my, I'm so lucky to be able to see it"

Pipim sighed at this person's overreaction. She looked so tired that the person who teased her laughed.

"I don't want to be a fake girlfriend anymore"

"Why?"

"Do you really want to know?"

"Yes"

"Then, be my real girlfriend, Pipim"

"Then I can wait"

"Why?"

"You're not asking me seriously. If you're like this, then you can keep waiting"

"That's right..."

She was only teasing because she wanted to see Pipim lose her cool. When she seriously asked that question, she wouldn't do it in a place like this. It should at least be a little more romantic than this.

"And don't think that I don't know why you skipped work. If you still want to seduce me, you better tell me everything. Your girlfriend doesn't like someone who keeps secrets from her. That's our third rule that you need to remember, my dear."

"..."

"Don't forget where my father works"

Peeraya was defeated without a chance to fight. Pipim was beautiful and fierce. She knew how to wrap Peeraya around her finger with her eyes, her tone of voice, and the words she used to address her.

Did Pipim want to take full control of her until she didn't have eyes to see anyone else.

13. COUNT ON ME

After hearing about what happened, the young professor was silent. She was silent and unsure whether to comfort Peeraya or not because Peeraya didn't seem to want any comfort. She thought Peeraya didn't want to show her weak side. Because there was no way someone who did everything to make her family proud wouldn't be disappointed or devastated by criticism from the person she loved.

Therefore, the only thing Pipim could and should do now was to stand by her side to let her know that she was not alone. It would be nice if we could lean on someone when we were weak. She wanted to be that someone for Peeraya. The way she looked at Peeraya probably made her feel so weird that she stopped her. Pipim wasn't sure how to look at Peeraya.

When she still had Sitang in her heart and Sitang was having problems, she had to keep it all inside because she couldn't let it be known that she thought of her as more than just a friend. But now she didn't have to hide her feelings, she could show them as much as she wanted with Peeraya.

"Please stop looking so understanding"

Peeraya said softly with a smile on the corner of her mouth. She couldn't deny that Pipim was healing her heart with the way she looked at her.

"Why?"

The young professor raised her eyebrows and tilted her head to the side as she asked.

"It makes me feel like there's no point in trying to act strong. Sometimes I want to look cool in front of you"

"Besides... It makes me want to kiss--"

Pipim stopped at her direct confession and continued to tell Peeraya.

"Why can't you be weak now that you have me? You can be as weak, disappointed, and broken as you want, Perth. You don't have to be strong all the time when you're with me"

"..."

"We all have things that can destroy us"

"..."

"Cry if you're sad. Laugh if you're happy. Smile if you're happy. Don't force yourself"

Peeraya just realized that Pipim was not just a professor who taught students but could also turn into a blanket that wrapped herself up. Peeraya didn't cry or laugh, but she smiled as she leaned her head against her boyfriend's slender shoulders.

Although her heart was still hurting, she felt happy that she had been cared for gently, like someone important.

Pipim made her heart calm and happy. Peeraya reached for Pipim's hand to hold and rubbed her fingers on the back of it while closing her eyes. So this is the relaxed and

safe feeling you get when you are protected and understood by someone.

The person who ran away from home chose to stay at a hotel not far from Pipim's office and house for a few nights. Peeraya was not ready to meet her father. She also chose to remain silent and did not try to contact him. She was probably angry because she argued without holding back like she did. However, she did not just disappear. She still contacted her mother to let her know how she was doing.

Honestly, she wanted to stay at Pipim's place if Pipim did not know what happened. But now that she did, Peeraya was afraid that Pipim's warmth would break her strong front. She didn't want to cry in front of her if she could help it. It wasn't that she didn't trust Pipim, but it was embarrassing for her.

She wanted to be a more mature person than Pipim could rely on, rather than someone she had to take care of. She knew that they had to take care of each other, but still, she didn't want to be comforted like a child. And if Pipim knew that she was thinking like this, she would definitely look at her tiredly and say that she was a 10-year-old Peeraya again.

But actually, she likes it. She likes being a 10-year-old Peeraya in Pipim's eyes....

During this period, Peeraya has enough free time to drop Pipim off and pick her up at the university without any complaints from her.

After the beautiful professor finds out about what happened, she seems less strict with Peeraya, although she still gives her warning looks from time to time when Peeraya is too clingy at the university. But that's all. Peeraya wandered around the campus, the cafeteria, and other buildings without disturbing Pipim when she was in class again (because she was forbidden to do so).

At this point, she knew everything about the campus area. She knew which shop sold the best milk tea, which shop was popular for fried chicken, and which printing shop was the most crowded in three days. It was like she could turn back time and become a student again. She was not surprised that Pipim was so serious, because if Pipim was a little relaxed like her, her students would not respect her.

And because she had a lot of free time, she also noticed something strange. A group of male students tended to look at Pipim and act strangely. She didn't want to assume that they had bad intentions, but it was better to be safe than sorry.

Today, Pipim had an appointment with her students who wanted to consult on their theses at the long table in the middle of the faculty's open space. Peeraya could sit and watch her in the area freely. She noticed that one of the students who was looking at Pipim strangely.

When it was time to go home, Peeraya asked about him as they walked to the parking lot, which was a short distance from the faculty.

"Have there been any problems recently?"

Pipim raised an eyebrow before shaking her head.

"No. What's wrong?"

Peeraya shook her head in response.

"Nothing. I was just asking. I see that you've been very busy lately"

"Who can be naughty and skip work as freely as 10-year-old Peeraya? Don't complain that you miss me when I go back to work"

"I'm an adult. I won't whine like that"

"Pim likes adults. Therefore, after you get better. You should go back and face reality."

Pim knows you don't like fighting with your family like this"

Pipim's tone became serious at the end of the sentence, and the people listening nodded in agreement.

"Then can I be 10-year-old Perth for 2-3 more days? I'll grow up fast after that"

Peeraya said that with a gentle smile, as she always did. But that face quickly changed into a shocked one as Pipim started to cross the street when the pedestrian light turned green, but a car that was speeding towards her showed no signs of slowing down. She didn't even know when Pipim had sped up until she was out of reach.

Peeraya moved as fast as she could to grab Pipim's waist and pull her into her arms as they both fell to the ground together. Her elbow hit the ground so hard that it bled. Peeraya screamed in pain, but her eyes were busy checking on her boyfriend to see if Pipim was hurt. She then looked at the car, which had not slowed down but continued to drive away without a care.

There were only a few students in the area, and they didn't really pay attention to their surroundings this late at night. So if something happened, Peeraya was sure that no one would be able to help Pipim avoid this accident in time, like she had just done.

"Perth!"

"Are you hurt?"

"Please worry about yourself. Your elbow is hurt"

Pipim reprimanded her, looking serious and stressed. Peeraya used her other uninjured arm to spin Pipim around and make sure she wasn't hurt before stroking her hair.

"Are you surprised?"

"Perth!"

Pipim's voice became more firm. She pulled Peeraya's hand to hold it tightly.

"Why don't you worry about yourself at all?"

"I do. That's why I worry about you."

Peeraya said it so flatly that Pipim couldn't say anything. She could only take Peeraya to the infirmary. And this time, she was more careful when crossing the street.

Her heart was still beating fast. And she couldn't even control her breathing.

"Why are you angry?"

"I'm not angry"

"Then why are you so quiet?"

"What do you want me to say?"

Peeraya tightened her grip. Even though she didn't say anything, Pipim was scared and panicked. She could tell from her shaking hands and voice, and her red eyes.

"It's just a small injury. It will heal with "Hurry"

"..."

"But if something happens to you because of an accident, do you know how devastated I'll be, Pipim?"

"Stop talking" Pipim brushed it off.

"Pipim" Peeraya shouted weakly.

When she saw that Pipim didn't want to say anything, Peeraya stopped walking. And when Pipim turned to scold her, Peeraya pulled her into her arms, with her injured arm still hanging by her side because she didn't dare to lift it. She used her free hand to press the young professor's head against her slender shoulder.

"It's okay. Nothing's hurt. I'm here, my dear"

She comforted like an old woman...

Even though Pipim thought so, she wrapped Peeraya in both of her arms and buried her face into her slender shoulder. It would be a lie to say that she wasn't surprised, but she brushed it off because she was more worried about the injured person. But the injured person prioritizes her feelings, no matter how much pain she has to go through. Does she think she is Iron Women?

As a result of Iron Woman, Peeraya can change her bed from a 5-star hotel to Paul's bedroom. Paul looked at her with a straight face, as if he thought Peeraya was the most boring person in the world, then he turned away.

The wound on her elbow was cleaned and bandaged so tightly that he couldn't even bend it. She could feel that what happened was not an accident. Someone wanted to hurt Pipim. But she decided to stay silent and not tell her to avoid her panic or worry.

"Okay, go to sleep"

"I'm not sleepy yet"

Peeraya looked up and answered. But Pipim didn't listen. She climbed into bed and ordered Peeraya with her eyes to also climb into the empty spot on the bed.

"Am I a girlfriend or a mother?"

"Or maybe you want a friend?"

"Okay... The discussion is over."

Peeraya stopped arguing, being stubborn, and so on. She lay down on her back willingly, but before she could say anything...

"Back home tomorrow"

"But..."

"Pim will go with you"

"I only have a minor injury. Is it necessary to take me home?"

"No. But you have to sort out your problems. You can't get hurt physically or emotionally like this"

"..."

No limits!

"You're an adult, Perth. You're older than Pim"

"I don't want to go home yet"

"You have to"

Pipim said firmly.

"Your parents have to know about your injury. No matter what the cause is, you have to tell your family"

"..."

"Pim feels bad for being the cause of your injury. Pim wants to at least apologize to your parents. Understand?"

When Pipim explained her reasons, Peeraya nodded to show that she easily understood her reasons.

But she still let out a silent sigh of protest.

"And when you ask if Pim has a problem..."

Peeraya raised her eyebrows and immediately turned to look at her. Her full interest made Pipim smile. She wanted to lean down and kiss her lips softly, but she didn't.

"Pim just remembers a student who was unhappy because Pim told her to revise her work."

"Who?"

The rarely heard firm voice surprised her. But what could he do? He was not a good person. If someone wronged him, he would fight back. So the student's name was revealed.

"But there is no evidence that he did it."

Peeraya grinned, which in some strange way seemed hostile:

"Evidence? It's not hard to find. Actually, I'd better go home tomorrow. I'll use this wound to ask for some tenderness from father. Do you think that's a good idea?"

"Huh?"

Peeraya laughed at Pipim's confused look.

"Pipim, my dear. I'm not really angry. But in some ways, I need to let the other party think that he got what he wanted"

"..."

"But I really hurt. The pain is real"

"..."

"And I'm glad you were with me on my bad days"

"How much longer are you going to tease me?"

"Why? Don't you like it?"

"That's not what I meant. I mean, how much longer are you going to tease?"

Peeraya laughed. She moved to lean against the headboard and pulled Pipim close to her.

"Come here"

"What?"

Pipi asked, but willingly moved closer.

"You keep worrying about my elbow injury. What about you? I'm sure you're scared

and in shock. You're not worried about yourself either, like you told me"

"I'm fine"

"You're not good at lying"

". "

"Come here. I can use this arm. And my shoulder is available. All and all, you can hug me, sweetie"

Peeraya suddenly felt much bigger as Pipi leaned back and snuggled into her arms. And for whatever reason, she made a firm promise in her heart that she would not let anyone or anything hurt Pipim.

14. STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

Pipim was at Peeraya's house once again. Although the place was still filled with warmth, there was a tinge of loneliness and lack of life in the air. She believed that the quarrel between the father and daughter had made things worse by affecting the atmosphere of the place.

A middle-aged woman with curly gray hair rushed out to greet them. She must have been waiting for a long time, that's why she was able to come out so quickly.

Pipim hurriedly raised her hand in greeting, and she raised her hand to receive it with a smile similar to the person next to her. But the smile changed when she looked at her daughter and saw that her right elbow was tightly bandaged. She rushed over and looked at her with a shocked expression.

"What happened, Perth?"

The mother's face looked like she was about to cry. Peeraya hurriedly smiled and rubbed the back of her mother's hand to comfort her.

"It was just a small accident, Mom"

Peeraya chose to remain vague so that she would not have to go into details. She did not want her mother to see Pipim in a bad light because she was the cause of the injury. And she also wanted to make sure that the cause was indeed from Pipim's side, as she suspected, not from her own enemy's greed.

"Auntie..."

Pipim wanted to explain, but Peeraya hurriedly grabbed her wrist and squeezed it gently to signal her to remain silent. Meanwhile, the person who was focused on her daughter's injury did not notice the strange gesture between the two of them.

"A child ran to Perth, and Perth fell"

"People are so careless these days"

The mother complained with a worried expression on her face before she let out a heavy sigh. But as soon as she looked up from her wound to look at her daughter, her eyes filled with tears as she became sensitive again.

"If I knew that you would get hurt like this when you didn't come home, I would have scolded your father for making you sleep somewhere else."

She said it in such a stern voice that Peeraya was afraid that she would be really upset with her husband. Peeraya smiled dryly because she didn't want them to fight because of her.

"Don't act like Perth never spends the night away from home."

"I don't care. Your father is wrong about this."

Look at this woman. It seemed like she was really angry. Peeraya knew that it was useless to argue, so she chose to remain silent and smile to get on her mother's good side.

What Pipim saw made her realize immediately...

Perth's mother's warm tone and loving eyes made it easy for her to understand why Peeraya loved and worked so hard for her family. This was why. This was why she cared for her so much. And if it was him, he would do the same thing. Not every family is perfect.

Look at the Sitang family. But not every family is perfect either. There may be some crooked parts, but the Peeraya family is perfect in its own way. It's not because she still has a father and mother, it's their love and understanding that makes Pipim think like that.

"Why do you only blame me?"

A deep voice asked from behind. It was unclear how long he had been here, but there was no sign of the tense or angry tremors that Pipim had feared. The tension between father and daughter seemed to have eased over the past few days. And it was clear from his eyes that he was worried about his daughter's health.

"Was the person who hit you also hurt?..."

Her father asked after clearing his throat.

"No."

Peeraya shook her head. But then her eyes began to fill with tears when she heard the next question.

"What about Perth? Does it really hurt?"

That was all it took for the weakness buried deep inside Peeraya to come out. She didn't cry or sob like a child because of the pain, but because of the care she received from her family.

"It doesn't hurt that much anymore,"

she answered in a muffled voice and with tears in her eyes.

"That means it hurts."

He nodded to show that he understood, but he was still too quiet to hug his daughter and comfort her. So he just walked over and stroked her hair.

"It's good if it's just a minor injury. Why are you crying? Didn't you say it didn't hurt?"

"There's dust in my eyes"

"Evil dust. How dare they make my daughter cry?"

That was his way of trying to make up with his daughter. Peeraya knew that well, so her heavy heart was now lighter. It was as if the chains that had been binding her had been released.

"But that's much better, father"

Peeraya looked up to tell his father, who was taller than him, as if he was showing off. Pipim, who felt left out, was surprised when Peeraya pulled his waist closer and praised him. She praised him even though she was crying. Moreover, she looked so proud to show Pipim off to her family.

"I have to thank my girlfriend, dad"

"..."

"Pipi takes care of your daughter very well"

If asked, of course Pipim would like to be praised...

But didn't Peeraya think of consulting Pipim first? How could she suddenly say something so embarrassing to her parents? That's why the hand that was closer to Peeraya moved to her back and pinched her waist so hard that her eyes were teary.

However, Peeraya didn't dare to scream because she didn't want to lose face in front of her parents.

However, Peeraya's father's expression gave her a strange feeling.

In addition to adoration, he had a look of discomfort in his eyes. Pipim wasn't sure exactly what it was.

"So that's it"

The only male in the house smiled dryly before continuing to speak.

"Anyway. Dad asked Viruj to come and discuss something today. Perth can rest first. I'll get someone to pick you up after I'm done"

Since he knew his daughter didn't like his secretary, he tried to prevent a confrontation between the two. He didn't want Peeraya to get so upset that they would fight again.

"What's going on?"

Peeraya asked curiously because usually her father wouldn't bring work home unless it was something very urgent or important.

"Well, there is. And I think we should talk. There have been too many strange things happening in our family lately. I think it's time we sort things out"

Father said that dryly, yet seriously.

Peeraya didn't like this, but there was nothing she could do. So she could only ponder about what her father wanted to talk to her about. Pipim had left to give her lecture an hour ago.

When Peeraya whined and asked her to stay a little longer, the little one complained as if Peeraya was one of her students. But that was all Peeraya could do. No matter how much she wanted to protest, she never intended to get in the way of what Pipim wanted.

"Can't you stay a little longer?"

"You're an adult, Perth"

"Can't an adult ask for some gentleness from her girlfriend?"

Pipim sighed before answering.

"I'll hurry up after I'm done, okay?"

"You have to be very careful, understand?"

"I understand. I'll text you once I'm there, I'll report to you wherever I go. Okay?"

"Okay"

Peeraya answered without having to think twice. Actually, she thought it was better for Pipim to come back so that she wouldn't be rude and misbehave in front of her. Because when she suddenly met Viruj at her house, her eye started twitching. She had never been like this before. It was strange...

When he noticed her, she could freely enter and exit her house. Most importantly, he was one of his father's most trusted people, which made him arrogant. If there was someone to be suspicious of, he was the one he had to watch...

Even if hee acted modestly like he did ten years ago, it didn't change her negative feelings towards him. Because she felt that behind that humble attitude, there was something hidden behind it. She just didn't know what it was yet.

"You're back, vice president?"

"Yes. As you can see"

She answered flatly. But Viruj was as calm as usual.

"Your father was very worried when you didn't come home"

The corners of his mouth began to rise.

"It seems like the secretary knows everything that happens in this house very well. You even know how my father feels"

She was already unhappy because she interfered in his personal affairs. So all his friendliness towards the secretary disappeared without any reason. She could act towards people she didn't like just like that. Just like Pipim said about her: she wasn't someone who hid her feelings.

And after she said that, she could see...

Annoyance in the secretary's eyes. But it was only for a moment before it disappeared like nothing happened.

"I am his confidant. It is my duty to know so that I can help accommodate his needs. It is not strange that I know about all these things since he is the one who told me himself"

"Indeed, it is not strange. I just hope you do not overstep the line in some things"

"..."

"Knowing one's duty and doing it well is an admirable thing. But anything in excess is never good"

"..."

"I am sure you know that well, Khun Viruj. Besides, no matter how close or how long we have been together, one day we may not be able to work together anymore"

"I know that well"

Viruj responded flatly.

Peeraya looked him in the eye. Because his calm attitude was hard to read, it was better to look directly into his eyes. And she felt that it was somehow familiar. Saying that it was because she had known him for a long time would not be accurate. It was not like that. It was more like a person's eyes.

"Come to think of it. Those eyes look very familiar."

"Of course. You've been seeing me since you were in high school."

Peeraya shook her head,

"It's not that. It's familiar, but not from you."

The two hands were clasped in front of her body as usual, but as soon as Peeraya

passed, Viruj turned to look at her and squeezed her thick hands so tightly that the veins were clearly visible. Although his eyes showed no emotion, there was a storm raging inside. Peeraya only thought was that now that she had openly defied him, she should proceed with her plan as soon as possible. There was no need to wait any longer.

She lifted her phone to send a text message to someone. After she clicked send, a satisfied smile appeared on the corner of her mouth.

Peeraya walked to her father's office, knocked on the door, and waited for his permission.

"Perth, father needs to talk to you about something important."

"Yes?"

"It's about Pipim"

Pipim felt Peeraya was acting weird these days. It started with her looking sad or sighing a lot when she looked at her. Sometimes her mind wandered, like she had something on her mind. And to make it clearer, she didn't tell her anything, unlike before, when she whined or told her about this and that.

"Perth"

"Huh?"

She e didn't want to ask what was wrong with her or what was on her mind because she wanted Peeraya to tell her when she felt comfortable doing it herself. So all she could do was...

"Let's draw a lottery for a lover"

Help her feel better or forget whatever was on her mind when they were together.

"Okay"

Today, the lottery result was Pipim. The young professor thought for a moment before she said her wish for today. And it was quite surprising for Peeraya.

"Just stay home?"

"Yes"

"Why?"

"You're stressed, right? So the best thing to do is to rest at home. Most importantly, Pim eats with you"

Peeraya smiled for the first time in days. She moved closer to hug Pipim. Pipim couldn't see her face, so she didn't know how Peeraya felt or if she was smiling or not.

"Thank you"

"For what?"

"Because it made me feel that my decision to choose you that day was the right one. And remember this, Pipim. Whatever happens today or the day after, Perth will always choose you first."

Perth said that he chose her, but her actions were increasingly contradictory to what she said every day. She e gradually disappeared at first, never showing up to pick her

up or drop her off. When Pipim called her, she rarely answered, and when she did, she would immediately hang up, saying that she was in a meeting and would not call back. This happened so often that Pipim became annoyed.

Worst of all, Peeraya disappeared for weeks without contacting her. No messages. Nothing. She disappeared, leaving a huge curiosity in her heart. As the days passed, the mass turned into a silent anger that burned in her heart, waiting for the day to explode.

Another strange occurrence was that the male student whose father was a high-ranking politician suddenly dropped out when he was just a few days away from finishing his thesis. Other than that, he stopped bothering her. It didn't seem strange. No reckless car had cut him off. She was someone else who had just disappeared.

Pipim had a feeling that this was related to Peeraya's disappearance. Meanwhile, what Pipim didn't know was that the person she called evil and reckless was sighing at her desk filled with documents because she couldn't focus on finishing her work.

What she had learned forced her to decide to do something she never wanted to do. It was like she was stuck in the middle. She didn't know whether to move forward or backward. Even though she had the answer deep down, her feelings for Pipim held her with a strong grip.

Knock knock knock!

A knock on the door brought Peeraya out of her reverie. The vice president sat up straight before giving permission for the knocker to enter her office. Grace appeared from behind the door in a black, open-backed dress. There was a charming smile that Peeraya usually admired on her face.

"I came to invite you to lunch"

"I'm not done with work"

Peeraya replied flatly, using the documents on her desk as an excuse when in fact they would always be there because she couldn't concentrate on work or anything right now.

"But it's already noon, and I'm also wearing the dress you bought me"

Grace said as she turned around fully for Peeraya to see.

Peeraya only smiled a little before she continued using Grace's fiancé as an excuse.

"First will be angry and fight if he finds out"

"He won't"

"How can you be sure?"

"She has an appointment at a hotel near the Chao Phraya River. So today is clean"

Peeraya made a sound in her throat, not bothering to hide her feelings.

"You say it like I'm a cheater"

Grace's face turned pale before she hurriedly made an excuse.

"It's not like that. You know that I will break off my engagement with First if you forgive me, Phi Perth"

"I can't forgive you just like that, Grace"

Peeraya said that to make her feel guilty because if she did, Peeraya would have

enough advantages to make the next move according to plan.

"I know. Then, let's eat at the mall near the office"

When Peeraya didn't respond, Grace started to fight. She became more strong-willed after Peeraya started treating her nicely again.

"If the professor invited you, would you sit still like this?"

"Don't talk about Pipim like that, Grace"

"Why? You're thinking of breaking up with her, aren't you? Why can't I talk about her?"

"Okay. Do you want something to eat? Let's go"

Peeraya said as she sighed and quickly got up.

"Oh my. I can't name her, can I?"

The vice president didn't admit or deny it. Because she had already bent over backwards like that. If the plan she had in mind didn't require her to get close to Grace, she would never have treated her this well. Grace was like the missing puzzle that she had just found, which made everything fall into place.

Besides, before all this, she had felt like she was being followed and watched wherever she went. And not long after that, when she was on way home, a car cut off the side of the road. Luckily she wasn't seriously injured. However, it was clear that she was being threatened because she almost found out the truth.

She was afraid that all of this would affect Pipim, so she had to keep her distance from her to keep her safe. As she said before, falling in love was her weakness. If they can't do anything to her, they'll do it to the person she loves. But regarding the car accident at the university, she asked someone to investigate and find out who did it.

She was the one who went to talk to her father, who was a high-ranking politician, until the matter was resolved quietly. After all, everyone in politics cared about their public image. Peeraya took care of everything she could quickly, so she could be sure that Pipim would stay away from her as long as she kept her distance.

"Do you still love her, Phi Perth?"

"When have I ever said that I don't love her anymore?"

Peeraya immediately responded in a loud voice.

"If you love her, why are you thinking of breaking up with her? Why are you giving me hope?"

"That's my personal business. I already told you that my father asked me to break up with her. And about giving you hope, you were the one who approached me. If you have a problem with that, we should live our separate lives like before."

Peeraya said it as if she didn't care much, which made Grace turn pale. She immediately softened her resolve and moved to hug Peeraya's arm, asking for gentleness. But Peeraya pulled her hand away. And walked away in annoyance.

Grace let it be because she wanted to make up with Peeraya as soon as possible.

"Okay. I'm sorry. I won't talk about this anymore"

"Yes"

Maybe this was Peeraya's unlucky day, because even though she had kept her

distance from Pipim for a long time, they finally met by accident.

Moreover, Sitang, Pipim's best friend, and Jaojay were also here. The three of them were sitting in a restaurant that Peeraya had just entered. It was too late to turn back because Pipim had already seen them. And when someone at the table looked in a certain direction, everyone else looked that way too.

What made Peeraya worried was the fact that Pipim had seen her but chose to ignore her. Grace probably saw Pipim too, and that was why she approached Peeraya to show her status.

"Isn't this good? You don't have to waste so much energy breaking up with her."

Grace said when she saw the gloomy expression on Peeraya's face.

"Shut up"

But the one who didn't stay quiet in this situation was Sitang. She got up and walked over to express her wishes, looking angry.

"Can I talk to you for a moment, Khun Peeraya?"

"..."

As soon as they came out, Sitang asked directly.

"What are you two fighting about?"

"Nothing"

"Then why did my friend say that you were acting strange? Besides, Pim was not happy at all to meet you today by chance. She even ignored you. Besides, you didn't do anything about it"

"..."

Very observant. Peeraya should praise her for that, but she couldn't say anything. She really couldn't give any explanation now.

"Are you thinking of doing something that would hurt my friend's feelings?"

"..."

"Running away from problems can also hurt my friend. In case you don't know that"

"What do you want me to do? I also have things I can't say"

Sitang laughed. Her sharp eyes stared at Peeraya as if they were piercing through her.

"Can't say anything is different from won't say"

"..."

"I didn't want to say this because you're older than me. But let me tell you this: Pim doesn't like people who don't like her"

"..."

"If you do something to hurt my friend and regret it later, let me warn you now. Khun Peeraya, I will stop you in every way I can"

Peeraya went to meet Pipim at her house that night.

She was greeted coldly, as expected. Pipim opened the gate to greet her but didn't

invite her in. Instead, she asked in a flat tone that made the person receiving her nervous.

"Why are you here?"

"..."

Peeraya still didn't say a word. She was getting more and more confused because her brain and heart were clashing. She wanted to run away for a little longer, but what happened today made her too anxious to do so. She wanted to meet Pipim to explain everything. She wanted to hear her voice and do something to calm her own heart.

"You disappeared for two weeks and could only stand here without saying anything when you saw me?"

"I'm sorry"

"Oh, yes"

Peeraya wasn't sure if someone was still following her. She wasn't sure if she should show her feelings. Would telling Pipim to stand by her side without caring about anything seem too selfish?

"If you're here to break up with me, don't bother. I can judge the situation myself"

"..."

"You've made up with your ex, so you're keeping your distance from me because you want to break up with me. Is that all?"

Peeraya were about to explain themselves, but they saw a strange old car parked not far from Pipim's house with someone sitting inside.

Whether it was just someone around here or someone hired to follow them, everything was too worrying at this point.

"Yes. That's it"

"So, we broke up?"

"Yes"

Pipim nodded to show that she understood everything easily.

"Then, is there anything else you want to say?"

"..."

"You're an adult, Perth, don't solve problems in a childish way"

".."

"I know you can do better than this, understand?"

Peeraya was silent and could only stand still. She was still standing outside after Pipim entered her house.

She was the one who was thinking of breaking up with her, but it seemed like she was in a worse condition than Pipim. She rubbed her face with her hands and sighed as she turned to get into her car. She remembered to glance at the old car to memorize its license plate.

At least she wanted to check to make sure who it was.

Before Peeraya went home, a call came in. She instinctively picked it up when she recognized Pipim's name on the phone.

[So, we've broken up, right?]

The other end of the phone asked flatly, as if she wanted to hear it again to make sure.

[Why are you silent?]

"I don't know what to say"

[It's okay, I just wanted to tell you that I'll go to the wedding you asked for me to attend]

"..."

[I will do it according to our agreement and hope that we will not have to meet again after that. If we meet by chance, don't greet me. And please, don't play with other people's feelings, again]

"Pipim"

Peeraya called her name softly.

[I listened]

"Perth apologizes"

[That's not what I wanted to hear]

At the end of that sentence, both parties fell silent. No one said anything. It seemed like they just wanted to hear each other's breaths on the phone. But the longing or whatever it was, caused Peeraya to slip.

"I miss you"

[Let me ask one last time]

"..."

[Did we break up?]

Pipi asked again before she added.

[And I only accept apologies in person, not over the phone]

15. LIKE A HOME

Peeraya also asked herself if this was what she wanted. Did she think too much that she hurt Pipim's feelings? Most importantly, she thought and made all the decisions herself. She never asked Pipim what she wanted.

Therefore, the car was quickly turned around to return to its starting point.

Whatever happened let happened.

Pipim gave her a chance, and she had to take it instead of letting it go.

It didn't take long for her to reach Pipim again. Pipim was waiting for her in front of the house. She was nervous and unsure of how to act when she got out of the car. She didn't even realize it when she entered the house, which was quieter than usual today.

"Pleng is staying over at her friend's house. My father is already asleep"

"..."

It seemed like Pipim could read her mind. She answered, even though Peeraya hadn't asked.

"Are you hungry?"

"I just ate"

"I know. But you only ate a little. Are you full?"

Pipim's words surprised her. She acted as if she was ignoring her, but how could Pipim know that Peeraya barely ate anything when she ate with Grace if she was really ignoring her? Peeraya suddenly felt her eyes water as she shook her head and answered.

"No, I'm not full"

The young professor sighed at that gentle face.

"Follow me. You're hungry, right? Even though we fought, you should take care of yourself"

"Okay"

Pipim led Peeraya to the kitchen, but suddenly she thought of something, so turned to ask.

"There's no food left except for the chili paste and boiled vegetables my father bought from the market. Can you eat them?"

"Can I have a Thai omelet too?"

"Okay. I'll cook it for you"

She followed Pipim to the kitchen. She didn't know why she followed her, it was just that she missed Pipim so much, so he wanted to stick to her. Luckily Pipim didn't chase her away.

"Pipim"

"Yes?"

"Aren't you mad at me?"

"Let's talk after you eat"

Peeraya swallowed and nodded. That answer meant she was angry, so the only question was how angry she was.

Peeraya knew that she could only accept the consequences of her own actions and confused thoughts that had brought her to this point. She was lucky enough that she still had a chance.

Thinking back, she should thank Pipim for holding her back, even if it was just with words. But those words made her realize.

She shouldn't have acted so independently and childishly, as Pipim had insisted. That wasn't her at all.

"What kind of chili sauce is this?"

She asked because she didn't want to be too quiet between them.

"Mackerel chili paste. Do you know that?"

"I've heard of it before."

She answered and kept pacing in the kitchen. She saw boiled vegetables, so she walked towards them. Pipim was not surprised at all by Peeraya's actions because this was something she had anticipated. Actually, there was still other food, but she chose to say nothing because she was still upset with what Peeraya did.

Actually, she wanted to attack more, but also didn't want to because Peeraya was like someone who had lost her way. She was like someone who was going around in circles. Sometimes a storm can cause someone to lose their way. It wasn't that he wasn't angry, but he gave Peeraya a chance.

For her, a relationship between lovers was similar to a relationship between big trees. When two big trees lean on each other. They can support each other and become a home. And now the other tree was swaying and unstable, if she wasn't stable, the relationship would fall apart.

She didn't want that to happen. She was angry, upset, and hurt. But she still wanted to love and have Peeraya in her life. It was that simple.

"What vegetables are there?"

Pipim turned to look before she answered.

"Cabbage, Chinese flowering cabbage, and green beans"

"Ah"

Peeraya nodded, even though she only knew green beans.

She could cook a little, but sometimes she still confused the difference between Chinese cabbage and cabbage. She only knew how to cook some western dishes. But because she didn't want to stand around doing nothing, she washed her hands and tied the Chinese flowering cabbage into a round ball. Pipi looked at her but didn't say anything.

"Has Pim had dinner?"

"Yes"

"Are you full?"

"Why?"

"I want you to eat with me"

Her voice was so longing that it was obvious that Peeraya was trying to make up with her.

"Then please prepare me a plate of rice. But just a little"

Hearing that, Peeraya immediately smiled.

"Okay"

After dinner, Pipim looked serious. She let Peeraya, who volunteered to wash the dishes, finish before starting a conversation.

"I think we need to talk. Am I right?"

"Yes"

"Then, let's go somewhere more private"

The private place that Pipim mentioned was her bedroom, because no one would enter the room at this time.

Peeraya felt like she had done something wrong and was going to be interrogated by the professor in the cold (disciplinary) room.

"So, what do you want to say?"

"A lot"

Peeraya answered softly.

Gosh. Why was she so tense? Being in the meeting room with all the beasts and leeches didn't make her nervous, even. Was it because Pipim affected her feelings so much...

"It's okay. I have plenty of time"

"..."

"Or would you rather I ask you a question?"

"You'd rather ask because Phi doesn't know where to start"

"Calling yourself 'Phi' doesn't lessen your mistakes"

Pipim said it flatly because that was what she thought.

And she knew that saying and acting like that would make Peeraya feel even smaller. She didn't mean to brag or belittle Peeraya in this relationship, but if Peeraya interpreted it that way, she would gladly let it be.

Peeraya could only swallow and nod.

"Let's start with the most important thing. So what's our current status?"

"We're not breaking up"

Peeraya answered immediately, without hesitation. There were no more immature

Peeraya who hurt Pipim. The only immature is 10-year-old Peeraya

"Okay"

Pipim nodded. As soon as she received the desired response, her posture and aura became more relaxed. But she was still wanted to repeat the question to make sure.

"Are you sure? Are you sure that if you go home and learn about something that makes you doubt yourself again, you won't change your mind?"

"Nothing can make me second-guess myself anymore, sweetie"

Pipim made a sound in her throat before answering.

"The person you had dinner with last night might make you want to change your mind"

Pipim suddenly acted up. She didn't like being too possessive, but there were some things or people that she couldn't tolerate.

"There's no way that's going to happen"

Peeraya firmly asserted. Because there was no way she would be as shallow as before. Thinking back made her annoyed at herself for choosing to solve the problem the way she did because it didn't make things better, only worse. Besides, it might be beneficial to her enemy because it not only made her think about breaking up with Pipim, but also made her miserable.

"Why did you two go to that restaurant together?"

"I have a reason"

"Ah-huh. I'll wait"

Pipim said that before she pulled out a chair at her desk. She sat down with her legs crossed on the bed and ordered Peeraya to sit down with her eyes. She then crossed her arms in front of her chest.

"You're acting like a police officer interrogating a suspect"

"Interrogating a girlfriend who committed a crime is similar. The only difference is that you don't have to go to jail even though you're guilty. But you still have to be punished"

Peeraya blinked before continuing.

"I suspect that First is working with someone to commit corporate fraud"

"So?"

"Before this, I mean when I was with Grace, First was overseas. That's why I didn't know that they were together. Like I said, Grace never told me about it. When First came back, Grace had to choose because she knew everything"

"And you weren't the chosen one"

"Yes. She destroyed my confidence in loving someone. Besides, all my documents that I prepared to submit at the corporate meeting were in vain because First proposed something similar before I could"

"What do you mean?"

"It means that the meeting allows First to be in charge of a big project involving a cash flow of one ten million Baht that I can't interfere with. And I'm the irresponsible

one because I have nothing to present at the meeting"

"..."

"And, of course, he announced his engagement to Grace right after that"

"I don't really understand your business world, but what does that have to do with you getting involved with that woman again?"

Peeraya smiled uncontrollably because Pipim didn't want to mention Grace's name and avoided it by using other words.

She really didn't like her. But that was obvious. Peeraya wouldn't like her ex-girlfriend either.

"Why are you smiling?"

"You're cute when you're jealous"

"..."

"When your face turns red because you're caught being jealous, that's also cute"

"Please finish your story first, Perth"

Peeraya smiled. Her heart was happy, light and unburdened. Pipim was like her safe and comfortable home. She couldn't imagine how she could be happy if she let this home disappear. She might be able to live on, but life would be a hard struggle.

"First is ambitious, but she's not evil. If my hypothesis is correct, she wouldn't have made such a shameful plan to make me resign on my own."

"So, you know that there's someone behind it all?"

"Yes. And all the pieces of the puzzle just fell into place recently. I left early because someone cut me off while I was driving, and I pulled off the side of the road. They've been getting scarier and bolder."

Peeraya didn't give specifics about her suspect because she didn't want Pipim to worry with her.

"For Grace, I just wanted to foil First because people who can't control their emotions tend to be reckless. Moreover, someone who wants to make up with me will answer everything I ask. Now all I need to do is have someone follow First to see what he does and who he meets."

"You must have really raised that woman's hopes."

"So much so that she wants to break off her engagement."

Peeraya said it like it was a normal thing to do. She wasn't evil, but she wasn't kind to someone who had hurt her badly either. At the same time, the person listening gasped and steam came out of her ears. But she had to hide the well.

"And what about wanting to break up with me?"

"I talked to my father and felt that they might do something drastic because they were cornered by all the evidence we had. Cutting me off until I had an accident was already a warning..."

"So you're afraid they'll hurt me?"

"Yes"

"And you think keeping your distance or breaking up with me will keep them from

doing anything to me?"

"That..."

"You think those criminals can't read you? So what if we break up? If they hurt me, will you help me?"

"Of course I'll help you"

"See? That's your answer. If they wanted to hurt me, they would"

"..."

"You're an adult"

"..."

Peeraya had been hearing that a lot lately. It was probably because she was acting immature in front of her.

"Your eyes and actions aren't that hard to read about your feelings towards me"

"..."

"Don't you know that you're not very good at hiding your emotions? You can keep a straight face with people you think you hate. But with people you think you love, your eyes tell it all"

"I kind of don't know that"

The clerk answered obediently because that's just how she was.

"Why else would I call to tell you to come back here if it weren't for your eyes that tell me everything is like this?"

Pipim let it all out until Peeraya fell silent. So she just sat there and thought together, Besides Pipim seemed angrier than before, so she didn't see any point in putting himself in the eye of the storm.

And as she said, she seemed to be called back to be scolded....

Now that Pipim was more emotionally stable and Peeraya looked very shy, Pipim sighed. After all, it all started because Peeraya cared about her and was too worried about her.

"If you're worried that they'll harm or wrong us, why don't we take the initiative? Don't we have evidence?"

Pipi asked flatly. There was no reprimand. It was more like suggesting a direction that Peeraya had never considered before.

"That's right..."

As the incident became more violent, she was only worried about Pipim's safety. She focused on how to deal with the attack. But in a battle, they didn't have to wait for the enemy to pull the trigger first. Because if they were good enough to hit the target, the enemy could die before they moved or found out.

"There's another reason why I'm talking to Grace again"

"What is it?"

"She seems to be an important bridge between First and someone"

Even though she had told Pipim everything, Peeraya's punishment was to sleep on the

floor tonight. Because even though they had made up, the pain she caused did not go away just like that.

"Did you really make me sleep on the floor?"

The person who took a bath until she smelled amazingly good asked in cute pajamas with a pleading face. She wanted to hug Pipim when they slept because she missed her so much.

"You can go back to sleep at home if you want"

Pipim answered with a straight face so that Peeraya had to smile dryly.

"Sleeping on the floor is good"

Peeraya was sitting on a picnic bed with a pillow and blanket that Pipim had prepared for her. She sat with her legs crossed on the floor, looking at the person sitting on the bed. He then told Pipim softly.

"I miss you"

"You're the one who disappeared"

"I'm sorry. I was wrong"

Peeraya said as she approached until her knees touched the floor of the bed, she reached for Pipim's hand, held it, and put it on her head. For her, it was a signal that she had completely given up. She let Pipim take control and lead. Whatever made Pipim happy when she was with her, Peeraya was willing to follow.

"You're older than me"

Pipim tried to pull her hand back.

"Yes. But I'm also yours"

Hearing that, the hand that was holding her back loosened before Pipim stroked Peeraya's hair gently, as if she was comforting her.

"Don't do that again"

"I wouldn't dare"

"Do we have to play the role of someone who breaks up in the upcoming wedding?"

Pipi asked while thinking about something.

"I guess so. I have all the evidence I need, but it's better to wait for a fool to blow everything up first."

"Don't talk like that."

"Hit my mouth then. But you'll have to use your lips to do it."

Pipim laughed, but instead of hitting her with her lips, she used her finger to pull Peeraya's lower lip and twist it.

"Don't be naughty. You're still being punished"

"How can I atone for my mistake"

"Do something to convince me that you won't do something like that again"

"Then..."

Peeraya propped herself up on her knees and grabbed Pipim's hand to hold her in front of her.

"From now on, please be my home forever"

"You're just asking?"

Pipim raised her eyebrows as she looked at Peeraya.

She admitted that this made her feel better. Everyone loves being showered with love by the person they like.

"Asking like mature don't just like this, I think I'd like if you propose me more than I'd like to be your girlfriend"

"Actually, we're broke up probably right. Let's stop being pretend girlfriend and become real girlfriend"

"If I told you that, you can't see people like this anymore"

"Yes."

"If you want to say it, kiss your girlfriend..."

That's the cutest and sweetest thing in the world for Peeraya.

Pipim didn't need to repeat it. Peeraya's lips pressed against Pipim's lips gently and carefully, but they crackled so that no air could get between them. She tilted her face, so it was a perfect lock. Her hand slipped under Pipim's hair and caressed the nape of her neck to make the kiss more intimate, while her other hand brushed Pipim's waist and pulled Pipim closer.

Naughty tongues begin their journey. They slowly made their way to touch each other more deeply. Pipim didn't even know when her back was pushed onto the soft bed. She only knew that Peeraya had shifted her target from her lips to her neck. She inhaled her scent with her nose and bit with her lips until it hurt from time to time, and all those touches gave Pipim goosebumps. She wanted to stop it. But she couldn't resist Peeraya's touch.

"Ahh..."

Peeraya's deep groan was heard because wherever she touched, Pipim's sweetness was always on the tip of her tongue. It was like she was enjoying his favorite ice cream.

"Perth"

Even her voice was so sweet to the ears.

"Yes?"

"It will leave a mark"

"That's right"

She accidentally left a lot of red marks on Pipim's neck because she was too drunk on the sweetness. Peeraya lifted her face, propped herself up on her elbow, and stared at the beautiful face that was full of emotion. Her swollen lips tensed uncontrollably because Pipim was embarrassed to be stared at like this. Her usually neat hair was scattered messily on the bed, revealing what had just happened.
So sweet, Peeraya wanted to pounce and enjoy every part of her.....

"What do you see?"

"My girlfriend"

"Why do you keep staring at me?"

She asked like she wanted to start a fight. But in reality, she didn't know how to react. Peeraya's eyes made her lose her cool.

"I can't take my eyes off my girlfriend"

"You..."

"...."

Peeraya stopped Pipim's complaints by pressing her lips against Pipim's once again. This time it was more intense because she wanted more. And since they were adults, there was no need to be shy about her desires.

"I'll tell you in advance that I won't stop or be patient tonight"

She whispered into Pipim's ear slowly unbuttoning her pajamas one by one.

"I won't tell you to stop"

Pipim answered, not wanting to lose. That made Peeraya speechless, lifting her face to look at Pipim, and smirking.

"Don't challenge me"

But Pipim smiled and replied.

"I challenge you"

That response made Peeraya unconsciously grit her teeth in cute aggression. Look at that woman. She could challenge and ask for tenderness at the same time. For example, she lifted herself to kiss Peeraya's lips gently as she took off her obstructing pajamas. That left only her bra to cover her full, glowing breasts. And her tenderness made Peeraya want to touch her even more.

This woman challenged, asked for tenderness, and also teased...

Because Pipim allowed it, Peeraya didn't have to wait any longer.

So, she slipped her hand behind Pipim's back and unhooked her bra, which quickly came off. She continued to slowly slide it off her arm. The seductive one looked away as her cheeks turned red like the nipples right in front of Peeraya.

Ah... Peeraya just realized that she liked the color cherry red today. She lowered her lips to take her new favorite color into her mouth without hesitation. Pipim's deep breath told Peeraya how she felt. Not to mention the pull of her pajamas from behind that was so strong that she was worried it would lose its shape. She moved her hands to her beautiful hips and swept them up and down with pleasure, occasionally squeezing them when she was overcome with emotion.

Pipim bit her lip tightly. She could feel the tip of her wet tongue sweeping her nipples until they were hard. If the tongue was on the left, the hand would massage the other. And vice versa repeatedly until she felt a strange sensation in her lower abdomen. Her whole body was hot, and something moist was coming out of her middle.

"Perth"

There was a beautiful moan from time to time.

"Ahhhh"

It was harder to breathe. And when she lifted her head and saw Peeraya enjoying her breasts, she got even hotter.

But right now, her body ached and told her that she wanted something far below. So she used both of her hands to push the older's shoulders to guide Peeraya down.

She wanted Peeraya to do something to ease the sweet suffering that was happening to her.

"Are you in a hurry?"

"Yes,"

Pipim responded in a surprisingly hoarse voice.

As Peeraya kissed her bare skin, she occasionally jerked, as if she wanted to escape. Her pants were pulled down, along with her underwear. She suddenly felt a chill that caused goosebumps.

"Pipim"

"..."

"My dear Pipim"

Peeraya called out while blowing her hot breath on the sensitive area, which had a sweet taste that seeped out to greet her.

"Yes?"

"Phi loves Pim"

"Why say that now!..."

Pipim wanted to complain but couldn't because, after she said that, Peeraya used her mouth to sweep and brush like she was a master painter and Pipim was her canvas.

"Ah"

Peeraya slowly swept and tasted gently. But as time went by, she wanted to do more. She wanted to hear Pipim complain. He wanted to see the fierce cat shake his head from side to side. He wanted to love Pipim more. His face dived into the middle of Pipim's sweet body. Both of his hands reached for her full breasts and massaged them until Pipim started twisting harder.

"Perth"

His voice was hoarse. Pipim's left hand dug into the bed sheet, while the other hand dug into Peeraya's hair in the middle of her body.

"Ah..."

Her feet dug deep into the soft bed. A certain sensation penetrated her body, and it exploded into a deep moan. Her body was now so light that it was almost weightless. But the hand that was pulling Peeraya's hair had not let go. Her lips hurt because she bit them so hard.

Her body jerked again and again. Her hips, which had been unconsciously raised, fell to the bed as she lost her strength. But Peeraya did not stop enjoying the middle of her body. She had to clench her teeth and force herself to stop Peeraya.

"Enough"

She struggled to breathe. She just realized what it felt like to reach climax. Luckily Peeraya obeyed him easily. He looked up, wiped his lips, took off his clothes until he was as naked as Pipim, and climbed up to sleep beside Pipim. However, his fingers were still playing with Pipim's middle part.

It was as if he was comforting her, but Pipim knew very well that wasn't the problem.

"Have you recovered?"

"I haven't rested yet" Pipim shouted weakly. He could feel himself sweating all over his body, even though the room was cool from the air conditioner.

Peeraya smiled, but her smile was very cunning in Pipim's eyes.

Her lips pressed against Pipim's back to attract attention and arouse emotions. They then went down to her nipples and brushed around the area.

Pipim spun and spun again. She unconsciously called her boyfriend sweetly.

"Perth"

"Call me again"

"Huh?"

"Phi wants to hear you call me with that voice until morning"

Is she crazy! ...

Pipim was about to complain, but something entered her body and caused her to narrow her eyes. Peeraya put her finger inside while they were talking, and everything felt stiff. Pipi breathed harder and unconsciously tightened her lips, looking at Peeraya to say that she would be punished for this later.

"Does it hurt?"

She didn't know what to say, so she just shook her head. Peeraya then leaned down to kiss her again as he started moving his fingers around inside her.

Pipim didn't know what else to do. Her body was numb, especially that part. And the harder her lover sucked her nipple, the stiffer she felt. Everything intensified, whether it was the feeling, the senses, or the speed of his fingers on her body.

"Phi Perth"

She called out while biting her lip. Her lips were cold, and she knew Peeraya was leaving marks all over her breasts.

But she couldn't say anything to stop her.

"Kiss me"

Pipim got the kiss she asked for, and it came with another explosion. This time it was more intense than the first. She didn't know when she would sleep tonight because Peeraya seemed hungrier and greedier than she had imagined.

16. NO. 02

The phone alarm rang on time, as usual. Pipim tried to turn it over to turn it off, but it was a challenge. Her body was still tired and begging for a little more rest. And when she opened her eyes, she saw why she couldn't move. Peeraya not only hugged her tightly with her slender arms but also wrapped her legs around her like a pillow.

In the end, she managed to stretch her slender arms to reach the phone at the head of the bed and turn off the alarm. As soon as she woke up, images of what happened last night flowed into her head, scene after scene, deep moans, two naked bodies rubbing against each other, tongues wrestling, and fingers exploring deep inside.

Let's just say her face was hot thinking about last night's love scene. But letting their relationship go to this deep level didn't mean that Peeraya's mistakes were forgotten. Peeraya still had to be punished. Pipim didn't hold a grudge against her lover, but it wasn't good if lessons weren't learned in some situations.

And especially since it involved her ex and doing something on her own like a naughty 10-year-old, Peeraya deserved to be punished so that she would think about the consequences or at least consult her before she did something.

It would be a lie if Pipim said no when asked if she was afraid of the things Peeraya was worried about. But it was nothing they couldn't handle. As she said, if they knew what they were going to do, they might as well take the initiative. That would give them an advantage because it would be harder for the other party to catch on to their plans. And if they were so bold as to try to take someone's life, the evidence against them would be stronger.

That was what she thought. Besides, she didn't want Peeraya to think too much and lose herself so that she acted out of character again. Because smiling and being happy were more fitting for her lover.

Because he was lost in his own thoughts, Pipim didn't realize when the person next to her woke up until the bandage on her waist tightened. There was also a kiss on his shoulder to pull her out of her thoughts. If she guessed, Peeraya woke up because of the alarm clock, just like her.

"Perth"

"..."

"Perth"

"Arrgggg. Call me Phi Perth"

Peeraya immediately responded with a hoarse voice. She kissed the slender shoulder once again and looked at Pipim lovingly.

"Let go of me first"

Pipim tried to pull herself away, but it was too difficult to do so because Peeraya's arms were like octopus arms now. Her grip was very strong. She showed no signs of letting go, instead, she tightened the wrap.

"Call me Phi first"

"..."

"Or call me Sugar"

Pipim wrinkled her nose before refusing.

"No"

"Then I won't let go"

"Hey, you still have to be punished. Don't be naughty"

"I was wrong, I admit it. But right now, I just want to ask for love, tenderness, and attention from my girlfriend. There's nothing wrong about that"

The cunning Peeraya had returned. Pipim was surprised by Peeraya's request for tenderness. She finally glanced at the person who was looking at her with puppy eyes. She saw happiness and love in those smiling eyes. She wanted to obey, but she wasn't one to give in easily.

Someone had to play hard to get from time to time, right?

"Pimmmmm" Peeraya called out in a voice so sweet that the face of the person receiving it instantly became hot.

"What?"

"Call me like that before"

"Crybaby"

"No quarrel"

"We're fully grown"

"Yes, mature in many ways"

Peeraya replied and swept her eyes down her body under the thick blanket teasingly.

"Call me Phi, and I'll let you go soon"

"My dear Perth"

"..."

"Please let go of Pim first"

That was the Pipim she knew. She did what Peeraya asked, but used a term that made her weak. And, of course, as soon as Peeraya let go of the soft body, she immediately regretted it. She swallowed hard as her petite body sat up and revealed a smooth, glowing back that was so tempting. And Peeraya couldn't take her eyes off Pipim as she walked to the bathroom.

Oh my... Even though he had been looking at that body all night. Seeing it again in the light made her blush so hard. Come to think of it, what changed after the status change was Pipim's feelings, it wasn't exactly the same as before. First, she felt awkward and embarrassed when her girlfriend expressed her feelings without holding back through his eyes.

"Why do you keep staring at me?"

"My girlfriend is beautiful"

"You wouldn't look at me if I wasn't beautiful?"

"I didn't say that. It's just that I think you look more stunning now that we're officially

girlfriend and girlfriend."

"Sweet talker"

"You've been tasting it all night"

Pipim sighed before looking at the clock.

"Aren't you going to work? It's late"

"I already called to tell my dad that I was naughty today"

"Huh?"

"I told my dad that I had to find a way to make up with my girlfriend"

"You know that you need to do that?"

"You've been emphasizing it, how could I not know?"

Peeraya said with a smile.

Peeraya walked into the kitchen and found Pipim fully dressed and ready to work. Papie was also sitting there in her student uniform, looking grumpy. Pipim was wearing a white mandarin collar shirt with black pants. It was formal and elegant, as usual.

There were three bowls of porridge with shrimp on the table. Peeraya hesitated because she was not sure where to sit. Papie gestured her to sit on the empty chair across from her. That made her smile because, at the moment, Pipim was ignoring her.

"You went out with Pleng today?"

"Huh?"

"You don't have work today, right?"

"Yes"

Peeraya frowned, still not understanding what was happening.

"So stay with Pleng"

Pipim said that flatly. Papie sighed repeatedly, but she couldn't say no to her sister. More importantly, she had to admit that now that Peeraya was back in Pipim's life, her sister was more alive than when she disappeared.

"That's your punishment. And don't fight. Try to get along"

"What punishment?"

Papie asked curiously.

"Perth has been behaving badly before this"

"What does it have to do with Pleng?"

"Yes"

Peeraya agreed immediately.

"Your first punishment is to get along with my family"

"..."

She was stunned, dumbfounded, and speechless.

Papie sighed and answered.

"It still has nothing to do with Pleng"

"Of course. Because if Pleng doesn't welcome Perth, I can't be with her"

"..."

"Anyone who will become an additional part of our family must be approved by my sister"

"Okay"

Papie understood now.

As for Peeraya, she looked like she was being sent to the battlefield. However, she only sighed and smiled.

"It looks like you're sending your girlfriend to the slaughterhouse, Pipim"

Peeraya complained, but Pipim only raised her eyebrows and smiled coldly. In Peeraya's eyes, it seemed like she was having fun and was satisfied.

"Yeah, something like that... Do with her as you please, Pleng. Like I said, my girlfriend hasn't been behaving well before this"

"What did you do?"

Papie turned to face his sister's girlfriend.

"Well..."

"She's been bad, so I'll let her be with you today"

"I'm not a teacher. Does Phi Pipim want me to discipline her or something?"

Papie frowned.

"I told you, this is punishment. If Pleng still can't accept me being with Perth by the end of the day, I'll obey her"

Even though it seemed like Pipim was letting her do whatever she wanted, Papie somehow felt like she was being tested. If she were to guess, her sister was using this opportunity to get her and Peeraya to know each other better. Because her sister knew very well that, even if she objected, she would never interfere with her romantic relationship. If her sister had already made a choice, it must be a good one.

Peeraya just remembered that the university Papie was going to was Pipim's college. She walked after Papie, who entered her faculty building without noticing her. She didn't even tell her where she was going to wait for her. So all Peeraya could do was keep following her.

"Stop following me"

"But I have to be with Nong Pleng today"

Papie took a deep breath to openly show her annoyance.

"Wait around here. Sit still"

"What time will your class end?"

I only have a morning class that lasts for two hours. Then I have to work on a group

project with my friends. Okay?"

"Okay"

Peeraya smiled. She looked around to try to find a place to sit and wait. But she was thinking of meeting Pipim during these two hours.

"And don't think about sneaking off to meet Phi Pim. Because if I come out of class and don't see you, we'll have to talk"

That was all Papie said to Peeraya before she turned away without waiting for Peeraya's response.

Peeraya scratched her eyebrows and sighed. It seemed like her punishment had already begun. Besides, Pipim had been quiet. She didn't reply to her messages, didn't pick up her phone, and didn't contact her in any way. Just like what she did to Pipim before this

So during this free time, she called someone to start something to end everything. She should take the initiative rather than hold back, as Pipim suggested. Exactly after two hours, Papie walking back with a group of friends. She walked towards Peeraya with her usual grumpy expression on her face.

"Let's eat"

"Yes?"

"If I don't invite you to lunch, Phi Pim will complain to me later"

"Can I go eat with Pipim?"

"No. I told you that you can't go see her today"

Meanwhile, Pipim did not act on what she learned from her lover. Although she had no power or connections, she had her own weapons. One day, when she went to Peeraya's house, a man threatened her.

That was another reason that gave her a clue as to why her lover was acting strangely.

"Have you considered carefully whether it is a smart decision to be with the vice president? Trust me, you should get away as far as possible while you still have the chance because anyone who is connected to this family has a bleak future."

The smile from the corner of his mouth and the empty eyes were so scary that the image of it was still etched in her mind. She did not tell anyone about it, but she could not let it go now. It seemed that what Peeraya feared was really creeping up on her.

"That man is secretary of Phi Perth's dad"

Jaojay helped her gather information. As he said, he had his own weapon, Sitang. And it was clear that anything that worried her friend would also be a top priority for Jaojay.

"Does Si know about this?"

"Yes. But today she is working at a hotel out of town. So I offered to replace her"

"Thank you"

"With pleasure"

"And what have you found?"

Jaojay laughed and smiled slightly.

"Jay has a wonderful father. He offered his help"

"Please convey my thanks to him"

"Si will spend a week at my house as a thank you. You don't have to worry"

Pipim smiled. She was not surprised that she was not hurt or that her heart did not skip a beat when she knew that her best friend was happy with her love life. And it was all thanks to the person who was being punished.

"And are you getting along with Phi Perth?"

"Are you worried?"

"Yes. Si complained about the fact that Phi Perth hurt your feelings a few days ago"

Pipim laughing.

"It's okay. She's just an adult who acts like a child. I can handle it"

"You mean, she's wrapped around your finger?"

"That's possible. Si and I have something in common"

"..."

"We like someone we can handle"

Jaojay laughing. He scratched her neck awkwardly because what Pipim said was not far from the truth.

"The information you want is in the envelope. Jay thinks it might help you"

"Thank you"

"And... I'm not sure if you know that Phi Perth's ex is..."

Pipim frowned, and as soon as Jaojay left the room, she immediately opened the envelope to check all the details.

Papie is a naughty girl...

That's what Peeraya felt. Because not only did she make her wait for Papie for two hours, she also invited her friends to eat together at the mall paid for by Peeraya.

"Is she your sister, Pleng?"

One of Pleng's male friends asked.

"No. Just someone I know"

"You're so kind to treat us"

"With pleasure"

And there's more. She made Peeraya wait for almost an hour. Luckily, Artid, one of her friends, walked back to tell Peeraya that they were going back to the university.

"Are you really just someone Pleng knows?"

"I am who she said I am"

The man laughed.

"Then can I also be someone you know?"

Peeraya glanced at her but didn't answer. She chose to walk quickly instead.

After that, Pleng asked her to buy something, but when Peeraya did, she said that she didn't need it anymore. Peeraya put what she bought on the table, sat down beside Papie, and sighed.

"Stop playing with me"

"Who did that?"

"You"

Papie shrugged and turned to look at the notebook in front of her. Peeraya just sat there silently, but soon, Pleng started talking to her in a normal tone of voice.

"Artid likes you"

"Yes. But I love your sister"

Then the two of them sat in silence again. Pleng finally faced Peeraya and stretched out her hands before speaking seriously.

"Does a businessman have this much free time?"

"No. But I wasn't very good before this, so I wanted to make up with Pipim. But it turns out, I'm here with you"

"Good for you"

"Pipim probably wants us to get along"

"Yes"

Papie responded in her throat before she he sighed.

"This isn't a punishment. You wronged her, so she should be the one to punish you"

"But Pipim didn't talk to me at all today"

"Good"

Pleng was silent for a moment before he asked.

"What did you do?"

"Well... I tried to solve the problem using a childish approach. I decided on my own, and it hurt Pipim, I guess"

"So you two didn't fight"

Peeraya shook her head.

"Pipim is very reasonable"

"We can all overthink and make the wrong decision. It can happen to anyone. Just don't do it again now that you know"

"Have you ever done something similar?"

"Yes. But I didn't get the chance to try to make it up to you like you did"

"Nong Pleng"

"..."

"I wasn't trying to steal Pipim from you. I just wanted to be part of your family"

"I'm not a child. You don't have to explain it to me"

Their conversation was interrupted by Artid. It seemed like she liked Peeraya more than they thought. So much so that she handed her phone to Peeraya to ask for her contact information.

"Put it away, Art"

"Why?"

"She's my sister's girlfriend. Why do you want her contact?"

Artid was silent...

But the smile on Peeraya's face immediately widened.

But when they met Pipim at night, Papie dropped the final bomb by telling her sister something.

"Your girlfriend is flirting with everyone. Art asked for her contact, Phi Pim"

Pipim turned to her girlfriend and raised her eyebrows.

"Is that so?"

"No. I didn't do anything like that"

"Ah. She disappeared for an hour and walked back with my friend. Isn't that funny, Phi Pim?"

"I'll beat her up later"

Ah-huh... These two siblings get along well.

"Why do you like Phi Pim?"

That was the last question Papie asked while looking at Peeraya seriously.

"Pleng"

Pipim wanted to scold her sister, but she was interrupted.

"Phi Pim too. If Phi wants to punish her, do it yourself. I know that what Phi is doing is trying to make me accept it"

"..."

"So, give me your answer"

"When we fall in love with someone, there are so many reasons. It can happen at any time, which makes it hard to pinpoint the right time. But if you ask me why, all I can say is that Pipim makes me happy. I feel that everything around me is my love, just by knowing that Pipim is mine."

"However, you can only be No. 2. Understand?"

"Number 2?"

Peeraya raised her eyebrows.

"Yes. Because Pleng is Number 1."

Pipim laughing out loud, but someone else frowned.

"Okay."

Papie smiled and kissed her sister's cheek as Pipim assured her. On the other hand, Peeraya's eyebrows twitched as she was jealous but could not do anything about it. She could only make a mental note that she would do more than just kiss her cheek when it was her turn. Just wait and see.

"Why did you accept it so easily this time?"

Papie shrugged and tightened her grip on her backpack before answering.

"There's a certain aura when you're in love"

Her sister's answer surprised Pipim, because it meant that she knew about it when their feelings weren't this strong at first...

17. MAKE UP

Peeraya is not allowed to spend the night at Pipim's place for the second night in a row. That's because she's still being punished, and it's unclear when her punishment will end.

Fortunately, her punishment isn't so harsh that it makes her cry or anything. Pipim is strict but very rational. Peeraya should thank her for that. If you ask her if she feels guilty, she'll tell you that she does, and she feels very guilty. If she could turn back time, she would never have done what she did.

"Just because you're wrong, doesn't mean Pim has to punish you by hurting your feelings"

"..."

"Pim just wants you to know that if something like this happens again, we need to talk about it"

"..."

"Pim believes that if two people are in a relationship, when there is a problem, the first thing to do is to talk to each other. Even if you don't do it at first, eventually, we talk"

Because of Pipim's words, Peeraya felt like the luckiest person in the world. She was lucky that Pipim was so rational and understanding. Maybe because she was a professor. And Peeraya wanted Pipim to feel as lucky as she did.

"But you making me stay with Pleng is not a punishment but your way of helping us understand each other better, right?"

Peeraya asked while watching her girlfriend walking around her bedroom. She had to admit that just seeing her like this could easily calm her worried heart.

Pipim glanced at her girlfriend, who was currently sitting on the floor because Paul had taken up the entire bed. She was lying on her back, happily stretching her fat body in the middle of the bed.

"You already know the answer,"

Pipim said as she neatly arranged her documents into folders and bags. She put them on her desk after she was done preparing for tomorrow's work. She didn't like her things to be messy because she didn't want to be upset if she needed to get something later and she did.

"But some things you should know, you don't know,"

Peeraya gasped. Even though Pipim said it was okay, what she did was not something that could be easily forgotten. Therefore, it was no surprise that Pipim gave her more than a good beating with her words. Peeraya smiled slightly as she told herself that she would probably take the harsh comments until Pipim was satisfied.

Honestly, Peeraya was not surprised that Pipim and her best friend did not take their relationship to the next level. That was because they were very similar. Both Pipim and Sitang were fierce, just in different ways.

"Okay, go home"

"Are you kicking me out?"

"Yes, that's right. No matter how late you stay here, I won't let you stay the night"

Pipim said flatly.

"Evil"

Pipim stared at Peeraya before she answered.

"Who is evil?"

"No one"

Peeraya raised both hands to show that she was waving the white flag and stood up. She walked towards Pipim before making a request.

"Can I have a good night hug so I can have sweet dreams?"

"No"

"Stingy. I'm your girlfriend."

Peeraya frowned and whined casually.

"Because I'm your girlfriend, I won't give it to you,"

Pipim answered with a straight face. Because they had just gotten back together and moved their relationship to a more intimate and serious level, the separation felt hard for Peeraya. That's why she took so long and didn't want to return home.

If she were a cat, she would circle around Pipim's feet.

"You're still guilty, so you can't protest."

"If you realize it, go home. I won't be easy on you"

"Not one bit?"

"No"

"Just for a moment. Just a 2-second hug"

"No"

"My dear Pipim"

Peeraya called her sweetly.

"Can I hug you?"

"..."

"You really won't let me hug you?"

When there was no response, Peeraya didn't press her. She wasn't bitter. She understood Pipim's intentions. And if you ask if it worked, it did. more than that. She didn't dare to hurt her feelings anymore.

When Pipim saw Peeraya give up, she got up and made a request.

"Call me while you're driving. I may not talk to you on the phone, but at least I'll know if something happens to you during this time."

"You're punishing me while being this nice. What should I do?"

Peeraya said with puppy eyes.

"Good. So you won't go out with anyone else again"

"Never"

Pipim escorted Peeraya to the gate. But as soon as Peeraya turned to leave, the not-so-tough guy tightened her lips before shouting.

"Wait a minute"

"Yes?"

Peeraya looked back. But she stopped before she could turn around.

"Don't turn around. Stand still"

Pipim said that as she walked towards Peeraya and stopped when she was behind her. The person who was told to stand nervously with her back straight because she didn't know what Pipim was going to do. She then felt slender arms encircling her waist and a warm body pressing against her back.

"They say being hugged from behind will make you feel safe"

"..."

Because of their perfect height, Pipim's chin rested comfortably on Peeraya's slender shoulder.

Peeraya didn't want to admit it, but Pipim's hug really made her feel that way.

"When you look ahead, don't worry that no one will support you"

"..."

"Drive home safely. Don't be reckless. And don't forget to call me"

"Yes"

Peeraya took a deep breath to stop the tears that welled up until her eyes were hot.

"And, sweet dreams, my beloved Perth"

"..."

"Ah. Also, tell the guard you hired to get some rest. Pim isn't going anywhere tonight."

Peeraya smiled like a madman as she returned home. She connected her phone to her car's Bluetooth and called Pipim to stay connected as instructed. Hearing Pipim quietly doing her chores warmed her heart. She truly felt like a child when she was with Pipim. Everything they did together made her forget how old she was.

Pipim was someone she fell in love with at first sight and grew to love more each day because of her personality and attitude. Another good thing about staying connected was that, not only did Pipim feel at ease knowing that Peeraya was back home safely, but Peeraya could also make sure that Pipim was under her watch and not hurt as she feared.

She had no intention of thanking those who meant no good for making her understand the life of a couple better. But she would thank Pipim for being her strong foundation when she was lost and weak. Pipim could turn things around. She made Peeraya believe that only good things would come.

The first bullet that Pipim told her to shoot was going forward, right on target. Peeraya thought that she was a sharpshooter.

The next morning.

Peeraya had returned to her original position, picking up Pipim since early morning. She leaned her hips against the car and looked at the cloudy sky with a smile on her face. She was very relaxed and comfortable now that she could do what she wanted again.

There was no reason for her to be close to Grace anymore. It wasn't because of Pipim's orders, Pipim never told her not to get involved or close to anyone. Even though Pipim

showed that she was possessive, she respected Peeraya's decision very much.

"I thought you wouldn't be here today."

Pipim's sweet voice greeted her from the gate.

Peeraya smiled widely at Pipim when she heard it.

How to explain it:

She just felt more comfortable being the one to pick her up and drop her off, even though she hired a high-class bodyguard to guard Pipim. No one could guard her lover as well as she could.

Besides, Pipim's sandwich was as addictive as Pipim.

"Why am I not here?"

Peeraya asked as she opened the door and invited Pipim into the car. Her other hand reached out to grab the box of sandwiches with an even wider smile.

"Then why are you here?"

"I'm afraid my girlfriend doesn't love me more."

When she saw Pipim's stunned expression, she continued.

"After this, even when I'm weak or when the childish Peeraya appears again, I won't do anything to hurt you again."

"Is this a promise?"

The beautiful professor asked while raising her eyebrows and placing one hand on the car door. They were now facing each other, with the car door between them.

"Ah-huh. I promise with my heart"

Peeraya replied with a sincere smile.

Because of that, the atmosphere between them gradually improved to almost normal, which made Peeraya generous with her smile to the people around her. She smiled more than before, which surprised many people.

"I remember that"

Pipim replied and got into the car.

Peeraya closed the door and ran to the driver's side. She did a perfect job as a driver.

"New Year's Eve is two days from today"

"I know that. It's also my long holiday"

"Aren't we going on a date?"
"Should we?"
"Won't you regret it if we don't go on a date during this long holiday?"
"You're the one who'll regret not going out with Pim"
"Right. Then let's go out"
"When?"
"Today"
"Are you trying to make up with me?"
"That too"
"I have lectures until tonight. Will you wait?"
"I can wait"
"Will you come pick me up?"
"Of course"
"I finished very late"
"I can wait"
Peeraya was willing to do anything to make up with Pipim right now.
She wanted some private times so she could get closer to her.
Pipim nodded. "Good. Don't let me go down and not see you"
The older man laughed as he lifted his pinky forward.
"If we make a pinky promise, you will seem even more you go down""We are not kids"
"I am your 10 year old Peeraya, remember?""Do you like me being in control?"
"If Pipim is the one in control, Phi Perth doesn't mind"
Peeraya said that with her usual bright smile. A smile that Pipim liked to see.
Therefore, her little finger was unconsciously raised to make a pinky promise.
Peeraya pulled Pipim's hand closer and kissed it.
"It's sealed"
"You play like a child"
"If you want to play like an adult, we should wait until it's darker"
"Naughty"
"I admit that. But once is not enough, dear Pipim"
"After you put me down, go home and get some clothes from my room"
"Huh?"
"Get me a change of clothes tonight"
"..."
"Choose carefully, or you won't be able to do what you want tonight"
"Is that a threat?"

"Yes"

"I'm shaking with fear"

Pipim didn't respond because the car had already reached the faculty parking lot. The young professor swept his eyes around the area before turning to Peeraya to give her a quick kiss on the lips.

"I'll wait and see tonight, tiger"

"Tiger? Is that my new nickname?"

"I wonder if this tiger is better at roaring or pouncing"

Pipim said and unlocked the door to get out of the car immediately. He saw that Peeraya was stunned before smiling widely.

"P-Pipim is naughty"

Peeraya complained softly, She never dreamed that after they became real boyfriend and girlfriend, the beautiful professor would be so fun and flirtatious. Not only was she not afraid of him at all, but she also stood her ground against a tiger like him.

That night.

Peeraya invited her girlfriend to take a shower and change clothes in her condo because it was more comfortable. She had prepared several dresses, underwear, and pajamas.

"Will you spend the night with me tonight?"

He asked, even though he had already planned for Pipim to do so.

"Are you asking her to be polite?"

"No"

"Are you sure you haven't prepared pajamas for me tonight in the bag?" Pipi asked, as if she could see what was inside the bag. Peeraya could only sigh.

"I can't hide anything from you"

Pipim just shrugged.

"I'm your girlfriend"

"Don't you think your girlfriend is afraid that you'll be tired?"

"I don't drive. I'm not tired at all"

Pipim answered.

"I'm more afraid that spending the night with you will tire me out"

"Aren't I being punished? I wouldn't dare"

"So that means if I don't punish you, you'll do it? The tiger is naughty with his girlfriend this morning, right? Has the tiger run away into the forest?"

The beautiful professor asked while crossing her arms in front of her chest. Peeraya sighed at the person arguing with a straight face.

"Go take a shower. Perth will also get dressed"

"Are you chasing me away?"

"You arguing like this makes me want to kiss you"

"What?"

"Your mouth moves like that calling for a kiss"

"..."

"And you're too good at arguing. I just want to cover your mouth with my kiss"

Pipim was stunned, then replied.

"Come and close it"

Pipim turned to face Peeraya as she said that. Not only that, she also moved closer until Peeraya was stunned because she didn't expect her girlfriend to dare to challenge her like this.

She should have known that Pipim was not someone who easily showed her shame in response to teasing. She would maintain a strong front and change the topic so that Peeraya would be the one embarrassed.

She knew very well that Peeraya wouldn't dare to do anything since she was still grounded. But she still tried to brag about Peeraya losing control and pouncing on her. And if Peeraya really did that, she would be mad at Peeraya.

"So what if Peeraya is a tiger? He still lost to the hunter"

"Go take a bath"

Peeraya said as if he was chasing Pipim away for the second time.

"Who's easily embarrassed?"

Pipim said with a smirk, before the smirk turned into a wide smile as he moved to kiss Peeraya lightly on the lips. Peeraya's face turned red with embarrassment.

She was losing his cool even more. This was the second kiss today, but her heart was still beating like the first.

"You won't let me do it, but you did it?"

"So what if I do?"

"If I can't kiss my girlfriend, who can I kiss?"

"We won't go anywhere, Lil, if we don't stop."

"Why? Is the tiger losing patience?"

"Why do you have so many questions? Are you out of your mind?"

Peeraya said this and sighed.

She pull Pipim's arm to her bedroom instead of telling her to take shower for the third time because otherwise they would have stood and argued all night.

"You can use everything in this room as we wish, and you also can search in every corner."

"Then, can I ask my girlfriend to help me take a shower?"

"Pim!"

Pipim laughed at her scream. She had fun teasing her, knowing that she was embarrassed. But, as usual, Pipim's frankness really made her lose her cool. Worse still, she fell to the ground with a big smile on Pipim's face as she teased her until she lost her cool.

Pipim seemed more open after they took a step forward in their relationship.

Pipim had a beautiful smile. But like her best friend Sitang, she often maintained a flat and stern expression. Come to think of it, Peeraya still got goosebumps thinking about Sitang's threats that time...

What kind of woman could be that scary just by the tone of her voice? But it seemed like the story was different when she was with Jaojay. When the two were together, it was as if you could see two different colors blending perfectly. It wasn't too dark or too light. It was a warm color.

And what she saw now made her sure that Pipim really didn't have a crush on her best friend anymore. More importantly, Sitang's warning that day told her that their friendship would never end.

She would think for herself because Pipim didn't dare to risk her friendship with Sitang. The chance to be the one by her side was her. But also, as she said before, the two were so similar that they liked the same color with different shades.

"Why are you so noisy? What's so surprising?"

"How can you say things like that?"

Pipim laughed softly. Look at that woman. The one who always said that she had low patience was complaining about what had just happened. She should have taken that chance. The guards could be so insensitive sometimes.

"Then wait outside"

"Didn't you say that you wanted me to help you take a bath?"

"Follow me if you dare"

The beautiful professor said that while taking her bag and walking to the bathroom. She didn't even want to wait because she was sure Peeraya wouldn't follow her. Her little tiger was only good at roaring.

But Pipim was wrong. Because her tiger wasn't only good at roaring. Not long after she entered the bathroom, Peeraya followed her, wearing only a white bathrobe, nothing inside.

When Peeraya entered, her eyes sparkled because Pipim had taken off her clothes and was only wearing her bra and panties. And the beautiful neck that she liked so much was clearly visible when Pipim had tied her hair into a bun, ready to take a bath.

"Why are you here?"

"My girlfriend asked me to help her take a bath"

"That's not necessary anymore"

Peeraya grinned.

"So late. Why did the little kitten wake up the tiger?"

Seeing Pipim silent, Peeraya walked to the bathtub and turned on the warm water. She waited for the bathtub to fill before throwing the bath bomb. Bubbles began to fill the bathtub.

"Why are you still wearing your clothes?"

"I can take a bath myself"

"I'll help you"

As her girlfriend fell silent, Peeraya approached to see the person biting her lower lip and smiled.

"Do you want me to help you take off your clothes too?"

"..."

Peeraya's gaze shifted from Pipim's face to her chest, which rose and fell in rhythm with her deep breathing. Pipim's entire body was red, probably because of her embarrassment.

"I obey the others, Pipim. But in this case, I won't let my girlfriend think that I'm incapable"

"Aren't you afraid that I'll get angry?"

"Will you get angry"

"If I say that I'm angry?"

"What made you angry? I'm here to help you take a bath like you asked"

"..."

Pipim couldn't deny it. She tightened her lips as she lost her breath, then finally spoke up.

"Then you get in the bath first. And turn your back to me too"

The sound of rippling water and the water rising to chest height told Peeraya that Pipim was already in the bath with her.

"Turn around"

Although there was no response, Peeraya didn't want to wait any longer. And it was as she expected. Pipim was in the bath with her back facing her.

"Just help rub my back"

But instead of doing that, the nape of her neck lured Peeraya to come closer and press her lips lightly. Her tiny body was shocked, but Pipim didn't make a sound. There was only heavy breathing when Peeraya pressed her lips to her neck for the second time. She then moved her lips down to her shoulder area before she pulled back and used her hands to pour the water on the part of her body that was above the water.

Peeraya rubbed her smooth skin gently. Pipim was very soft wherever she touched. She helped her take a bath while massaging her neck. A satisfied moan was heard, which made Peeraya smile.

"Are you tense?"

Pipim nodded. She had to admit that the warm water really helped her relax. Her body that was tired from working out started to feel better. Also, the massage on her neck and shoulders was very soothing.

The massager was getting bolder. Both hands swept across her slender back before moving to the front.

Peeraya carried her stomach that was tense from her massage before she moved her

hands back because she didn't want her prey to know what was about to happen. She was ready to skip the date and spend some time in the room instead. Peeraya turned Pipim around and looked at her with eyes full of affection, fascination, and longing that made Pipim feel hot.

She then caressed Pipim's cheek with the back of her wet hand. The hand slowly swept down to her chin and pushed it up with her index finger before she gently pressed her lips to Pipim's. She moved back to see Pipim's response clearly and kissed her repeatedly until the kiss became more intense.

"Ahh"

Peeraya let out a deep moan. Her lips opened and tightened repeatedly. One hand was busy massaging Pipim's breasts, while the other hand pulled Pipim's waist until Pipim was above her. Now Pipim was sitting in a higher position. Peeraya supported Pipim's waist with both hands, pressing their bodies tightly together as their lips wrestled without separating like magnets.

The sound of intense kissing filled the silent bathroom. The water from the tub spilled onto the floor, wetting their clothes that were lying on it. And Pipim's cheeks also became wet.

"We're just taking a shower, right?"

"We have to do a good job and make sure we're really clean"

Peeraya replied while looking at her girlfriend's red face and smirking

"Ah!"

Pipim immediately put all her weight on it Peeraya when Peeraya's naughty fingers moved to her sensitive area without any prior warning.

The smooth substance that was different from the water in the tub made her tighten her lips even more in embarrassment. She didn't dare to look at Peeraya.

"You're all wet now. We need to clean it properly"

"Don't tease"

Pipim tried to free herself by lifting her hips, but it was difficult because Peeraya was gripping her tightly.

"Here or in bed?"

This was a question that made it clear that Peeraya would not let her have her way tonight. The young professor pursed her lips and refused to answer because she did not want Peeraya to be bolder than she was now.

"If you don't choose, I will"

"I don't choose"

"Then here, before moving to bed"

Pipim was in a disadvantageous position in every way, whether it was the risky position or Peeraya's fingers that were around her sensitive area. And when Peeraya moved and pressed her fingers into her sensitive area, Pipim almost lost all her strength. She dug her nails into Peeraya's slender shoulders instead of the bathtub.

A sullen face, tightly pursed lips, closed eyes, and messy hair that was starting to fall out, as well as plump breasts that moved seductively, further increased Peeraya's emotions. She moved her hand awkwardly behind Pipim to turn on the shower.

At this time, Pipim was even more charming and seductive. She was shocked, but not for long because her attention was drawn elsewhere. The fingers that had been stuck in Peeraya's shoulders until they were injured moved to wipe the hair that covered her face because of the water from the shower.

Peeraya took a deep breath as she saw the water flowing down Pipim's body and disappearing into hidden corners.

"Naughty"

"I'm a tiger"

"Naughty tiger"

"This tiger likes to pounce on kittens, did you know that?"

Pipim had no problem with sex. But she was very embarrassed because the lights were on and very bright. Peeraya could see the curves of her body and figure very clearly.

"Perth"

The petite pursed her lips and breathed heavily when Peeraya was no longer interested in talking and instead put the beautiful nipple into her mouth and brushed it with the tip of her tongue.

"You said we were just taking a shower"

"We're still in the bathroom"

With the fingers that had been moving, waiting for Pipim to be ready, she slowly crept in. Peeraya was in no hurry. When Pipim tried to move her hips, she followed. If Pipim went left, she went left. If Pipim went right, she went right. The one who tried to move away finally gave in.

The beautiful professor hid her embarrassment by burying her face in Peeraya's neck. She bit down hard to punish Peeraya, but slowly let go as her fingers moved in.

"You said you'd take me on a date"

"Anywhere with you is a date"

One thing Pipim probably didn't know was that when her face was near Peeraya's ear, her moans got louder. And that made Peeraya even more aroused. And when Pipim's hips subconsciously responded to her movements, it became even more intense.

"Pipim"

"Huh?"

"Let's move to the bed"

"Yes"

Little bit her lip as she answered because Peeraya's fingers never stopped moving, even when she asked that question.

She didn't even know when they reached the bed. She only knew that naughty Peeraya...

Took her to the bed while waking her up all the way. Before Pipim realized it, she screamed again and again. And when Peeraya was finally on top of her, she didn't even know that she left many red marks on her breasts. She just knew that she needed to release her tension on something, and Peeraya was responsible for making

her skip dinner and sleep like a log.

Peeraya was greedy. She was a hungry tiger and was furious when it came to lovemaking. She was like a caged tiger that pounced on the person who let her out as soon as she came out.

"Pipim, please give me a little more. My sugar"

Yes. That's what she whispered all night, Pipim didn't know how long it had been, but when she woke up, her stomach was rumbling loudly while the person next to her was nowhere to be seen. She rubbed her eyes with the back of her hand before getting out of bed to go to the bathroom. But she immediately fell to the floor because her legs didn't have the strength to support her anymore.

"Perth"

"..."

"Perth!"

She needed to ask for help because she didn't even have the strength to get back up. When Peeraya opened the door to enter, Pipim openly threw her eyes crossed. And when Peeraya hurriedly ran to help her stand up, Pipim pinched her waist. Look at that woman. She woke up in front of her and was fully dressed, but she left her to sleep alone in bed.

"What's wrong?"

Peeraya helped her stand up.

"My legs don't have any strength left. Guess who did that to me?"

Peeraya could only look at her with puppy eyes. She wanted to hug her but was stopped by a strong gaze. It was because she didn't let Pipim rest at all last night. She was exhausted because Pipim liked to tease and challenge her. She was also almost out of energy, but she wanted to prepare breakfast for Pipim.

Currently, Pipim was only wearing panties and a white shirt that barely covered her hips. She sat not too far away, showing her white and slender legs.

However, Peeraya couldn't get close to her. This was a very torturous punishment.

"Look at my face when I speaks, Phi Perth"

"..."

"Stop acting like you didn't get enough last night."

"Yeah. But I'm looking for more. Someone could have another one, you know."

Her blanket aggression towards her girlfriend multiplied when she saw the red marks on her neck. She couldn't help but worry.

She remembered turning her head to release the tension without holding back.

"Let me see your shoulder"

Pipim called out to Peeraya and unbuttoned her top with a shy look. scratches, she rubbed them before telling Peeraya.

"Please remember this. If you're so greedy that you don't let me rest like last night, I'll turn the knife until you bleed."

"..."

Peeraya swallowed before nodding. She wanted to argue that she was a tiger and challenged her until she lost her temper.

She could tolerate anything, but she would not tolerate Pipim saying that she was a tiger who did not know how to kill her prey.

There was no way he was going to allow that...

sunnyanv

18. I LIKE YOU MORE

Whoever caused the loss must fix it. This applies to Pipim and Peeraya. Pipim applied medicine to the scratch on Peeraya's shoulder, while the red mark on her neck was covered with foundation so that it was almost invisible.

And now the beautiful professor was complaining like a bear stung by a bee because Peeraya took her out without telling her first.

"Didn't you think of telling me your plan before you took me out? What if Pim wasn't free?"

"I knew you would be like that"

"You know, good"

Peeraya laughed at the sarcasm.

"Are you praising me or complaining?"

"Complaining. You like to do things impulsively"

The pink lips that moved non-stop were so attractive and inviting.

However, Peeraya had to control herself because if she tasted it now, today's plan would be in vain because she would do nothing but hug Pipim's naked body all day.

"Like when we take a bath?"

If she couldn't do anything, at least let her tease. Did she tell anyone that she liked it when Pipim showed her feelings on her face? Like now, when Pipim scolded her with those sharp eyes.

"That's exhausting. Where do you get all that energy? You don't seem any stronger than Pim"

"If you didn't know, your girlfriend likes to go to the gym"

"I don't know. I just know that you like to come to my place. You come for the free sandwiches every morning, even though you have a job and a lot of money"

"How can I flirt with a girl if I don't do that?"

"What's wrong with threatening a girl from the start?"

"That's all I could think of at the time. You think I should."

"Just walk up to her and say. I like you, be mine?"

"..."

"See? You won't give me a chance"

"I'm not talking to you anymore"

"Are you embarrassed?"

"No"

"Say you're embarrassed if you're embarrassed. I've seen every corner of you"

"How is that related to what we were talking about?"

Pipi asked while pressing the scratch harder.

Peeraya was wearing a white shirt similar to the one her girlfriend was wearing, but with a few buttons unbuttoned so Pipim could clean the scratches on her shoulders. And she refused to wear anything underneath it.

"I don't know. I just know that what I saw then made me want to enjoy you all night long"

"..."

"I'm so possessive"

"Why are you possessive? I didn't do anything"

Pipim hinted because Peeraya was so whiny now. One second she was teasing her, the next she was asking for his tenderness. Why was she like this...

But Pipim couldn't deny that she liked seeing Peeraya's new side.

"I'm afraid that others will get the chance to see her too"

Pipim was also afraid that others would see Peeraya's cute side like this.

"Why do you say that?"

Peeraya's last sentence made Pipim's voice become firm. Did Peeraya think that she would let others see her easily?

"I'm afraid that if one day I'm not sweet and hurt you, I won't have the chance to make up for it anymore"

"Are you someone who likes to overthink?"

When Pipim heard Peeraya's reason, her voice became softer.

"Be more confident in yourself. If I didn't have feelings for you, I wouldn't obey you. You've gotten so much from me, why are you still so insecure?"

Peeraya smiled at Pipim's words and asked more.

"Are you confessing your love to me?"

"I don't think that's what I heard"

"Does that mean you don't love me?"

"I don't think I said that either"

Peeraya laughed softly as she pulled Pipim's waist to hug her. Because Peeraya was sitting, she could press her face against Pipim's stomach and playfully pounce on her with cute aggression.

"That tickles"

"Then I'll tell you"

"..."

"Phi Perth loves you, Pipim"

"See? Again. You just said that out of the blue"

Although Pipim said it as if she was complaining. She wouldn't let Peeraya take her face out of her stomach to see the embarrassment on her face.

"I love you"

"I know"

"Don't you want to say it too?"

"Not yet"

"When?"

"Not telling"

"Not telling when you're going to say it? Or not telling me that you love me?"

"You're an adult. Think about it yourself"

This time, Peeraya was able to step back and look at Pipim in time to see her red cheeks clearly. So this is what someone who is always calm looks like when she loses her cool.

"Ah, you're embarrassed"

"Yes"

Once again, Pipim answered without hesitation.

Peeraya took Pipim hand in hand to the elevator after the lunch and fun bickering were over. With her other hand, Peeraya read the messages that had been sent to her all night until this morning.

"Let's try on the dress for the wedding we're going to attend. My girlfriend has to be more beautiful than the bride"

"You want to show me off?"

"Yes"

"I thought you said we had to play the role of a man without a girlfriend"

"Change of plans. We don't have to do that anymore"

Pipim nodded and continued asking.

"If I wasn't beautiful, wouldn't you take me?"

"You're more beautiful now"

"..."

"Because you've always been the most beautiful woman in my eyes"

"Okay"

"Oh? But I'm complimenting you"

Peeraya really thought as she said.

Increasing her girlfriend's confidence was a good thing. Because it not only made her confident with her beauty (she was always beautiful), but also made her know that she

was truly the most beautiful person in her eyes.

"Good. Don't let me see you looking at other women"

"Are you jealous or possessive?"

"Which answer do you want to hear?"

Pipim asked while glancing at Peeraya.

"The truth"

"Everything I just said if I don't feel it with my girlfriend, who else should I feel it with?"

"So you're jealous and possessive?"

"You already know that"

Peeraya laughing. Pipim was like this. She always answered with a question. She would beat around the bush, but in the end, she would confess her feelings. She enjoyed this and really liked them being back together having a conversation like this.

"Dad sent me a message to let me know that he's already sent all the evidence to a police officer he knows, and the police are handling the case"

"Is that why you're more relaxed and back to your normal self?"

Peeraya shrugged before adding.

"The other side must be in disarray right now. They have to be careful in all their actions. They won't have time to send someone to do crazy things. They have to find a way out, not a way to hurt others or threaten them"

"What makes you so confident?"

"The bullets I ordered you to shoot hit the target. Don't you know that I'm a sniper?"

"No, I don't know"

"..."

"If I knew, I should have done it from the start Peeraya"

Mumbling before sighing softly as he thought back to his mistake.

"If we know everything in advance, there will be no "if" or "too late" in this world"

Yes. Because she knows that, Peeraya loves and respects Pipim more.

"This is a lesson we must learn together. Don't blame yourself, because I don't blame you"

Pipim tightens her grip on their hands. It really helps to bring back Peeraya's smile and confidence.

Whatever she lacks or doesn't have, Pipim has a magical spell to easily give it to her.

Her sincere words and smiling eyes.
But... Everytime they talk about this...

"But you're still a little upset"

"Yeah"

"What's lost. You can't get it back. That also goes for feelings that have been lost"

"I'm sorry"

p

Pipim laughs at the person who immediately becomes shy every time they bring up this topic. This is something that will give her an advantage over Peeraya for a long time.

"You won't do it again, right? So, just let it be"

"Lil texted me and complained about me not showing up even though I booked a table last night"

Because there was tension in the air, Peeraya changes the topic and shows her phone to Pipim. She still looks sad, but it eases a little after her lover comforts her. Ralilpat sent a long message to complain and say that Peeraya was on her blacklist until she calmed down, which was unclear for how long.

"Good for you"

"Hey. Why is it only me who is at fault? We have to shoulder the responsibility together"

Pipim stared at her without answering until they reached the elevator, and their shadows were visible in the elevator door.

"Last night, you were the only one who got something. So you have to be the only one responsible"

"Oh? If you want something too, you have to fight"

"I won't fight. I happen to prefer receiving"

Pipim could only say that with a straight face, which made Peeraya silent because she didn't know how to continue the conversation.

"Why do you look like that?"

"You..."

"Me?"

"Stop being cute, Pipim"

"That's too bad"

The young professor looked so remorseful that you could tell it was fake.

"I like being cute for my girlfriend"

Total loss... If there was a score, there was no doubt that Pipim would win by a mile.

Pipim had not returned home for the second night in a row. She was kidnapped by a crybaby who claimed to be too attached to her girlfriend....

She slept soundly the second night, like someone who had not had enough rest from the previous night.

The young professor regained consciousness the next morning, attracted by the tempting aroma of food. Her girlfriend had cleverly found a way to wake her up. Because if the bedroom door had been closed, she would not have been woken up by the smell of food. But because the door wide open, her stomach growling at the smell of food like Peeraya wanted.

But what made her stop in her tracks as she stepped out of bed were the two work clothes hanging in front of the closet with their names written on them in her girlfriend's handwriting. Today was her day off, did Peeraya plan to take her out every day?

Yesterday, they had already gone out.

Pipim dragged her feet to the bathroom without any rush. Another surprise waiting for her was her toothbrush, which contained toothpaste, a glass of water to rinse her mouth with, and a clean towel on the table. In other words, everything she needed to use when she woke up and got ready for the day had been prepared for her.

"Is she trying to score brownie points?"

Pipim muttered to herself, but she couldn't deny that she liked it... As soon as she finished with her personal business and walked out, Peeraya, who was pouring orange juice into a glass in the kitchen, looked up to greet her with a smile as bright as the morning sun. She felt warm inside that she had been taken care of like this. She believed that no one would dislike that.

"The smell of food can really wake you up"

"You're so cunning"

"I wanted to lie in bed and look at my girlfriend i's face for a while longer, but I thought it would be better to get up and gather some points"

"For what?"

"In case someone is soft and moves in with me"

"We've been dating for less than a week"

"But we've known each other for almost four months"

"Let me observe your behavior to see how long you can keep this up first"

"You just need to say it, Pipim"

"Then let's have breakfast. I'm hungry"

"Why should I go? That's your workplace. Why bring me there to bother you?"

"I have a surprise"

Pipim didn't know what her girlfriend's surprise was, but she obeyed. She didn't like seeing Peeraya's sad gaze, even though she knew it was just to ask for tenderness.

Not long after she arrived at Peeraya's company, the secretary reported that there was a client on the phone for Peeraya. Of course, Peeraya accepted the call. But what made Pipim narrow her eyes was that the person on the other end of the phone spoke in a polite and deep voice and invited Peeraya to eat after the serious conversation was over. Pipim was not sure whether it was good or bad that Peeraya chose to accept the call on speaker phone. Peeraya postponed the call because she knew Pipim didn't like what was happening. And in the end, when Pipim was fed up, she made a sound in her throat over and over again until Peeraya said no, hung up the phone, put her chin on her palm, and looked at her with a grin on her face.

"I like it when you're possessive of me."

"Are you delusional?"

"Oh? Someone's flirting with your girlfriend. Aren't you jealous?"

"Do you dare to deceive me?"

"Do I have to answer it?"

1

"It's up to you"

"Then I'll do it"

"Yes"

"..."

"I'd be crazy if I dared to do that. My girlfriend is beautiful, talented, understanding, clingy (sometimes), makes great sandwiches, makes sense, and likes to call me tiger..."

"Stop talking"

"I've told you what you can use to shut my mouth"

"Aren't you working?"

"I'm working"

"You tease me nonstop"

Pipim complained softly but meant it loud enough for others to hear. Peeraya knew because she saw a faint smile on Pipim's face that wouldn't be visible if they weren't observant.

"I only have one girlfriend. I have to tease her often"

"Okay, work"

Peeraya's surprise was to take Pipim to a company that used to belong to Sitang, but now more than 50% of the shares are owned by her.

"Why did you bring me here?"

Peeraya smiled.

"I'll take you to meet the person who tried to trap you your father"

Peeraya smiled.

"I'll take you to meet the person who tried to frame your father"

"Do you want me to see his face?"

"Yes"

"But I'm an outsider"

Peeraya shook her head.

"You're not an outsider. You're my lover. You're my person. Therefore, all the rights I have, you have them too, Pipim"

Strong will. Disturbing. And funny. All those feelings invaded Pipim at once.

But all she could do was nod and follow him to the elevator to get to the meeting room on the top floor of the building.

"There's a meeting with the shareholders at 10am today"

Pipim frowned.

"But we're 10 minutes late."

Peeraya turned to look at her slyly.

"Who said we were late? I was going to come at this time."

There were three police officers waiting in front of the meeting room when they arrived there. The one with the highest rank walked up to greet Peeraya as soon as he saw her.

"Right on time"

"Of course"

Peeraya introduced Pipim to the police officer she knew well. He was the son of her father's best friend and was three years older than her. He was now a captain and would definitely rise in rank in the future.

"Phi Phu, this is Pipim, my girlfriend"

"Nice to meet you"

The police officer smiled, and Pipim smiled back politely. She was not sure how she felt about him. But it was clear that her girlfriend didn't feel anything because he didn't pay attention to her and kept holding her hand tightly after the introduction.

"Let's go. I'm ready"

"Will the police come with us?"

Peeraya winked at him.

"We're catching the thief, so of course we need to bring the police"

There were three knocks on the door before Peeraya opened the door to enter the room without any response from inside. There were many people in the room, and the most familiar face was...

"Vice President?"

"Hello, secretary"

"Why are you here?"

He got up and looked around before frowning when he saw the police officer enter after Peeraya.

"I'm here for a meeting. But I didn't expect to see you here."

It was all a lie. Because she had already confirmed that Viruj was here for this meeting. That's why she told Pipi that it was a surprise.

"Captain Pakphum, you are free to do your duty."

As the uniformed man approached, Viruj took a step back, as if to run away, before asking in a trembling voice that lacked the calmness it once had.

"What did the vice president do?"

Peeraya smiled widely. It was the fiercest smile Pipi had ever seen from her. She should have known that if there was no reason for Peeraya to hesitate, her girlfriend was a very fierce tiger.

She was a completely different tiger from when she was alone with her.

daphne.shn@gmail.com

"You're the one I should be asking. What did you do?"

sunyan

19. What Goes Around Comes Around

"I didn't do anything. Why are you arresting me?"

He asked as two police officers approached. However, because his back was against the wall, he had to accept being handcuffed.

"Where's the arrest warrant? You can't do this. I'll sue you again."

Viruj acted like a smart police officer. But he was then stunned when Captain Pakphum looked up and told him flatly.

"We have evidence that you hired someone to cause the Khun Peeraya traffic accident."

"I want a lawyer. I have my right to a lawyer."

Viruj continued without giving up. He didn't want to give up that easily. What did he do wrong? Everything was going well, according to plan. His brain was working hard to find a quick way out, but everything that came to his mind couldn't be executed. The only thing he could do was leave the meeting room after being pushed from behind. He stared at Peeraya with hatred all the way as he walked out.

"The vice president slandered me. I didn't do anything wrong."

Viruj said in a deep voice, as if trying to hold back his emotions. But Peeraya just crossed her arms in front of her chest, shrugged her shoulders, and smiled at him.

Even though that was all he did, he glared back at her. This was definitely not a plan he had planned for a long time, with more thrills waiting in the future. This was not the right time. Everything this man had built, he would tear it down like dominoes.

"About that, we can talk after the investigation"

"..."

"It just so happens that the evidence I have is far from the words of doing nothing that you just said"

"..."

"See you later, captain"

Peeraya turned to tell the young officer before turning to look at the shocked faces of the other people in the meeting room. They sat and watched what was happening in silence, as if they were watching a drama. Some even forgot to breathe.

Peeraya gave a loud clap to shake everyone out of their stupor. Even Pipim was surprised. But the clap managed to draw everyone's attention to him.

"Okay, I apologize for all the hassle. Can we continue the meeting?"

He asked while raising his eyebrows at everyone in the room.

Naturally, everyone swallowed and nodded in agreement, since they couldn't do much. The person who had just putting on a big show now that she is the majority shareholder.

"Ah. And I heard from Nong Sitang that the people here are very aggressive. That's good. As a new member of the management team here, I like dealing with those who are bold. Especially those who dare to steal from the company."

Peeraya said that with a straight face. Mentioning Sitang's name made many people shiver because she was known to not care about anyone or the stock price. And the majority shareholder had just gotten to know her, and it seemed like she held all the shares that used to belong to Sitang.

Peeraya smiled from the corner of her mouth, seeing everyone's reaction. What happened earlier was a perfect show to tame the old managers who shamelessly pocketed the company's profits for themselves. Pipim couldn't take her eyes off Peeraya because she was very impressed by her authoritative attitude.

Her poor heart was beating faster than usual. She already had strong feelings for Peeraya, but now they were even stronger. This was new to Pipim.

Because she never imagined she could experience the charm of falling in love with someone more today than yesterday.

"Your girlfriend is so cool, huh?"

Peeraya whispered as they walked to the head of the table. She was just teasing Pipim so that only the two of them would hear it.

"Who told you that?"

Pipim asked, and she tried to look emotionless as usual. But Peeraya could see through her because...

"Your eyes tell me everything, my dear"

"Very clever"

"Is that to call a dog? If I were your dog, please rub my chin"

Peeraya was about to move her chin closer to Pipim, so Pipim had to pinch it because this was not the place to be teased like this. But it seemed like Peeraya didn't care about anything around her.

"Concentrate on your work"

Peeraya smiled and nodded before the gentle expression on her face as she spoke to Pipim changed as she reached the head of the table. And once she sat down, her serious demeanor returned.

The meeting was over. Peeraya drove straight back to her condo with Pipim by her side. It was quiet but not lonely. It seemed like they just wanted to sit quietly together like this and not rush.

Peeraya glanced at her girlfriend a few times, and when they were stuck in a red traffic light, she finally asked.

"If I had known that you liked the look of working women. I would have brought you to all my meetings"

"I don't like working women"

Pipim answered immediately and turned to Peeraya.

"I see that you can't take your eyes off me"

"I still don't like working women"

"..."

"I like you when you're working. You have to be specific"

Pipim said that and added.

"There are a lot of working women, but your girlfriend doesn't like all of them"

Her words were still a threat to Peeraya's heart, as usual. Peeraya could only open her mouth like a gasping goldfish, but no words came out. There was only a satisfied smile on her face.

"Pipim, you are very good at teasing your girlfriend"

"I am also good at interrogating her"

"??"

"How close are you to Khun Phum?"

Now, Pipim crossed her arms in front of her chest, just like that day.

Meanwhile, Peeraya was sweating as she told the history between the young captain and herself.

Although the air conditioner in the car was working well, and Pipim asked in her normal tone, not putting extra pressure on her.

She was not sweating because she was afraid, but because she was getting hot from her toes to her ears.

"So you two have known each other since childhood, and he is the son of your father's best friend who is a policeman. And he likes you?"

"..."

The person being interrogated fell silent.

"Eyes can't lie, sugar. He's in pain, but he's polite enough not to cross the line when you introduced Pim to him"

Pipim said that softly. She was jealous, but she also didn't want to hide her curiosity. It was better to talk about it today and forget about it, so there would be no doubts left between them.

"I can't force someone to feel or not feel something"

"Having someone who likes you is better than having someone who hates you"

Pipim said that with a smile.

"But if you deviate even a little, you know that Si is ready to pounce on you more than I am, right?"

Peeraya swallowed before asking. Pipim was scary enough when she was angry. She didn't even want to imagine what her faith would be like if Pipim's best friend was added into the equation.

"Are you threatening me?"

"Yes, I am threatening you"

Today is an important day for many people. And it's also an important day for Peeraya. She and her father visited the police station to submit a request to visit Viruj. Viruj was heavily handcuffed but still wearing the same clothes as yesterday.

She didn't even look at her father and daughter. She kept looking at the white wall, like it was very interesting. Peeraya's father had to ask.

"Why did you do it?"

"..."

"I consider you a family member, Viruj. We've been together for so long, since Perth was still in school and couldn't help with anything in the company"

Peeraya sat silently without commenting because the person who was hurt the most was her father. He always loved and treating Viruj like a friend. He could feel how disappointed, sad, and devastated he was from his voice. But it didn't seem to reach the person he was trying to communicate with.

"Why didn't you tell me if you needed help with something?"

"..."

"Not only did you break my trust, but you also tried to hurt my daughter"

Viruj finally made a sound in his throat and turned to look Peeraya's father in the eye.

"I worked hard to help you and your family get to this point. But all I get in return is a meager salary. Is that how you treat a family member?"

"Your salary is the same as a high-level manager's salary, Viruj"

"I should get more than that"

Viruj replied firmly.

"But you took it the wrong way. You know me well enough to know that I had to get rid of that rotten egg."

"I won't let you live in peace. If I'm not happy, no one else will."

Peeraya sighed, grabbed her father's hand, and shook her head to tell him that there was no need to say anything more. Viruj showed no sign of remorse. He was rotten to the core.

"If staying in jail is too comfortable, I'll make your life a living hell after you get out."

Peeraya said flatly, staring him straight in the eye with ferocity.

"..."

"I'll make it so that you're at a dead end. You won't have a dime on you, and no one will want to be around you. Who would want a secretary with corporate fraud and attempted murder on her record?"

"..."

Viruj exhaled heavily, as if he was not afraid at all, but he did not seem worried.

"And you won't be able to touch the money in your bank account"

"You've gone too far, vice president!"

Viruj slammed the table with both his hands. Peeraya on the other hand, smiled coldly at him while remaining calm.

"And I'm sorry that you won't be able to come to your daughter's wedding. You won't see the surprise I've prepared for the bride and groom"

"What will you do?"

"I'll send you news when you'll have no one left. Not even the person you thought you could manipulate forever"

"Where are you going!? Come back here"

Viruj got up as the father and daughter got up and turned to walk out. He wanted to walk towards them, but he couldn't. He couldn't get the handcuffs off, no matter how hard he pulled. His eyes went wide open, and he slumped into his chair when Peeraya turned to say something to him. He put his hands on his head and swore at her, full of hatred.

"You shouldn't have told her"

Peeraya sighed.

"For some people, we can't win her heart by being good, father. And for some people, despair is more frightening than a knife"

"So you're not kidding"

"I don't mess with people like that, father"

First and Grace's wedding took place the next day in grand style. Peeraya was very happy to attend the wedding. She wore white skinny pants and a jacket with attractive gold buttons. The contrasting black high heels made him even more elegant.

Her hair was tied in a ponytail. She chose a simple style today, but all the elements suited her and made her look elegant. But what made her look angry was all eyes on the person next to her, Pipim was a beautiful woman.

She knew that well. And it seemed like Pipim knew it too. She was very charming. It all depended on when she chose to use her charm. Tonight, she was wearing an open-shoulder dress that showed off her smooth back. Peeraya felt that they had made the right decision to choose the Tansikorn collection. Tansikorn dresses could transform a beautiful woman into someone so graceful that the celebrants couldn't take their eyes off Pipim. But at the same time, she also attracted the attention of everyone here.

If it wasn't for something important she had to do tonight, she wouldn't have been here or brought Pipim here, for sure.

"Why do you look so angry?"

Pipim tugged at her girlfriend's arm that was around hers to get Peeraya's attention.

The wedding was grand because of the groom's status. Peeraya's cousin came from a wealthy family with social status. Her parents definitely didn't want to lose face.

"Everyone is looking at you"

Peeraya replied with an angry look, while the person who asked laughing because her girlfriend was acting like a 10-year-old Peeraya who didn't get what she wanted.

"Oh? But I dressed up for the people who will see me"

"Pipim"

Peeraya called out loudly. Her face clearly showed that she wasn't joking about this.

So Pipim smiled slightly and used her free hand to rub the arm she was hugging as she spoke softly to Peeraya.

"You act like people don't see you either"

"That's not the same"

Peeraya protested.

"No one looks at me like they want to walk over to ask for my contact"

"Don't be so sure. It doesn't mean there aren't any, you just don't pay attention"

"I don't want to pay attention to other people"

Peeraya was really upset and acting out, but Pipim was not upset at all. She preferred Peeraya to show her emotions rather than keep them bottled up inside until they became a time bomb.

This way, at least they could talk about it here and now. She liked Peeraya whining, but not to a level she couldn't handle. Possession was a colorful and vibrant aspect of love.

"Why are you acting out with me, Perth dear?"

"I don't"

"You're grumpy. And you're out of breath"

"It's frustrating..."

Peeraya said it in a softer voice, but you could tell she was whining clearly from looking at her face.

"Why are you whining?"

"Why are you so beautiful?"

"If I wasn't beautiful, would you even look at me?"

Peeraya couldn't deny it...

She was immediately attracted to Pipim because she was incredibly beautiful. But that wasn't why she loved her.

"Besides, isn't today the day you're going to shoot your second bullet?"

"Yes, but still"

"Then don't pay attention to others. Don't pay attention to who's looking at me. Just focus on your bullet"

Peeraya rubbed her face before sighing.

"I feel like I can't do anything without you"

Pipim smiled, looking satisfied.

"Good. Because you'll have Pim for the rest of your life"

Cute... How many more times did he have to say that? One minute she is cute, the next he is asking for tenderness. She is also always stable and reliable. She was someone worthy and trustworthy enough for Peeraya to place her heart and soul in her hands. Just wait a little longer. She would make Pipim have her forever too.

The bullet in the hand of Peeraya was fired during the water sprinkling ceremony. When people prayed for the best for the bride and groom.

Before she pulled the trigger, she stood in front of the couple. First's expression changed from a smile to curiosity, as Grace's regretful expression turned pale and shocked as she asked.

"Your father didn't come to his daughter's wedding, Grace?"

"You know that my father has passed away, Phi Perth"

Grace answered in a trembling voice as First tried to protect his future legitimate wife.

"What nonsense are you saying? Why are you saying such things at a wedding ceremony? That's too rude"

"If you knew what I was going to do in the next minute, rude words wouldn't even come close. But honestly, I don't know why I should have any manners with people like you two"

"..."

"One more thing, I just realized that your late father was very close to my family"

"What are you talking about? If you're going to talk nonsense, please get out"

First said that firmly.

"I wasn't talking to you"

Peeraya turned to stare at the man until he fell silent.

"I just met your deceased father, Grace. Most recently... He's been handcuffed in jail without bail"

"Phi Perth... Don't do this"

Grace shook her head, not wanting to accept the truth. She kept all her secrets according to her father's plan for so long. She did everything she said like a stupid robot just because she wanted his attention. She wanted her family to have status and wealth in society like everyone else.

The last time she tried, she couldn't reach him. And now Peeraya was saying this. Her father wasn't a good man.

He did a lot of bad things. But at least, at his worst, he came to her aid. He became a father figure to her and gave her the family she always wanted.

"Everything you did, including approaching me and making me love you in the past, was an act"

Peeraya muttered regretfully. It all made sense. It was strange because she was with First when she approached Peeraya.

Grace was still shaking her head non-stop. She cried unconsciously. Because, even though what Peeraya said was true. It changed because she really fell in love with her. But a robot that had been programmed to receive orders could not do what it wanted. In the end, she had to return to First.

"That's your father's plan? Me or First? Anything will be beneficial to you. But my cousin is a boy, so he's a better target. If you get pregnant, that's even better. That's what your father thought, right?"

It seemed like Peeraya was there with her. Grace subconsciously nodded, but then shook her head. Pipim who was standing beside Peeraya was shocked. When she put it all together. She realized who his father was and she should do what his father said all this time. Grace might be at a loss because her father wasn't here on this important day.

She was probably so weak that she revealed all her secrets easily. Since her lover had been pressuring Grace emotionally for a while, everything was revealed easily.

This was not a coincidence. Peeraya planned everything carefully. There was no sign of Peeraya being weak or childish. She was like a different person.

But Pipim felt sorry for the person who was trying to hide her face and cry as if she had lost everything. All the guests wondered what had happened.

"Perth"

Pipim pulled her as she moved closer.

"Do you have to do this here?"

Peeraya nodded and then sighed.

How did she know all this? That was when she wanted to make First restless by letting Grace come back into her life. Grace probably wanted to come back with her but didn't dare to tell her father about it, so there was a gap. The phone number from the missed call when she left her phone with Peeraya was very familiar, and she had a very good memory. She casually tried to unlock the phone, and it worked.

Grace was still using the password she had used when they were together. Because of that, she found something that shocked her. And more importantly, if she didn't shoot the bullet now, Grace would suffer the consequences of what happened.

Viruj did for the rest of his life. Because from now on, First will also have to pay for what he did in prison.

Admitted as an accomplice...

"I give you my last advice. Don't let him come back into your life again. Better yet, you should start a new life. Your own life"

Soon after, Peeraya gave the signal to the police officers. The groom made a scene just like Viruj. The only difference was that it was grander because his parents also joined in as they tried to pull First back while the police officers guarded him.

"Perth!! How could you do that to your cousin!!" Her aunt asking while pointing at Peeraya's face. She no longer cared about losing face among all the guests.

At this point, Peeraya's father stepped out and placed his hand on his daughter's shoulder.

"And why did you two do what you did to my daughter? If I ask you this again, can you give me an answer?"

"What did you say?" Uncle asked.

Peeraya's father didn't want to expose everything for the public to see. That was the reason he had kept it all to himself for so long. Family matters should be handled within the family. But now that it had gotten out of hand, if things fell apart, it was inevitable. He told Peeraya that, letting her loose a full load of bullets.

"Poisoning, threatening, discrediting, and backstabbing her just because Perth was promoted to vice president. Need I say more?"

"..."

"Weren't you two the ones who taught your son to do all that? Today, he's just paying back what his parents taught him. How is Perth wrong in all this?"

"..."

"I'm asking, what is Perth wrong in all this!?"

Peeraya was shocked by her father's authoritative tone. But her heart suddenly became very warm, knowing that she was protected under his wing. Even though her father hadn't said anything, he had been watching everything and trying to find the person behind it all. He was probably heartbroken that his own brother did all that to him.

When they returned to the condominium, Peeraya sat on the sofa, closed her eyes, and sighed tiredly. Pipim took some cold water and placed it in front of her lover. She glanced at the clock to see that she still had a little time left before she had to go home.

"Are you tired?"

"I didn't think I'd be this tired."

Peeraya replied while drinking the water. She glanced at Pipim before saying what was on her mind.

"I pity Grace"

"Yes"

"You're not mad, are you?"

"No"

Pipim replied and added.

"I thought you would pull the trigger without caring who would get hurt. But when I heard your reason, I felt that sometimes not pulling it is not a bad thing"

Only a few deserve a second chance"

"If you feel nothing more than pity for her, that's okay"

"All I feel is pity for her"

Peeraya hurriedly explained herself. She felt sorry for Grace not being able to live her own life. Knowing that it was wrong, but since she couldn't go back, the only thing she could do was move forward. Peeraya gave her a choice, it was up to her to accept it or not.

"I'm serious, Pipim. I only love you"

"I know that. You don't have to look this serious"

"I love you"

Peeraya said that while putting her face on the sofa and looking at her lover. She smiled a little. Feeling happy that everything was going according to plan.

"Yes"

"Can't you not go home?"

"That has nothing to do with what we're talking about"

Pipim said that while covering her hair that fell to cover her face Peeraya. She smile, seeing Peeraya's mouth pucker as she whined.

"I don't care what we talk about. I only care that you'll come home"

"Ah. I've spent many nights here. If you want me to stay with you every night, you have to ask my father's permission"

"You mean proposing to you?"

Pipim stopped after hearing that. She then replied.

"That's too soon"

"Then, let's get engaged?"

"Huh? Are you serious?"

"Do you think I'm teasing you for fun?"

The beautiful professor didn't answer but moved his face closer. She pressed her lips gently against Peeraya's, and was silent for a while.

"Do you dare?"

"Why do you like asking that?"

Peeraya didn't answer but pulled Pipim's neck for another sweet kiss, again and again.

Finally, Pipim looked at her girlfriend, standing with a sullen face in front of her house. Because if she insisted on going home, there was nothing she could do. She didn't dare to disobey her, but complained like a bear stung by a bee all the way here.

"I told you that if you want me to stay with you, you have to talk to my father"

"If I do that, will you really come?"

"Let's see if my father gives permission"

Pipim replied with a smile. She didn't believe that Peeraya would take her seriously or develop emotional anxiety because of it.

"Just one more night"

Whine. And not giving up easily...

For some people, it might be annoying. But there are exceptions for some things related to someone special. Peeraya is an exception to that.

"I have a lecture tomorrow. How can I spend the night with you?"

"Okay. I give up"

She said that but walked over to give Pipimba long and tight hug before she left. She didn't dare do more because she didn't want to lose points.

"I'll pick you up tomorrow"

"Get some rest"

"Then use my car"

"I don't like driving"

"Then I'll pick you up"

Pipim laughing softly and looked at Peeraya before she nodded. She would let her do what she wanted since Peeraya was probably frustrated enough.

"What do you want to eat tomorrow?"

"You"

"Huh?"

"I want you to have breakfast"

Once again, Pipim not only didn't lose her cool. But she also managed to respond slyly.

"Ask my father if you want that breakfast"

"You're challenging me again"

"I didn't. I'm just letting you know"

That was all Pipim said before she turned around and went inside the house. If they wasted more time saying goodbye, Pipim was afraid that she would be lenient and let Peeraya go inside the house. Peeraya looked at Pipim's back as she walked away with puppy eyes.

But in her head, she was thinking about something that Pipim would definitely pinch her if she knew.

Wait and see, if he really come to ask, Pipim wouldn't even have the chance to say no.

EPILOG

The chaos continued. Because even though the evidence was strong, the parents' will not to let their only son suffer in prison was strong enough to make them use all the connections they had.

They even came to ask him not to press charges against their son, First, on their knees. But what could he do now that all the evidence was with the police? How could he not press charges against one of the two criminals?

"I'm sorry, but Perth can't do anything right now"

Although she felt it, it was really beyond her control.

"Can you at least make it clear that you won't press charges against your cousin, Perth? Uncle promised to move abroad and not bother your family again"

Peeraya sighed for the umpteenth time. She glanced at his father, who was silent nearby, and chose to remain silent, letting the adults make the decision.

"Perth will do what father wants"

Peeraya dropped the hot potato on her father just like that.

"Don't you hate him?"

Her father turned to her and asked with a shocked look.

He was ready to fight those who had hurt his daughter. He didn't care about the company's fraud because the profits could be made again. But Peeraya's life was irreplaceable.

"Hating him is useless in my life. Perth doesn't want to be trapped in this cycle."

Peeraya truly believed that. Because the vicious cycle of revenge would only drain her energy and make life miserable. He already be punished for his actions. She didn't want to contribute any further. As for Viruj, that was another story.

The father nodded before turning to his brother and sister-in-law, who were on their knees, looking pale as if they hadn't slept.

"First is ambitious but not evil. He trusts people too easily. I will help as much as I can."

He sounded tired but ready to forgive anyone who would not repeat his mistakes.

"Thank you"

"But can you transfer all your shares to Perth?"

He stared at his brother intently until he received a forced nod. In the end, trading shares for their son's freedom was worth it.

"Then go take care of the paperwork at the office tomorrow. I will pretend to forget about all the money First took from the company"

After First's parents left, Peeraya turned to tease his father. She was relieved that his father had found a good way out and finally ended it.

"*Whose father is so kind?*"

He smiled before stroking Peeraya's hair.

"The real criminal who should be punished is not First. He is just a fool and a victim. Stop teasing father. You are also gentle. Don't think that father doesn't know that you feel sorry for Grace"

Peeraya shrugged.

"She is also a victim of her own father, Viruj... One more thing. Perth wants to ask you something, father"

Every time she was tired, no matter the cause, the first person that crossed Peeraya's mind was Pipim. Therefore, as soon as she was done with her assignment, she immediately left for the university. She had calculated that she would arrive there in time to pick up Pipim.

Peeraya walked around and looked around in front of the faculty without paying much attention to anything or anyone until she saw a small, skinny cat that seemed to be hungry. She sat on a tree branch and shivered because a large street dog was walking around, waiting to pounce on its victim.

She didn't even stop to think before running to scare the dog away with a loud shout. The dog seemed confused but went away willingly. But he stared at the cat intently, as if to say he would be back.

Luckily the cat was safe this time. She was still trembling, and seemed to thank her with a soft moan.

"Where did you get the cat?"

When Peeraya walked back to where she had waited for Pipim, she found Pipim waiting for her. Pipim looked curious as she walked over and patted the cat gently, as a cat lover.

"I got it from a tree. I don't know how it got there?"

"People like to abandon their dogs and cats in this area. Maybe they misunderstand that the university is a place for dog and cat shelters"

"Professor Pim"

There was a call from someone inside the building. A man rushed over, panting. He was wearing black trousers and a white shirt with the rims pulled in.

His hair was neatly slicked back with high-quality hair gel, and he was wearing glasses. But what made Peeraya wrinkle her nose was the strong male perfume that he seemed to have just sprayed on. The scent was too strong...

"Yes?"

"I just wanted to remind you not to forget our promise tomorrow"

"We?"

Pipim repeated what he had just said.

"Ah. I mean the appointment with everyone in the faculty that you said you would

attend"

"Yes"

Pipim said that she would go, but it had been a long time. She'd said it last semester, before she'd even met Peeraya. She'd obviously forgotten all about it if he hadn't hurried to remind her.

"The dean will be there, and he said to make sure all the professors join in."

It seems like he knew Pipim would refuse, so he appointed a dean who everyone respected. And that clearly made Pipim not in a position to say no.

"Okay"

"See you"

She smiled widely. His eyes couldn't hide his feelings, and it made Peeraya upset. So she cleared her throat before interrupting.

"Sugar, we have to take this little one to the vet"

"Sugar?"

"Yes"

Peeraya answered loudly and clearly.

It seemed like she was also straightening her back.

"Is this Professor Pipim's lover?"

The man asked, looking shocked.

No one called their friend Sugar...

Right?

"Yes"

Honest and straightforward, yet cutting the heart of the recipient into pieces. The man nodded as he walked back into the building obediently, which was a stark contrast to when he had walked closer.

"Possessive"

Pipim turned to tell Peeraya, as if scolding.

"I can be more possessive than this"

Pipim laughing before answering.

"There's nothing that makes you possessive"

She said that because she meant it. There was no way she would be interested in someone else like Peeraya. While raising her eyebrows but pretending to focus her attention on the little cat in her arms.

"I'll take you tomorrow"

Peeraya said that, just the opposite of what Peeraya expected.

"I'll ask you to do that anyway. I'm worried my girlfriend will be possessive"

Actually, Peeraya didn't want to be possessive. She had never been like this before she met Pipim. And it wasn't because she didn't trust Pipim, it was because Pipim was

unintentionally charming that it made Peeraya feel uneasy in her heart.

What did she mean by unintentionally?

It was her calm demeanor, as well as her polite and inaccessible personality. Her unruly beauty with a naughty-looking nose was pleasing to the eye.

And her smooth skin made her look like someone who took good care of herself. She looked arrogant, yet friendly to people.

As she said before, Peeraya really liked looking at Pipim's neck. Therefore, now that Pipim was wearing polite but not too formal clothes such as a white shirt with a mandarin collar, a black A-line dress above the knee, and a black choker on her neck, Peeraya couldn't take her eyes off her.

Pipim looked more like a student than a professor.

Although she was wearing clothes similar to when she went to lectures, she somehow looked more beautiful than usual today.

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

The person in front of the mirror had to ask. Peeraya did not answer but moved closer to hug Pipim from behind and kissed her seductive neck.

The lips were softly brushing Pipim's skin made her shiver as it shocked her like she was being shocked by static electricity.

"Ahhh"

Pipim had to look away after seeing her own expression through the mirror because that was not what she wanted to see. Maybe that was what Peeraya liked to see, but not her.

"I don't want you to go anymore"

Peeraya mumbled in her throat.

"I have to go"

"Then can I get my present first"

"Huh? I have to give you a present since I'm going to a party?"

Pipim could speak freely now because the hot lips moving on her bare skin had stopped. Peeraya put her chin on Pipim's shoulder and used her finger to lift Pipim's face up to look into her eyes through the mirror.

"A present for the possessive to act like she's not possessive"

"Who made such a present?"

"I"

At the end of that sentence, Peeraya turned Pipim to face her. Pipim's slender back was pressed against the mirror. And Peeraya swooped down to wrap her waist tightly. She had no intention of letting this cat escape from her embrace.

"Selfish"

"Ah-huh"

"If that's the case, I won't spend the night with you tonight"

Peeraya grinned.

"You're not the driver, my dear"

"The driver can choose where we sleep"

"Aren't you going to obey?"

"..."

"I'm selfish"

Peeraya answered, but her eyes that had been staring at Pipim's eyes now moved down to Pipim's nose and stopped at Pipim's lips that were smeared with red lipstick.

"I like red"

"Which red? Lipstick or my lips?"

There was no response from Peeraya. She just brought her face closer and locked her target on the red lips she wanted. Hot, passionate, and right on target.

This was no ordinary gift because Pipim was eaten until her legs were weak. She had to reluctantly wrap her arms around Peeraya's neck. Her fingers dug into Peeraya's neatly tied hair until it was messy, no different from her current emotions.

Peraya's hot tongue slowly wiped her tongue. Peeraya pulled her lips away for a moment and pressed them back to Pipim's lips repeatedly. She bit Pipim's red lips as she pleased until Pipim was afraid that they would swell to show how passionately they kissed.

Pipim's hair that was tied into a bun was now loose, and her hair fell down covering her face. She gasped as the intense kiss continued and her hips were massaged heavily.

Peeraya glanced at the table as he swept everything to one side and lifted Pipim onto the table. He then bent down and continued without letting Pipim catch his breath.

Pipim's dress was lifted as Peeraya pressed herself between Pipim's legs. Pipim didn't know when her dress was opened. Her lips were now free, but her neck was painted by Peeraya's tongue and nose.

Pipim's body was hot from being aroused. Her middle was burning, and she couldn't stop the moisture from coming out as she was so aroused. Peeraya was very skilled.

"Oh"

Pipim immediately frowned as she felt a sharp pain in her breasts. Her shirt had been lifted to reveal her private parts. Peeraya gasped as she moved back after she aroused Pipim as intended.

Peeraya grinned before asking her lover without letting Pipim see the expression.

"Are you sure you want to go home tonight?"

Peeraya asked while kissing Pipim's chin lightly.

Pipim could only tighten her lips and suck oxygen into her lungs before she hit her lover's shoulder hard. She then looked at Peeraya menacingly.

"Stop playing with me"

"What did I do?"

"Let me go. Now"

How could Peeraya wake her up so loudly and then leave her hanging?

We have to finish this, Peeraya!

When the love war was over, Pipim was the last to arrive at the party. Luckily no one objected to it. Peeraya asked to wait in the car because she didn't want to act inappropriately and ruin her lover's reputation with her coworkers. Although she was sure that she wouldn't look too possessive, she still didn't want to look clingy.

She finally went inside after a few hours had passed because Pipim had texted her to come in. Peeraya swept her eyes and quickly saw her. In her eyes, Pipim always shone and stood out from the crowd.

Pipim was already looking straight at her, as if she had been waiting for her. She smiled and gestured for Peeraya to walk over.

"Come sit here"

Pipim moved so that Peeraya could sit beside her.

Before sitting down, Peeraya raised her hand to show respect to Pipim's coworkers who mostly looked older than Pipim.

"Are you drunk?"

Peeraya asked softly as she sat next to Pipim. She immediately took off her jeans jacket to cover Pipim's legs, causing others to tease her. She smiled because she didn't know what else to do. She wasn't used to this kind of meeting.

"Is she your girlfriend, Professor Pim?"

Pipim's work colleague asked her.

And Pipim's clear and honest answer made her heart softer than cotton candy.

"Yes. My girlfriend"

Peeraya was then dragged into another world with many introductions. This was not her own world, but a world that Pipim shared with her and let her in.

Pipim was drunk..

She was drunk but still conscious. Pipim became more relaxed after Peeraya sat next to her, so she drank more alcohol because the drink was very sweet and inviting. She was persuaded to drink until she needed to lean on Peeraya's shoulder for support.

"Good thing I didn't come home tonight"

"Huh?"

"I'm drunk. I don't want dad to complain"

Peeraya laughing softly. Pipim was so adorable, she was thirty years old, but she was afraid his father would complain. Why was she like this?

"I know you're drunk"

"My world revolves, Perth"

"Why did you get yourself drunk, huh?"

They whispered to each other like no one else was around. Underneath their jean jackets, their hands were intertwined. And the one holding the other person's hand was the drunk. She was stickier than usual when she was drunk.

"You're here, so I can get drunk"

"You want to get drunk?"

"I'm gathering my courage"

Peeraya didn't know why Pipim had to gather her courage, but when the party was over, she took her lover home instead of to the condominium as she had intended. The plan wasn't a plan so it worked out for her. Seeing Pipim's cuteness like this, she felt the need to do something. She didn't want to let time pass like this anymore.

The drunk tried hard to open her eyes. She looked at the familiar house before turning to look at her lover.

"I thought you said you wouldn't drop me off at my house?"

"I changed my mind"

"I'm drunk"

The drunk complained non-stop as she entered the house with Peeraya's support. Peeraya's beautiful lover didn't want her father to see her drunk. But luck was on her side because the house was very quiet. It seemed like everyone was asleep.

"Yes, you're drunk"

"My father will definitely complain"

"He's probably asleep by now"

"Stop talking. I'm not telling you anymore!"

Oh... How did she become like this? So the drunk was frustrated with her for bringing her home?

But... What was she going to say to her?

Paul walked out to greet the guest who visited so late at night with an unwelcome look, as usual. He probably knew that the owner was drunk, so he followed them from a far.

Peeraya left the door open as she invited Pipim to lie down on the bed. She glanced at the guard, who entered confidently, before she closed the door.

"Pipim, do you want to take a bath first?"

"No."

Peeraya smiled instantly at the person who had hurriedly covered herself with the blanket and buried herself in it as if she were asleep.

She then looked at Paul, who was now licking her face on the bed.

She took out a smaller box from her hand and bent down to talk to the cat.

"I'm sorry, Paul, but from now on, the first person Pipim sees when she wakes up is me, not you."

Meowwww~

"Or, in other words, from now on, you'll see me when you wake up, not just Pipim."

Meowwww~

Next Morning

Pipim woke up to the light shining through the window in her eyes. She was no longer drunk but had a mild headache.

She sat up and looked around before sighing. Peeraya left early this morning. That was her plan to tell her lover something important.

Peeraya had just left a note on the headboard of her bed, telling her to come pick up something important for her at a cafe at 4pm.

"I know today is your day off. So after you wake up, please dress up nicely and pick out something that Lil will send to xxx at 4pm."

PS: Sorry I had to leave before you woke up. Your talented girlfriend is having a meeting.

Phi Perth.

"She used someone who was drunk?"

Pipim muttered but put the note in the drawer beside the headboard. She checked herself carefully in the bathroom mirror to see that her makeup had been removed and she was wearing her pajamas. There was also toothpaste on her toothbrush.

And when she came downstairs, she saw her father sipping coffee and eating toast, looking at her in a strange way.

"What kind of host lets her guest prepare breakfast for her?"

"I slept too soundly"

"Dad likes Perth"

He blurted out from nowhere while still reading the newspaper.

"Huh?"

"Dad likes your girlfriend"

Pipim looked confused but nodded.

"Okay. I'll tell her dad"

Her father sighed and folded the newspaper before talking to her.

"Dad already told you, Pim"

Pipim arrived and waited at the cafe early because she didn't want Ralilpat to wait for her. But when the time came, it was Peeraya who showed up.

"I thought you told me to come and get something?"

Pipi asked, frowning.

"Yes. I'm here to deliver it."

The older one said as she handed her a small red box with a white ribbon tied around it. Her other hand scratched the back of her neck nervously.

"What's this?"

Pipi's heart skipped a beat before it started racing wildly. She could tell from the outside what it was, but she wanted to be sure.

"Open it."

Pipi reached out her trembling hand to take it.

When she opened the box, Peeraya, who was wearing loose pants, immediately knelt beside her.

"I've asked your father for your hand, and he said yes"

"..."

So that's why his father said he liked Peeraya this morning.

"I've also told Paul that I'll sleep with him from now on"

"Does that mean, if I say so, we have to live together?"

"Let's try living together before getting married. Many couples do that"

Pipim fell silent, as if she was thinking about something. That made Peeraya very anxious.

"What if it doesn't work out?"

"Well... It's okay. We can adjust"

"..."

"But if you think it's too soon-"

Peeraya wanted to add, but she interrupted him.

"For us, we have to get married if we try living together, understand?"

The person on the receiving end paused for a moment before asking.

"Are you trying to mess with my head?"

But the person who asked looked much better than when she was waiting for an answer. Pipim put the box on her lap and cradled her girlfriend's face in her palm.

If possible, she wanted to kneel too. She didn't want Peeraya to think that she had to be taller while Peeraya had to always obey.

"We can't just be girlfriends anymore after you gave me this ring"

"Is this it?"

"Yes, in what status?"

"My sugar. My. Beloved. Wife. Any status you want, as long as it's Pipim"

"Then... I said yes to all of that, Sugar"

"You are so mean. I almost had a heart attack"

Peeraya muttered before she pressed Pipim's hand firmly on her cheek.

"Then, I have to apologize. Because you will get this bad person as Sugar and your wife, my dear"

The ring on Pipim's left ring finger was playing with the lamp.

Pipim who came to Peeraya's workplace today because Peeraya had a long meeting

that dragged on after work hours, while Pipim was very free because the new semester had just started. Her workload only felt heavy in the second semester. Ever since they moved in together, Perth had always been busy.

Peeraya who had been waiting for Pipim no longer needed to hide behind the newspaper. She walked over to get Pipim's wallet and stroked her hair as she asked.

"Are you tired? The skytrain is very crowded right now"

"You're busy. Why waste time driving back and forth?"

"Then let's buy a new car"

"No"

"Why?"

"There's only one parking space in my place, and my dad already has a car. Why do we need more? And we live in your condo now. There's no need for two cars."

"Then let's buy a new house."

Peeraya said as she led Pipim's hand to her office. She stopped the meeting to go down to pick up her girlfriend in the lobby. Yes, you could say she was using her authority for her own personal gain. But others might have liked the 10-minute break, because she asked a lot of tough questions in the meeting. If a department did well, she praised them. But if not, she made comments until they turned pale.

That's how it was.

"Don't overdo it"

"I'm serious. After all, men have to grow after get married."

"Then, let's talk about marriage after we have a new house."

Peeraya grinned slyly, but Pipim didn't see it because she nodded to acknowledge the employees who respected her when they saw who was with her.

"Don't forget what you just said."

"Don't say..."

"It's under construction and almost finished"

"Perth!"

"What?"

"You're so... Why do you always do things without telling me first?"

Pipim scolded Peeraya, but Peeraya just smiled back.

"Then, I have to apologize. Because you got someone selfish as your life partner"

END