# Chapter 1: Special

The morning birds chirped joyously, as if they were greeting each other, and they extended that greeting to the homeowner, who was still sound asleep.

The person lying on the soft bed began to stir. The slender figure moved slightly before her beautiful eyes opened to welcome the morning sunlight filtering through the curtains.

Dr. Panipak lay still for just a moment before getting out of bed with vigor. She immediately went to the bathroom to freshen up. She spent about half an hour showering and getting dressed before heading downstairs.

"Oh, Pleng, you're up? Perfect timing. Breakfast is ready. Go sit and wait for me," her mother said.

"Mom," Dr. Panipak said, crossing her arms and watching her mother, who was meticulously dusting and cleaning her wedding photo. At first, she thought her mother would only be excited about it for a short while after getting it, but it had been almost a month, and the excitement still hadn't faded. The photo her mother had ordered to be displayed in the house was enormous. She had asked for just a small picture, but her mother wouldn't listen. She didn't understand why her mother was so excited about it.

Honestly, it made her feel a bit strange.

Well, she was also embarrassed. Even the one at her condo wasn't as gigantic as this. And it wasn't just the one at her mother's house—the one at Madam Nada's house was probably the same. Her mother had mentioned that they ordered the photos together.

The two close friends sure got along well. Didn't her mother think she'd be embarrassed? It wasn't just family members who would see it; other guests would see it too.

It wasn't because she was embarrassed about marrying a woman; it was for other reasons. She'd never kept it a secret. Everyone at the hospital knew

who her partner was.

*That person was Akhira*, who had been seen as her girlfriend from the start, even though they weren't together at that time. But people spoke as if they knew the future. Back then, she vehemently denied that there was no way this person would become a part of her life. But look at her now.

They were married. They were in love. And she missed her so much that she didn't want to stay alone in her condo while her partner was abroad. She came back to her mother's house because she feared being lonely during the holidays. She wondered how her partner was doing and whether her work was going smoothly. Even though she wanted to know, she chose not to call her, fearing she would disturb her partner's work.

"When will Zo, come over for a meal? Haven't you invited her, Pleng?"

"She's busy, Mom. I'll invite her when she's free," Dr. Panipak replied with a slight smile. Both she and Akhira rarely had matching free time. It was hard to find time. Like today, it was her day off, but her partner was abroad.

Finding time to relax together was already difficult, let alone bringing her partner over for a meal. It wasn't just her mother who mentioned this; she'd heard Akhira's mother wanted to meet her too. She wanted to meet them more often, but time didn't allow it.

Many thought that after getting married, she'd reduce her workload, spend less time at the hospital, and focus on her clinic or her partner. But nothing changed. She still worked at the hospital, maybe not as much as before, but not significantly less either.

Holidays or happy times always seemed to pass quickly, but Dr. Panipak didn't feel that way, maybe because she was waiting for someone to return.

The time that others said flew by felt like long days for her.

"I'll have the nurse prepare your medication," she said softly, her gentle voice and slight smile comforting the patient. Dr. Panipak looked up at the patient again and smiled as a farewell. Soon, the room fell silent as she was alone.

She glanced at the desk calendar nearby. It had been almost a month since she and her partner got married and started their life together. They had been living together before, but it officially started after the wedding. If asked if it felt different, not much had changed. Their social status was clearer, but everything else remained the same.

She used to think that people who wanted to be together had to get married first, but times had changed. Besides, how would you know if you would be compatible in the future if you didn't try living together first? How much could you tolerate each other's habits? Honestly, she hadn't planned to live with her partner before marriage, but it just happened, and she went along with it.

*And now, it seemed she couldn't back out.*

"The last patient is here, Doctor."

Dr. Panipak looked up, nodded, and smiled before glancing at the clock. Seeing that it was the end of her shift, she sighed softly. Her beautiful eyes looked at the door that had just closed, wondering why the nurse hadn't brought the patient's file. Soon, the door opened again, but it wasn't who she expected.

The slender figure at the desk smiled at the new arrival. This must be the last patient the nurse mentioned, and a special one at that—no wonder the nurse didn't get her the patient's file.

The tall figure sat opposite the doctor with a smile, and soon their conversation began.

"What's your condition?" Dr. Panipak asked.

"I'm head over heels for a doctor. What should I do?" the patient replied. "Well, break up with her, and you'll be alright."

"Pleeeeng!" The playful expression vanished from Akhira's face upon hearing the response.

Dr. Panipak smiled and shook her head, feeling superior, knowing she'd win this round. She was just teasing, but every time she said something like this, Akhira would pout, even though she knew it was a joke.

The tall figure got up and walked over to the teasing doctor, pressing her nose into the soft hair of the smaller woman with affection. Dr. Panipak sat still, letting her partner kiss her, but when Akhira tried to do more, she stopped her. The beautiful lips paused as the doctor gently pushed her partner's face away.

"It's unhygienic here," she said softly, pushing her partner's shoulder gently again. Though she hadn't been outside, the hospital wasn't free from germs. She met patients all the time and didn't want her partner to get too close.

Despite Akhira looking healthy, she had a chronic illness.

"Wait outside. Let me go to the restroom and get my things," Dr. Panipak said, taking off her outer coat and signaling her partner to leave.

"Let me pack for you while you go to the restroom," Akhira offered, and she wasn't just saying it. She immediately started packing the doctor's belongings, knowing exactly what was needed without being told.

They walked out of the doctor's office together under the envious eyes of the nurses. Even though Dr. Panipak and Akhira weren't showing affection or holding hands, just walking side by side, they looked perfect together, making them seem adorable to others.

"How did you get here? Who picked you up from the airport?" Dr. Panipak asked.

"I drove. Let's go home together," Akhira replied. "I can't. I drove here," Dr. Panipak said.

"Leave your car here. I'll drive you tomorrow," Akhira suggested. "No, I don't want to leave my car here," Dr. Panipak insisted.

"Then let's take your car, and I'll come back for mine tomorrow," Akhira offered.

"No." Dr. Panipak firmly rejected the idea. Leaving a car here wasn't an option. Wasn't she worried about her car one bit? Even though the hospital had security cameras everywhere, she didn't agree with leaving the car at the hospital.

"You've worked all day. Wouldn't it be a good idea if I drove?"

Dr. Panipak shook her head. She should be the one saying that. The person who had just gotten off a plane and came straight here had no right to say that. Even though traveling by plane wasn't physically demanding, any form of travel was exhausting.

"No, drive back to the condo. I'll drive my own car," she insisted.

"I shouldn't have taught you to drive," Akhira muttered softly, making Dr. Panipak turn to look at her.

"What did you say?" she asked. "Nothing," Akhira replied.

*In the end, she had to give in.*

Akhira already knew that she couldn't go against Dr. Panipak, so she stopped arguing and obediently did as she was told. It might seem like she was always at a disadvantage, always giving in, but that wasn't the case.

There were things she could compromise on and things she couldn't. No one was above the other; they just considered the matter case by case. And in this case, Akhira had to give in because she didn't have enough reason to argue back.

"Are you full already? Why did you eat so little?"

"You can keep eating. I'm full," Akhira replied, neatly gathering her utensils. Even though she said that, she continued to sit and watch the other person without getting up.

"Is it not tasty?" Dr. Panipak asked with curiosity. Normally, Akhira ate a lot. No matter what she made or how much there was, she'd finish it, but today was different.

Akhira just smiled at her and shook her head slightly. She was quite straightforward. If the food weren't good, she'd say so. And when the food in front of her wasn't to her taste, she didn't see the point in continuing to eat.

"Should I make something else for you? What do you want to eat?" "No, it's okay. I'm full."

"Really?"

"Yes, I had some on the plane."

"I'm sorry. Next time, I'll cook," Dr. Panipak said with a gentle, guilty tone. She felt tired today, so she decided to buy food from outside instead of cooking, thinking it'd save time and allow both of them to rest. But it turned out that Akhira ate so little that she became worried.

Akhira smiled slightly at Dr. Panipak when she saw her worried face. In truth, she could eat very little if it wasn't food the other made. She didn't know if it was because other people's cooking didn't suit her taste or if she'd become so accustomed to Dr. Panipak's cooking that nothing else satisfied her. No one could cook as deliciously as she did.

### 23:05

"Go take a shower already. Why do I have to tell you this every day?" The person stretched out on the sofa working had to turn to the voice with a slight start. There really wasn't a single day that Akhira didn't get scolded by Dr. Panipak about this.

But even so, she still pretended to be oblivious, tilting her cheek toward the person walking toward her. This time, however, she was surprised because Dr. Panipak didn't perform her usual duty.

"No, I don't want to kiss someone dirty."

"Pleng... I'm not dirty," Akhira said softly, pretending to be sad when accused of being dirty. Dr. Panipak just shook her head at the childish behavior. When she was with others, she seemed so mature, but with her, she always acted like a child.

In truth, she wasn't disgusted or anything; she just said it to tease her. If she gave in, Akhira would never go take a shower. If left alone, she'd probably work all night. This was the best way to handle her stubbornness, a method she discovered herself.

"You still have to go take a shower. Otherwise, I'll go to bed," Dr. Panipak reiterated, making Akhira put down her work immediately.

"Okay, okay, I'll go. But wait, I'll be quick."

Even though Akhira asked her to wait and promised she'd be quick, she was too late. The sight before her showed that the person on the bed was already fast asleep.

Akhira walked closer, gently pressing her nose to Dr. Panipak's beautiful cheek. Her slender hand softly stroked Panipak's hair before pulling the blanket up a bit and stepping away to get dressed. Even though she missed out on a kiss from the beautiful doctor tonight, there was always tomorrow. She could make up for it then.

Tonight, she let her sleep because she seemed very tired. The nurse had mentioned that she had examined patients from morning until the end of her shift. Akhira didn't know if she had time to rest or eat. Today must have been really exhausting for her.

It was clear that she tried to do everything quickly to rest. Normally, she'd cook, but today, she suggested buying food from outside. She probably didn't have the energy to cook like usual. Akhira understood and didn't push. In fact, letting her rest was good. She felt like she had been taking advantage of her lately somehow.

Even though they cooked together, someone who wasn't good at cooking, like Akhira, could only help by chopping vegetables. It just reduced the time and steps but didn't really lessen Dr. Panipak's burden.

When the lights went out, Akhira carefully slipped under the same blanket as the doctor. Her long arm gently hugged her lover as she did every day. Her beautiful face nestled against her back with longing. Even though they'd been apart for only a few days, for Akhira, sleeping alone was something she wasn't used to.

The scent of the other person made her inhale deeply, like an addict. Soon after, Akhira succumbed to sleep, following Dr. Panipak with a smile on her face.

*She hoped that they'd continue to be this happy. And she hoped it would only get better.*

# Chapter 2: Special

Dr. Panipak began to stir as something disturbed her sleep. Her long, beautiful eyelashes fluttered slowly before she opened her eyes to take in her surroundings. Just as she suspected, the source of the disturbance was the person lying next to her.

“Awake already?”

“Mmm,” she murmured softly. It wasn't a response but rather a groan that clearly indicated her drowsiness. Dr. Panipak buried her face deeper into the large pillow as the person behind her playfully nibbled at her neck. The mix of sleepiness and a tingling sensation greeted her that morning, even though she wasn't fully awake yet.

Akhira's slender hand caressed the doctor's smooth stomach, slowly moving downward until it reached her lower abdomen. It wouldn't be long before it slipped under her pajama pants if the other didn't stop it.

“I have a stomachache.”

The doctor spoke while grabbing Akhira's wrist to halt the action, her eyes still closed. Akhira immediately straightened up, her expression changing. Her beautiful eyebrows furrowed with concern as she quickly withdrew her hand and sat up straight.

“What's wrong? Do you need to see a doctor?”

“It's just a dull ache in my stomach. I think my period is coming,” Dr. Panipak replied, opening her eyes to look at her partner's worried face. She then sat up after feeling fully awake, gently cupping Akhira's face and giving her a light kiss on the cheek as an apology.

“Maybe another time,” she said before getting out of bed and heading straight to the bathroom, leaving her worried partner sitting alone with a pout.

Akhira could do nothing but watch the bathroom door close with a slight sense of dejection. Since her partner said so, she had to give up. Nature sure has its way of intervening. She wasn't angry at nature for interrupting them but was upset because it caused her lover pain.

“Are you sure you don't want me to drive you to work?”

“Yes, I have to go to the clinic this evening. It's more convenient if I take my own car.”

“Alright, drive carefully and stay away from others, okay?”

“I know. I've always done that,” the slender figure replied calmly, bringing a smile to the listener's face. It was unclear whether she meant the car or people, but Akhira concluded that Dr. Panipak meant both.

Akhira smiled at her partner again before opening the car door for her to get in. She gently closed the door and waved goodbye before heading to her own car to drive to work.

The phone ringing beside the seat caught the doctor's attention. She shook her head slightly when she saw the caller's name. After a brief pause, she answered with a small smile.

“What's up?”

[Have you arrived there yet?]

“Not yet. I'm stuck at a red light. What is it?” [I want to ask if you want green tea.] “Why?”

[Well, I'm going to buy it for you.] “I can stop by and get it myself.”

[Oh…] The voice on the other end sounded disappointed. The speaker couldn't help but smile at the other's effort. They'd just parted less than ten minutes ago, and she already called her.

*What's with her?*

“Or do you want coffee, Phee Zo? I can order it for you, and you can pick it up.”

Dr. Panipak asked softly. She didn't even need to wait for an answer because she knew Akhira wouldn't refuse. As expected, Akhira quickly agreed as if waiting for this question.

“Alright, I have to go now. I'll order it for you and pick it up at the shop. And don't drive fast to catch up with me,” she said before hanging up, preemptively warning Akhira. If she didn't, Akhira would likely speed and weave through traffic to catch up with her.

*This woman. She needs to calm down.*

Oh, right, another thing… She started calling Akhira “Phee Zo” because the latter insisted on it as a wedding gift, which she couldn't refuse. She was still getting used to it, but it was better than the first few times. Thinking back, it was amusing.

It was funny because she always had a reason for everything, but when it came to her partner, she often did irrational things. She even made a big deal out of small matters, like refusing to call her by her nickname for a year for some personal reason.

*How strange of her.*

But sometimes, we don't need a reason for everything in life. If something makes you happy and comfortable, just do it. There's no need to find a reason. Besides, whether it's a real name or a nickname, it doesn't matter. It's just a matter of getting used to it. Other than that, everything was the same. She was still the same Akhira.

“Ouch!”

“Neen, what's wrong?” Dr. Panipak was startled when her close friend suddenly cried out in pain and acted strangely, covering her eyes as if in agony.

“The glint of the diamond ring on your finger blinded me,” Dr. Ninlaneen opened her eyes and smiled teasingly at her friend, her eyes twinkling mischievously. The concern Dr. Panipak had moments ago vanished upon hearing her friend's words.

“Come on, Neen. You scared me. Are you a kid?”

"Pleng, you've been so cheerful since you got married. Actually, it should be since Akhira came into your life. The woman who used to be all about work and seemed to have nothing else on her mind has noticeably changed. She’s still a workaholic, but now she appears more vibrant and lively," Dr. Ninlaneen observed.

"Really? I feel the same," Dr. Panipak replied.

"Yeah, yeah, of course. I really want to know what Akhira feeds you to make you smile so often."

"Didn't I smile before?" Dr. Panipak asked her friend, genuinely curious. Being told this made her realize she might've been quite serious and stern before. Her mother had mentioned it, but she hadn't believed it then.

"You did, but not as often as now."

"Is that so? She doesn't give me anything special," Dr. Panipak replied seriously, thinking about it until Dr. Ninlaneen almost laughed at her friend's sincerity.

"Come on, tell me what she feeds you to make you so adorable." "Maybe she feeds me with her hands and feet."

"Wait... Are you saying Akhira hits you?" Dr. Ninlaneen exaggeratedly widened her eyes in shock.

They stared at each other for a moment before smiling, understanding each other.

"Time to get to work. Isn't Pha off today?" Dr. Panipak changed the subject as it was almost time to start working.

"She took a day off—probably to treat her eyes. She also mentioned that your ring's gleam blinded her."

"Enough, get to work already," Dr. Panipak said again, and Dr. Ninlaneen had to give in and leave the room, allowing Dr. Panipak some alone time. She shook her head in amusement at her friend. Although she'd been with her partner for a long time, her friends still teased her as they used to.

Maybe it was because she'd just gotten married that she became a target again. But it added some color to her life, reminding her of the past.

Lately, people had often remarked on her smile. It must be true, as many people have said. When we are happy, we tend to smile unconsciously. It wasn't that she had nothing to stress about now; she still had many things to think about. But those worries often faded away when she was with the

person who made her happy. She had to thank her partner for turning ordinary, boring days into good ones.

Today's work went smoothly. There were patients, but not as many as the previous day. It made Dr. Panipak feel more at ease, even though there were still many patients. Yesterday had been particularly tough, so after getting through that, everything seemed easier. Her entire day was spent working as usual.

The slender figure noted down the details of her last patient on paper, handed it to the nurse, and glanced at the clock. When it was time, she packed her things and left the hospital without delay. She had an important errand to run and didn't want to keep the person she was meeting waiting.

**Dr. Panipak greeted the elder with a respectful wai as soon as she arrived.** The older woman smiled warmly, accepting the greeting with affection, and then told her driver to wait in the car so she could have some private time with her daughter-in-law.

"Have you eaten, Mom?" Dr. Panipak asked when they were alone.

"Yes, I have. How about you, Pleng? You just got off work. Do you want to eat something first?" Khun Ying Nara asked with a smile.

"No, it's okay, I'll eat with Phee Zo later."

The elderly woman smiled warmly at the sweet words, feeling a sense of joy she couldn't quite describe. She'd been waiting for her to call her by a more intimate title for the longest time. But Dr. Panipak had always stuck to calling her 'Khun Ying.' Even when she was openly dating her daughter, she still didn't stop calling her that. It wasn't until the two got married that Dr.

Panipak finally changed the way she addressed her.

But it was worth it. Before, she'd only asked to be called 'Auntie,' but now she called her 'Mom' without hesitation. It was worth the wait. To be honest, her eldest daughter never failed her expectations. Even the daughter-in-law she found was to her liking.

"In that case, you should go. I don't want you getting home late." "Okay."

It wasn't just about worrying that Dr. Panipak would get home late. Another reason to hurry was Akhira. Who knew if she'd be upset that she borrowed Dr. Panipak without prior notice?

### 21:47

It had been almost three hours that Akhira had been waiting for Dr. Panipak in the room without the latter contacting her. Calls went unanswered, so Akhira assumed she was busy with patients. But she couldn't understand why she was so late today. Despite her anxiety, Akhira, being mature, managed to keep her composure and control her emotions well.

She just sat quietly, waiting for the other person to return. Even though she was worried, she knew deep down that Dr. Panipak wasn't a child. She was an adult who could take care of herself. But thinking that didn't calm her mind much.

She sighed repeatedly before jumping up from the sofa when she heard the front door opening. It was a sign that the person she'd been waiting for had finally returned.

"Why are you so late?"

"I had some errands to run. I had my phone on silent, so I didn't hear it. I'm sorry I didn't tell you," Dr. Panipak replied, observing the other's expression, fearing she might be angry. But Akhira just nodded and sighed in relief, seeing her return safely.

"Next time, let me know first so I won't get worried." Dr. Panipak didn't respond; she smiled at her before heading to the kitchen. In truth, she hadn't put herself in any danger, she'd just gone out with Akhira's mother but hadn't told her.

"We're having fried rice tonight, okay?" Dr. Panipak informed the person who followed her into the kitchen. She quickly washed her hands and started cooking, knowing the other person probably hadn't eaten yet. And, of course, Akhira was responsible for chopping the vegetables.

The tall one took her position and started handling the vegetables that Dr. Panipak had prepared, knowing the routine well. Meanwhile, the doctor quickly put on an apron and began cooking.

The room was silent, with no conversation except for the sound of the knife hitting the cutting board. Soon, that sound ceased, followed by Akhira's calm voice.

"Pleng."

"Yes?" Dr. Panipak looked up from her task, turning to the taller figure with curiosity, waiting for what she'd say next.

"Well, I... Nothing." Akhira seemed hesitant before denying it. She washed the knife after finishing cutting the vegetables and quietly left the kitchen, leaving the doctor to cook alone.

Dr. Panipak watched Akhira leave with concern. She didn't understand why people with something on their minds always said it was nothing. Maybe she was worried about that. She thought she'd figured her out this time.

Even though they'd agreed to share and ask about everything—not to assume—in this case, she probably didn't want to trouble her, so she chose

to keep quiet.

From cooking together to finishing dinner, Akhira remained silent, not talking to the doctor as she usually did.

Dr. Panipak glanced at the person leaning against the headboard for a moment before moving to sit at the vanity after she had just showered. Tonight, she didn't have to tell Akhira to shower because she'd already done everything before she got home. Even though she didn't have to tell her to shower tonight, it seemed she had to do something else instead.

The tall figure, working, had to look away from the screen to see what was disturbing her. Akhira reached out to gently stroke her lover's hair when she snuggled her face into her side affectionately.

The one doing it didn't say anything, just continued to snuggle, wrapping one arm around Akhira's waist as if afraid she'd disappear.

"What do you want for your birthday this year?" The muffled voice made Akhira look down at the person snuggling against her with surprise.

"You remembered? I thought you forgot." The last sentence was said softly, but because of their closeness, Dr. Panipak heard it clearly. She knew her lover probably wanted to talk about this for days but hadn't found the right moment.

She probably wanted her to be there for her birthday but was too considerate to ask. As everyone knew, her job didn't allow for spontaneous breaks or plans.

"Your mom is throwing a party at home tomorrow, right?" she asked, even though she already knew. She knew almost everything that would happen

because she'd talked to Akhira's mom. The reason she was late was that she went shopping for the party with her, but she didn't want to tell the birthday girl.

"That's what she said, but I might not be free that day." Dr. Panipak looked up at Akhira, puzzled.

*Not free? What did she mean?*

"Why not? Is your work that busy?"

Akhira didn't answer. In truth, she could make herself free, but what was the point of celebrating her birthday without her lover? It's not that being with family wasn't good; it was, but she just wanted it to be better. She wanted everyone to be together.

"I was thinking of asking Mom to postpone it. It doesn't have to be on the exact day."

"Why? “...”

“Is it because of me?"

"I just want you to be there. We can celebrate when you're free." Akhira's words made her feel a pang in her chest. Dr. Panipak knew she didn't have much time, and on a special day, Akhira probably wanted her to be there.

"So... what do you want for your birthday this year?" the doctor sat up, looking at her seriously.

"I don't really want anything."

It wasn't an unexpected answer. She'd anticipated this response. Finding a birthday gift for Akhira was the hardest task. What more could someone who had everything in life want from others? She couldn't think of anything.

Because Akhira never asked for anything from her and she had enough money to buy almost anything in the world, finding a gift she'd like was very difficult.

Still, sometimes, people overthink and forget many things.

It was true that Akhira had enough money to buy anything she wanted, but Dr. Panipak forgot that there were some things money couldn't buy.

"Is there really nothing you want?"

Akhira thought again before answering with a calm voice but with a hint of hope. Because what Akhira wanted did exist, but she didn't know if the other person could give it to her.

*What she wanted most.*

"I want your time." After that sentence, both fell silent, and their eyes met. Akhira looked at her with a pleading gaze. That was what she truly wanted, but if she couldn't have it, it was okay because, besides her, she didn't want anything else. If she could ask for one thing, it'd be for Dr. Panipak to stay by her side.

"I'm always here. I'm not going anywhere." Even though she knew what Akhira meant, she pretended not to. She knew well that what she wanted was her free time, to go on trips together, to spend more time each day together.

"Let's sleep; it's late." Akhira smiled slightly and told her to rest, seeing it was very late. She chose to drop the trivial matter. She didn't feel that hurt because she understood the doctor's situation well.

"And will you sleep now, or will you continue working?" It might sound like a normal question, but Akhira knew it had another meaning. If she said she'd continue working, someone here would surely sulk and turn her back on her.

"No, I'll call it a day." She immediately put her work down on the bedside table to confirm her words, showing her she wasn't lying. She got up from the bed, turned off the lights, and returned to lie down as before.

Akhira lay down on the bed, arms open wide, waiting to embrace the slender body moving closer like she always did every night. Akhira tightened her embrace slightly, her prominent nose pressing gently into the soft hair of the person in her arms with love, before closing her eyes to let both herself and Dr. Panipak rest.

Under the large blanket in the pitch-dark room, two people lay cuddling, sharing warmth with each other. The steady rhythm of their breathing indicated that the owner of the embrace had already fallen asleep.

The beautiful eyes of the slender figure slowly opened. In no time, her eyes adjusted, allowing her to see things more clearly. The most prominent sight at this moment was the body of her lover. Even in the darkness, Dr. Panipak could see Akhira's face clearly.

Normally, she would've fallen asleep with her by now, but perhaps because something was still weighing on her mind, she couldn't sleep. The reason she was still awake was because of Akhira's words. Time—that was what she wanted most from her. She understood that well, but she wasn't sure if Akhira understood what she'd told her earlier.

Her slender fingers gently brushed the other's cheek, causing the dreaming woman to furrow her brows slightly and try to move her face away as if annoyed, making the observer smile.

Akhira was a smart person, but when it came to love, she was straightforward—so straightforward that sometimes she didn't understand. Her blunt words often left her at a loss, like the conversation they had today. She'd asked what she wanted for her birthday, expecting her to ask for something tangible. But her answer was something she couldn't quite grasp.

*For a birthday gift, she said she wanted her time.*

*Her time.*

Dr. Panipak smiled slightly, looking at her lover's face with a gentle smile before whispering a sentence that Akhira would never hear.

"I've already given you my whole life."

*It might not be much, but it was enduring.*

# Chapter 3: Special

This morning was a surprising one for Akhira. When she woke up, she found the person in her arms still sleeping soundly beside her. She glanced at the clock for a moment before furrowing her eyebrows. Her brain was processing something. Normally, at this time, Dr. Panipak would have already showered, dressed, and prepared breakfast. But why was she still in bed today?

"Pleng," “. ”

"Aren't you getting up for work? It's getting late." Akhira whispered to the peacefully sleeping person.

There was no reply. Instead, Dr. Panipak turned away, burying her face into the large pillow as if annoyed. The more Akhira saw her behavior, the more curious she became. Dr. Panipak wasn't a lazy person. She didn't seem sick either; she didn't have a fever or any other symptoms.

"In that case, I'll go shower first. You can sleep a bit more," Akhira said, getting out of bed and heading straight to the bathroom to save time—not for herself, but for her lover. If she delayed, they'd both be late.

She could clock in at any time; it wasn't an issue for her. But for the doctor, it was different.

Akhira didn't take long in the bathroom. She came out fully dressed, only needing to do her hair and makeup to be completely ready. In contrast, Dr. Panipak seemed to have just woken up.

The slender figure sitting quietly on the bed met her gaze for a moment before walking into the bathroom without a word. The doctor's unhurried demeanor puzzled Akhira. Not only did she seem unconcerned, but she also appeared relaxed, not in a rush as she usually would be.

It was hard not to be suspicious. It was already past seven, but why was the beautiful doctor acting as if she had no work today? Or maybe Akhira was overthinking it.

*Maybe she planned to go to work later today.*

But when Dr. Panipak came out of the bathroom, she still looked unhurried. She sat in the vanity, doing her hair and makeup leisurely. Akhira could only sit quietly at the edge of the bed, watching her.

"Can you take me to the mall today? I want to buy something," Dr. Panipak said.

"Do you want me to pick you up after work?" "No. I mean this morning."

"This morning?" Akhira's confused face made Dr. Panipak chuckle a bit before she smiled at her, who seemed clueless.

"Oh, I forgot that you aren't free today. Never mind then," she said when she saw Akhira was still silent.

"I'm free! I'm free," Akhira quickly replied as soon as she gathered her thoughts. Even though she didn't fully understand, her request indicated she wasn't going to work today. How could she miss this opportunity?

"Didn't you say last night that you weren't free?" Dr. Panipak smiled, amused by Akhira's reaction. Finally, Akhira realized she was teasing her.

"Why didn't you tell me you took the day off? And when did you request leave?"

"A while ago. If I didn't, someone around here would surely whine." "I'm not whining."

"Really?" Dr. Panipak said, shaking her head slightly at Akhira's denial. Last night, she looked so downcast.

*You surely did.*

Akhira was about to say more but decided to stay silent when she remembered something. Arguing wouldn't change anything. Besides, her lover had taken the day off for her; why should she question it? The reason was clear. Even if she didn't say it outright, Akhira knew the answer.

The reason she took the day off was that today was her birthday.

This doctor could be quite sly. She didn't give her any advance notice and let her think she'd be busy on her birthday.

In truth, Akhira hadn't celebrated her birthday in a long time, either in Thailand or abroad. With her responsibilities, special days had become just ordinary days. But this year was different because her mother wanted to organize a celebration for her. As a daughter, she couldn't refuse and disappoint her.

*That's why this year's birthday was being celebrated.*

"I'm ready," Dr. Panipak said, turning to her lover, who was waiting nearby. But she paused when the final step didn't go as smoothly as expected.

Something felt off, and she looked down at the empty perfume bottle in her hand.

She sighed softly. This was her regular perfume; she only had one bottle. *Why does it have to run out today?* But then again, she'd been using it for a long time. It wasn't surprising that it ran out; she just hadn't noticed.

"You can use mine," Akhira suggested immediately upon noticing that. Dr. Panipak looked at her for a moment before glancing at the perfume bottle nearby. She picked it up and sniffed it, even though she already knew the scent.

She'd never used Akhira's perfume before; she only smelled it on her. Honestly, it smelled different from the bottle than it did on her. She thought Akhira's scent was even better than the perfume itself.

"Or do you not like it? Is it not to your liking?" Akhira asked, seeing her hesitation.

"No, it's nice," Dr. Panipak replied. It smelled nice on Akhira; it wasn't just nice but very pleasant. But if she used it, it might not smell as good. She wasn't sure if it'd suit her.

It's true that people choose perfumes, but perfumes also choose people. The same scent might not suit everyone.

"I'm just not sure if it'll suit me," she explained, seeing the other's confused expression. Akhira probably wondered why she said it smelled nice but took so long to decide and seemed reluctant to use it.

"Just try it. If you don't try, you won't know," Akhira encouraged. Because of her words, the doctor reluctantly agreed. But she used it sparingly, as if she just wanted to test it. Dr. Panipak lightly sprayed it on her neck.

Before she could process the scent on her skin, Akhira approached with a strange look on her face, making her frown.

"What?" Dr. Panipak asked.

Akhira didn't answer but leaned in close, causing her to pull back. But it was futile; her nose was already touching her neck.

She pressed her nose against her soft skin a few times, inhaling the faint fragrance before pulling back to look at her.

"I think it smells nice. Why are you making that face?" Akhira asked.

*Uh...*

She wasn't sure if Akhira was teasing her or what. Her startled expression was because of her sudden move, not the perfume. Didn't she realize she was surprised by her action? She would have smelled it from a distance; there was no need to get so close. Her action was more like kissing than smelling. She thought they wouldn't be able to leave the room this morning.

*Is this how people test perfumes nowadays?*

"Are you sure you don't want breakfast first?" Dr. Panipak asked again as they were about to leave the room. She'd asked Akhira that several times, and her answer was the same. Yet, she kept asking, hoping she might change her mind.

"We can eat out. I don't want you to get tired," Akhira replied. "It's not that big of a deal."

"What?"

"I said it's not that big of a deal."

Making breakfast for her lover wasn't a hassle. She was happy to do it and felt good every time Akhira complimented her cooking. She liked it when Akhira said the food was delicious and finished it all. Akhira was the one overthinking, being unnecessarily considerate. She'd been cooking for her for a long time.

"So, where are we going?" Akhira asked. "To the temple.”

“The temple?”

“To make merit for your birthday,” she explained.

**The temple was bustling with people, even though it was a working day.** Despite the crowd, Akhira felt an inexplicable sense of peace. She had to admit that this place was quite foreign to her.

“Let’s buy some offerings first,” Dr. Panipak said, leading her to a stall selling items for temple offerings.

“How much for a set?” she asked.

“One hundred baht per set,” the vendor replied. “I’ll take two sets,” she said.

Akhira watched silently as she paid for the offerings. She didn’t know what to do, so she just followed her instructions. She took the items from her and followed her quietly. Besides flowers, incense, and candles, she bought several other items to offer to the temple.

“Light the candles here first,” Dr. Panipak instructed. Then, they went to pay respect to the Buddha statue. There was no conversation. After praying, Akhira sat quietly, waiting for her to finish her silent prayer. She held the flowers, incense, and candles until the doctor opened her eyes.

“Put the flowers there and light the incense,” Dr. Panipak whispered to the person sitting beside her. Her beautiful face, adorned with a slight smile, shook a little at her lover's clumsy actions. If she didn’t tell her, she wouldn’t do it. She was probably afraid of making a mistake, so she just waited for her instructions.

How strange… She was Thai, but she looked so nervous and unsure if what she was doing was right. Today was the first time Akhira seemed so jittery.

“Have you ever been to a temple before?” Dr. Panipak teased her lover as soon as they walked out of the building. She wasn’t asking to criticize her; she just found it amusing.

“I don’t usually do this kind of thing.”

Of course, she grew up abroad. How could she visit temples often? She herself hadn’t even gotten the chance to come often nowadays. Since starting work, she’s been so busy that she couldn’t find the time. But today, coming here felt really good. It was a sense of peace she couldn’t quite explain, and being with the one she loved made it even better. She thought it was one of those good days.

Before they could step out of the temple, Akhira noticed something that caught her interest.

“That’s a donation box. You can put money in it for merit,” the slender figure told the person who seemed curious about her surroundings. She thought she probably knew what it was, but she said that out of habit.

Usually, if there were something Akhira didn’t know or understand, she’d explain it to her. Hearing that, Akhira didn’t hesitate and went straight to the donation box, pulling out some money.

“Don’t you have smaller bills?” Dr. Panipak was about to take out a hundred-baht bill from her purse, seeing that she didn’t have any change, but she stopped herself.

“It’s okay,” Akhira said, and Dr. Panipak fell silent. She wasn’t even sure if Akhira had ever used “smaller” bills, but it didn’t matter. She was wealthy enough that even if she put in her whole wallet, it wouldn’t be a problem.

She was just asking out of curiosity, not to discourage her act of charity.

Dr. Panipak stood nearby, waiting. When she saw that Akhira had finished putting money in the box, she prepared to move on but was stopped.

“Wait a moment.” “What is it?”

“I’m putting some in for you, too.” Dr. Panipak watched as the tall person took out her wallet again and dropped a thousand-baht bill into the donation box.

“Let’s put some in for our family, too.” Naturally, that statement didn’t end with just one bill; a few more followed. If she really put one in for each member, it’d probably be a dozen.

Dr. Panipak couldn’t help but smile at Akhira’s sweet gesture. Ever since she could remember, whatever she did, she always thought of her and others. Maybe that’s why she always gave in to her, and now she couldn’t imagine being without her.

*How could she not love someone so adorable?*

After leaving the temple, the couple headed straight to the mall as planned. Their breakfast was at a restaurant there. Nothing was special, but they were content and happy with their simple life.

After eating, they did a bit of shopping. When they reached the perfume section, Dr. Panipak, who was walking ahead, turned to look at her lover when she gently tapped her from behind. Akhira pointed inside, making her turn to look.

*Oh, right, I forgot that my perfume has run out.*

If Akhira hadn’t mentioned it, she would’ve walked past it. Even when it came to her own needs, she needed her lover to remind her.

“Does this one smell good?” Dr. Panipak asked, handing a paper strip to the person beside her to get her opinion. The taller person bent down obediently. She’d been choosing for a while and was starting to feel dizzy, unsure whether to stick with her usual scent or try something new.

“It smells nice.”

Dr. Panipak bit her lip slightly before deciding on two scents: one was her usual brand, and the other was a new one she thought might be the best for her.

“Just these two? Why not buy more?”

“This is enough,” Dr. Panipak replied with a smile. The sooner they bought it, the sooner they could leave. They’d spent quite a bit of time here, and she was worried Akhira might get bored. Besides, Akhira didn’t seem to be very fond of these perfumes.

True, Akhira could use them, but from what she observed, her perfumes were always mild, and she only had one bottle. People with allergies often react to chemicals, and she might be allergic to something in certain perfumes. Since she didn’t know what the manufacturers put in them, some ingredients might be too strong. So, she thought it best to choose quickly and move on.

“I’ll pay for it.” Before Dr. Panipak could pay for the perfume, she had to put her wallet back when the tall person beat her to it.

“They say buying perfume for your partner is a bad omen, you know?” “Why?”

“Haven’t you heard of it? They say their love will fade like the scent of perfume.”

She was silent for a moment, her sharp eyes meeting hers before looking away and speaking softly.

“It’s okay.” “. ”

“My money is like your money. If I buy it, it’s like we bought it.” If everything belonged to both of them, it meant no one was buying for anyone. Whether that belief was true or not, Akhira didn’t want to dwell on it.

Dr. Panipak fell silent after hearing that. Even though they didn’t have a joint account for their daily spending, it didn’t feel much different from having one. It was hard to explain. Maybe because they were married, they felt that everything belonged to both of them.

*No matter who bought or owned something, it was theirs.*

She didn’t bring it up to discourage her. It just popped into her head. Even though she didn’t believe in it much, she felt a bit worried. But hearing Akhira’s words made her feel better.

Let beliefs be beliefs. She and her lover would do what made them happy. Today, Akhira was happy to buy her perfume and would gladly accept it.

If one day their love faded, it wouldn’t be because of perfume. Some people follow every belief, avoid all taboos, and fear even the smallest things, yet they still break up. Clearly, those things don’t cause it. It’s their feelings that change, making love fade.

*Don’t blame the perfume. If you have to blame something, blame yourselves.*

# Chapter 4: Special

"Pot, wait! Don't run, dear!"

The voice of an elderly woman followed closely behind a little boy, causing Dr. Panipak to turn and look when she heard her mother's voice. Soon, the small boy came running into the Watcharakitkun house in a hurry, his voice cheerful.

"Auntie Pleng!"

There he was—her nephew, carrying a present. As soon as he saw his beautiful aunt, he clung to her legs to get her attention. But before Dr. Panipak could bend down to pick him up, the mischievous boy quickly let go of her and ran straight to another tall figure, asking to be picked up.

"Auntie Khira!"

"Hello, Mom," the tall figure who had just walked out greeted the elder with a wai before lifting the mischievous child up to her chest.

"Pot was rushing me, saying he wanted to see you as soon as possible. He ran straight into the house. He probably misses you a lot," Dr. Panipak's mother said after returning Akhira's greeting. Dr. Panipak could only listen and watch her nephew and Akhira playing together. She wondered if her nephew was so excited to see her or if he was more thrilled to visit Auntie Khira.

"This is a gift from us. I hope you like it.”

"Thank you very much. Actually, just coming here and having a meal together with us is enough," Akhira said, smiling at Dr. Panipak's mother

while extending a hand to receive the gift.

"Dis is Pot's. Pot geevs it to Auntie Khira," the little boy quickly added, eagerly handing over what he was holding. It was a heartwarming sight for those watching.

"What did you get for Auntie?" the tall figure asked curiously, making the little boy beam with pride, thinking the adult was excited about his gift. He then shyly buried his face into the tall figure's shoulder, acting all cute, which made Akhira smile at his adorableness.

Pot came with his grandparents today since his parents couldn't make it. Akhira understood well, knowing that Dr. Panipak's brother and sister-in- law had a baby to care for, making frequent travel inconvenient.

"Mom and Dad, let's go inside. They should be almost done preparing in there," Akhira suggested as she saw another elder approaching, not wanting to waste any time.

"Oh, you're here! Come in and relax. Please make yourselves comfortable," Khun Ying Nara, who bumped into them, quickly arranged a place for the guests. Even though they were friends, since they came as guests, they deserved a special welcome.

"Zo, why don't you take Pot to get some snacks?" she instructed her daughter before heading inside. Akhira complied, and Khun Ying Nara watched her daughter's back with a happy smile.

This was the first birthday party for her eldest daughter in years. Although it wasn't anything extravagant as Akhira had requested—she just wanted everyone to enjoy a good meal together—her mother couldn't help but go against her wishes a bit by organizing a small party with the help of her son.

After all, a birthday should have some celebration, and a dull atmosphere wouldn't do. But it seemed the birthday girl wasn't that thrilled about it.

Perhaps it was because her daughter had grown too mature to get excited about such things. It made her feel a bit sad and regretful. Although there were times when she flew over to celebrate birthdays together, it wasn't often. Time passed, and Akhira grew up. If she could turn back time, she would've done more for her daughter.

But since she couldn't change the past, she did her best in the present, just like she was trying to do now.

"Mom," Dr. Panipak's voice brought Khun Ying Nara back to reality. They held hands and walked inside together. Dr. Panipak also missed them. Even though they'd just met recently, she still had many things she wanted to talk about with them.

**To be honest, this wasn't something Akhira was used to.** She might be the most awkward birthday girl ever. From the moment Dr. Panipak brought in the cake to when she was blowing out the candles with Pot, she still felt tense. Even though the people in front of her were all family, she couldn't help but feel strangely embarrassed.

As expected, the large piece of cake would end up with the youngest member of the family, Akhira's favorite nephew.

"Auntie Khira, Pot wants to eat that," the little boy pointed to a delicious- looking piece of meat on the barbecue grill, even though he already had a plate of cake and juice in his hands.

"Wait a moment, Auntie will get it for you," the tall figure told the child, who was always causing trouble, gently patting his head with affection. She then glanced at two people chatting nearby. Although they seemed close, she didn't feel any jealousy. In the past, she might have, but now she didn't mind. One was her sibling, and the other was her wife. If she couldn't trust them, she wouldn't be able to trust anyone.

The two chatted for a while, with Sun mostly initiating the conversation while the other listened. Dr. Panipak chuckled at something Sun said before excusing herself to bring more food to her mother.

"Mom, do you want anything else?" she asked both Madam Nara and her own mother, placing a plate of food in front of them.

"I'm fine. My teeth aren't great. Help yourself, dear," Madam Nara replied kindly. Dr. Panipak then turned to her own mother.

"I'm good, too. Why don't you give some to Zo? She hasn't eaten anything because Pot keeps bothering her."

Dr. Panipak glanced at Akhira with her nephew for a moment, then continued chatting with the elders for a bit before returning to the taller figure, who was now taking the grilled meat off the grill and placing it on a plate for her nephew.

The little boy's eyes sparkled as he was about to get what he wanted. He handed his cake and juice to Dr. Panipak before eagerly taking the plate of food from the adult with a big smile.

"Be careful. It's hot. Blow on it first," Dr. Panipak warned her nephew, worried that the hot food might burn his mouth. Pot obediently blew on the food with such determination that the onlookers feared he might pass out before getting to eat the delicious treat.

"Let me help you," she said, taking the plate from the child's hands.

"What were you talking about with Sun?" Akhira asked, glancing at her lover. As soon as the question was asked, Dr. Panipak smiled, making Akhira wonder what was so funny about her question.

"You're siblings. Shouldn't you know?" she teased.

"What should I know?" Akhira frowned slightly, wondering what exactly the other was trying to say and why Sun hadn't mentioned anything to her.

"Sun was asking for advice about something," she explained. "Asking you? About what?"

"He said he has a crush on a girl, but it seems she isn't interested. So he asked me what he should do."

"Sun didn't tell me anything," Akhira replied truthfully. Even though they didn't see each other often, they still talked occasionally. Sun had never mentioned or asked her for advice.

"Maybe he thinks he can only talk to you about work."

"If it's about flirting with someone, he should definitely ask me," Akhira said confidently, feeling a bit upset that her brother had overlooked her.

"Why should he ask you? You aren't that good at it, are you?" she teased.

"But I managed to make you my girlfriend," she replied, making the other fall silent. Akhira seemed to be claiming that she was good at flirting because she'd successfully made Dr. Panipak fall for her.

"Then please give him some advice," Dr. Panipak said, trying to change the subject. It seemed the more they talked about it, the more cornered she felt.

She knew well that she was quite hard to approach, difficult to flirt with, and not very interested in anyone, which was why she'd been single until she met Akhira. It was probably a matter of timing that brought them together. Akhira gradually won her heart bit by bit until she had to admit to herself that she couldn't refuse this person any longer.

She wasn't sure if Akhira was really good at flirting or not because it was hard to judge. If asked for her opinion, she'd say Akhira was rather straightforward and sometimes did things that annoyed her. But in the end, she couldn't help but give in to her, perhaps because the other was sincere and harmless.

"Aren't you going to eat?" Akhira asked again, realizing she hadn't seen her eat anything except juice.

"I'm waiting for someone around here to grill it for me," she replied.

If you asked when Dr. Panipak would be affectionate with Akhira, the answer was when she least expected it. She could never predict when her lover would switch to a cute mode or act all sweet. Some people only got affectionate when they wanted something, hoping the partner would buy it then. But Dr. Panipak wasn't like that. She rarely got affectionate, and when she did, it was always a surprise. But the unpredictability added a bit of color to life.

Even though Akhira loved her partner's affectionate side, she didn't need it all the time. Just having her be herself, as she was now, was more than enough. Sometimes, she was strict; sometimes, she was cute; sometimes, she was indifferent; and sometimes, she was so affectionate it made her melt. It was this mix of traits that Akhira found charming about her.

"Auntie Khira, Pot wanna drink," her nephew's voice called out, drawing Akhira's attention away from Dr. Panipak. She looked over to see her nephew pointing his small finger at her glass.

"You have your own drink, sweetie," Dr. Panipak said, noticing that her nephew was eyeing another drink even though he hadn't finished what was in his hand.

"Want a drink," the little one whined, prompting Akhira to hand over the soda that wasn't far away. Once he got the new drink, the little boy didn't forget to swap it with his own juice.

"He's had a lot of snacks today, Phee Zo," Dr. Panipak protested as her partner handed the soda to their nephew.

"He wants it. It's okay. Just once in a while." "But soda isn't good for him."

"Just a little bit."

Sometimes, Akhira thought Dr. Panipak was too strict. Sure, soda isn't good, but having it occasionally shouldn't be a big deal. Kids get their nutrients from other foods anyway. Besides, it seemed like the little one didn't get to have soda often, or he wouldn't be so adorably persistent, making Akhira give in.

"Alright, but just one glass." "Yes, just one glass."

*It didn't end with just one glass.*

"Auntie Khira, Pot wants more," Pot asked again, and of course, the indulgent aunt couldn't refuse. But this leniency was a double-edged sword, hurting both the aunt and the nephew.

"Didn't you say just one glass?" Dr. Panipak gave Akhira a disapproving look. She'd promised just one glass, but every time the nephew asked, he got more. Even with her watching, she couldn't control it because whenever she looked away, both the child and the adult would act immediately.

Instead of feeling guilty, she tried to negotiate with her.

"But Pot wants to drink it," she replied softly, as if knowing she was in the wrong.

"You said just one glass, but he's had a lot already. Why do you always spoil him?"

"Just for today." "Ms. Akhira." ". "

Akhira fell silent as soon as she heard her full name. She used to like it when her lover called her that, but now it was different. When her lover called her by her full name, it was a warning sign. Akhira had learned from living with Dr. Panipak. She used to gauge her mood by her tone, but now, if she said "Ms. Akhira," it usually didn't end well.

*If she wasn't getting the silent treatment, she was getting scolded.*

Dr. Panipak looked between her tall partner and their nephew, sighing softly in resignation. At this point, there was nothing she could do. Besides, it was her birthday, and she didn't want to ruin the mood. But sometimes she just couldn't help it.

Akhira was good with kids, but her flaw was being too indulgent. She's talked to her about this before, but changing someone's nature was hard. She worried that in the future, Pot might become even more spoiled if Akhira continued to be like this.

### 21:00

"You should stay the night."

"We can't. This troublemaker has school tomorrow," Dr. Panipak responded.

Madam Nara smiled at the response, looking fondly at the child snuggled against Dr. Panipak. The little one looked downcast, probably because it was late and he was tired, or maybe he just didn't want to leave. It wasn't just Khun Ying Nara who wished her parents could stay the night; Dr.

Panipak felt the same. But since Pot had school the next day, they couldn't.

"Pot, we're leaving. Did you say goodbye to Auntie Khira?" As soon as Dr. Panipak finished speaking, the little boy pulled away from his aunt's embrace, extending his arms for a hug from Auntie Khira while still in Dr. Panipak's arms.

"I'll come pick you up for another visit soon, okay?" Akhira promised, seeing the little one looking sad. Her words seemed to work. The boy nodded and smiled brightly, happy with the promise. Akhira gently patted her nephew's back before stepping back with a smile.

Soon, the boy was handed over to his grandfather. Dr. Panipak gave him one last hug before hugging her parents again.

"Drive safely. You should've let me drive you," she said.

"My eyesight is still good, Pleng. Don't worry," her father replied. "I know."

Even so, she couldn't help but worry. Part of her wanted to drive them herself, but her parents had firmly refused. At least she could take comfort in knowing her father was still strong and had good eyesight for his age.

Once Dr. Panipak's family car was out of sight, those who had come to see them off went back inside to rest.

"You two can go up to your room. I'll finish up a few things and then head to bed," Khun Ying Nara said to Akhira and Dr. Panipak before walking away, leaving both of them to themselves.

### 21:11

"I'll take a shower first, okay?" Dr. Panipak said.

The person who followed her into the room nodded, letting her shower first, understanding that she probably felt smoky from the grill. Akhira felt the same but could tolerate it. Besides, Dr. Panipak didn't take long showers, so waiting wasn't a problem.

"I'm done.”

Akhira glanced at the person peeking out from the bathroom door before heading in, passing the one who was drying her hair in front of the mirror. Her sharp eyes briefly took in her figure in a bathrobe before she went to clean up with Dr. Panipak still in the room.

The bathroom was divided into dry and wet zones, with a partition for privacy, so neither felt awkward.

The sound of water hitting the floor lasted for a while before it stopped. The tall figure emerged in the same state as Dr. Panipak had been minutes earlier. The doctor watched her through the mirror, then turned off the hairdryer and stepped away from the counter.

"Come here, I'll dry your hair," she said, pulling her to stand in front of the mirror in her place and starting to towel-dry her wet hair. Akhira could only smile happily at her lover's actions.

"Are you going to help or tease me?"

"What are you talking about?" Dr. Panipak asked innocently.

Akhira grabbed the doctor's hands to stop her, feeling something was off. It was fine at first, but then she started drying so vigorously that her head was shaking. She wasn't sure if she was genuinely helping or something else.

The doctor feigned innocence, acting like she didn't know what Akhira was talking about.

A sly smile crept onto her face when she realized she'd caught on. Had she just noticed? She'd been drying her hair roughly for a while now, but she only just mentioned it. Maybe she'd been too gentle at first.

Akhira held her hands and turned to face her, her sharp eyes scrutinizing her like a detective catching a suspect.

"You can continue drying your hair. I'm going to get dressed," she said, placing the towel on Akhira's arm and preparing to leave the increasingly unsafe situation. But before she could step out of the bathroom, Dr. Panipak was pulled back by the tall person.

In an instant, she found herself lifted onto the counter without realizing it. Akhira's long arms braced against the counter, trapping her.

Dr. Panipak was bewildered by Akhira's sudden strength. Sure, she was smaller, but their strength shouldn't be that different. The person in front of her smiled, but it was a smile she didn't want to see—that mischievous smile.

Even though she knew she might be punished by her lover, she didn't try to escape. Her beautiful eyes locked onto Akhira's face without saying a word.

It'd been days since she'd looked at her lover this closely.

They locked eyes for a moment before Dr. Panipak was "punished." Her lips were stolen in a kiss, starting gently but quickly turning passionate as they were drawn to each other like a spark igniting a flame.

Akhira couldn't help but kiss the doctor repeatedly. The hands that had been supporting the counter had now moved to the other person's body instead. It must've touched a sensitive spot because Dr. Panipak jolted in surprise.

The one doing the action also paused, her eyebrows furrowing slightly before she reluctantly pulled away from the sweet lips to look at her with curiosity.

"Didn't you tell me you have a period?" Akhira asked, remembering that the day before, Dr. Panipak had said she had a stomachache because her period was coming. But now...

"When did I say that?" "That time.”

Dr. Panipak mentally exclaimed 'oh' as she remembered that morning. Akhira wanted to be intimate with her, but she felt strange, so she turned her down.

"I was just saying I might have a period, but I didn't say it was for sure.”

It might sound like a flimsy excuse, but at that time, she really thought she was going to get her period. It felt that way, but it didn't come. This wasn't her fault because she didn't know. The body's natural mechanisms were unpredictable and beyond her control.

Lost in thought, Dr. Panipak didn't realize how much she was at a disadvantage. It seemed the tall person wasn't interested in her answer anymore as the hot lips began to nibble on her smooth shoulder insistently.

The doctor could only sit tense, breathing unevenly as the other person expertly aroused her. No matter how many times, she never got used to it.

Her heart pounded so hard on the left side that she feared it'd be loud enough for the other to hear.

Dr. Panipak inadvertently gripped the tall person's shirt tightly as she felt the other's lips touch her neck and move down to her chest, making her anxious. Underneath the robe, there was nothing but her smooth skin.

The robe that had been properly on her body now slipped off one shoulder, revealing a beautiful bosom. The beautiful chest was nibbled on, making the owner shudder. The doctor raised an arm to grasp the shoulder of the person in front of her.

"Ah," a sweet voice escaped as she felt a slight pain in the sensitive area of her chest. The slender body exhaled heavily as the invasion intensified.

The smooth stomach under the robe was revealed as Akhira parted the robe. Dr. Panipak jolted again as her beautiful stomach felt the hot, moist lips of the other.

Akhira nibbled down the smooth skin, stopping to tease the beautiful navel for a moment until she felt a pain in her shoulder from the slender body inadvertently digging her nails in. But the slight pain didn't bother Akhira. Her beautiful mouth continued its task, moving lower. The increasing pain told her how the person above was feeling.

Dr. Panipak could only close her eyes, tilting her head back to receive the sensual touch from her lover. One hand left the shoulder to grasp the other's soft hair uncontrollably.

"Phee Zo..." The broken voice called the name of the person below with a trembling tone, making the owner of the name feel triumphant. The sound of breathing and soft moans grew louder as the slender body approached the peak of ecstasy.

Soon, the final moan echoed, accompanied by the body trembling. The tall person pulled away from the beautiful thighs after bringing the other to heaven's gate, then moved up to meet the blushing person's eyes. The doctor averted her gaze, unable to meet the other's eyes.

Dr. Panipak breathed heavily, trying to steady her breath, thinking the night was over. But she paused again as Akhira didn't stop there. The gorgeous face moved in to kiss her lips lightly before moving to her neck, lulling her into a trance before she felt something invading her sensitive area.

The fingers moved in and out, making the slender body shudder. She grabbed the other's neck, hugging and burying her face in the tall person's shoulder. The faster the other moved, the more Dr. Panipak tensed, sometimes biting the other's neck to release the overwhelming sensation.

After that, the moans in the bathroom grew louder. It was unclear when Dr. Panipak would get to rest, maybe in ten or twenty minutes, or until Akhira was satisfied. It seemed the two would have to shower again before going to bed.

"Phee Zo, I want to sleep.”

The sweet voion protested as she was disturbed again after just getting some rest. Akhira's prominent nose trailed kisses down the back of the person lying with her back turned until Dr. Panipak tumed around, grabbing her neck to hold her stil.

It Akhira wanted to resist, she could easily do so. But seeing the other so exhausted she could barely keep her eyes open, she fett pity Even though she wanted more. Ashira was content to lie on Dr. Panipak's chest, allowing the other to rest.

# Chapter 5: Special

Dr. Panipak opened her eyes to a new morning. Her long eyelashes fluttered as she adjusted to the morning sunlight. A small smile spread across her face when she saw Akhira still asleep in her arms.

Usually, she would be the one nestled in Akhira's embrace, but holding her like this felt good in a different way. Even though Dr. Panipak had been awake for a while, she didn't move. Her slender hand gently stroked the hair of the person snuggled against her chest.

She was holding her just like that day.

Dr. Panipak smiled at the thought, glancing around the room as if checking that everything was in its place. Her beautiful eyes caught the sparkle of the diamond ring on her slender finger, the sunlight making it glimmer, drawing her thoughts back to the past.

### On the wedding day.

*"I'm so nervous."*

*"Why are you nervous? The bride isn't even nervous," Dr. Plaifha said, shaking her head at Dr. Ninlaneen, who was fidgeting restlessly as if she were the bride herself.*

*"I don't know; I can't explain it. My hands and feet are ice cold," Dr. Ninlaneen said, sighing at herself. Honestly, she felt a bit sad that her friend was getting married and leaving the single life. The mixed emotions*

*created a knot in her stomach—happiness for her close friend, fear, and anxiety all at once.*

*"What about you, Pleng? Are you nervous?" Dr. Plaifha turned her attention from Dr. Ninlaneen to the bride of the day.*

*"I am, but probably not as much as Neen," Dr. Panipak said with a small smile. Of course, she felt nervous; it was her big day, after all. She just hid it better.*

*"It's quite surprising. Who would have thought you'd be the first to get married?"*

*"I know, right?" The three friends exchanged happy smiles. Dr. Panipak herself hadn't expected to be the first.*

*When it came to marriage, everyone thought Dr. Plaifha would be the first, followed by Dr. Ninlaneen, with the stoic doctor being the last. It wasn't just their opinion; even if you asked the entire hospital, they'd likely say the same.*

*Dr. Panipak was hard to approach, always focused on work, and wasn't interested in anyone. Who would've thought someone could win her heart and that she'd decide to spend her life with them?*

*As they say, no one knows what the future holds. Nothing is predictable. Take this wedding, for example. Everyone thought Dr. Panipak would never marry—not because no one was interested in her, but because she never chose anyone. But now, the person everyone thought would remain single was walking down the aisle in a beautiful wedding dress.*

*"All done. You look stunning, Pleng," the person helping the bride dress said when everything was ready. Her friend looked truly beautiful today. She was already pretty, but the wedding dress made her even more radiant.*

*"Thank you. You both look beautiful, too," Dr. Panipak couldn't help but compliment her friends. It wasn't just flattery; they really did look great today.*

*"As your bridesmaids, we can't be outshined," Dr. Plaifha said proudly. She'd chosen her dress carefully to look her best for her friend's big day. She mightn't be as beautiful as the bride, but she was at least a close second.*

*"Auntie Pieng pretty," said a young boy in a handsome suit, munching on snacks nearby, drawing smiles from the three women.*

*"And you also look very handsome today," Dr. Ninlaneen replied on behalf of the bride, gently pinching the boy's soft cheek. Dr. Panipak smiled at the adorable scene.*

*Soon, the little boy made his way to his aunt and hugged her lightly, surprising Dr. Panipak. She raised her hand to gently stroke his hair with affection, making everyone else melt at the cuteness of the aunt and nephew. Then, Dr. Panipak turned to ask her friend something.*

*"So, when are you getting married, Pha?" The question made the listener pause, but only for a moment.*

*"I haven't even found anyone to marry yet, Pleng." The questioned friend laughed dryly. Let alone marriage, she didn't even find anyone she was interested in.*

*"With how picky you are, I doubt you'll ever get married." "Yeah, says the one who's not picky at all."*

*"Come on, you two..."*

*Dr. Panipak shook her head at her two friends, who loved to tease each other. If she were someone else, she might think they were fighting. Some of their words seemed like jabs, but as close friends, they knew it was all in good fun. They didn't take small things to heart; importantly, they never got*

*seriously mad at each other.*

*"It's almost time. Let's go."*

*Both Dr. Ninlaneen and Dr. Plaifha called a truce when they saw it was nearly time for the bride to meet the guests. They gently held Dr. Panipak's soft hands in a gesture of support.*

*Even though Dr. Panipak didn't show her feelings, they knew she must be just as nervous as anyone else. It was her wedding day, after all. If even others felt nervous, how could the bride not be?*

*The venue was elegantly decorated, fitting for the occasion. Everything was arranged perfectly—not too elegant, not too simple. Most of the guests were relatives, close friends, and important people for them.*

*Whether invited or not, everyone understood and shared in the joy. It wasn't feasible for Dr. Panipak to invite the entire hospital. Just having a few close doctors and nurses take the day off would already cause chaos there.*

*Akhira didn't have many guests either, as she had few close friends in Thailand aside from her colleagues. But she did have a best friend who flew in from abroad just for the wedding.*

*The evening event was simple, as the formal ceremony had taken place in the morning. Now, it was time for the couple to share a few words—nothing special or different from other weddings.*

***"What impressed you about Ms. Akhira, and why did you love her?"*** *the emcee asked the couple standing nearby with a smile of admiration, just like that of everyone else in attendance.*

*"Well... I didn't think it'd be her," Dr. Panipak replied, glancing at her tall partner. The audience chuckled softly, knowing the couple's story hadn't started smoothly. It wasn't that they'd had a falling out; it was just that the beautiful doctor hadn't paid any attention to Akhira's advances.*

*That's why her words,* ***"I didn't think it would be her,"*** *made everyone laugh. Dr. Panipak was still Dr. Panipak, and the audience found her straightforwardness endearing.*

*Both Dr. Panipak and Akhira answered a few questions each, and they did so well. Their words about each other were honest and respectful. Even without revealing too many details, they left no doubt about their love.*

*Of course, the highlight everyone wanted to see was the couple's public display of affection. The anticipation grew as they couldn't leave without fulfilling the crowd's request.*

*Their eyes met briefly as they turned to face each other. The tall figure smiled happily, gently lifting the smaller one's chin before placing a soft kiss on her lips. It was brief but enough to make the audience blush.*

*Though they didn't do anything more than that, their sweet display was enough to make hearts flutter.*

*Dr. Panipak herself didn't know what she was feeling—excitement, happiness, and embarrassment all at once. Her heart pounded loudly, competing with the noise of the crowd, making it hard to tell which was louder.*

*Even though Dr. Panipak and Akhira had already greeted most of the guests, there were still some important ones left, mostly from Akhira's side. She understood; Akhira's family ran a big business, so it wasn't surprising they had many important guests.*

*The doctor walked beside her tall partner, greeting the guests with a polite wai. She chatted only briefly with Akhira's guests, leaving the rest to her.*

*Her beautiful eyes turned to look at her lover's reddened face with concern. Despite the room's full-blast air conditioning, sweat was clearly forming on Akhira's face. Dr. Panipak gently dabbed her temples with a tissue, prompting Akhira to turn and smile at her, thanking her softly.*

*"How about we take a break," she suggested.*

*Dr. Panipak's patience had finally run out. Her concern for Akhira outweighed her concern for the guests at the event. She didn't want to be rude, but if Akhira kept pushing herself, it would be bad...*

*Because today, Akhira wasn't feeling well.*

*And she didn't agree with her pushing herself this hard. From morning until evening, she hadn't taken a break. Even Dr. Panipak, who was in perfect health, felt tired. How exhausted must Akhira be? Yet, she stubbornly stood there, smiling and chatting with everyone as if she weren't sick.*

*Dr. Panipak couldn't do much but stand by Akhira's side and perform her duties as best as she could, just like she was doing.*

*Even as the hosts of the event, they needed some private time. Now was a brief moment for the two brides to take a break, leaving the guests to enjoy the party. The high rooftop of the luxurious hotel, used as a viewing point, had now become their break room. Akhira's condition was starting to deteriorate, so the doctor had to tell her she needed a break. If she hadn't, Akhira would've continued entertaining guests without following her.*

*"Why didn't you listen to me?" Dr. Panipak scolded her lover as soon as they were alone, handing Akhira a drink.*

*"I'm fine, really," Akhira replied, taking the drink with a smile. She wasn't upset with Dr. Panipak's stern tone because she knew it came from a place of concern. But what could she do?*

*"It's okay to take a break. Don't push yourself." "This is our special day."*

*"Then why did you have to get sick on our special day?"*

*Dr. Panipak's calm tone carried an air of authority that made Akhira immediately feel subdued. She walked closer and rested her head on Dr. Panipak's shoulder, seeking forgiveness.*

*Everything today had gone perfectly. Akhira was happy with everything except for her sudden illness. Canceling the wedding because of it was out of the question. Everything was prepared, guests were invited, and everything was set. She couldn't cancel it just because she was sick. She didn't want to do that.*

*Today was the day she'd been waiting for so long. She wouldn't let anything ruin it.*

*"If you are at your limit, take a break," Dr. Panipak said again, feeling the heat radiating from her lover.*

*"I'm fine." “. ”*

*"The event will be over soon. Please don't scold me."*

*No matter what, the stubborn one remained stubborn. Dr. Panipak felt exasperated by her lover's behavior.*

*Akhira was like a stubborn patient, which was particularly frustrating for Dr. Panipak, being a doctor herself. This was how doctors feel when dealing with uncooperative patients...*

*But Akhira was right.*

*With just a bit more patience, everything concluded beautifully and perfectly. Tears welled up in the eyes of the slender figure in her mother's embrace as she thought about everything that had led to this moment. She wouldn't have had this day without her mother's support and encouragement.*

*The mother gently cupped her daughter's cheeks with both hands, gazing lovingly at her before looking at her daughter's lover, who stood waiting nearby.*

*"Take care of her for me," the mother said, even though she was confident that this person could take good care of her daughter. A mother's heart couldn't help but worry.*

*It wasn't just Dr. Panipak's mother who said this. Madam Nada also entrusted Dr. Panipak with Akhira's care. The most important thing was that they took care of each other, helping and consulting each other. By now, there wasn't much left to entrust, as the two had learned many lessons from their past.*

*Finally, the couple had some time alone after everything was done. Dr. Panipak looked around the room, decorated with flowers and beautiful items, before looking at the person sitting at the edge of the bed.*

*"Get some rest," she said, gently pushing the shoulders of the person sitting on the bed, who complied easily, likely due to already being weak. With just a little push, Akhira lay down obediently.*

*While she rested, Dr. Panipak tidied up. Soon, she returned, ready to take off her wedding dress. She paused when she felt the heat from the person*

*helping her. Dr. Panipak sighed at her stubborn lover, who still insisted on helping her undress.*

*"Thank you," Dr. Panipak said softly, turning to face her taller lover.*

*"Turn around. I'll help you," she offered without being asked first, knowing that Akhira couldn't easily take off her own wedding dress either. Akhira accepted the help and turned around obediently.*

*Dr. Panipak carefully unzipped the dress, admiring how beautiful and elegant Akhira looked today. Initially, she'd worried about their outfits, fearing they might be too extravagant. But in reality, they were perfect.*

*Their dresses complemented each other beautifully, looking luxurious yet simple, not flashy but still attractive. They had to thank the tailor for making dresses that pleased both of them.*

*"Get changed, take your medicine, and get some rest, okay?" Dr. Panipak instructed after unzipping the dress enough for Akhira to manage the rest herself. She then excused herself to take a shower.*

*Though this was their wedding night, nothing special happened. It was special in feeling, but everything else remained the same as every other day. After her shower, the person waiting went in next. Then, they both rested, exhausted from the day's events.*

*The room went completely dark, but the newlywed bride couldn't sleep. Her beautiful eyes watched her lover, lying a bit away, with mixed emotions.*

*Though they were the same, she felt something more now, perhaps because their status was clearer.*

*Dr. Panipak gently stroked her lover's arm with concern, feeling the heat from Akhira's body. Akhira rarely slept away from her, but tonight was an exception. She always kept her distance when she was sick or felt she was getting sick.*

*Even though the doctor told Akhira it was okay and that she wasn't easily sick, Akhira still insisted, making her think she was worrying too much.*

*Despite the distance, they were drawn to each other out of habit.*

*Akhira didn't initiate the embrace, but she moved closer unconsciously, and Dr. Panipak pulled her into her arms to keep her warm.*

She remembered it well, that chaotic yet important day when Akhira had a high fever but refused to rest, insisting on staying until the event ended. She only rested when they were finally alone.

That night, she barely rested, tending to her as her fever spiked in the middle of the night. Despite the exhaustion, she was happy.

Those were her wedding day memories. Though there were some hiccups, everything turned out better than expected. The only downside was Akhira's illness, which kept her worried and unable to take her eyes off her. But looking back, she saw how they both supported each other to make everything perfect.

They couldn't have done it without each other and the support of their families and friends. She wanted to thank everyone who made that day special...

***Especially her Akhira.***

# Chapter 6: Special

Dr. Panipak had no idea how long she'd been lost in her thoughts about the past, but it must have been long enough for the person sleeping beside her to wake up.

Akhira stirred slightly before fully waking up. Feeling a touch on her head, she smiled contentedly. How could she not be happy? She could smell the sweet scent of her lover and was snuggled against her soft chest. She didn't want to get up or leave the bed at all. If she could stay like this all day, she would. But that was impossible because the owner of the soft body wouldn't allow it.

Akhira's high-bridged nose sniffed the body, followed by a gentle kiss, making Dr. Panipak aware that the person she was holding was now awake and, as usual, seemed intent on teasing her.

"Don't. I'm going to cook with your mom today," the slender figure said, pulling away and sitting up, not giving Akhira a chance to do as she pleased.

"But..."

"No buts. No negotiations. I've already made plans with her." "She can wait."

Dr. Panipak had to turn and give her a stern look upon hearing that. This person could be annoying at times. She felt like pinching her. Last night, Akhira had taken advantage of her multiple times, leaving her exhausted. And now, this morning, she was being a nuisance again.

"Just a little while," Akhira said again, resting her face against Dr. Panipak's back, even with a thick blanket between them.

"No."

Dr. Panipak had to refuse. She couldn't give in because she'd already made plans with Akhira's mother. It would be rude not to follow through, even if she didn't mind. It wouldn't be good to leave her waiting.

Besides, she knew that if she let Akhira do as she pleased, it would go too far. The phrase 'just a little while' never meant anything to Akhira. She never did anything for just a little while.

And when her lover stood her ground, Akhira couldn't do anything. The morning ended with Dr. Panipak getting up to shower, dress, and go meet Madam Nada as planned, while Akhira took care of herself and followed later.

"When are you two going on your honeymoon?" Akhira's mother asked. It had been about a month since Dr. Panipak and Akhira got married, but they hadn't gone on their honeymoon yet. They were always working. She wondered if they'd go crazy if they didn't work for a day.

"We've been busy with work. We haven't thought about it yet," Akhira replied honestly. Both she and her lover were very busy. They might find a day off, but finding a long break wasn't easy.

Her mother sighed at her daughter's answer.

*Are all young people like this? Being serious about life is good, but being too serious won't do you any good. She wanted her children to have time to enjoy their lives, to have fun traveling, and not just bury themselves in work.*

"Working hard is good, but both of you should find time to relax," Madam Nada said, turning to look at Dr. Panipak, who was sitting nearby.

"Do you understand what I'm saying?" the elder asked again, seeing the two young women sitting stiffly. Dr. Panipak was the first to respond.

"Yes, Mom."

It was the first time Dr. Panipak felt like she was being scolded by Madam Nada. It felt no different from being scolded by her own mother. She wasn't angry; she understood that her mother-in-law was worried, and that's why she spoke up.

"So, when are you going?" "Probably soon."

Though she said 'soon,' it wasn't as soon as she hoped. It took a while for Dr. Panipak and Akhira to clear their schedules. But it was worth it because they finally had time to go on their honeymoon without worrying about work and had several days to enjoy.

*Some things might take a while, but they're worth the wait.*

"Thank you," the slender figure said, accepting the flowers from the staff, who welcomed them with a small smile. She then walked inside with someone to help carry their luggage.

This was Dr. Panipak and Akhira's first honeymoon after nearly two months of marriage. It took a while for them to clear their schedules.

"I'll handle the rest. Thank you," Dr. Panipak told the staff when they reached their room. She then took care of their luggage, waiting for Akhira to finish her business.

Dr. Panipak opened the wide balcony to let in the breeze. The view was beautiful, and it was private. The open pool overlooked the stunning sea. Everything was exciting, but she probably wouldn't swim because it was

quite cold, and she hadn't brought a swimsuit. Even though they were at the beach, she hadn't prepared one, knowing she wouldn't swim.

Dr. Panipak looked out at the gorgeous scene outside. She rubbed her arms to keep them warm. She wasn't sure if it was a good idea to come to the beach in such cold weather, but it didn't matter. What mattered was the person she was with. If it was with Akhira, she'd go anywhere.

"Do you feel cold?"

A gentle voice spoke up, along with the warmth spreading through her body as she was hugged. Dr. Panipak leaned back slightly against the taller figure. How did she know she was thinking about her? She didn't even know when she'd come in.

"Are you done with your business?"

"Yes, I just had to change our plans a bit," Dr. Panipak nodded, understanding what Akhira meant. Due to the weather, some plans had to be canceled.

They stood there hugging for a while before Dr. Panipak gently removed Akhira's hands and pushed her to stand in front of her. Akhira was puzzled by her actions.

"What is it?" Akhira asked, trying to turn around, but Dr. Panipak stopped her and hugged her from behind, just as Akhira had done earlier, making her freeze.

"It's cold. I don't want to stand in front," she said. Akhira couldn't help but smile at the smaller figure hugging her from behind. She gently rubbed her lover's arms, standing as a shield against the cold wind until she was satisfied.

She didn't know if she did this because she wanted to hug her or to shield herself from the cold. True, she wasn't much bigger, but her height allowed the doctor to hide behind her.

"This is the low season." "So?"

"With fewer people, I'm worried you won't have fun. And it's too cold to swim."

Dr. Panipak fell silent after hearing Akhira's concerns. She knew the other was worried about bringing her to the beach in this season. She was probably stressed, but she thought it was fine. She preferred places with fewer people because they were more private. They didn't need to follow others; as long as they were happy, that was enough.

"The beach and cold weather have their charm. I like it." "Really?"

"Have I ever lied to you?"

True. Akhira smiled, feeling relieved. She'd been worried about that since before they came, but the beautiful view, delicious food, and nice accommodation made her want to bring the doctor here. She wasn't sure if Dr. Panipak would like it, but seeing her happy made her feel better.

**She didn't know what the original travel plans were because Akhira hadn't told her, and she'd arranged everything.** But now, she was being teased and held captive, unable to go anywhere. Hours had passed since they arrived, and it seemed Akhira wasn't satisfied yet, ready to take advantage of her again. It would've ended that way if she hadn't spoken up.

"Phee Zo, stop. It hurts."

"Hurts?"

"You always do it too hard." "What did I do hard?"

"Stop. That's enough," Dr. Panipak pulled Akhira's hands away from her body, covered herself with a blanket, and turned her back to end the conversation. But the stubborn one didn't give up. miss

"Can't I?" Akhira asked, snuggling against her shoulder with a pleading voice, only to be rejected again.

"No."

Dr. Panipak sighed softly at her lover's behavior. When she teased her, Akhira would feign innocence, and when scolded, she'd be all gloomy like this. She didn't know how to handle her anymore. If she kept giving in, it'd always be like this, and Akhira might become spoiled.

Actually, it was her fault. She knew that, yet she always gave in. But today, she wouldn't be the kind Dr. Panipak anymore. Besides, since they arrived, neither of them had eaten anything. If she let Akhira have her way, they might end up starving.

Maybe she'd been too lenient, which made Akhira act like this. Today, she'd be firm so the other would realize the situation. It might seem a bit unreasonable, but it was necessary. In a relationship, there had to be a balance of firmness and leniency to keep things interesting.

*That's what she thought.*

She didn't know how it was for other couples or how often they had intimate moments, but for her and Akhira, it was frequent. Frequent for the doctor, but maybe not for Akhira; otherwise, she wouldn't keep bothering her like this.

Even though Akhira wasn't satisfied and wanted more affection, when the doctor firmly refused, she had to let it go. The doctor lay down for a while

before getting up to take a refreshing shower.

She was tired and wanted to rest, too, but she'd become her prey if she did. Besides, they had a chance to travel together, and she didn't want to stay cooped up in the room. She wanted to feel refreshed and ready for good things.

### 15:40

"Phee, Zo."

"What?"

"Shall we have seafood by the beach tonight?" She'd noticed many restaurants by the beach when they arrived. The atmosphere seemed nice and interesting, so she asked for her opinion.

"What did you say?"

Dr. Panipak frowned immediately when she turned and saw Akhira sitting on the sofa, engrossed in her phone. It seemed she wasn't listening at all because if she had, she wouldn't have asked again. She'd spoken clearly and loudly enough for her to hear.

"Are we going or not?" "Call me again."

"Ms. Akhira."

Uh...

"If you don't call me Phee Zo, I'm not going." Akhira looked away from her phone and glanced at Dr. Panipak casually, acting as if she had the upper hand. She'd heard every word she said but was playing hard to get, hoping the doctor would follow her command. This time, Dr. Panipak would give in.

*Or so she thought.*

"Suit yourself."

She was stunned when Dr. Panipak cut her off coldly, showing no interest. Despite her sulking, the doctor remained indifferent, making Akhira feel the chill from her words spreading through her skin to her bones.

What is this situation? Despite her sulking, the doctor didn't seem bothered if she refused. Wasn't she too cold? Wouldn't she try to make up with her?

"Would it be fun to go alone? Would the food taste good? Would you struggle without me peeling the shrimp for you?"

"I can peel it myself, or... someone else can do it."

"Don't even think about it." She walked over, grabbed her arm, and pulled her closer possessively. Akhira's sharp eyes stared deeply into hers, but Dr. Panipak remained unfazed, looking innocent as if she didn't know what was going on.

"Let go of me. If you don't want to go, it's fine."

She pulled her arm away easily since Akhira didn't hold her tightly. She wasn't being sarcastic; she meant it. If Akhira didn't want to go, she'd go alone.

And when she said someone else could peel the shrimp for her, she meant it. She wasn't lying. But the 'someone else' she meant was the staff. Even without Akhira, she had money and could pay someone to do it or do it herself. It wasn't a big deal for her.

In the end, Dr. Panipak left the room, with Akhira following closely behind. She looked around before sitting across from her, smiling at the person taking their order.

Of course, she ordered seafood: shrimp, shellfish, crab, and fish—the usual dishes people ordered. Soon, she looked up from the menu to look at Akhira, who sat silently.

"Do you want fried rice, too? Or something else?"

"Whatever you want. I'm fine with anything." Akhira replied, letting her order whatever she liked because she could eat anything. She wasn't allergic to seafood.

"Then just this for now." She smiled at the person taking the order before turning back to her lover.

"We could've ordered from the hotel. They have a lot of options."

"I know, but I just wanted to come outside." Dr. Panipak replied, looking into Akhira's eyes to confirm her words. It was true that ordering room service was convenient, but she just wanted to get some fresh air and change the atmosphere. They'd probably use the hotel's service for the next meals anyway.

"Next time, let's eat upstairs." "Don't you like coming outside?"

"It's just that it's windy in the evening. I'm just worried you might get sick." Akhira replied softly. It wasn't that she didn't like it. She enjoyed every activity and place as long as Dr. Panipak was there. The atmosphere was nice, but she didn't want her to catch a cold.

"I'm a doctor. I don't get sick easily."

Akhira shook her head at her words. She always used her profession as an excuse, even though she knew doctors were human, too. They didn't have any special immunity and could get sick like anyone else.

After chatting for a while, the food arrived. Since there weren't many people, they didn't have to wait long. Dr. Panipak immediately served fried rice to Akhira out of habit. She liked doing things for her before herself.

Akhira smiled and prepared for the next dishes.

Today, Dr. Panipak seemed different. She ordered an unusually large amount of food. If Akhira had ordered this much, she would have scolded her for ordering too much for just the two of them. Maybe she got carried away or something.

"Let me peel that for you," Akhira said, taking the shrimp from Dr. Panipak's hand. She couldn't stand seeing her beautiful hands get dirty. Even though she knew the doctor could do it herself, she couldn't help but peel the shrimp for her.

"Go ahead and eat. I'll peel it."

"No, you need to eat. You ordered so much; don't leave any leftovers." Akhira diverted her attention from peeling shrimp, and it worked. Her expression showed she had just realized how much she'd ordered.

It wasn't often Akhira saw the doctor look so surprised. She smiled and continued peeling shrimp, feeling relaxed. Today, she wouldn't get scolded for ordering too much food. Even if they didn't finish it, she wasn't the one who ordered it, so she was safe today. The only one who was worried was the meticulous doctor. She wondered what she'd do since she ordered all this food herself.

*If she didn't finish it, it would be interesting.*

Akhira might think she had the upper hand, but she didn't. While she peeled shrimp for her, Dr. Panipak was peeling crab, fish, and other things, putting them on her plate without her noticing. She ate and peeled shrimp, unaware of how much she was eating. She might have eaten more than the doctor did.

It was true that Dr. Panipak wouldn't let food go to waste. Once ordered, they had to finish it. Her helper was the person sitting across from her. She knew Akhira liked eating everything from her, so she wasn't worried about leftovers.

Dr. Panipak shook her head slightly with annoyance as the wind blew her hair into her face. She wanted to ask for help from the person across from her, but both their hands were dirty.

Despite that, Akhira kindly helped, using her wrist to fix her hair awkwardly. Dr. Panipak realized she wasn't as meticulous as she thought, unlike Akhira, who had tied her hair neatly in a ponytail as if she'd planned ahead.

"Do you want mine?" Akhira offered the hair band she was using. It seemed like the other person didn't bring one; otherwise, she would have already dealt with the hair that was bothering her.

"No, it's okay," Dr. Panipak replied before returning her attention to her meal. Her hair had settled in a way that no longer annoyed her face. Dr. Panipak secretly glanced at her, making sure she didn't notice.

She didn't understand why her lover had to be so kind. She was ready to give everything she had to her if she needed it, no matter what it was. It was endearing, and she felt good every time Akhira showed her such care. But sometimes, she wished she wouldn't love her too much. She wanted Akhira to be a little selfish, at least for her own sake. She wondered if she was like this with others, too.

If that were the case, it would be bad.

The two of them had been eating for a while when Dr. Panipak started to feel full. She took her time cleaning her hands with a napkin, quietly absorbing the peaceful atmosphere. Her beautiful eyes then caught sight of a group of people.

True, there weren't many people around, but it wasn't completely empty either. That group was probably tourists like them.

She glanced at them briefly before turning her attention back to her lover, who was enjoying her meal, oblivious to the people around them. Dr.

Panipak watched her for a moment. Soon, Akhira looked in the direction the doctor had just been staring.

"What is it?" Akhira asked, turning back when she saw nothing unusual. She noticed she'd been looking that way for a moment but didn't know why. Everything seemed normal, just a group of teenage girls eating and a few families beyond them.

"They're pretty, aren't they? Not interested?" she teased.

The listener raised an eyebrow slightly before understanding what she meant. If she guessed right, she was referring to the group of girls. She didn't know exactly who she meant, but it had to be one of them.

"Why should I be interested in anyone?" she asked back, curious about her response. What reason did she have to be interested in someone else?

"Don't you like pretty girls?" Dr. Panipak said casually, though deep down, she was anxious about her answer.

Akhira wiped her mouth and looked at her lover. It seemed she misunderstood something. She didn't like every pretty girl—just her. It was just a coincidence that she happened to be beautiful.

"You're pretty, too. Why should I be interested in others?" she replied nonchalantly because that's what she truly thought. Why would she look at someone else when her beloved was right in front of her?

*Why would she be interested in anyone else when she already had someone so wonderful...*

# Chapter 7: Special

"I'm so full."

Dr. Panipak couldn't help but smile when she heard what Akhira said. She followed her inside and saw that the tall figure had already sprawled out on the sofa. She must really be stuffed. She had kept piling food onto Akhira's plate, and Akhira had eaten so much. But it couldn't be helped since she was willing to eat it, even though the doctor was the one who had ordered all the food.

"My belly has grown a lot bigger," Akhira said, looking sadly at her stomach under her shirt. She'd never had such a big belly before. It felt strange. She had probably really eaten too much.

"Let me see." Dr. Panipak walked closer and slipped her hand under her lover's shirt, gently touching her stomach.

"I'm getting fat."

"You're not fat at all," Dr. Panipak said, giving Akhira's belly a playful slap before walking into the bedroom, leaving the tall figure sitting alone with a pout. Her words would have been more convincing if she hadn't laughed like that. Akhira could only sigh at her own actions.

Several minutes passed, and the doctor disappeared into the room without coming back out. Akhira realized that Dr. Panipak must have gone to take a shower while she continued to sit and wait for her food to digest.

Dr. Panipak spent some time in the bathroom and soon returned to the living room area, but Akhira was nowhere to be found. She walked to the

balcony and, as expected, found the person she was looking for standing there, enjoying the breeze and the view.

The tall figure smiled when she felt the thin blanket the other person had draped over her. She pulled it off and placed it over the doctor's shoulders instead.

"You take it. I'm fine," Akhira said, pulling the smaller person into her arms. Dr. Panipak might have forgotten that she'd lived abroad for a long time. This kind of cold weather didn't bother her at all. Compared to the cold abroad, Thailand's weather was nothing. This was very comfortable.

"Phee Zo."

"Yes?"

Dr. Panipak moved slightly, pulling away from the warm embrace to face the taller person. Then, something was handed to Akhira. She was puzzled by the gesture but accepted it nonetheless.

"What? For me?"

"Yes," she said, her eyebrows knitting together slightly as she opened the box to see what was inside.

"Why?"

"It's a birthday present."

"But didn't you already give me a birthday present?" Akhira asked, confused. She'd already received a gift from her, the one she'd asked for. So why did she want to give her another one, especially since her birthday had already passed?

"It's a belated gift."

That was just an excuse. In truth, Dr. Panipak had come across it and thought it suited Akhira well, so she wanted to buy it for her. Besides, she

noticed that Akhira's watch had recently broken, and she hadn't worn it for a while. She just wanted to buy her a new one.

"Do you like it?" The sweet voice asked again as her lover took the watch out of the box. Even though the person in front of her was the same old Akhira, her heart pounded as if this was the first time she'd bought something for someone she had a crush on.

"And if I don't like it, what will you do?" The tall figure asked, a slight smile playing on her lips as she watched her reaction. She wanted to see how the doctor would respond.

From a heart that was pounding uncontrollably, the feeling quickly vanished. In just a split second, she felt her heart drop to her stomach. The slender figure regained her composure and replied.

"If you don't like it, I'll use it myself."

That's it. If Akhira didn't want it, she'd use it herself. No harm done, even though she'd be a bit disappointed that it wouldn't be on the other's wrist.

"How can you use it? You said you bought it for me." "If you don't like it, why keep it? I can wear it myself." "You always take my stuff."

Akhira pretended to complain quietly yet loud enough for the person in front of her to hear. Lately, Dr. Panipak had indeed been using her things often, like her shirts in the closet. She wondered if Dr. Panipak realized it. Well, she wasn't actually possessive about her things; she just wanted to tease her.

Dr. Panipak had nothing to say. She couldn't deny it because everything Akhira said was true. She had often borrowed her shirts. The first time was accidental, but the subsequent times were intentional.

She never thought she'd like those kinds of shirts, but they were comfortable and went well with her medical gown. So she often wore them,

not thinking she'd notice. But never mind, the important thing now was the watch. They could talk about the shirts later.

"So, you don't want it, right? Then I'll take it back."

"How can you take it back after giving it to me? I'm not giving it back," Akhira said, dodging as Dr. Panipak tried to snatch the item from her hand.

*Why would I give it back? I wouldn't give up such an important gift.*

Dr. Panipak glared at the taller person. Why did she have to make her feel anxious when she clearly wanted it? She always made her feel uneasy with her antics.

*So annoying.*

"Put it on for me."

"It's late. Where are you going to wear it to? If you want to wear it, put it on yourself."

You reap what you sow. Because Akhira teased her too much, Dr. Panipak cut her off coldly. Not only did she refuse her request, but she also left her standing alone. But even so, the person left behind stood there smiling happily. Her heart swelled with joy when she received a gift from her lover.

Akhira smiled at the beautiful watch in her hand. This wasn't a belated gift, as she claimed. It was too late for a belated gift. She must have noticed that she hadn't worn a watch for a while because her old one broke.

Akhira knew how stubborn Dr. Panipak could be. She'd never admit the real reason she bought her the gift. But that was fine. She liked her just the way she was. She didn't need to be any more adorable because she might not be able to handle it. As it was, her heart could barely take it.

Today was the second day that Akhira and Dr. Panipak were on vacation together. No one knew what was happening in the outside world, but today was certainly a bright day for someone, especially Akhira.

She'd woken up and showered early in the morning like an excited child. When they arrived at the beach, she hurried Dr. Panipak because she wanted to get to the other island quickly. She'd shed her calm executive demeanor and turned into a full-fledged child.

"Come here. Why aren't you wearing it properly?" the doctor said. "I can swim."

"Whether you can swim or not, you need to wear it properly."

Dr. Panipak shook her head at Akhira, pulling the taller figure closer to adjust her life jacket. Akhira stood still, behaving like a good kid.

Even if they weren't planning to swim, they still needed to wear it for safety. They were going into the sea, and no one knew what could happen.

She's not a kid anymore. Why is she acting like this? "Be careful."

"Thank you," the sweet voice said softly, letting go of her lover's hand once she was safely on the boat.

"Be careful."

"I know." Dr. Panipak smiled at the tall figure who had been repeating the same words since she stepped onto the boat until it set off. She understood that Akhira was worried, but she was sticking so close to her. What else was there to be careful about?

Dr. Panipak scanned the island, noting the few people around. Today, she had come to explore the other side of the island. She was quite impressed. She never thought that such a small piece of natural beauty could be so relaxing.

"You didn't wait for me at all."

"Stop whining. You're not a kid anymore," she said, shaking her head at her lover. She had only walked a little ahead, and already Akhira was complaining, acting like a child left behind.

"You didn't wait for me."

"Do you want a picture? I'll take it for you."

"I don't really like taking pictures. Let me take one for you instead."

"I don't really like taking pictures either." It might have sounded like she was copying Akhira's words, but that wasn't the case. Dr. Panipak didn't intend to mimic her; it was just the truth. Both she and Akhira shared many similarities, but a clear difference was probably their instincts.

It seemed that the other person didn't realize she was becoming the center of attention. Meanwhile, the doctor had noticed for a while that someone was watching her lover. If she wasn't mistaken, it was the group of teenagers they'd seen at the restaurant the previous evening.

She used to think that Akhira was just good-looking but didn't realize she was so attractive to others. She had only recently discovered how charming she was. Akhira could draw attention from many people without even realizing it.

It was kind of surprising that she'd never felt this way before. Maybe it was because she hadn't had any special feelings for other women back then. So, Akhira was just someone with a good personality and looks, but she didn't find her attractive at all.

But now, things had changed. She understood what it was like to have a crush on someone. It was probably the same way Akhira had liked her back then, but she hadn't understood it as well as she did now.

When people often stare at your lover, if you ask if she was jealous, well, sometimes she was. No one liked others staring at their lover for too long, and knowing how those people felt made it even worse. But she thought it was okay as long as Akhira didn't care.

And it was clear that Akhira wasn't aware of it. She never looked at anyone else but her. Because of this, her jealousy wasn't so intense that she needed to show it. She had enough reason not to do anything foolish or act badly toward those interested in her lover. Besides, who would know that they were a couple? Others might think they were friends or siblings.

Dr. Panipak stopped paying attention to others and kept walking, admiring the beauty of nature. The water parted, leaving a small path, which amazed the viewer. Is this Thale Waek that everyone talks about? Even though she'd heard about it, this was her first time seeing it with her own eyes.

Dr. Panipak seemed to be enjoying nature a bit too much because when she turned around, she couldn't find the person she thought was following her. With just a quick glance, she spotted her lover. But she froze when she saw Akhira talking to a woman she remembered often staring at her.

It seemed like the person being stared at had noticed because, in just a moment, Akhira turned and smiled at her. The round, clear eyes of another girl looked at her curiously before awkwardly bowing her head. Shortly after, Akhira quickly walked over to her with a small smile on her face.

"Is something wrong?"

"That girl asked for my number." “. ”

"But I told her we're married. She was shocked and kept apologizing."

The tall figure spoke with a smile, making Dr. Panipak smile back at that warm smile. She could sense the fondness Akhira had for that girl. It wasn't romantic fondness but the kind an adult had for a child. Plus, she told others they were married. No wonder the girl looked at her, pale and surprised.

"She's cute."

Dr. Panipak smiled genuinely. She thought it was really cute. It was a cute moment. That girl's love probably started and ended so quickly. Who knows what will happen to her next?

But she thought Akhira would remain in that little heart for a long time. One day, that girl might tell others about confessing her love to a married person. Who knows?

*Life doesn't always go as planned, but every story is a memory.*

It's the third day of their honeymoon, but it doesn't seem to be going smoothly. All plans for the day had to be canceled because of the uncooperative weather. Akhira sighed at the rainy weather. It wasn't even the rainy season, and yesterday had been so sunny.

*Well, that's Thailand for you.*

Dr. Panipak glanced at her lover, who seemed a bit frustrated. She understood why she might be upset; it wasn't surprising. They had prepared to go out, but it started pouring just as they were about to leave, and it hadn't stopped since then.

So, they both agreed to stay in the room today. Personally, she didn't mind. It was a good chance to rest fully without traveling. For her, just seeing beautiful places yesterday was worth it. Besides, the accommodation had a great vibe. Staying in all day wouldn't be boring.

Akhira stared at the pool outside through the large glass door. The clear water rippled from the rain, creating a splashing effect all around. This kind of weather was perfect for lounging or napping, but since she had a good night's sleep, she didn't feel sleepy.

Akhira exhaled with a relaxed feeling. It would be lonely if she were here alone. Just thinking about it was boring. Luckily, that wasn't the case.

"Do you want to swim?" A teasing voice came from behind, snapping her out of her daze. She turned to see the small figure standing behind her.

Akhira pretended to frown, furrowing her brows slightly before pulling the doctor into her arms, making Dr. Panipak think she was about to be punished for saying something silly. But she was wrong because Akhira's expression and tone were entirely different from her expectations.

"Are you bored because we can't go out?" The speaker looked so down that Dr. Panipak couldn't help but find her endearing.

"No, I'm not. Why do you always ask that?"

"I should have let you choose where you wanted to go."

Akhira sighed. Every time they traveled together, she was always the one who made the decisions. Whether she liked it or not, Dr. Panipak never complained or disagreed. She always went along with everything.

"Don't overthink it. Anywhere is fine." "Do you really think so?"

"Or are you the one who's bored?" Dr. Panipak didn't answer but asked Akhira instead. It seemed like she was the one who was bored. Akhira probably felt down because their trip wasn't going smoothly.

"I'm a little bored, but..."

"But what?"

"But if you're with me, I'm not bored. And... I think I know what to do." Not only did Akhira's expression change, but Dr. Panipak's smile also faded quickly, sensing the danger in her lover's eyes.

But there was no escaping now. She'd willingly walked into the lion's den, and now she was held tightly, with no room to move.

"Phee Zo..." Before she could say more, her lips were captured, leaving no room for resistance. In no time, Akhira's expertise made Dr. Panipak give in.

Perhaps it was their familiarity that made them sync so quickly. The tall figure smiled slightly when Dr. Panipak clung to her neck tightly, her lips responding to the kiss with a dreamy sigh, making her heart race.

"Mmm..." The tall figure reluctantly broke the kiss, moving to her neck, making Dr. Panipak moan softly.

Akhira inhaled Dr. Panipak's scent from her neck while their lips kept kissing. The doctor tilted her head back, feeling the sensual touch, her nails digging into Akhira's shoulder. But Akhira didn't stop; she intensified her actions.

Akhira's slender hand caressed the doctor's waist under her white T-shirt, making her shiver. Soon, the thin shirt was lifted, revealing the bra on her beautiful chest, which quickly came off without her noticing. Without hesitation, Akhira moved from her neck to her chest.

"Ah, Phee Zo," Dr. Panipak sighed, her body trembling as she felt a slight pain in her chest, which quickly turned into pleasure as Akhira's hot tongue worked its magic, making her weak in the knees.

"Phee Zo, I..." Dr. Panipak bit her lip, feeling overwhelmed by the sensation.

"What is it?"

The tall figure looked up at her sweet face with a smile. She didn't know what the doctor wanted to say. She called her but didn't say anything more, just like before. Every time she tried to speak, her voice was swallowed, leaving only soft moans.

"What is it? Why did you call me?" Despite being asked, Dr. Panipak couldn't answer. She tried to hold Akhira's wrist, but it was useless. Her body was ready for anything, allowing Akhira to easily slip her fingers inside.

As the intruding fingers moved in and out, Dr. Panipak could only lean on Akhira's shoulder, seeking support. Her once steady legs now trembled uncontrollably.

Not long after, the doctor moaned for the last time before her body jerked slightly. She could only hold the other person tightly, breathing heavily over and over again.

Akhira allowed the person in her arms to catch her breath for just a moment. Soon after, their lovemaking resumed, with Dr. Panipak unable to resist at all.

# Chapter 8: Special

Thank you so much, Doctor." "Doctor, you really didn't have to." "It's nothing, just a little something."

Dr. Panipak smiled at the other person before walking away. Today, she had brought souvenirs for almost everyone in the hospital. The gifts varied in size and type, depending on her relationship with the recipients and what she deemed appropriate. This act of kindness made everyone around her happy, as they felt special knowing the beautiful doctor had kept them in mind.

Today might have been a bad day for some, but meeting Dr. Panipak and receiving her positive energy always left everyone smiling. The doctor was just that charming. She often offered small gifts and rare smiles that could brighten anyone's day.

No one knew if something wonderful had happened during her honeymoon, but since her return, Dr. Panipak had been noticeably more radiant. This newfound brightness had doubled the cheerful atmosphere in the hospital. It had already been lively before, but now it was even more so. Thanks to Akhira, Dr. Panipak seemed incredibly happy.

"Are you married, Doctor?"

The doctor, who was busy writing a prescription, looked up when the patient sitting across from her asked with a surprised expression.

"Yes."

"Since when? I haven't been here for a while, so I didn't know," the elderly woman asked again. She hadn't noticed at first, but the ring on the doctor's left ring finger caught her eye.

"Two months ago."

The beautiful doctor answered straightforwardly. She remembered this elderly patient well, as she came here often. They chatted about various topics, but they hadn't seen each other much lately. Dr. Panipak had been splitting her time between the hospital and her own clinic, so she wasn't at the hospital every day like before.

"When will you have kids? I'd love to see your children; they must be adorable," the elderly woman said with a genuine smile. The doctor was so beautiful, and her children would surely be cute.

"I haven't thought about that yet," the doctor replied with a slight smile. She hadn't considered having children yet. Her life was happy as it was. Only Akhira occasionally brought up the topic, but they'd never seriously discussed it.

"Having kids would be nice. So you won't be lonely," said a nurse who leaned in to whisper, making Dr. Panipak give her a slightly stern look.

"I agree," the elderly woman added.

"Well... thank you. We're done for today. Please wait to receive your medication," Dr. Panipak said, changing the subject as she handed the prescription to the nurse. She slightly bowed to the elderly woman, who thanked her and left the room.

"Dr. Panipak, having a child would be nice. I wonder if they'd look like you or your partner," the nurse teased as she left, making Dr. Panipak shake her head.

The slender figure shook her head at the nurse before the door closed. Once she was alone, she sighed softly, picking up the documents on her desk. But she couldn't focus, her mind drifting back to the conversation that had just taken place.

### 18:59

"Not going to the clinic today, Pleng? How come you're working late?" It wasn't just late; she even had time to sit and have a drink with friends after work. This was the first time in a year that she seemed to have more free time, making her friends curious.

"I'm not going to the hospital tomorrow, so I had to work a bit longer." "Is the clinic not busy today?"

"Not too busy," Dr. Panipak replied to her close friend, Dr. Ninlaneen, who nodded in understanding. Dr. Plaifha, who was resting her chin on her hand, kept staring at her as if intrigued by something, making the other raise an eyebrow in question and giving her a chance to speak.

"Aren't you tired, Pleng, working both here and at the clinic?" "It's the same as always. I just have to manage my time." "But it seems like you're working more."

"You think so?"

"It's not just my thought; it's the truth."

"Should I quit the hospital and work only at the clinic then?" Dr. Panipak teased, making Dr. Ninlaneen, who had been listening quietly, look shocked and immediately protest.

"No! Don't quit, Pleng. It'd be so lonely without you." "But Pha is still working here with you."

"It's not the same. It'd feel lonely without you," Dr. Ninlaneen said, and Dr. Plaifha agreed. They'd always been together. If one left, it'd really feel lonely. The hospital without her would feel like something was missing.

Even when she hadn't quit, just splitting her time between the hospital and her clinic, patients and nurses still asked about her. If Dr. Panipak really left, the whole department would feel lonely and have to work harder.

"But if it's more convenient for you, then it's okay." Dr. Ninlaneen finally conceded, supporting whatever made her friend happy.

"Why do you look so sad? Now, I don't think she can leave." Dr. Plaifha shook her head, looking at the slender figure who smiled back.

"Or why don't you both come work with me? The clinic needs more doctors."

"Oooh! I'm being recruited," Dr. Ninlaneen exclaimed dramatically, placing a hand on her chest as if shocked, making the others shake their heads at her antics. She'd been sulking a moment ago, and now she was acting silly.

The table was filled with laughter. Their long-standing friendship allowed them to talk for hours without getting bored, even though they saw each other every day. The enjoyment made Dr. Panipak lose track of time, just like her two friends.

"Oh dear! It's past eight already."

Dr. Panipak quickly checked the clock in the restaurant upon her friend's remark and then her phone, finding several missed calls as expected. She had put her phone on silent mode, so she hadn't heard it. By now, the caller must be quite upset.

"Will Ms. Akhira be mad?" Dr. Plaifha asked softly, noticing her friend's worried expression after checking her phone.

"Probably not," Dr. Panipak replied, calling her partner back, but there was no answer.

"We should get back. Excuse me, can we get the check, please?" Dr. Ninlaneen called for the check immediately, not wanting to waste any more time.

"Get home safe." "You guys, too."

After saying their goodbyes, the three friends went their separate ways. Dr. Panipak tried to hurry as much as she could, but she wasn't a fast driver. Her journey was further delayed by unexpected traffic, making the trip take almost an hour, even though her condo wasn't far.

**Dr. Panipak opened the door to her condo, immediately looking for her partner but not finding her.** She assumed Akhira must be in the bedroom, seeing the lights on.

As she expected, Akhira was lying on the bed. She walked around to her side, noticing that Akhira was lying on her side with her back turned.

"Are you asleep?" There was no response. Dr. Panipak gently pulled the blanket over her before heading to the bathroom to freshen up.

She returned quickly.

She glanced at her partner's face. She was probably upset, judging by the distance she kept on the bed. Akhira never slept so close to the edge. She'd have to make it up to her.

After finishing her personal routine, she turned off the lights and prepared to rest. But instead of going to her side of the bed, she squeezed into Akhira's arms, even though there was barely any space.

Akhira was lying so close to the edge that if she moved any more, she might fall. But Dr. Panipak persisted until she managed to cuddle her.

The space was too narrow, so she started to whine a little, not knowing if Akhira could hear her.

"Phee Zo, I'm about to fall off the bed," she said softly. That was enough for Akhira to move back, giving her more space. Dr. Panipak knew then that Akhira wasn't asleep; she just didn't want to talk to her.

"Still not asleep?" “. ”

"Were you waiting for me?" the doctor asked in a sweet voice, looking up at the person she was cuddling with a pleading expression. But despite her

efforts, Akhira remained silent. Even though she had to talk to herself, she wouldn't give up.

"Have you eaten?" Dr. Panipak asked again, feeling guilty for not coming back to cook for her partner. But even if she didn't cook, she wouldn't starve because the fridge was stocked. Even though Akhira couldn't cook, there were frozen meals she could heat up.

"Phee Zo..." The words she intended to say were swallowed back when Akhira showed no sign of opening her eyes. Finally, Dr. Panipak had to give up.

Maybe she would make it up to her tomorrow. It seemed like talking tonight wouldn't get anywhere. But for now, just being allowed to sleep in her arms was okay. The situation wasn't too bad. She knew Akhira was upset with her, but she also knew she could handle it.

### 07:20

"Can you drop me off at the hospital today?"

The tall figure who had just walked into the kitchen paused slightly, looking at the slender figure taking off her apron without saying anything.

Akhira ate breakfast quietly while Dr. Panipak kept serving the food. But the room remained silent, devoid of any conversation between the two.

"Yesterday, I went out to eat with friends. I didn't go anywhere else, and the traffic was bad on the way back, so I came home late."

In the end, it was Dr. Panipak who couldn't stand the silence. She used to be very patient and was able to go a whole day without talking to Akhira. But

now, she couldn't do that anymore. She didn't like being ignored, so she chose to start the conversation. After all, it was her fault. If she'd just answered her call or called her first, it would've been fine, but she forgot.

*It was all her fault.*

"If you don't believe me, you can call and ask Pha and Neen. After separating from them, I didn't go anywhere else." She spoke confidently, ready to let Akhira verify the truth because everything she said was true. If she didn't believe her, she had witnesses. But her confidence faded when Akhira responded coldly.

"Why do I have to call someone else?" “. ”

"If you had called me yesterday, it would've been fine. Or you could have just answered my call. Was that so hard?" Akhira put down her spoon and voiced her thoughts.

*It wasn't just about this. Even if she didn't call me, it wasn't a problem because I'd call her anyway. But she couldn't even answer my call. Why does she always make me worry?*

"I'm sorry, but. I called back, but you didn't answer." Dr. Panipak spoke

softly, unsure if what she said was good or bad. It sounded like she was trying to blame Akhira instead.

"You're always like this." Akhira sighed lightly. She knew Panipak wasn't lying. She even knew why she didn't answer the phone. It was because Panipak liked to put her phone on silent mode. Akhira understood why she did it during work, but couldn't she turn it on or check it after work?

"I didn't mean to. Don't be mad, okay?" “. ”

"You're almost thirty and still sulking."

Not just speaking, but she also got up from her seat, walked over to Akhira, and cupped her cheeks. Akhira stopped her by holding her hands and gently pulling her closer. She leaned in and kissed her lips lightly without hesitation.

"So, will you drop me off, or should I go by myself?"

Actually, Dr. Panipak was just asking for the sake of asking. She knew Akhira would agree. It wasn't just her who gave in easily; Akhira was the same.

**"See you this evening."**

Dr. Panipak said as the car stopped in front of her clinic. But before she could get out, Akhira held her back, making her turn to meet her eyes. The doctor leaned in and kissed her cheek lightly again. Normally, she wouldn't do this, but since Akhira was upset, she had to pamper her a bit. But after pulling away, Akhira still didn't let go of her hand.

"Is that not enough?"

There was no verbal response, only Akhira's lips pressing against hers as an answer.

And if you thought Akhira would just give a light kiss like she did, you were wrong. If she started, it usually wouldn't end easily. And now, it wasn't just lips. Dr. Panipak felt her arm wrap around her waist. Before she ran out of breath, she gently pushed Akhira's shoulder to let her know.

Akhira pulled back willingly, leaving a lingering kiss that made Panipak blush and look away.

"I'll be late," Dr. Panipak said softly when Akhira seemed to want to come closer again. If she didn't stop her, who knew when she'd be satisfied?

Besides, they were in the car, and it wouldn't be good if someone saw them.

Akhira glanced at the clock and finally let her go. But not before giving her a final kiss on the cheek before sitting back straight.

"I'm going now. Drive safely."

Even though Dr. Panipak's words went unresponded to several times this morning, she knew her lover was no longer angry. Akhira's actions were evident. But if she was still upset, she wouldn't try to make up anymore.

*Because whenever she had to make up with Akhira, she always ended up at a disadvantage.*

# Chapter 9: Special

It had been over two hours, and the meeting room was filled with tension. The tall figure sitting at the head of the table remained silent, listening to what others had to say without showing any emotion. Even though there were issues with the work, Akhira believed that everything would eventually have a solution.

Instead of worrying about what she was hearing, she found herself distracted by the elegant watch on her wrist. It was almost time for Dr. Panipak to finish work, but the meeting showed no signs of concluding anytime soon.

"How about we call it a day for now?" A calm voice interrupted the ongoing arguments in the room.

Everyone fell silent immediately when the person at the head of the table spoke up. Despite the room being filled with people of various ages, everyone listened to Akhira. Some were displeased, but due to their positions, they could do nothing but comply.

"I suggest each department hold their own meetings again. Resolve any disagreements before the next meeting."

“.....”

"Once everything is settled, we can discuss further."

The tall figure stood up as soon as she finished speaking. Her decision was final, and no one could oppose it. Akhira shook her head slightly as she left the meeting room. She disliked anything unclear, and today's events had left her feeling frustrated.

The meeting had lasted over two hours without any concrete results. It seemed like everyone was more interested in arguing than discussing

progress or solutions. Akhira couldn't bear to listen any longer, especially since she had more important matters to attend to.

She pulled out her smartphone from her pocket and quickly dialed her lover's number. The call was answered almost immediately, as if the other person had been waiting.

"Hello... Yes, I might be a bit late."

Akhira acknowledged the response briefly before heading to her office to gather her belongings. She left the company promptly, worried about keeping the other person waiting, especially with the unpredictable traffic. She had no idea how long it would take to reach her destination.

Though it wasn't as quick as she'd hoped, Akhira finally arrived. The sleek black car pulled up in front of the clinic. She glanced at the illuminated glass windows for a moment before stepping out of the car.

She noticed a luxury car parked nearby and wondered if it belonged to a patient. Dr. Panipak had mentioned she was done with work during their phone call, so it was unlikely she'd say that if she still had patients.

Akhira decided to ignore the car. Whether there were patients or not, it didn't matter. She walked toward the building but had to stop when someone walked out, causing her to step aside.

The tall man looked at her and smiled politely, making brief eye contact before nodding apologetically for almost bumping into her.

If it had been any other woman, she might have melted at that smile, but Akhira felt nothing. No matter how good-looking the person was, he was just a stranger. She continued inside, coinciding with Dr. Panipak stepping out of the examination room.

"Was work busy today? You clocked out late," Dr. Panipak asked with a caring smile as soon as she saw her.

"A bit. Are you done with work?" "Yes, shall we go? I'm hungry."

Dr. Panipak immediately tried to be affectionate toward Akhira, knowing she was still at fault. She'd promised herself not to be the one to make amends, but she couldn't help it whenever she saw her.

## CONDO

"Do you usually have many male patients?"

"What?" The person cleaning up the dishes turned to ask again, not having heard the question.

"Do you have many male patients?"

"Just the normal amount," Dr. Panipak replied nonchalantly. She didn't keep track of how many men or women she saw each day. "Why do you ask?"

After putting away the dishes, Dr. Panipak turned to question her lover. Akhira usually didn't meddle in her work, but today, she was asking a strange question.

"I was just curious if anyone might be hitting on you." "Who would hit on me?"

"Your patients."

"My patients? What are you talking about? Those people come to see me because they're sick. If they weren't sick, they wouldn't come."

Dr. Panipak tried to explain calmly. Since becoming a doctor, she'd never seen anyone fake being sick just to see her. If that ever happened, she'd know. No one could fake being sick and lie to a doctor, except for Akhira, who wasn't sick but liked to visit her.

"If there isn't, that's fine. I was just asking," Akhira said flatly, getting up from her chair and leaving the doctor to watch as she walked away. If she wasn't mistaken, Akhira was probably upset with her again. She'd just explained, but it seemed she didn't see it that way. The old issue wasn't resolved, and now there was a new one.

It looked like she was going to have a hard time making up with her.

### 00:00

"Phee Zo…." “. ”

Dr. Panipak, who was about to speak further, fell silent when the tall figure put down her work and lay down, turning her back to her as if ignoring her.

"Are you mad at me again?" she asked, knowing the answer. Dr. Panipak sighed softly before moving closer to the person who had turned her back on her, wrapping her arm around her waist and resting her face on her back.

"Are you asleep? Why won't you talk to me?"

"Do you need something? I'm going to sleep; I have an early meeting tomorrow." Though she said that, both knew it was just an excuse.

"There wouldn't be any issue if someone here wasn't mad." "I'm not mad."

"Are you sure?" “. ”

"Stop being mad at me. Why are you acting like Pot?"

"Whatever I do or say, I'm always wrong, aren't I?" There it is. She said she wasn't mad, but her actions and words said otherwise.

Dr. Panipak sighed softly before tightening her embrace. She thought it wouldn't be hard to make amends with Akhira, but she needed to offer something. Businesspeople liked deals. If there were benefits, they were willing to invest. That was why she thought it'd work. Someone like Akhira would relent if she got a good offer.

"Phee Zo, you're not wrong. It's my fault. Please stop being mad." “. ”

"If you stop being mad. I'll do whatever you want."

“.....”

"I'll let you ask me for anything you want. Are you interested?" "Really?"

Knew it. As soon as Dr. Panipak said that, Akhira turned to look at her with interest, making the doctor nod in agreement while still hugging her.

The tall figure turned back, a small smile forming on her lips at what she heard. Since she'd offered, there was no way Akhira would refuse. She

already had something in mind.

*Opportunities like this don't come often, so why would I let it slip away?*

Since that day, it seemed Dr. Panipak used her car less and relied more on Akhira for rides. She didn't want to trouble her, but if it made her happy to spend even a short time together in the car, it was worth it. Plus, she'd promised to do whatever she wanted if she stopped being mad. Akhira used this to negotiate, and since then, she stopped being mad, with the added agreement of picking her up and dropping her off. She wasn't sure who was at a disadvantage. She only gained from this, while Akhira had to go through the trouble.

*What kind of deal is this?*

How could a businessperson offer a deal that put her at a disadvantage? It was something Akhira would never do in her professional life, but Dr.

Panipak knew she was an exception.

*Akhira would do anything for her, no matter the cost.*

"Hello, Ms. Akhira. Are you here to pick up the doctor?" As soon as the tall figure walked into the clinic, someone greeted her.

"Yes."

"The doctor is with the last patient. Would you like a drink while you wait?" "No, thank you."

The woman smiled at the guest's response before returning to her duties, leaving Akhira to her own devices. Though she hadn't worked there long

and didn't know the clinic's owner well, she knew the relationship between this woman and the doctor in the examination room.

Akhira walked over and dropped herself onto the sofa in the guest area, glancing out at the sleek black luxury car parked next to her own through the large glass window. If she remembered correctly, she'd seen it before, and not just anywhere, but here, at Dr. Panipak's clinic.

Her sharp eyes flicked to the clock briefly before she looked up at the sound of footsteps approaching. Her brows furrowed slightly as she watched a tall, slender man exchange a few words with the nurse before walking out of the clinic.

And just as she thought, that car belonged to that man. Akhira turned back to the scene before her, waiting patiently until Dr. Panipak emerged. Seeing her, she stood up and immediately walked out to wait by the car, leaving Dr. Panipak puzzled.

"What's wrong with him?" The moment the slender figure opened the car door, she was hit with the question.

"Who?"

"That man, your patient." Hearing the words "that man," Dr. Panipak instantly knew who she was referring to. There was no one else it could be but the man who had just driven off.

"Just... general stuff, nothing serious." "Really?"

"Yes."

"Then why does he come to see you every day? Do healthy people visit the doctor every day?"

"He doesn't come every day."

"You say that, but I see him almost every time I come to pick you up." The change in Akhira's tone made the doctor pause. Akhira was starting to get annoyed after hearing Dr. Panipak's response.

Is it reasonable to say that? It sounds like she is making excuses. “. ”

"I asked why he needs to see a doctor every day and why it has to be you treating him when there are other doctors."

"I can't choose patients. If they come, I have to treat them. How can I say no?"

"Is he that sick that he needs to come this often? If he's that ill, why isn't he in a hospital?"

"I don't know."

"How can you not know when you're the one examining him? Is it really appropriate for him to come to the clinic this often?"

The speaker was getting a bit irritated. If he isn't that sick, why does he come so often? Maybe not every day, but it wasn't just two or three times. She saw that man almost every time she came to pick up her lover. She didn't come here often, yet she still saw him frequently. What about the time before this?

Dr. Panipak chose to stay silent, sensing the unusual atmosphere. She knew that if she kept arguing, it wouldn't lead to anything good. But was it fair to be on the receiving end of her anger when she hadn't done anything wrong?

Just working late every day was exhausting enough, and now she had to deal with her lover's harsh words.

The current situation was making her feel frustrated.

"You're just picking a fight with me." Dr. Panipak turned to look out the window instead of at her partner. She didn't want to talk to Akhira right now. If she wasn't going to be reasonable, there was no need for her to explain.

Akhira glanced at the doctor briefly before swallowing her words when she saw the latter's irritated expression. Shortly after, the car started moving, and no one said anything. When they reached Dr. Panipak's condo, they still hadn't spoken at all, and it was Akhira who had to give in.

Akhira watched her lover quietly clean the room, sighing as she calmed herself down. She knew she'd let her emotions get the better of her and had unreasonably pressed her for answers.

Dr. Panipak didn't like that kind of behavior; she was well aware of it. Yet, she couldn't control herself at that moment, leading to the conversation escalating into a fight. Not wanting her to stay mad for long, Akhira decided to make the first move to apologize.

"Dearest." The endearing term from Akhira could probably make many fall for her, but it didn't work on the cold-hearted doctor. The slender figure paid no attention to the person on the sofa, walking past her as if she hadn't heard her words. Akhira fell silent because she was ignored.

Akhira sat there feeling dejected. True, she'd started the argument, but she deserved an explanation, didn't she? She hadn't done anything wrong. She was just jealous. If Dr. Panipak had explained the situation a bit, it wouldn't have been like this. But the doctor cut her off, and it sounded like she was defending and siding with that man. Moreover, she acted as if she was annoyed with her.

*How am I supposed to feel?*

Even though she wanted to make up with the doctor, Akhira chose to stay silent. The doctor didn't even want to look at her. She wanted to apologize, but the doctor ignored her.

*You're getting tired of my face, aren't you?*

*Maybe you want to save your eyes for that handsome guy instead, don't you?*

# Chapter 10: Special

Since Dr. Panipak and Akhira had an argument three days ago, neither of them had shown any sign of wanting to talk to the other. Although they still lived together and went about their daily lives, they hadn't exchanged a single word.

Today was another day Dr. Panipak had to wait for her partner to pick her up. She glanced at the clock on the wall briefly before returning to her work, puzzled by Akhira's absence. Normally, Akhira would call her before arriving, but it was almost time for her to finish work, and she still hadn't called.

True, they were currently in a fight, but Akhira wasn't the type to be unreasonable or act out of spite. Even when she was angry, she never did anything harmful. Forgetting was out of the question since she'd dropped Dr. Panipak off that morning. There must be another reason for her delay today.

After some time had passed, Dr. Panipak decided to wait for her partner outside the hospital. She couldn't reach her because she wasn't answering her phone, but she chose to wait anyway.

"Are you waiting for your partner, Doctor?" a voice from behind made Dr. Panipak turn to look at the speaker.

"Yes."

"If you don't mind, would it be okay if I wait with you?" The kind man offered with a friendly smile, but Dr. Panipak didn't think that was a good idea.

"Uh, thank you, but it's alright. They should be here soon," she lied, using Akhira as an excuse to fend off further insistence.

"Oh, okay then. I'll be on my way." "Yes."

She smiled politely at the man before turning back to look ahead, relieved. Lately, she'd been dealing with enough issues, and adding another one wouldn't be good. Even though it was just a normal conversation, if Akhira had seen it, she might not have thought so.

She knew Akhira was possessive, but since the incident with Sun, she hadn't had any problems with anyone else. It had been a long time since Akhira showed any signs of jealousy until the other day when she seemed particularly upset. Something must have triggered those feelings.

Dr. Panipak stopped overthinking and focused on the road ahead. A familiar car pulled up, and she quickly got in, not wanting to block others. Even though the person in the car didn't greet her, she felt better than she had in the previous days.

At least today, she didn't have to face an awkward situation because she wasn't going to the clinic, meaning Akhira wouldn't have to see the man who upset her.

"Can we eat out today?" Dr. Panipak broke the silence after a long period of tension. She glanced at the driver briefly. Akhira showed no reaction other than remaining silent, but when they reached an area full of restaurants, she asked in a flat tone, "Which restaurant?"

"The one up ahead is fine."

After that, silence resumed until the car parked at the restaurant. Dr. Panipak quietly followed her partner inside.

Even though they were angry with each other, Akhira still indulged her.

They were seated in a relatively private area since it was just the two of them. The staff eagerly attended to them, but the silence and negative atmosphere made the person standing by the table feel tense and uneasy.

"W... Would you like to order anything else?" The young waitress asked hesitantly, her bright smile fading due to the strange and intimidating vibe from the couple.

"Just this for now."

After ordering, Dr. Panipak smiled slightly at the waitress, noticing her discomfort. The person across from her was sitting with a stern face, silent like a robot. Anyone would feel uneasy—even she, as her partner, felt troubled.

They knew each other's habits, good and bad, but that didn't mean they were used to every situation. Normally, Akhira was sweet to her, so seeing her genuinely upset like this was naturally unsettling.

Despite the pleasant atmosphere of the restaurant, it didn't help ease Akhira's mood. There was no conversation throughout the meal. Even though they were at the same table, it felt like they were strangers who happened to sit together.

This was the quickest meal they'd ever had. When they returned to the condo, Dr. Panipak went straight to the bedroom. She took a medium-sized suitcase from the closet and started packing.

Since tomorrow was a rare day off, she planned to visit her parents. That's why she wanted to save time and chose to eat out instead of cooking at

home.

She picked up her phone, tapped the screen a few times, and held it to her ear while continuing to pack. Soon, the call was answered, and she smiled upon hearing her mother's voice.

She chatted about various things until she mentioned her plan to visit home. Her hands stopped packing when she couldn't do as she wished.

"Can't I come now, Mom? I want to go tonight."

[You can come tomorrow, dear. It's late now, and I don't want Zo driving at night.]

"I'll go alone." [Why alone?]

Her mother's question made her pause. It wasn't normal for her to visit alone without Akhira.

[Did you two have a fight?]

Phimwilai asked directly. It wasn't usual for her daughter to come home alone.

Dr. Panipak bit her lip, hesitating before softly replying, knowing she couldn't lie to her mother. "A little, Mom."

[What do you mean by 'a little'?]

Phimwilai pressed on, sensing it wasn't just a little fight since her daughter was in such a hurry to come home alone.

The daughter sighed softly, stopping her packing and sitting on the bed, feeling exhausted. "We fought over some little thing, Mom. Something silly."

[And what was this 'little thing'?]

"Just a small matter that she made a big deal out of." [Was it also you that made it a big deal?]

The listener fell silent at her mother's words. It might seem like her mother was siding with Akhira, but deep down, Dr. Panipak knew she also contributed to making the small issue bigger.

[Sometimes, we need to put ourselves in the other's shoes, dear. Talk things out calmly.]

"But she..." Dr. Panipak sighed again, biting her lip. Despite her frustration with Akhira, she didn't want her mother to think badly of her, so she kept her thoughts to herself and said something else.

"She makes me frustrated." [People are like that, dear.] "..."

[Your father and I often argue, too. I get frustrated when he's unreasonable, but we've stayed together all these years. Arguing isn't bad, but we need to let go of our pride, listen, and forgive.]

"..."

[I don't believe Zo wouldn't try to make up with you. You're the stubborn one.]

Her mother's words were spot on. It was true that Akhira had tried to talk to her, but her emotions made her ignore it, rejecting her attempts and leading to their silence over the past few days.

[So, will you tell me what this 'little thing' is?] "Well... She got jealous over me and my patient."

[You've been a doctor for so long. Why is she jealous now?]

The more her mother questioned, the more cornered Dr. Panipak felt. Finally, she had to explain everything.

"Recently, she's been picking me up, and she often sees a man at my clinic. She got worried, thinking that man might be interested in me, so she got upset."

[You mean your patient?] "Yes."

[And is what she thinks true?]

"No... it's not," Dr. Panipak replied softly. Even though she said that, deep down, she knew what had been happening to her lately.

[Then why don't you explain it to her?]

"At that time, she was in a bad mood. I didn't want to talk to her."

[And now, is she in a better mood? Why don't you try talking to her nicely?] "I don't know if she'll believe me. She probably thinks that I and that guy..."

[Telling me won't help. I don't know how to help you. I can only suggest you talk to her.

"Yes, Mom. I'll try."

[And don't drive alone tonight. It's late. Come see me tomorrow, okay?] "Yes, Mom. It's late. You should rest now. I won't bother you anymore."

[Alright, see you tomorrow, dear. Oh, and I want to see Zo, too. Don't forget to invite her.]

After hanging up the phone with her mother, Dr. Panipak could only ponder hard about what to do. She walked over to put the packed suitcase back into the closet. She could wait until tomorrow morning to go. She'd never been

like this before, never made decisions based on fleeting emotions. But part of her urgency was really because of Akhira. She had to admit that.

Sometimes, feeling slighted makes us do irrational things.

At 7:24 AM, Akhira woke up feeling down. It had been like this for several days. The tall figure slowly sat up after being awake for a while. Her sharp eyes glanced at the empty space beside her before noticing the neatly packed suitcase.

That made her realize where the other person was going today because last night, Dr. Panipak's mother had already called her. But now, where had she gone? If she'd left, the suitcase wouldn't still be in the room. After a brief thought, she quickly went to take a shower.

If she guessed correctly, Dr. Panipak should still be in the kitchen. She was probably making breakfast for them...

Akhira walked into the kitchen as usual, but what she saw made her a bit displeased. The slender figure was intently chopping vegetables. She'd already told her she'd handle that part, but the doctor simply wouldn't listen.

Dr. Panipak glanced at the person who had just walked in. Because she took her eyes off what she was doing, the knife that should've been chopping the green vegetables instead sliced into her delicate finger.

"Ouch!" The pain shot through her finger as bright red blood flowed out. Dr. Panipak immediately let go of the knife in shock, just as Akhira quickly

walked over to move the knife away and grabbed her hand to check the wound.

Akhira quickly placed the slender hand under the running water. Dr. Panipak bit her lip, suddenly feeling her eyes well up. Maybe it was the pain from the wound, or perhaps it was the pent-up feelings inside her that were now bursting out.

She had to admit that even though she acted indifferent, she felt hurt every time her lover ignored her. Seeing Akhira show concern like this made her wall even more vulnerable. The mix of emotions was so overwhelming she didn't know how to explain it.

"Stop the bleeding first. I'll get the medicine to treat the wound," Akhira said in a concerned voice before hurrying off to get the first aid kit.

Akhira's eyebrows furrowed in worry as she saw the blood that wouldn't stop flowing. Slowly, the bleeding was brought under control. Akhira gently bandaged the wound, afraid of causing more pain.

"Does it hurt?" she asked, looking up at her. She paused when she saw her face. Dr. Panipak shook her head slightly, avoiding eye contact. The tears welling up in her eyes made her heart ache.

"Why are you crying?" Akhira asked warmly. Dr. Panipak shook her head again, still looking down. Akhira sighed and gently pulled her into her arms.

Dr. Panipak rested her face on Akhira's shoulder. The warmth made the tears she tried to hold back flow freely. She didn't know when she'd become so sensitive.

Akhira gently stroked her back, understanding immediately why she was crying. The pent-up feelings they both had reached a point where they overflowed.

Akhira rested her cheek against Dr. Panipak's soft hair with love. She missed this feeling so much that it was hard to put into words. The past few

days, the silence hadn't made the situation better. She admitted she was angry and hurt, but in the end, she couldn't stay that way any longer.

She didn't know how long they'd be like this or how long they could endure the tension. But honestly, she didn't want her to apologize. At that moment, the frustration was so overwhelming she didn't know how to handle it.

The room fell silent until the tall figure slowly stood up and walked over to clean up the mess. The sharp knife was washed and put away. Akhira took care of the remaining vegetables herself, letting the injured person rest.

Dr. Panipak sat quietly, looking at her hand, thinking. Her uninjured fingers gently touched the bandaged wound, and she sighed softly. She was a doctor. She knew what to do if she got hurt, but at that moment, she stood still, letting the blood flow until Akhira rushed to help.

"Have breakfast first. I'll drive you to your parents'."

"How do you know where I'm going?" Her voice was slightly nasal as she turned to look at her lover's back, busy at the counter.

"Mom told me." Even though her response was brief, Dr. Panipak could still sense the gentleness in her voice. The natural conversation eased the tension between them.

"I'm sorry for not telling you first." "It's okay."

Dr. Panipak smiled slightly after hearing that. No matter what happened, whether she did something wrong or even when they were upset with each other, Akhira always said it was okay.

She didn't know if others felt the same, but for her, Akhira suited that phrase perfectly. Every time she heard it, she thought of her because if she said it was okay, it really would be.

# Chapter 11: Special

"I have to go to work now. I'll come by in the evening," Akhira said, handing over a bag of clothes to the person waiting.

"Are you staying at my mom's house tonight?" "I can stay."

"Why didn't you tell me earlier? I could've packed your clothes." "It's okay. I'll stop by the condo to get them."

"Do you want to see Dad and Mom first?"

"I'll see them in the evening. Tell them I say hello." Dr. Panipak nodded understandingly. The distance from her house to the other person's company wasn't short; it would take at least an hour or faster if there was no traffic.

Dr. Panipak stood watching Akhira until the luxury car gradually disappeared. At the same moment, Phimwilai walked out of the house.

"Has Zo already left? I heard the car."

"Yes, but she'll come by in the evening," her daughter replied, shaking her head slightly. It seemed her mother really wanted to see Akhira, just as she'd mentioned. Even while talking to her, her mother didn't even look at her. She just kept craning her neck to watch the luxury car until it was out of sight. It kind of made her annoyed.

With Akhira, not her mother.

"So, you two have probably talked things out, right? Since she came to drop you off."

"Something like that," Dr. Panipak replied to her mother to ease her worries. She didn't want her mother to be concerned about her. In truth, they had talked, but not about the unresolved issues.

Even though that matter hadn't been cleared up, she and her lover were no longer sulking at each other. That was a good thing. The situation between them was returning to normal, and she believed it would get even better soon.

"Come inside, dear. Let me help."

"It's okay, Mom. I can carry it myself."

"I'll carry it," Phimwilai insisted, taking her daughter's suitcase and leading the way into the house.

"I'll put my things away first," the doctor said, taking her suitcase back and preparing to go upstairs.

"There are clothes in your room. You didn't need to bring more." "I wasn't sure if they'd still fit, so I brought some just in case."

"Well, suit yourself. Go relax. I'll make a new dessert I just got the recipe for. If it's good, I'll make it for Zo when she comes in the evening."

"Okay, Mom," Dr. Panipak shook her head slightly at her mother. It seemed she was being used as a test subject. It looked like her lover was more important to everyone in the house than she was.

She wondered who the real daughter was.

She began to understand Akhira's feelings. Akhira often complained that Madam Nada loved her more than her. At that time, she argued that a mother couldn't love someone else more than her own daughter. But now she had her answer. She just realized it was like this.

But it was kind of cute.

### 21:32

The sound of the TV in the living room was the only thing keeping the person on the sofa from feeling lonely. Dr. Panipak kept glancing at the clock and then out the window, waiting to see when the person she was waiting for would arrive. But there was still no sign of her.

Dr. Panipak sighed, gripping her phone tightly. She was worried because no matter how many times she tried to call her lover, there was no answer, which made her anxious.

The TV's sound occasionally reached her ears, but she couldn't focus on it because her mind was preoccupied with other worries. With nothing else to do, Dr. Panipak had no choice but to wait anxiously.

This must be how Akhira felt when she didn't answer her calls. She thought it was a small matter, but experiencing it herself left her speechless.

Finally, her anxiety ended when the headlights at the front gate signaled that the person she was waiting for had arrived. The slender figure quickly got up from the sofa and walked to the gate to open it for the newcomer.

"Why are you so late? I called, but you didn't answer," Dr. Panipak asked immediately as the tall figure got out of the car, catching the other off guard.

Akhira bent down to grab her suitcase, then turned to face her lover, who was staring at her. Her eyebrows furrowed slightly at the question. She turned back to the car to look for something but couldn't find it.

"I think I left my bag at the condo," she said, meeting her lover's eyes. She must've forgotten it while packing because she was focused on the suitcase.

"Are you senile already?" the slender figure asked teasingly with her arms crossed.

"Are you picking a fight with me?"

"No, I was just asking. You forget things often." "Not that often."

"Yes, not often, but it's becoming more frequent. That's how old people are."

Akhira shook her head at her lover's words. She couldn't argue because she knew she wouldn't win. Besides, if they talked about age, she was at a disadvantage since her lover was indeed younger.

"Mom made some dessert, but since you were late, I put it in the fridge. You can have it tomorrow."

Akhira nodded and asked as they entered the house, but they didn't see her parents.

"Are Dad and Mom asleep?"

"I told them to go to bed. They wouldn't go, saying they wanted to see you," she said, taking the taller person's suitcase while she was distracted and leading the way upstairs after turning off the TV in the living room.

"Go take a shower. I've prepared everything," the doctor told her lover again after entering the bedroom. She watched as the tall figure obediently

walked into the bathroom with a smile. It seemed the atmosphere between them was improving and almost back to normal.

Even so, she still had unresolved issues in her heart, and Akhira probably felt the same. She could let it go without explaining, but if she didn't tell Akhira the truth, it might happen again in the future.

She spent a long time thinking about whether to speak up. Finally, she decided she had to make her understand. Otherwise, they'd continue to misunderstand and feel hurt. She knew Akhira was still worried, but she cared about her more and chose to overlook it.

Despite her kindness, she was afraid of something unreasonable.

### 22:00

The person lying on the bed opened her eyes immediately when she felt someone on the other side of the bed. The person who was about to lie down stopped, thinking she'd woken her up.

"I'm not asleep yet," Dr. Panipak said softly, turning to face the tall figure now lying beside her. Her beautiful eyes watched as her lover reached to turn off the lamp. Every move was in her sight, making the person being watched turn to meet her gaze.

"What is it?" Akhira raised an eyebrow in curiosity, pretending not to notice she was being watched.

"I'll let you ask one question." "What question?"

"Anything you want to know." "I have nothing to ask you." "How about the man?"

"......"

"Don't you want to know about that man anymore?" Though she asked her directly, Akhira remained silent. Even though it was something she wanted to know before, now that the doctor gave her the opportunity to ask, she didn't take it.

Dr. Panipak stared at her lover, seeking answers, wondering what she was thinking. She thought about what had happened between them.

In truth, Akhira had only met that man three or four times, but she quickly became suspicious. She had many regular patients, but her lover never had a problem with them. But Akhira was suspicious of that man. She had to admit Akhira had a good sense.

That man was genuinely sick, but it was a minor illness that most people wouldn't see a doctor for. Even so, she knew he had ulterior motives for coming to the clinic.

She could tell he was interested in her. Even when he saw the ring on her finger, he didn't care, and that made her feel disgusted.

But as a doctor, she couldn't refuse him. If they met outside or anywhere other than work, she wouldn't be so polite.

And Akhira was a strange one. When someone liked her, she didn't know. But when someone was interested in the doctor, she was quick to sense it.

“So, do you want to know about that man or not?”

When Dr. Panipak asked but got no answer, the room fell silent again. Akhira was startled when the person lying beside her suddenly sat up and straddled her.

Dr. Panipak even reached out to pinch the cheeks of the person beneath her playfully, causing the other to frown. Yet, she didn't resist, making the instigator feel triumphant.

“Stop teasing me already,” the taller person said, gently removing the hand from her cheek.

“Why didn't you answer my question?” The doctor tilted her head cutely, making the other turn away.

“I don't want to talk about it,” Akhira said, confirming that the issue was far from resolved. Akhira hadn't forgotten about it and still thought about it constantly; she just chose not to speak about it. Even when given the chance to ask, she showed no interest.

“You're so stubborn.” “I'm not stubborn.”

“Really?” The question was asked in a playful tone. Since Akhira claimed not to be stubborn, Dr. Panipak might have to test whether that was really the case.

Dr. Panipak locked eyes with the other in the darkness. The eyes that could once intimidate her now seemed a bit dull, perhaps due to some troubling thoughts or because she was being teased. Dr. Panipak withdrew her hand from the grip, gently caressing the cheek of the person beneath her before planting a soft kiss and slowly pulling away.

“Hurry up, I'm giving you a chance to ask.” “I don't want to know anymore.”

“Really? Then don't come asking me again.” The words from above made Akhira pause in contemplation. The intense gaze made her feel pressured until she finally decided to ask what she wanted to know.

“Was that guy really sick, or was he just coming to see you?”

“He was really sick, but it was nothing serious. About him coming to the clinic often, I have to admit... he does come frequently.”

“.....”

“But it's not like I'm the only one who examines him. Other doctors do, too, depending on the time. And besides, I don't specifically choose to treat him.”

Seeing the others remain silent, Dr. Panipak quickly clarified, even though she hadn't done anything wrong, to prevent Akhira from overthinking.

“What is he sick with?” “I really can't tell you.”

Dr. Panipak replied softly. She had no intention of lying or hiding anything, but since it was someone else's information, someone who was a patient, it was her duty to keep that secret. It wouldn't look good for a doctor to discuss or reveal a patient's details to someone not involved.

“.....”

“You should know that doctors shouldn't disclose patient information to someone else.”

“Not even to me? Am I someone else?”

“If answering as a doctor, then yes, even to you.”

Akhira nodded in understanding. When it came to work, she couldn't argue with her because she knew what Dr. Panipak was like and how dedicated she was to her profession. Therefore, she should respect her work as well.

“If you understand, then stop sulking.” “I'm not sulking.”

The listener felt exasperated by that statement. Even though she said she wasn't sulking, she'd been giving her a cold shoulder for several days.

“Good, and stop overthinking. I'm already married,” Dr. Panipak said seriously, hoping Akhira would understand what she meant. If she didn't want to settle down with anyone, she wouldn't have chosen to marry or commit to anyone as she had now.

Akhira stared at her intently. Even though the room was dark, she could still see her clearly. She understood and believed her without a doubt, but if asked whether her jealousy would disappear, the answer was no. Dr.

Panipak mightn't be interested in others, but that didn't mean others wouldn't be interested in her.

Their eyes locked for a minute before the hand of the person below slipped under the other's shirt, causing the slender figure to tense her stomach.

Akhira gently caressed the smooth skin without saying anything, making Dr. Panipak raise an eyebrow and ask a question she thought was foolish.

“What?” In such a situation, it should be obvious, but the darkness reduced her embarrassment, allowing her to speak even though she already had an answer in her heart.

Akhira remained silent as if playing a guessing game while her hand continued to move. Dr. Panipak didn't resist because she'd willingly entered the lion's den. If she were to be eaten, it wouldn't be surprising. But then, she was surprised when the other withdrew her hand.

Akhira lifted the doctor's waist slightly, signaling her to return to her original position. She didn't want to take advantage of her too much. Even though it was always consensual, today was a rest day, and she didn't want to disturb her.

“Let's sleep.” The listener smiled immediately at her lover's words. The slender figure moved off Akhira and snuggled into her warm embrace.

Sex might be a part of their relationship, but sometimes they don't need it. Akhira didn't think about it all the time. She just let everything be as it

should. Just being close and taking care of each other like this was already very fulfilling.

### 06:25

This morning, Dr. Panipak woke up early again, but she didn't get up. Instead, she kept staring at the sleeping person as if she were something fascinating. She reached out to gently stroke the arm of the person sleeping higher up.

Luckily, she woke up in the middle of the night. Otherwise, her lover would've had a numb arm all day. She might never complain, but she knew without her saying because it often happened. She saw her grimace frequently upon waking. Seeing that made her feel sorry for her. Having someone use the arm as a pillow all night must've been quite painful.

Dr. Panipak kept looking up at her before getting a playful idea. She gathered her long, beautiful hair like a brush and gently brushed it across Akhira's face as if painting on a canvas.

Her face lit up with a smile when she saw Akhira frown in her sleep, her eyebrows knitting together as she turned away in annoyance. The slender figure chuckled at her successful prank. Eventually, the disturbed person woke up. Seeing this, Dr. Panipak stopped everything, closed her eyes, and pretended to be asleep.

Akhira frowned as soon as she opened her eyes, glancing slightly at her still partner. Her half-awake brain slowly processed the situation. Soon, she sat up, staring at her without blinking. The annoying sensation couldn't have been anyone else's doing, as only one person could do that at this time.

Pretending to sleep after pranking me. “I know you're awake.”

“.....”

“Why did you prank me?”

“What prank? I just woke up, too. What is it?” With no other choice, Dr. Panipak slowly opened her eyes. Her sweet voice sounded hesitant, making the listener look at her suspiciously.

“You can confess now that you pranked me so your punishment won't be harsh.” Dr. Panipak's eyes widened slightly at her words, wondering where she'd learned such a phrase. Maybe she watched too many dramas.

“I didn't do anything.” “You woke me up.”

“Where's the evidence?” The slender figure spoke nonchalantly, unlike her usual self. She even feigned ignorance, making Akhira feel like she wanted to tease her, too.

“Really?” The sharp, beautiful face leaned in close before pressing her nose to her lover's soft cheek and pulling away.

“If you don't admit it, I'll keep kissing you until you do.” The sharp eyes looked at her with a warning. When the doctor remained still, Akhira stole another kiss on her cheek. But even then, Dr. Panipak stayed still, meeting her gaze as if nothing had happened.

Seeing this, Akhira pressed her nose to the doctor's cheeks repeatedly until she couldn't take it anymore and finally laughed. The slender figure turned her face into the pillow, pulling the blanket up to shield herself from the relentless kisser.

“Enough, I confess, I confess.”

“You started it.”

“Phee Zo, I said enough.”

A muffled voice came from under the large blanket. True, Dr. Panipak could order Akhira around, but not always. This time, her command didn't work as she tried to snuggle in and kept trying to kiss her.

“Phee Zo, that's enough. Get up now.” The serious tone came from Dr. Panipak's mouth as she sat up, signaling Akhira to stop.

“Where should I go? I don't want to go anywhere; I want to sleep more. But you woke me up, so I'm awake.” Oh, come on. She said she didn't want to wake up, but instead of sleeping, she chose to bother her. Full of excuses, this person.

“Go shower now, or should I go first?” Akhira's face soured immediately at her command.

Dr. Panipak looked at her sulking face for a moment before remembering something she hadn't told her. She was sure that once she did, Akhira would jump out of bed without hesitation.

“If you don't go, I'll go first. We might be late for the little one.” “?”

“My brother is coming today, and the little one is coming, too.”

Just hearing the word 'little one', Akhira immediately sprang up from the bed, just as Dr. Panipak had expected. She shook her face slightly at her lover's hurried actions as she rushed ahead of her into the bathroom, even though she'd just told her she wanted to sleep a bit longer.

*What an annoyingly cute person.*

# Chapter 12: Special

### Cute

That was the first word that popped into Akhira's head after seeing her little niece up close. Although she'd visited Dr. Panipak's sister-in-law after the birth and had seen the baby before, she hadn't been this close.

"You can hold her," the mother smiled at the tall figure standing next to Dr. Panipak before handing the adorable baby in a pink outfit to the doctor.

"Did she just wake up, or is she still sleepy? She's not fussy at all."

"Maybe she's confused about why Auntie Pleng is so pretty." The playful comment made everyone smile as Dr. Panipak carefully cradled the baby close to her chest.

"Do you need help carrying things?" the doctor asked as she looked outside and saw her brother unloading items from the car.

"I'll go help him. Can you and Ms. Akhira watch the baby for a bit?" The mother smiled at the tall figure, who was standing still, looking at the baby with a gentle smile, before walking out to help her husband, as she'd said.

"Do you want to try holding her?" Dr. Panipak asked her partner when they were alone. Earlier, she'd been in a rush to meet her niece, but now she stood there shyly, not daring to hold her.

Akhira gently stroked the baby's cheek before taking her from Dr. Panipak. She cradled the small body carefully, her awkward movements making the onlooker chuckle.

Even though she knew how to hold a baby, this time, she seemed unusually anxious and tense. Perhaps it was because she'd never held such a small baby before.

"She's so cute," Akhira said as the baby rested her chubby cheek on her shoulder. She turned slightly to let the person standing next to her see the baby's face, who was not crying nor showing any fear of strangers.

Dr. Panipak could only smile at her partner. As time went by, everything became clearer. Akhira must really like children, even though she never said it. Her actions and expressions spoke volumes.

But it wasn't just Akhira who was smitten. This little one was as adorable as Pot, just in different ways.

"Isn't Pot coming, too?" Akhira asked, looking outside to see if her favorite nephew was around.

"He's at school today, so he couldn't come." The answer might not have pleased her, but Akhira understood that Pot had to go to school.

"And aren't you working today?" Dr. Panipak asked the taller one, who was playing with the niece, curious because today was her day off, but it wasn't Akhira's. Plus, it was getting late, and if she didn't leave soon, she'd be late for work.

"I can go in late."

"How late are we talking? It takes a while to drive there."

"I'm an executive; I can go in whenever I want." Dr. Panipak was puzzled by her answer. She'd never heard Akhira say anything like this before.

Normally, she wasn't one to neglect work or do things on a whim. People really do change easily—just seeing a cute niece made her not want to go to work.

In the end, she didn't go to work at all. Akhira stayed and played with the niece until the evening because she was just as excited as everyone else. The baby was cooperative, staying awake and laughing when teased, making everyone in the house fall head over heels and unable to do anything else.

Even Akhira, who said she'd go back to her place, didn't go. So today, she took an impromptu day off because of her cuteness.

### 20:28

By the time the couple returned to their condo, it was already dark. They had dinner at Dr. Panipak's house. Akhira kept smiling happily, having played with the niece to her heart's content. In truth, Akhira wasn't satisfied yet. She wanted to stay with the niece longer, but various circumstances didn't allow it.

"I didn't know she'd be there, so I didn't buy anything for her. You didn't tell me," Akhira complained to her partner, realizing she hadn't bought anything for the niece despite the rare opportunity to meet her.

"I forgot. You can buy something for her next time."

"I want to see her again. Can we visit them when we're free?"

"Of course," Dr. Panipak smiled at her partner sitting at the end of the bed. "Then tomorrow..."

"I'm not free tomorrow, and neither are you." "But I..."

"No more excuses. You already took a day off today." Dr. Panipak interrupted immediately, knowing exactly what Akhira was going to say.

She knew her too well, and that made the tall figure pout.

\*I knew she'd pout like this.\*

"She isn't going anywhere. We can visit them another time. We'll go on a real holiday so we can see Pot, too."

"Alright."

Dr. Panipak looked at her partner with amusement. She was just pretending to scold her because she knew it'd be like this.

Akhira had always been like this. She was just as excited about Pot. Now, with a niece, the doting aunt would want to see her all the time.

And from the time they were at her parents' house until they returned to the condo, Akhira hadn't stopped smiling, constantly saying how cute the niece was. It seemed she was very fond of the little one.

"Doctor."

"What?" The slender figure frowned slightly when her partner suddenly called her by a different title.

"I want to have a baby, too." "What did you say?"

"I want to have a baby, too. How can we do that?" Akhira asked again, looking at her partner with hope, genuinely wanting to know if it was possible. But the answer she got wasn't quite what she wanted.

"You have to work hard then," Dr. Panipak teased, knowing that no matter how hard her partner worked, they couldn't have one naturally. She was just joking, but she forgot that the other person wasn't in the mood for jokes.

"Are you teasing me again?" Akhira pouted, knowing she was being teased. She'd asked seriously, but she got a playful answer as if the doctor wasn't taking the question seriously.

Someone like this needs to be punished.

"Phee Zo... I was just joking," Dr. Panipak said softly when her partner looked serious and stepped closer, making her unable to move.

"Really? You were joking... but I'm serious."

With that, Akhira's words were followed by Dr. Panipak's small protests as she tried to negotiate and apologize, saying she wouldn't do it again. But it was too late; the aggrieved party wasn't letting it go. In the end, the one who teased was punished accordingly.

### 07:00

Dr. Panipak blinked slowly and turned to look at the empty space next to her with surprise. She sat up for a moment before heading to the bathroom to freshen up.

The new day started freshly. Even though her body was tired, it didn't affect her daily life. But she was still curious about where her partner had gone.

The doctor walked out of the bedroom, looking around the living room but finding no one. She was sure Akhira hadn't left for work yet, and her bag was still in the bedroom. If she had to guess, she was probably still in the condo, and there was only one place she hadn't checked.

### THE KITCHEN.

Sure enough, she wasn't wrong. But what she saw made her even more surprised. Her eyes scanned the tall figure standing in front of the stove, wearing an apron. She didn't say anything; she just watched as Akhira prepared breakfast.

"Do you know how to cook?"

Akhira, focused on the food, glanced at her briefly. Instead of answering, she asked for her help.

"Can you get me a plate, dearest?" The tall figure extended one hand, waiting for what she'd asked for without looking at her. Her other hand was busy stirring the food in the pan, so Dr. Panipak had no choice but to get her a plate.

"Sit down. Breakfast is ready."

The slender figure obediently sat at the table. Soon, the aroma of hot food filled the air.

Dr. Panipak examined the food on the plate in front of her. It wasn't much, just one plate, but it had many components. Fried rice with a sunny-side-up egg, bacon, and vegetables on the side made the dish look even more appetizing.

"Thank you. Where did you learn to cook?" the doctor asked as she took the fork and spoon from the taller figure who was watching her.

It was true that Akhira often helped her cook, but only as an assistant. She never did anything serious. At most, she'd handle the vegetables or cut the meat. Seeing her cook a full meal on her own was surprising.

"I watched it on the internet."

Akhira answered honestly. She wasn't very good at cooking, but in this world, nothing is too difficult for one to handle. Besides, if you don't know how, you can find someone who will tell you. And because she wanted to try doing something for her loved one, she chose to do it herself.

Akhira moved to sit opposite her lover. When she saw the other person start to use a spoon to take food into her mouth, her heart pounded like a drum set. Even though she'd tasted it before, she wasn't sure if it'd turn out well.

"Is it delicious?" Akhira's voice broke the silence when the beautiful face across from her showed no reaction after the first bite. She never thought that just cooking for her loved one would feel this stressful.

"It's... edible."

"Just edible?" Akhira sighed, sounding disappointed. From sitting up straight, she slumped her shoulders, making the doctor smile when she saw her lover's expression.

"Look at your face. I didn't say it wasn't delicious." The doctor reached out to gently lift the chin of the person across from her.

"But you said it's just edible."

"Edible means it's good enough to eat, not that it isn't delicious." The doctor shook her head at her lover, smiling. She understood. It was Akhira's first time cooking alone, so she probably had high expectations.

It's not surprising. Even when she cooked for her every day, she always wondered if it would suit her taste, especially when trying a new recipe.

"Really?"

"Try it, and you'll know if I'm telling the truth or lying." "I already tasted it."

"And how was it?"

"It was... edible," Akhira answered softly. For a moment, she was surprised that her words matched her lover's. The breakfast was edible. It might not have been the most scrumptious, but it was enough to fill the stomach.

After that, the couple didn't argue about the taste anymore. They just had a light conversation, and Dr. Panipak learned that Akhira planned to start cooking more often because she wanted to help her more.

For Dr. Panipak, it was endearing. She felt good every time she was cared for, no matter how small the gesture. Some things others might overlook, but not Akhira. She cared for her the most.

Even now, she still stood by what she said... that she was really lucky to be her lover.

*Several days later*

### HOSPITAL

"Your hands are full, Doctor," a nurse teased, making the doctor turn and smile. Her beautiful face, with a light touch of makeup, smiled, trying not to show her embarrassment.

The teasing nurse grinned mischievously, mocking the beautiful doctor whose hands were full of items, including a bouquet and a glass of green tea. It was obvious who they were from since she'd witnessed the scene herself.

If she didn't know they were married, she would think they were still in the honeymoon phase. It's rare for married couples to still do such things. Every

morning and evening, Akhira brought her things, like today's flowers, making everyone around blush.

"Aren't you going to put the flowers in a vase, Doctor?" "No, it's fine."

The nurse just said it to tease her. The plump nurse smiled as she watched the beautiful doctor walk away. It had become a routine for her to tease the doctor.

Before, if Dr. Panipak had flowers, she'd give them to the nurses to take care of, but flowers from Akhira seemed to get special treatment. Dr.

Panipak would take them to her office as if they were precious to her. "What are you carrying, Pleng?"

Dr. Panipak sighed as soon as she heard the voice from the room, turning to face her two friends.

"You're early."

"Didn't you tell us to come?" Dr. Ninlaneen feigned innocence, making Dr. Panipak shake her head in exasperation. She handed the drinks to her two friends after placing her things on the table.

"Thank Madam Nada for me, Pleng. She's so considerate," Dr. Plaitha said after receiving a glass of the drink.

"It's fine. Phee Zo was happy to do it."

"Aww, you're calling her 'Phee Zo' now, huh? Back then, you always called her 'Madam Nada.'" The friend's words made Dr. Panipak feel a headache. Her face flushed for the second time that morning. Besides dealing with teasing nurses, she had to face her teasing friends, too. It was exhausting.

"Both of you, get back to work. I just asked you to pick up the stuff, not slack off."

"Yes, Doctor. How strict. Anyway, tell her I said thank you," Dr. Ninlaneen said, and Dr. Panipak nodded, watching her friends leave before sighing again when everything calmed down.

She moved the bouquet to a less cluttered spot on her desk, biting her lip to stop herself from smiling. She shook her head slightly to clear her thoughts.

"Why does she have to do this?"

She whispered to herself. She didn't understand why her lover always did these things. Since she returned to work, she acted like it was the old days or even more than before when she was still flirting with her.

She was surprised. She didn't know what got into Akhira to buy her such a big bouquet. At first, she thought it was just a one-time thing, but she'd been doing it for three days now.

Sometimes, Akhira let her drive to work herself as requested, but she'd still bring flowers to the hospital before going to work. That couldn't escape the watchful eyes of others, and she ended up being teased. Not that she didn't like it, but she wanted to tell Akhira that she could get embarrassed, too.

The door to Dr. Panipak's office closed, but the smile on the face of the person who just left didn't fade.

"How cute." Her two doctor friends were still talking about the couple. Their cuteness made Dr. Plaifha admire them.

"Madam Nada, right?"

"Yes, even after marrying Pleng, she still acts like when she was in the honeymoon phase."

"Maybe to make their status clear and ward off others?"

"Probably. Even after marriage, people still try to flirt with Pleng. It wasn't this many before," Dr. Plaifha muttered, and Dr. Ninlaneen nodded in agreement. It seemed her friend had become more popular after marriage.

But those people were strange. They could see the ring on her friend's left finger, yet they still wanted to get to know her. Just getting to know her was fine, but bringing gifts was inappropriate. Maybe it's true that married women are more attractive. Seeing Dr. Panipak, it seemed likely.

One week later

"Are you leaving, Doctor?" A nurse asked when she saw the slender figure walking out.

Dr. Panipak nodded and gave a short reply, surprised by the nurse's mischievous look and embarrassed smile. She turned to look at the reception area.

She smiled when she saw her lover walking toward her with a beautiful bouquet. Dr. Panipak now understood why the nurse acted that way.

She noticed a regular male patient sitting not far from Akhira but didn't pay much attention. Today, she clocked out early, so another doctor took over her remaining patients.

The third person watched the two women intently, but they didn't notice. The couple walked out together. Everything was clear today, but she didn't know how much he'd understand.

Dr. Panipak hoped that person would give up after seeing her real partner come to pick her up. It's true that she didn't have any feelings for him, but knowing someone else's feelings when she couldn't reciprocate made her uncomfortable.

She wanted to be a better doctor, treating patients with all her might without any distractions. She hoped that person would understand that he was just a patient to her and could never be more.

"Thank you."

Dr. Panipak said when she was alone with her lover. She looked at the bouquet in her hand with a smile before remembering something. Her

slender hand gently opened the bouquet, then she pulled out a single white rose and handed it to the tall person sitting there, looking confused.

"Here you go." "What is it?"

"A flower for you." The doctor smiled sweetly, but the person looking at her was still puzzled.

"Eh?" Akhira furrowed her brows slightly. Could this really be considered a gift? After all, the flower she handed over came from the bouquet she'd bought herself.

"Why do you look like that? Don't you like the flower I gave you?" "But this is the flower I bought for you."

"Well, it's mine now. I can do whatever I want with it," Dr. Panipak smiled while looking at her lover, who now had a sulky expression like a child who didn't get their way.

"That's not nice," the tall figure grumbled at the beautiful but stingy person. Who takes a flower from a bouquet someone bought for them and then hands it back like this? If you're going to give flowers, at least buy them yourself.

"What's not nice about it? When you bought me the flowers that were supposed to be offered to the Buddha, I didn't say a word." No matter how much time passed, that mistake was always brought up. It was just one slip- up.

"You remember things like this so well."

"I remember everything," Dr. Panipak turned to meet the other's eyes as if to confirm her words. She really did remember everything, if it was about Akhira, no matter the time or event.

Even the first time they met, she still remembered every image, sound, and feeling, even though she didn't feel anything for her back then.

Her beautiful lips curved into a small smile before she leaned her head on the shoulder of the person next to her, lifting her hand to cling to Akhira's arm as if seeking comfort. This surprised Akhira quite a bit because the doctor didn't do that often. But what surprised her even more was what she was hearing.

"I love you, Phee Zo."

Akhira smiled at the words with joy. Even though the other person didn't say it often, deep down, Akhira knew she loved her because if she didn't, they wouldn't have been together until now. There was a clear difference between Dr. Panipak then and Dr. Panipak now.

Love and not love.

Even though the beginning was rough and painful, looking back now, Akhira never regretted what happened. It might've taken some time, but it was worth it because, in the end, she had Dr. Panipak's love, and she was glad to be that person for her.

And no matter what the future holds, whether it gets better or worse, she wouldn't regret it because just having Dr. Panipak by her side made life feel complete. Just having her was enough.

"Pleng."

"Yes?"

"I love you."

"From now on, you don't need to tell me that." "Why..."

"Because I already know that you love me."

"What are you looking for?" Dr. Panipak asked when she saw her lover

walking back and forth, moving in and out of rooms as if searching for something. Since they had returned to the condo, she hadn't stopped pacing around.

"I can't find my phone," Akhira replied.

The doctor paused for a moment before reaching into her own bag and taking out Akhira's phone to hand it to her. Akhira fell silent, realizing she had given it to the doctor to hold while they were shopping.

"Why have you been forgetting things so often lately? You gave it to me yourself, didn't you?"

Akhira didn't answer the question but instead questioned herself internally, growing more worried. With her lover's frequent remarks about her forgetfulness, Akhira began to lose confidence in herself.

Am I really getting old and forgetful? "Pleng."

"What?"

"If I become even more forgetful, will you still stay with me?"

Akhira wasn't sure why she asked the doctor that question. She was just a little worried, but hearing the doctor's answer made all her worries vanish.

"If I don't, who will remind you where you put your things?"

Dr. Panipak smiled at her lover. She didn't know what the future held for them or how long they'd be together, but for now, she was happy. And she wanted to stay like this for as long as possible.

*Or at least... until she was too old to remember Akhira.*

*Because even if they ever had to part ways, she knew she could never forget Akhira.*

*She had already loved her with all her heart, and she couldn't imagine doing anything else.*

### THE END