

# Chapter 01: Hopeless Romantic

"Good morning."

The sweet greeting, spoken softly, was enough to stir her from sleep. But what really woke her up was the gentle press of lips against her forehead. After seven hours of sleep, she was now fully awake—though her girlfriend had already been up for five minutes.

"Mm..."

Aiwarin slowly opened her eyes, blinking to adjust her vision. When she finally saw the familiar face leaning close with a warm smile, she couldn't help but smile back.

"Good morning, my love." "My love? Morning, sweetheart."

Mevika chuckled.

"Sweetheart?"

Aiwarin laughed. Now she was fully awake—wide awake, actually—thanks to the overwhelming cuteness of the woman beside her.

"I like that. I'll call you that too."

"Okay, sweetheart."

Mevika placed a gentle hand on Aiyawarin's head, stroking it lightly.

"Come on, time to get up and get ready for work."

She started to move off the bed, but before she could take another step, a pair of arms wrapped around her from behind, pulling her back.

"Mm... just a little longer."

Aiwarin mumbled against her shoulder, placing a hand on it and stroking gently. Then she frowned.

"Why are you the only one wearing a robe?"

She had just realized that while she was still completely naked under the covers, Mevika had somehow managed to slip into a robe at some point.

"I got up to use the bathroom and grabbed it on my way back before waking you up,"

Mevika explained casually.

But before she could say anything else, Aiwarin's mischievous hands had already undone the loosely tied belt. The soft fabric slipped from Mevika’s right shoulder, and before she could protest, cool lips pressed against her bare skin.

"H-Hey! We have to go to work!"

“Mm... I want to try doing it in the morning too,”

Aiwarin murmured, sliding the robe off Mevika’s other shoulder.

“No way. I have an important meeting this morning,”

Mevika said firmly.

“The big news today is that *Superior* successfully won the bid for Greater, and we’re partnering with Orianna to manage *Greater Duty-Free* together. Everyone at the company is waiting to congratulate me and the team.” “Actually, I have a meeting too,”

Aiwarin admitted with a laugh. But that didn’t stop her from teasing a little more.

“Just a little bit?”

She kissed Mevika’s other shoulder, and the more she kissed, the more she wanted to keep going. But she knew she had to control herself. Her girlfriend was just too beautiful and adorable.

Being together officially felt like a honeymoon phase—one they could proudly share with the world now. They no longer had to hide their relationship or worry about how others might perceive them as a couple.

The world had changed, and if some people still didn’t understand, that was their problem. What mattered was that they were happy together, focusing on their own love without letting outside opinions affect them.

“I’m so happy.”

“Hm?”

Mevika turned slightly to glance at her.

“That we can finally be together, as a real couple.”

Aiwarin smiled, resting her forehead against Mevika’s head. She felt warmth spreading through her chest, wrapping around her like a comforting embrace.

Wanting to cherish the moment, she gently pulled the robe back over Mevika’s shoulder and hugged her from behind.

Ever since that night when she stayed over at Mevika’s place and asked to be in a real relationship, things had changed. They had returned to their own families on the day of the bid opening, and after the results were announced, they had dinner with both families together.

Then, at last, they got to spend time alone again.

Last night had been the first night Mevika stayed over at Aiwarin's place. In a way, this morning felt like the first real day of living together—here, in the same room where their relationship had deepened long before they even became an official couple.

“Oh, if that’s what you mean, then I’m really, really happy too.”

Mevika chuckled softly. She glanced down at the arms wrapped around her waist and took one of Aiwarin's hands in hers.

“I am so happy.”

"Mmm.."

Aiwarin smiled. She loosened her embrace as Mevika gently pulled her hands away to turn around and face her. Their eyes met, and they leaned in for a soft kiss before Mevika pulled back with a playful smirk. “We have plenty of time to spend together, but not this morning.”

She playfully poked Aiyawarin’s nose.

“Tonight, though, I’ll come back as soon as I can. And if you want to do anything… you’re free to do whatever you want, okay?”

“Okay.”

Aiwarin accepted the deal eagerly.

“And I’ll try to make sure I have no morning meetings tomorrow, so you

can—”

“Okay! Then I won’t go to the office tomorrow morning either.”

“You are so fast,”

Mevika laughed. She had expected Aiwarin to think about it for a moment, but she was too quick.

“Of course! How could I be slow when it comes to you? I’m always quick when it’s about you.”

“Oh? Hmm… that’s true. No argument there.”

Mevika tapped the tip of Aiwarin's nose again.

“Alright, time to get up and shower. Let’s go to work, do what we love, and come back to the person we love.”

“For the first time, I actually want to skip work just to go home early. And you know how much I love working.”

Aiwarin admitted.

“No need to do that,”

Mewika reassured her.

“Pretty soon, we’ll be working together anyway.”

She got out of bed, flashed a smile, and headed toward the bathroom.

Aiwarin sat there watching her girlfriend walk away, unable to hide her grin. She was just as excited for that day to come. Greater was set to open next year, but the planning and management of the duty-free stores between their two companies would begin much sooner.

And soon, she and Mevika would get to work side by side—not just as business partners, but as a couple.

.

.

“We’ve had preliminary discussions with Orianna about setting up a dedicated team to manage Greater,”

Aiwarin said, addressing the executives of Orianna and the bid consulting team in the conference room.

“We’ll probably establish the office at Greater Tower. The building is close to the mall, which makes it convenient. It was built for this kind of purpose anyway.

“During the bidding period, when I visited Greater frequently, I noticed that some floors were still unused and pretty quiet. But once we set up a central office there, the place should get livelier. We’ll also need to hire staff to manage the operations.”

“Are we going to manage everything together?”

The HR manager asked.

“It’ll be more about coordinating and overseeing things as a whole,”

Aiwarin explained.

“We’ve clearly divided responsibilities—Orianna will focus on managing service-oriented businesses, while Superior specializes in retail products. However, if either side comes up with plans or ideas, we’ll share them with each other for feedback. We can make suggestions in areas that fall under the other’s expertise, but we won’t interfere in their decision-making. We just want to support each other as good business partners."

And she continue,

“We’re lucky to be working with Superior, a company that operates transparently. In the future, if the management of Greater Duty-Free is divided by category through separate bids, then setting up a joint office might not be necessary. There would likely be a central team managing the overall operations while each company handles its own designated area. But for now, we want to co-manage things with Superior—because it’s Superior.

“I heard that…”

One of the bid team employees started to say but then stopped, smiling without continuing.

“Hm? Heard what?”

Aiwarin turned to her.

“Oh, nothing,”

The employee quickly shook her head.

Aiwarin let out a quiet chuckle, guessing what the employee might have been thinking.

“This meeting is about to wrap up,”

She said.

“If anyone has questions unrelated to this topic, feel free to ask now. Once I finalize the management team plans for Greater, I’ll call another meeting with the relevant people. If there’s nothing else, then that’s it for today.”

"Thank you so much, Khun Ai. Winning the Greater bid is truly an achievement, just as everyone believed you could do it,"

Said a senior executive.

"Thank you! But… are you really okay with coming in second place?"

Aiwarin asked, turning to the executive.

"Second place is still a great result. Of course, we aimed for first, but we’re fortunate that the original winner changed their plans. At least we still get to be involved in managing Greater. You did an amazing job. And besides… first place went to Superior, just like you said."

The executive had a subtle, knowing smile.

"Because first place is…"

The bid team employee who had hesitated earlier spoke up again.

"Uh, I mean… Superior."

"Were you about to say Superior just now?"

Aiwarin chuckled.

"I was going to ask you about it. The meeting is over now, so you can finish what you were saying earlier."

"Huh?"

"You started with ‘I heard that…’"

"Oh…"

"And because first place is…"

"It’s Khun Mevika,"

The employee finally admitted, looking a bit shy about saying it out loud.

"Ah, Khun Mevika—so that’s what you wanted to say,"

Aiwarin said with amusement.

"You’re very logical, Khun Ai—that’s why I felt comfortable saying it. But still… it’s a personal matter, so maybe I shouldn’t bring it up."

"It’s fine."

Aiwarin glanced at some of the executives who had already left, likely because they had other work to do. Some people were very strict about their schedules—arriving on time, attending meetings on time, and leaving work exactly on time.

Those who stayed behind were the ones who had more flexibility, which was something Orianna wasn’t too strict about, as long as responsibilities were managed properly.

"For some, this might be a personal matter. But if it’s about Khun Mevika, go ahead—tell me,"

She said with a warm smile.

"It's nothing, really. I just wanted to say that I heard Khun Ai and Khun Mevika are dating. And the person who won first place in the bid… is your girlfriend."

The employee quickly covered her mouth, embarrassed by how bluntly she had said it.

"Oh, so that’s what you wanted to talk about?"

Aiwarin laughed.

"I guess everyone already knows by now. Alright, I’ll just confirm it— Mevika and I are dating. I don’t think she’d mind if you call her Maple."

"Oh wow,"

The employee grinned, still feeling shy.

"Congratulations! That’s so adorable! First place and second place—a couple brought together by the bidding war. And now, you’ll be managing a business together, too!"

"If any of you join the management team, you’ll probably get to meet her.

She’s just as kind as I am,"

Aiwarin said with a playful smile.

"What a well-matched relationship!"

"You mean we have matching personalities?"

"No—I mean you’re equally beautiful!"

"Oof."

Aiwarin couldn’t help but smile, feeling a rare moment of shyness. She didn’t get flustered easily, but when it came to Mevika, it seemed to happen a lot.

"Are you blushing, Khun Ai? Alright, I won’t tease you anymore!"

"It’s fine. If it’s about Maple, you can tease me all you want,"

Aiwarin said, pretending to be unaffected.

"Ahhh, you must be so in love,"

The employee giggled, covering her face.

"I’m so jealous!"

"Exactly!"

Another, younger employee finally spoke up, encouraged by her boss’s openness.

"This is so cute! I’ve never seen Khun Ai in this mode before."

"What mode?"

Aiwarin raised an eyebrow.

"'*Madly in-love’* mode."

"*Tch*."

Aiwarin tried to keep her composure, but after already getting flustered once, it was hard to hide her reaction. Quickly, she started gathering her personal items, preparing to leave.

She didn’t normally allow conversations about her personal life at work, but today… she made an exception. Maybe it was because she really was completely smitten with her girlfriend.

That phrase—"*Madly in-love*"—was just too accurate.

"Eh… Or should I not have said that?"

The youngest employee suddenly looked worried.

"*Madly in-love*? Oh, you can say that. But I really have to go now. Thank you for supporting the love I chose."

Aiwarin smiled warmly.

"And about the bidding results—first place and second place—don’t think that I lost to Maple because of sportsmanship or anything like that. That wasn’t it."

"Oh, no one thinks that!"

The employee quickly reassured her.

"Everyone saw how hard you fought for it. If you hadn’t been serious, even getting second place would’ve been impossible."

"Thanks for understanding. I didn’t lose to Maple because of sportsmanship at all, but because of..."

Aiwarin said. She paused, debating whether to continue. But her hesitation only made the employees more curious.

"Then for what reason?"

Someone finally asked.

"Hmm."

She pretended she wouldn’t answer—but then, with a playful grin, she finally confessed:

"I must have lost.... because **I’m madly in love**."

As soon as she finished the sentence, Aiwarin quickly hid her smile and walked out of the conference room.

. .

"So it was the *‘love-struck kindness’* that made you lose?"

Mevika chuckled when Aiwarin told her about work that evening.

"You made excuses like that, saying that you intended to bid, not because of the kindness of a sportsman, but because of madly in love?"

"No one took it seriously. Everyone knows it was just a joke from someone completely smitten."

Aiwarin grinned and hugged her girlfriend from behind.

"Because honestly, I really am crazy about you these days. And they were right—it really is my ‘*madly in-love mode*.’"

"You're such a show-off."

"Of course! You’re my first real relationship."

Aiwarin declared, then stole a big kiss on Mevika’s cheek. She rested her chin on her girlfriend’s shoulder, hands playfully undoing the first button of Mevika’s suit.

"By the way… has anyone teased you about this yet, my beautiful girlfriend?"

"I think they wanted to talk about it, but the office was really busy today. I had meetings all morning and afternoon, and after that, everyone just went back to work. But if there’s a chance, someone might bring it up— especially my dear secretary."

"P’Jinaa? So… have you already cleared up the misunderstanding about me? I hope she still thinks I’m a decent person."

Aiwarin laughed.

"I talked to her before the bidding results came out. I explained everything, and P’Jinaa said you’re super sweet, practically an angel. She even said she’d happily hand over her boss to you and apologized for the misunderstanding."

"That’s completely fine. She didn’t do anything wrong. Please tell her that

—and I’d love to treat her to a meal for successfully passing the information to you. That was crucial for me to execute my plan."

Aiwarin chuckled. She had already unbuttoned Mevika’s suit jacket a while ago, but only now did she take the chance to slide it off her girlfriend’s shoulders.

"Hmm, I’ll let her know. You really are a master strategist, aren’t you?"

Mevika smiled and glanced at Aiyawarin, who was now holding her suit jacket. Mevika had allowed her to take it off—but with one condition.

"But… why are you undressing me?"

"Well, someone said she'd rush back home and let me do whatever I wanted."

"That’s right, I did say that."

Mevika turned quickly to face her.

"But I need to shower first—freshen up before bed. We have all night, and after I shower, I’m all yours."

"A shower, huh? Then we better hurry, because I’m getting impatient."

"Relax."

Mevika laughed mischievously.

"You’ll really need your energy later. And since you’ve already started undressing me—might as well finish the job. I don’t know what’s wrong with me these days, but I seem to have forgotten how to take off my own clothes."

"Forgot how to undress? No problem. I already told you—if you become my girlfriend, I’ll help you undress every day."

"Well, I am your girlfriend now. You're definitely one of the perks who won me my heart."

Mevika grinned, wrapping her arms around Aiwarin's neck. She whispered teasingly into her ear.

"Hurry up and take everything off—right now,"

Mevika whispered seductively.

"The faster we shower, the sooner we can get to bed together."

.

❤❤ ❤ ❤ ❤

so sweet....i smile a lot...☺ ☺ ☺

🎶 jatuh cinta berjuta rasanya...🎶 🥰

# Chapter 02: Tie Game

The nightgown that were worn just fifteen minutes ago were slowly removed. The scent of lotion on her arms and legs filled the air, reaching the nose that was now pressed against her smooth shoulder before soft lips followed to leave a kiss.

The thin straps were gently pulled down, revealing the curves beneath the delicate fabric. Just a little more, and half of her beautiful body would be exposed.

"You smell so good."

"I didn't put lotion there,"

Mevika said as Aiwarin's lips lingered on her soft breasts.

"It's the soap... and you already smell amazing."

Aiwarin moved to the other side and did the same thing before chuckling.

"And you look so delicious too."

"You're really obsessed with me, aren't you?"

Mevika closed her eyes, enjoying the touch. She was losing herself in it, too. Every single touch from Aiwarin was mesmerizing. She was so good at this-she was good at everything, in Mevika's opinion.

"Of course, you-"

Before she could finish speaking, she bit down on the spot she loved most.

Hearing her girlfriend's reaction only made her more enjoyed it.

"Ah... darling."

"I love it when you call me 'darling'."

Aiwarin whispered, pulling back for a moment before teasing another sensitive spot. Mevika arched her back with a breathy moan.

"Say it again."

"Darling... touch me more,"

Mevika pleaded, breathless. But instead of slowing down, Aiwarin only deepened her touch.

"Oh... Ai... darling..."

"What is it, darling?"

Aiwarin lifted her head, propping herself up on her arm to steal a lingering kiss from the lips she adored. Then, she slowly moved lower, trailing past the soft curves of Mevika's chest and down to her toned stomach that was cover in beautiful muscles.

With both hands, she pulled the silky nightwear down, wasting no time in removing the last piece as well.

"Has there ever been a time when you made me calm down around you?"

"I never told you to calm down."

Mevika replied, her breath hitching as Aiwarin's lips teased her lower abdomen, then moved to press against her thigh.

"At least... not when we're in bed. You always make me impatient."

"Otherwise, how else would we be a good match?"

Aiwarin chuckled, lifting one of Mevika's legs so she could kiss her inner thigh comfortably. She shifted, moving higher while gently urging her lover's legs apart. And in that moment, Mevika hold her breathe.

"Ah-!"

A deep, breathy sound escaped from her throat, followed by a mix of gasps and soft moans. Her slender fingers gripped at Aiwarin's hair, her hips arching in response. She surrendered letting her lover touch her as she pleased. And it made her so excited making her legs weak.

"Ai... p-please, stop..."

Aiwarin knew exactly what that meant. She could tease, make her squirm, push her until she was completely lost in pleasure. But she preferred to give her lover exactly what she needed without delay.

Lifting her head slightly, she let her fingers take over, pressing gently against the spot where Mevika's desire was most evident. Slowly, she slid her fingers in, making Mevika take a deep breath to brace herself for what was coming next.

Mevika understood that intimacy between lovers could be soft or passionate, each time different. But one thing she was certain of-no one could understand and satisfy her desires the way Aiwarin did.

She loved her, adored her, and craved her touch. She would give herself to her every night, whenever she was asked. And truthfully, she loved touching Aiwarin just as much.She would not let her be the only one giving her happiness. Tonight would be no exception.

"Ai..."

"Say it again... darling."

"D-darling... my love... darling."

"I love hearing that."

"I... I love it too."

Their lips met in a deep, heated kiss as Aiwarin continued to pleasure Mevika. The passion between them built up until Mevika let out a sharp gasp, her breath coming in quick, uneven bursts-clear proof that she had reached the peak of pleasure for the night.

"Mmm..."

Mevika exhaled slowly, allowing herself to relax as waves of satisfaction spread through her body. She closed her eyes, catching her breath, feeling even more at ease when Aiwarin leaned in to kiss her.

She opened her eyes, responding to the kiss, and as they stayed locked in that embrace. They kissed for a long time and realized one thing-tonight wasn't over yet.

And Mevika was about to prove it. She was going to do it now.

With a gentle push on Aiwarin's shoulders, she guided her lover and sit on her thighs. Her gaze landed on the silky robe Aiwarin was wearing, the loosely tied sash catching her attention. Mevika remembered that after her shower, Aiwarin hadn't put on anything underneath. That meant-under this smooth fabric-there was nothing in the way.

She pulled at the sash, untying it just above Aiwarin's waist. And just as she expected, as the robe parted, there was nothing beneath. Before she could even slide it off completely, gravity took over, and the fabric slipped away on its own.

Now, with her face nestled against Aiwarin's breasts, she let her lips explore freely as she pleased. What lay before her was simply too tempting to resist.

Aiwarin had such a beautiful figure-every inch of it was breathtaking. Mevika had traced every curve before, but no matter how many times she did, she never got tired of it.

"Mmm..."

Aiwarin let out a low sound, tilting her head back slightly. Then, she lowered her chin, resting it against the head of the woman now pressed against her. She bit her lip, a soft hiss escaping as Mevika sent waves of pleasure through her body, all the way down to her lower abdomen.

Mevika slid her hands under Aiwarin's hips, lifting them slightly-one hand supporting, the other guiding. Slowly, she moved, setting a rhythm, making sure their bodies fit together perfectly.

"Ah..."

Mevika kissed Aiwarin's cheek, letting the tip of her nose trail along her jawline before reaching her neck, where Aiwarin tilted her head slightly to give her better access.

Mevika kissed the soft skin, gently sucking without leaving a mark, before moving back down to where she had been before-giving her lover pleasure in two places at once.

Aiwarin let out a deep breath, moving slowly at first before picking up the pace.

"Press closer,"

She whispered, inviting Mevika's hips to grind against her stomach. Their movements grew more intense, their breathing heavier. They took their time, not rushing to the end, letting the pleasure build naturally. And when the perfect moment arrived, Aiwarin let out a sharp gasp before going still, collapsing into Mevika's arms.

Mevika held her tightly, resting her chin on Aiwarin's shoulder, staying in the embrace for a while before they both collapsed onto bed.

Now facing each other, they exchanged tired but content gazes. Their eyes were drowsy, but not enough to fall asleep right away. The exhaustion from their time together made sleep come easier, though.

Aiwarin smiled as Mevika reached out to smooth her messy hair.

"Do you want to continue?"

Mevika whispered. Her voice was soft, but the question itself was provocative.

"I do," Aiwarin admitted,

"But I can sleep first. We're not in a hurry to go to work tomorrow, right?" Her voice was barely above a murmur.

"Yeah, I cleared my schedule... for someone who likes to spend extra time in bed in the morning."

Mevika smiled teasingly.

"Wow, that's so cute. Just wait and see-tomorrow, you're in for it."

Aiwarin grinned and leaned in for a quick kiss her lover lips.

"Better save your energy,"

Mevika replied, pressing a kiss to her forehead and then planting another on her cheek.

"Good night, my love. I love you."

"Mmm... love you too,"

Aiwarin murmured sleepily, already drifting off from the warmth of Mevika's kisses.

With those sweet words lingering in the air, nothing could disturb them now. Even in their dreams, they would still be hugging each other.

And when the morning came, they would wake up together-just as they always wanted.

.

.

"Mmm... can't I just sleep a little longer?"

Mevika mumbled drowsily. She had only been awake for a minute, stirred from sleep by someone hugging her tightly and playfully kissing her lips and neck all over.

"I can't help it. You're too tempting,"

Aiwarin laughed.

"And besides, you need to wake up and get ready for work."

"But we don't have to rush this morning,"

Mevika protested, pulling the blanket back up to her neck to keep warm in the chilly air.

"Just because we're not rushing doesn't mean we don't have to go,"

Aiwarin teased. Then, instead of pulling the blanket away, she slipped under it entirely, pressing closer until their bodies were side by side. The warmth, the closeness-it made her want even more.

"What are we going to do?"

Mevika asked, pretended to be confised.

"Hmmm... I don't know,"

Aiwarin chuckled mischievously, burrowing further under the covers until she was completely on top of Mevika.

"Maybe we should having breakfast?"

She teased before pressing soft kisses onto Mevika's bare skin, which was slowly warming up.

But if she had to choose between breakfast and Mevika... she'd choose Mevika.

Because Mevika was like a special, irresistible dish made just for her.

"Mmm... we're really doing this?"

Mevika sighed, already melting under her touch.

"Of course. Why wait?"

Aiwarin's voice was full of mischief as she got to work without hesitation.

It was as if she had saved up all her energy overnight just for this moment. Even though they had already gone two rounds the night before, the morning felt like a fresh start, her energy fully recharged.

Beneath the blanket, Aiwarin's lips moved over soft curves, teasing and exploring as if tasting a perfectly ripened fruit. And once she made her choice, she indulged in it without holding back.

Mevika let out a deep, husky sound, which soon turned into heavier, breathless as Aiwarin moved lower, disappearing completely under the covers. The blanket shifted, rising slightly as Aiwarin's knees pressed against the mattress.

Aiwarin moved out from under the blanket, leaving only the upper part of her body covered. What she was doing was already making Mevika weak and exhausted, even though they had barely started.

"Mmm... you have a lot of power this morning,"

Mevika said between shaky breaths. "Are you saying I was weak last night?" Aiwarin smiled.

"Well... you were never weak... ah-"

Mevika's words trailed off. She was still drowsy, but Aiwarin seemed fully awake and full of energy the moment she opened her eyes-always ready, always eager.

But it was true-whether at night or early in the morning, Aiwarin never ran out of energy.

Her girlfriend was so strong.

The two of them spent the next thirty minutes *"working out"* together in bed before hugging each other and resting while they still had a little time before showering and heading to work.

Since they got to wake up together like this, they wanted to savor it a little longer. Maybe if they had been together longer, they wouldn't be this obsessed with each other.

But it had only been two days since they officially started living together, so of course, they were still in the honeymoon phase.

"Can we do this on our days off?"

Mevika said with a laugh.

"It's not the same. Days off are one thing, but before work is a completely different mood."

"Oh, I see. Someone likes variety," Mevika laughed.

"I think I know you pretty well now."

She lifted her head and rested it on Aiwarin's shoulder as Aiwarin leaned against the pillows, letting Mevika snuggle comfortably. Aiwarin gently stroked her hair, and Mevika lay there silently for a moment, lost in thought, before smiling.

"Now that we're officially together... should we try just cuddling sometimes?"

"Well, maybe after we've been together for a while, there'll be nights like that,"

Aiwarin admitted.

"But right now? Every time I'm alone with you, I just want you. Or... do you need a break?"

"Not at all,"

Mevika lifted her head, grinning playfully.

"I want you too."

"We really are perfect for each other,"

Aiwarin laughed, clearly pleased. Mevika always seemed to know exactly what she was thinking and never hesitated to answer in a way that made her heart race.

"A perfect match,"

Mevika whispered, leaning in until their noses touched, teasingly locking eyes with the same intense desire and infatuation.

"The employees at my workplace say that we're equally beautiful."

"Equally beautiful?"

Aiwarin repeated, liking the sound of it. But another word popped into her mind.

"Oh..."

"Beautiful might be true, but there's a word that fits even better."

"Another word?"

"Mhm."

Mevika kissed Aiwarin on the lips, then pulled back just enough to meet her eyes with a playful smile.

Leaning in again, she whispered in the most seductive voice**"We should say... equally sexy."**

.

❤❤ ❤ ❤ ❤ ❤

.

**my favourite chapter...so lovely.**..😅😅😅

# Chapter 03: Special Partner

The elevator stopped on the 15th floor, where Aiwarin’s office was. Today, she arrived at the office a little past 11 a.m., just a few minutes before lunch break. Normally, she would come in at 9 a.m., except on days when she had to inspect hotels.

On those days, she would inform her secretary about her schedule. But this morning, she didn’t explain—she just said she would be coming in late. In fact, she was over two hours late, and for the first time, it wasn’t because of work elsewhere.

Her secretary and most of the employees who worked with her were already used to her schedule. During the bidding period, things got even busier with meetings, purchases, and proposal submissions.

But because there were rumors about her having a girlfriend, people started thinking differently. Instead of assuming she was busy with work, they became curious about her personal life.

“If Ms. Ai didn’t go inspect a hotel today, then she must have come in late for some other reason,”

Said Patitta, a senior employee, in a teasing tone.

“Stop teasing Ms. Ai, or I’ll report you!”

Lada, Aiwarin’s secretary, replied firmly.

“Oh, come on. It’s normal to talk about this. I wasn’t gossiping—I just understand her, that’s all,”

Patitta said casually.

“And what exactly do you understand?”

Aiwarin suddenly spoke up as she walked past, her voice loud and clear.

“M-Ms. Ai!” Patitta looked startled.

“I just meant… I wasn’t gossiping! I was just speaking with understanding.”

She let out a nervous laugh.

“With understanding? Then tell me, what do you understand? Be honest. No need to make excuses.”

Aiwarin smiled

"Ms. Ai told me to be honest because you wouldn’t be mad."

"Have I ever gotten mad without a reason?"

Aiwarin, the kind-hearted boss, raised an eyebrow.

"Alright, I’ll say it then…"

Patitta hesitated before continuing, her voice trailing off.

"It’s just teasing, really. When I saw you hadn’t come in yet, I thought… well…"

She let out a dry laugh and smiled awkwardly, struggling to finish her sentence.

"I thought that since you recently got a girlfriend, you were probably spending time with her. Sorry for bringing up your personal life." "Oh, if that’s what you were thinking, then you’re absolutely right,"

Aiwarin admitted with a smile.

"I was late because I was with my girlfriend. We left a little late after having breakfast together, then we each went to work. Sorry for coming in later than usual. But once in a while, I’d like to use my right to come in late like any other employee. I hope no one has a problem with that. If anyone thinks it’s inappropriate, feel free to say so." "N-No, Ms. Ai! It’s not inappropriate at all!"

Patitta waved her hands nervously.

"You’re the heir to the hotel… actually, you’re the owner! You could take the whole day off—or even a whole month—if you wanted!"

"I wouldn’t do that just to take a salary for nothing,"

Aiwarin replied.

"And I wouldn’t neglect the hotel even for a second. Rest assured, even if I come in late sometimes, it won’t affect the workflow. There might be some changes, though. Since I usually arrive on time, there may be days when I work from home in the morning before coming in. But aside from personal matters, I’m sure you all already know that my girlfriend and I have recently secured the rights to manage the duty-free business together. From now on, we’ll be working together more often. If we’re already in the same place, it makes things easier. But we’re also setting up a system to coordinate with the main office and work with the larger team. So, I thought I’d take this chance to let you all know."

"Understood, Ms. Ai. And I’m really sorry for talking about you like that."

"It’s fine. I told you it’s okay to talk. It actually gave me a chance to discuss work matters too,"

Aiwarin said with a smile.

"You spoke out of understanding, and you were right. You really do understand me. Thank you."

She smiled warmly.

"Alright, time to get back to work. I’ll be heading to my office now."

"Yes, Ms. Ai."

Patitta bowed slightly before hurrying back to her seat. Her colleagues, who had been listening, exchanged looks. Not once during the entire conversation did they feel any tension or strictness from their boss.

Aiwarin was fair and reasonable with all her employees, and that was something they truly admired about her.

Aiwarin had always been admired by her employees. Her competence, responsibility, and fair treatment of everyone made it so that no one viewed her negatively or felt the need to gossip about her.

Of course, people would always have things to talk about, but if anyone considered it gossip, it wasn’t out of malice—it was simply curiosity without ill intent.

"Lada, do I have any documents to sign this morning? It’s almost lunch break. You can bring them in now, and after that, you can take your break."

"No worries, Ms. Ai. I’m not hungry yet. I have time to finalize the reports for you. You go ahead, I’ll bring them in within five minutes."

"Alright."

The voices of the boss and her secretary, who had a one-year age gap, echoed through the office.

It was a quiet late morning at Orianna. The office was no longer as hectic as it had been during the bidding period. Things had returned to the usual hotel operations. However, new work systems for Greater were soon to be implemented.

.

.

"I’ll be holding a management team meeting for Greater. I’m planning things out right now, so I need you to schedule it for this week. I also need to set up a meeting with Orianna."

Mevika spoke to her secretary.

"You mean a meeting with Ms. Ai, right?"

Jiranaa asked while taking notes.

"I said ‘*Orianna*,’ not ‘*Ms. Ai*.’"

Mevika raised an eyebrow.

"It’s the same thing,"

Jiranaa chuckled.

"Ms. Ai is Orianna, and Orianna is Ms. Ai."

"Are you teasing me?"

Mevika frowned.

"Well, it’s fate, isn’t it? You won the bid together with Orianna, and now you get to work with your girlfriend every day. So cute!"

"Speaking of her," Mevika said,

"Ms. Ai wants to treat you to a meal as thanks for helping her plan succeed."

"How so?"

"Well, remember when you told me about that time you got drunk? That’s when Ms. Ai whispered the numbers to you, so you’d spill everything to me."

"Oh! So she’s treating me as a reward for my ‘*snitching skills*’?"

Jiranaa laughed sheepishly.

"I’d say you were just being loyal to your duty and boss. I should treat you to a meal too. Let’s all go together."

"Ms. Ai is really smart. She planned it so well that I completely fell into her trap. You’re lucky to have such a clever girlfriend, Ms. Maple. But Ms. Ai is lucky too—to have such a capable and lovely woman like you."

"In that case, I should treat you to lunch right now! You’re way too sweet."

"Oh no! But if I go with you two, won’t I be a third wheel?"

"Not at all. We can invite Lada, Ms. Ai’s secretary, too. It’ll be a good chance for you two to get to know each other, in case you need to work together. Oh, and speaking of that, could you reach out to Ms. Ai’s secretary for me? I need to contact her about work."

"Huh? You could just call Ms. Ai directly. I mean, you talk to her at home anyway."

Jiranaa teased, covering her mouth and swaying playfully.

"No way. We’re just starting to work together seriously, so I want to keep things professional. Once we’ve worked together for a while, we can chat outside of work. I just want to follow proper procedures. Plus, it’ll make things easier for you when coordinating with Orianna in the future."

"Oh, I see! Alright, I’ll contact her right away. Should I call now?"

"It’s almost 2 p.m., so lunch break is over. Go ahead and call—she might still be in the office."

"Got it! I’ll contact her right now."

"Hello, this is Jiranaa, Ms. Maple’s secretary."

Lada smiled as she spoke on the phone. It was her first time talking to her boss’s girlfriend’s secretary.

Before this, they had occasionally crossed paths at the Greater office, but due to being competitors in the bidding process, they never had a chance to truly get to know each other.

"Understood! I’ll put Ms. Maple on the line as well. Ms. Ai is in her office and should be available to take the call. I’ll connect you now—please hold on."

Lada stood up from her desk, walked over to Aiwarin’s office, and knocked before entering. She found her boss focused on her work, her face serious. Yada quickly walked over to inform her.

"Ms. Ai, there’s a call from Superior."

"Hmm? Superior?"

Aiwarin’s serious expression instantly softened into a bright smile.

"Who is it?"

"I think you can guess." Yada grinned.

"I’ll connect the call now."

"Alright, put it through."

Aiwarin pushed off slightly with her foot, rolling her chair away from her desk and computer screen. She rested her arms on the table, waiting attentively. The moment the phone rang, she quickly reached for it.

"Hello?"

"Hello, I’d like to speak with Ms. Aiwarin,"

Mevika greeted her formally.

"You went through my secretary to contact me?"

Aiwarin chuckled.

"Nice to talk to you, Ms. Mevika. I’ve been wanting to talk with you for a while."

"We already talk every day. Every night, too."

"Ah… why do I feel shy all of a sudden?"

Aiwarin unconsciously spun her chair slightly, grinning so widely that she didn’t realize just how much.

"Why are you shy?" Mevika laughed.

"I was just thinking… if we hadn’t started dating or if we hadn’t randomly met at that bar that night, how would I have approached you? It would’ve been hard to meet privately. And if I had to call you like this for work, I’d probably have to hide my feelings a lot."

"You? Hide your feelings? I don’t think so. You seem like the type to be upfront."

"I take my work seriously. When I call for business, it’s strictly business. But if I wanted to flirt at the same time… I’d find a way."

"At least you already know what you’d do,"

Mevika smiled.

"I’m calling about team formation. My side is starting to put together a team, but after setting up an initial plan, we’ll need to meet with Orianna’s side to coordinate. Once both teams are ready, I’d like to schedule a joint meeting."

"Of course. But should we discuss things between just the two of us first? That way, we can plan before bringing in the teams. Let’s meet up."

"We already talk every day, you know."

"I mean during work hours,"

Aiwarin laughed.

"When are you free? Ah, this is great—I get to see my girlfriend even during work!"

"I’m free tomorrow if you want to talk soon."

"Tomorrow works! But where should we meet? Since it’s business, I’d rather have a proper discussion in an office setting. We probably don’t need to use Greater’s conference room yet—just the two of us will be fine for now."

"Where, then? Hmm… do you want to come to my office? Or should I come to yours?"

"Your office? Sure! I’d love to go. I can, right?"

"Of course. You’re a business partner now. There’s no reason why you couldn’t come in for a meeting."

"That’s true. I was thinking too much from a personal angle. How did I end up overthinking this?"

"Having your girlfriend as a work partner makes it hard to separate the roles,"

Mevika chuckled.

"So, you’re coming to my office tomorrow? What time?"

"I’m free from the morning. Or late morning—any time works."

"If you’re free in the morning, then why don’t we just go to work together?"

"Hmm, that’s true… In that case, I’ll ride with you. Take me to work with you."

"Alright."

Mevika smiled, picturing them waking up, getting ready, and commuting together—it felt like the perfect mix of romance and work life. Not every couple had this dynamic, but fate had set things up for them this way.

"After the meeting, are you heading to your office, the hotel, or somewhere else? I’ll drive you wherever you need to go."

"Going to work together and having my girlfriend drive me too? Not bad."

"Next time I visit your office, you can drive me instead."

"Alright, deal."

"How about dinner tonight? Let’s find a good place to eat."

"Sounds great. You pick the place and text me."

"Okay. I won’t take up your work time anymore—get back to it."

"Mhm. I miss you, by the way. See you later."

"I miss you too… Ah, maybe I shouldn’t say this at work. I’ll save it for home."

"You can say it if you want."

"No way! If I get used to it, I might slip up in front of other people."

She giggled.

"Yeah, that’s true."

"I miss you, Ai."

"I miss you too, Maple."

"Alright, see you in the evening."

"See you then."

.

❤❤ ❤ ❤ ❤ ❤ **sunyan**

# Chapter 04: Never look at anyone (Except You)

The sound of utensils gently clinking against plates filled the air as they neared the end of their meal. Mevika took a sip of water, followed by a sip of the fruit smoothie they had ordered to share, glancing at the various dishes spread across the table.

"Are you full?"

Aiwarin asked, watching her girlfriend carefully.

"Not completely, but getting there. We ordered four dishes for just the two of us."

"I wanted to order five, but I was afraid it’d be too much. There were a few more things I wanted to try, but I didn’t want to waste food."

"I see that even though you’re wealthy, you don’t waste food unnecessarily."

"That’s not how I win a girl’s heart. I have other ways—like my charm and how well I take care of you."

Mevika chuckled, shaking her head.

"Ugh, you’re too smooth. But yes, you take care of me so well. I completely lose to you on that."

"Mhm. But if you still want more, just let me know. Or maybe we should get dessert?"

"Let me finish this first, then I’ll decide. But seriously, you eat quite a lot, so why do you stay in such good shape?"

"Are you asking yourself that question? You’re the one with the perfect figure."

Aiwarin laughed.

"Yours is better. You look so cool in a suit, so elegant in a skirt, and when

you…"

"When I what?"

Aiwarin smirked, raising an eyebrow.

"Nothing."

Mevika quickly looked away.

She remembered those video calls before they were together—back when she had to act normal while secretly struggling to keep her composure.

Aiwarin didn’t even realize how effortlessly she pulled Mevika in, making it impossible for her to look away. It wasn’t just attraction; it was because they had already shared something deep. That connection made resisting Aiwarin’s charm utterly impossible.

"Are you embarrassed? Why are you blushing just because we talked about my abs?"

Aiwarin laughed, looking at her girlfriend with amusement.

"Don’t tease me."

"You have a great figure too. I love looking at you in nice outfits. We dress in different styles, but sometimes we can even share clothes since we're almost the same height."

"I barely exercise, though."

"But your abs are still toned—no fat at all. How can you say you’re not in shape?"

Aiwarin grinned.

"Speaking of working out, ever since we got together, I haven’t been to the gym much. I spend so much time with you that I don’t know when to fit it in. Want to go to the hotel gym with me? We can work out together."

"Sure, let’s go."

Mevika smiled. She had been curious about the fitness center at Orianna Hotel but never had the chance to use it. Now, she had the perfect excuse.

"But maybe after we get past this '*obsessed-with-each-other*' phase in the mornings. You make me not want to get out of bed for work." "That doesn't mean we can do that every morning, you know."

"I know." Aiwarin laughed.

"I just like testing my luck. But I won’t slack off too much—I love my job. Still, just look at this. The one time I was late to the office, my employees were gossiping about how I was late because of my girlfriend. And the worst part? I actually overheard them. But I didn’t say anything, because… well, they weren’t wrong."

"What? They really said that about you?"

"Yeah, but I didn’t mind. I just told them that even if it wasn’t for personal reasons, I’ll be working with you a lot more anyway. If I come in late, it might be because we’re discussing work somewhere else—whether it's at home, in my office, or at a coffee shop."

"That’s true."

Mevika watched Aiwarin, who was still focused on finishing her meal. She smiled and picked up a piece of food, placing it on Aiwarin’s plate.

"Eat it all, okay?"

"Mhm."

Aiwarin nodded, cheeks puffed out as she chewed, making Mevika chuckle.

Mevika smiled and turned slightly when she noticed movement from the corner of her eye. A new customer had just entered and sat at the table across from them. Two beautiful women walked in together and took their seats. She admired their beauty for a brief moment.

Aiwarin glanced in the same direction for just a second before returning her focus to her meal.

"Those women at that table are really beautiful."

"I think you’re just admiring them, not actually interested."

"Of course not. I already have a girlfriend—why would I look at someone else like that?"

Mevika chuckled.

"Honestly, I only started paying more attention to women after meeting you. But even then, you were the only one constantly on my mind. I guess I really am into women now, but you’ve already taken my whole heart, so there’s no need to notice anyone else."

"Same here."

"But don’t you think they’re really beautiful too?"

She asked, just out of curiosity.

"Yeah, they are. So what? I’m not interested."

"I’m just surprised." Mevika smiled.

"Back when we first met, you kept looking at me, paying me so much attention. I thought maybe you had done that with other people before."

"I’ve looked at others before, sure. But I’ve never pursued anyone the way I pursued you."

"I can tell. Ever since we got together, you barely even glance at other women."

"I can appreciate that someone is attractive, but I don’t have to be interested in them. I already have you—why would I care about anyone else?"

"I wasn’t trying to test you or anything. I just think it’s sweet how devoted and honest you are with me."

"Of course. I like you so much."

"You’ll never get tired of me one day, right?"

"Never. Because I know you’ll always be the amazing girlfriend you are now. My feelings won’t change." ☺

Aiwarin reached for her hand and gave it a gentle squeeze.

"And we’re definitely going to get married one day."

"Talking about marriage again?"

Mevika laughed.

"How many times have we brought it up since we got together?"

"I’ll keep talking about it until the day we actually get married—at the right time."

"Hmm... do you want me to say yes now?"

"I already know your answer. You can save it for the real moment."

"Alright then. That means I get to propose to you too. Let's finish eating so we can go home and rest. I feel so sleepy today."

"Sleepy because you used up too much energy this morning?" Aiwarin teased, taking another bite of her food with a playful smirk.

Mevika squinted at her.

"Ah... so that’s why. Mystery solved."

"So, do you want to go home and rest? We can just cuddle tonight."

Aiwarin wasn’t usually the type to suggest that, but she wanted to give her girlfriend the option.

Mevika shook her head immediately.

"We cuddle every night already. No."

"Hmm?"

"No resting."

"Ah—"

Aiwarin couldn’t help but laugh softly, completely endeared by her girlfriend's adorable stubbornness.

As they walked toward the parking lot, Mevika said with a smile,

"I told P’Ji to schedule our meeting for 9:30 tomorrow morning. You’re my first appointment of the day."

Aiwarin chuckled.

"If scheduling it helps you plan your day better, I understand. Even though we’ll be going in together."

She wrapped an arm around Mevika’s waist, guiding her along the narrow sidewalk while effortlessly maneuvering around passersby.

"I just scheduled it a little later. Work starts at nine, but I usually don’t take my first meeting right at nine. I need a bit of time to prepare."

"That’s fine. I don’t mind waiting. I’ll just sit and watch you do your thing —it’ll be fun."

"You’re really obsessed with your girlfriend, huh?"

Mevika playfully shrugged one shoulder, teasing her affectionate partner.

"Well—"

Before Aiwarin could finish, her eyes suddenly landed on a man walking out of the parking lot. He was heading in their direction but stopped abruptly when he saw them.

"May."

Mevika blinked at him, taking a second longer to recognize him.

"Gawin?"

She said, slightly surprised.

Gawin glanced at Aiwarin before turning back to Mevika.

"You’re here... with her."

"Yeah. We’ve met before."

"I know now that you two are actually together. So that time... it wasn’t just an act?"

"Well, now you know."

Mevika had been bracing herself for an awkward conversation, but Gawin's polite tone made her ease up. She and Aiwarin both understood that back then, they weren’t really together yet.

It had just been a pretense. But ironically, that very moment had led them to where they were now—as a real couple.

Gawin smiled.

"Congratulations. I have a girlfriend now too."

"What? You do?"

Mevika raised an eyebrow.

"Well, that’s good news. Congrats."

"Yeah. She’s waiting for me over there—we were meeting up for dinner."

He gestured behind them. Both Mevika and Aiwarin turned to look, spotting a woman standing in front of a restaurant a little ways away.

"Oh. That’s great. Hopefully, she’s the right one for you. Like I told you before, a relationship only works if both people truly like each other."

Kawin chuckled.

"I get it now. And don’t worry—I won’t be interfering with you anymore."

"That’s good, then,"

Aiwarin said. She sounded like she was just trying to be polite, but there was a certain firmness in her tone that made it come off a little strict.

"Got it, got it," Gawin chuckled.

"I won’t interfere anymore. I finally understand what counts as harassment.

Before, I didn’t get it—I couldn’t tell the difference. But now I do. I saw some videos on social media of men stalking women, and people were tearing them apart in the comments." "Well, at least you never went that far,"

Mevika said.

"And now that you have a girlfriend, you seem… more normal."

"What’s that supposed to mean?"

Gawin laughed.

"Like an ordinary guy. Someone who doesn’t cross the line with women. I hope you never did with her."

"Of course not. We only started seeing each other recently, and we had valid reasons to keep meeting. I’ve learned the difference between persistence and forcing something unwanted."

"I’m glad you found love in a way that doesn’t feel forced,"

Mevika said.

"Now go meet your girlfriend. We’re leaving."

"Alright, I’ll get going. Oh, and I’m sorry for making you uncomfortable before."

Gawin gave her an apologetic smile before turning to Aiwarin.

"And I’m sorry for anything I might have accused you of."

"It’s fine. As long as you stay away from my girlfriend, we’re good,"

Aiwarin accepted his apology but dismissed him quickly, eager to take Mevika home. Just thinking about how he used to follow them around was irritating, but she chose to believe that he had changed.

"Alright then, I’m off."

Gawin walked past them toward his girlfriend. Mevika and Aiwarin watched for a moment before turning to face each other with a smile.

"It was good to see him," Aiwarin said.

"Now we don’t have to wonder if he’ll show up out of nowhere again. Let’s go home."

"Mhm,"

Mevika nodded, letting Aiwarin wrap an arm around her as they walked to the car together.

.

❤❤ ❤ ❤ ❤ **sunyan**

# Chapter 05 : My Place is Like Your Place

The elevator chimed as it reached the floor where Mevika's office was located. Inside, a few employees who had almost arrived late were standing together. Meanwhile, the big boss arrived right on time—at least, on the days she actually came into the office—so she wasn’t considered late.

“We got here at 8:50, which means we still have 40 minutes before our meeting.”

“That means I get to sit with my arms crossed and watch you work for another ten minutes.”

Aiwarin teased.

“You’re funny.”

Mevika laughed. Sometimes, her girlfriend was just too adorable. When it came to her, Aiwarin was always willing to do anything, wait patiently, and give her best in everything.

If they stayed together for a long time, the one who was crazily in love might not be Aiwarin—it could end up being Mevika instead.

“I’ll ask the housekeeper to make some coffee. Oh, and in the meantime, I’ll introduce you to the staff.”

“You mean you’ll introduce me as your girlfriend? Like, an official announcement?”

“Crazy.”

Mevika playfully smacked Aiwarin’s arm. This guest of hers just kept making cheeky remarks, and she often made her flustered.

“Behave yourself. I’m bringing you in now.”

“Yes, Ms. Mevika. Please go ahead and introduce me as you wish.”

Aiwarin tried to hold back a smile.

Mevika glanced at Aiwarin briefly, straightened her posture, and tried to keep her excitement in check as she scanned her access card to enter.

When Aiwarin followed her inside, Mevika let the door close behind them. She watched as Aiwarin looked around the office, clearly interested in her surroundings.

“Your office is beautiful.”

“Well, when you own the building, you get to design it however you want. Plus, I can still rent out several floors below.”

"This is a great use of space in the city. The location is excellent. I think I’d enjoy working here."

"I like it too. Come on."

Mevika quickly walked ahead. As they went deeper inside, they reached the employees' desks, which were neatly arranged in designated zones.

"Hello, everyone. Today, I have a guest here for a meeting and a tour of the office."

Normally, she wouldn’t introduce every visitor to the staff. If a client came in, her secretary would simply escort them to her. But Aiwarin was different —a special guest that her employees should know.

Even if she put aside their personal relationship, Aiwarin was still a business partner, making this introduction necessary.

"This is Ms. Aiwarin."

"Hello, Ms. Aiwarin,"

One of the more outgoing employees greeted her first. Then, the rest of the team followed suit.

"Hello! Your office looks like a great place to work."

Aiwarin greeted them warmly.

One of the employees smiled but didn’t say much. Aiwarin was a wellknown figure in the business world, the heir to a hotel empire. They weren’t sure how to respond casually. For them, just seeing her in person was already overwhelming.

"Feel free to give me any suggestions. I might be stopping by often in the future."

At that, the employees let out small, excited murmurs. Since many did it at the same time, it became a buzz that filled the office.

"What’s with those smiles?"

Mevika asked, amused.

"Ms. Aiwarin is our partner in managing Greater. She’ll naturally be working with us a lot more."

"More like she’ll be meeting with you more often."

The voice that cut in made both Mevika and Aiwarin turn. It was Mevika’s secretary, walking over with a bright grin.

"Sorry, a client just called, so I only now got a chance to say hi. Nice to meet you, Ms. Aiwarin!"

“P’Gina.” Aiwarin smiled.

“Hello.”

“P’Gina?”

The female employees all repeated the name in unison, surprised to hear Aiwarin call Jiranaa that.

“What? Why are you all so shocked?”

Jiranaa glanced at her colleagues, who were all grinning at her.

“Ms. Ai just wants to call me that. She gave me this name herself.”

“It really suits you, P’Gina! In that case, we’ll start calling you that too.”

One of the employees spoke up—not directly to Aiwarin, but to their senior colleague, whom they were already close with.

“Don’t tease me! But if you want to call me that, go ahead.”

Jiranaa waved her hand dismissively but straightened her shoulders with a small, proud smile.

“This name is perfect for you.”

Aiwarin grinned.

“I’m glad to see you again, P’Gina. We should have a little chat.”

“You make it sound like I did something wrong,”

Jiranaa said in a hesitant tone.

“Not at all. Just something left unfinished. I already asked Maple to pass on the message to you.”

“She did. But if you’d rather talk to me directly, that’s fine too. Are you and Ms. Maple heading into the meeting room now? I’ll have the housekeeper bring some coffee.”

“You can bring a coffee for Ms. Ai first. I’ll take her to my office, and then I’ll show her around—give her a tour of our beautiful co-working space. She’ll be here at our company for quite a while this morning.”

“She can stay all day if she wants! I’ll make sure she’s well taken care of with snacks and everything.”

“P’Gina, you sound like you’re trying to make up for something,”

Mevika teased.

“Oh, come on! I haven’t done anything wrong. But since I was the one who reported things, seeing Ms. Ai now makes me feel like I betrayed her.”

“You didn’t betray Ms. Ai,”

“You were just doing your job and staying loyal to your boss. A loyal employee deserves recognition. If you were my employee, I’d give you an award.”

Aiwarin said calmly.

“An award?”

Jiranaa laughed, a little embarrassed.

"A treat instead of a trophy"

"Yes, but since I don’t have a trophy to give, I’d like to treat you to a meal instead. Hope I’m not taking up too much of your time."

"I’d be honored, even if I feel a little shy about it! Shall we head to Ms. Maple’s office now? I’ll go get the coffee first. Do you have any special requests? Our office housekeeper makes coffee as good as a café barista." "Superior’s office has a housekeeper with barista-level skills?"

Aiwarin asked with interest.

"We could practically open a café inside the office. Since our Superior malls have so many beverage shops, we designed the office to capture a bit of that atmosphere."

Jiranaa explained in a professional tone.

"I’ll give you a tour later. But for now, just tell P’Gina what kind of coffee you want."

"I usually like espresso. But if your housekeeper has a Superior signature coffee to recommend, I’m happy to try it. I drink everything and would love to taste what your brand is known for."

"Got it! I’ll take care of it and bring it to your room once it’s ready. Ms. Maple, the usual for you?"

"The usual,"

Mevika nodded at her ever-efficient secretary as she walked off. Then she turned to Aiwarin with a smile.

"Visiting my office seems entertaining, at least a little—especially with P’Gina around."

"I like the atmosphere. Your employees are really welcoming." Aiwarin glanced at the staff, who were still smiling at her.

"I’ll excuse myself now. Don’t want to interrupt your work."

The employees responded with soft yet synchronized voices, their politeness and enthusiasm blending together. Just from this, Aiwarin could tell the office had a great work culture.

Maybe she was imagining it, but if she went along with her girlfriend’s belief that a good boss creates good employees, she certainly wouldn’t argue with that logic.

"I'm glad you like my office,"

Mevika said as she led Aiwarin inside. She pulled back the curtains to let in the morning light, then adjusted the chair for her business partner—and girlfriend—to sit across from her.

"Thank you, but I want to snoop around your office a little longer."

Aiwarin placed a hand on the chair as if accepting the gesture, then gently wrapped an arm around Mevika’s back in appreciation before walking over to a shelf lined with framed certificates and trophies.

"What's all this? Awards for a genius?"

She leaned in to read the inscriptions and smiled proudly when she saw her girlfriend’s name.

"Impressive. You haven’t been managing Superior for long, but you've already earned all these."

"It's not that many. I started learning from my dad back in university. After graduation, I helped with the business before going abroad for further studies. When I came back, I could apply both my education and the experience I'd gained from my dad. But honestly, I should also thank my colleagues. They taught me a lot when I first started working."

"But in the end, you stood out—not because you're the daughter of a famous mall owner, but because you're incredibly skilled."

"Am I praising myself right now?"

Mevika chuckled.

"I'm not doing anything,"

Aiwarin shrugged.

"I’ve told you before—you’ve always been my role model. If you can inspire even one person, that already makes you amazing. The best. And I still think you're better than me."

"But I think you're the best,"

Aiwarin countered.

"Brilliant in your own way. If I had to name my toughest competitor, it'd be you. And look, you even led Superior to first place—you beat me."

"If you didn’t bring up the numbers, I would’ve set my expectations lower."

"But in the end, numbers aren't everything. They’re just an easy way to measure success. What truly matters is your strategy and the qualities you bring—those are what set you apart."

"If I count all the hard work Superior has put in over the years, then fine— I’ll accept your compliment."

Mevika smiled sweetly.

"Take compliments from others too," Aiwarin said.

"I think many more people will admire you in the future. You might even become a role model for someone without realizing it—just like I didn’t know I was yours. I let you crush on me for so long without saying a word."

"I didn’t want to make it easy for you to see my weaknesses. I wanted you to win my heart another way."

"Well, I’m good at that."

"You’re good at other things too. You were just praising my awards, but I bet you’ve earned plenty yourself."

"Awards for participating in things and getting recognized for my skills? Yeah, I admit, I have a lot. Not to brag, but it’s quite a collection. If you count certificates of appreciation from guest lectures or talks I’ve given, then yeah… a lot. Wow, am I the kind of person who just gives knowledge away for free?"

She laughed.

"Successful people share what they know. I told you—you’re a good person."

Mevika chuckled.

"You definitely have more than me."

"Well, yeah, because I went straight from my bachelor's degree to further studies, then jumped into management right away. It’s all about experience."

"Meanwhile, I’ve only just stepped into the development side of the business. But I’m sure I’ll get better. Greater will make me even stronger."

"Then let’s grow together."

Aiwarin walked back over to her girlfriend.

"Mhm."

It was perfect timing—the conversation wrapped up just as a knock sounded at the door. A moment later, Jiranaa entered with a housekeeper in tow. One held the door open while the other carried a tray with drinks. "Here we are—morning coffee from Superior’s very own maid-barista,"

Jiranaa announced.

"Hello,"

The housekeeper greeted them warmly. She wore a sleek, modern uniform and carried two drinks—one in a ceramic cup, steaming hot, and the other in a plastic cup, chilled and ready.

"The employees at your company are really nice. Even the housekeepers are carefully chosen. Looks like I'll be visiting often,"

Aiwarin said with a smile.

Mevika chuckled.

"You're always welcome. Should I prepare a private office for you here?" "Tempting,"

Aiwarin teased, lifting her coffee to take a sip.

"But I think I'd just spend all my time chatting with you instead of working."

"That wouldn't be so bad,"

Mevika replied, watching Aiwarin's reaction as she tasted the Superior Presso for the first time.

Aiwarin closed her eyes briefly, savoring the flavor.

"Mmm, this is really good. The balance is perfect—strong but smooth. The foam makes it even better."

"Glad you like it. Our in-house barista would be thrilled to hear that," Mevika said, sipping her own Supreme Cino.

"So, are you ready for the office tour?"

"Absolutely," Aiwarin nodded.

"Lead the way, boss."

"You can come anytime that’s convenient for you,"

Mevika said as she walked around the table to grab a drink and slid it toward her special guest. Then, she picked up her own drink and took a careful sip, trying not to get her lips messy.

But since her drink had a frothy milk topping, it was too delicious to resist, and she ended up drinking more, leaving a bit of foam on her lips.

Aiwarin lifted her coffee cup and gently blew on it to cool it down. Chatting briefly with the housekeeper and Mevika’s secretary had helped pass the time while waiting for the drink to become less hot.

She took a cautious sip, but her eyes secretly glanced at her girlfriend, who had just pulled away from her own drink. Seeing the foam on Mevika’s lips, Aiwarin quickly set her coffee down and walked over.

"What should I do about your messy lips?"

"Hmm? Is it bad?"

Mevika asked, about to grab a tissue. But before she could, Aiwarin caught her wrist, stopping her. She stepped closer, shaking her head slightly.

"You don’t need a tissue. I’ll take care of it for you."

"What? No way! We’re at work,"

Mevika laughed, instantly understanding what Aiwarin meant.

"I know, but... hmm."

Aiwarin hesitated for a moment before letting go of Mevika’s wrist.

"Not appropriate, right?"

"Oh? So, you’re not going to wipe it for me anymore?"

"Well… should I or shouldn’t I?"

Mevika glanced at the office door, thinking no one would randomly walk in at this moment. Then, she turned back to Aiwarin, smiling. She stepped closer until they were standing nearly chest to chest.

"It’s not like this happens often. You don’t visit that much."

"Who knows? Maybe I’ll start coming more often if I get hooked on the charming boss of Superior,"

Aiwarin teased with a grin. She gently lifted Mevika’s chin and locked her gaze on those lips before leaning in. She playfully nibbled at the foam, then swiped her tongue lightly across it. Mevika giggled and quickly pushed her away, feeling shy.

"You were just wiping my lips, right?"

Mevika squinted at her suspiciously.

"I was just wiping your lips,"

Aiwarin said with a mischievous smile.

"But I don't wipe it roughly. I’m a girlfriend who pays attention to details."

With that, she leaned in again, gently biting Mevika’s upper lip. Then, she did it again, this time with a little more pressure, her touch shifting into something else entirely.

.

❤❤ ❤ ❤ ❤ **sunyan**

# Chapter 06: Planning for the Future

The files on Aiwarin's sleek MacBook were saved after she worked late until 10 PM. Once she finished clearing her pending tasks, she figured it was time to get some rest. Meanwhile, her girlfriend had just sat down to apply skincare after showering.

"Did you have a lot of work? I was in your office for so long-did that mess up your schedule?"

Mevika asked as she walked over, wrapping her arms around Aiwarin's neck from behind and resting her chin on her shoulder to peek at the laptop screen.

"Not too much. I just don't want unfinished work piling up. If I handle my tasks properly, I might have a busy day, but I won't be exhausted or stressed. That way, I can work comfortably, check on the hotel, take care of the bar... and take care of you too,"

Aiwarin said, turning slightly to nudge her cheek against Mevika's.

"I just finished planning a trip to inspect the hotel in Phuket. I decided to move it up a bit. After that, I can focus on setting up the management team for Greater."

"Phuket? You mean the trip you said would be next month?"

"Well, it's been a few days, so technically, it's not next month anymore. I moved it up by a week, so it should be next week."

"Next week? How many days? And how many nights will I have to sleep alone?"

"Why would you sleep alone?"

Aiwarin chuckled.

"I told you I'd take you with me, remember? But since I moved it up, will you be free? I was thinking of going for three days, but I'd love to stay four. Just not sure if you'd be okay with being away that long."

"Four days? That's fine. Does it overlap with a holiday?"

"Yeah, two days of it are public holidays. If we go for four days, we'd leave on Thursday and come back on Sunday."

"I think I can make it work,"

Mevika said, mentally going over her schedule for the next week. She didn't have any major commitments-just two client meetings this week, and early next week was still open.

Mevika planned to reserve some days for internal duty-free meetings with her team. Apart from the commitments this week, she should be able to clear her schedule by midweek.

"I can go. Hmm, I can go! I'll go with you!"

She confirmed eagerly.

"Hearing you say it so many times, I guess I better wake up early tomorrow and have my secretary book the tickets,"

Aiwarin chuckled.

"I'll take care of everything. We'll stay at Orianna's resort. I'll ask the staff to set up a special room, just like a honeymoon suite. You just need to pack your bags... and bring a bikini."

"Why do I have to bring a bikini, hmm?"

Mevika teased, nudging Aiwarin's cheek with her nose.

"Well... for pictures, of course,"

Aiwarin laughed.

"Our room has a private pool. You can wear whatever you want in there."

"Or... wear nothing at all,"

She whispered playfully in a sultry tone before unwrapping her arms. Catching Mevika's glance, she cast a teasing look before walking to the bed in her satin nightgown, ready to sleep. As soon as she sat down, she let out a soft yawn-loud enough for Aiwarin to hear from the desk.

"It's only 7 PM. Sleepy already?"

"Mm-hmm," Mevika hummed.

"After dropping you off today, I had back-to-back work until evening. It's not like I did anything physically exhausting, but I feel so drained for some reason. Oh-right, my period should be coming in a day or two. I always feel extra tired before it starts."

"In that case, I'll let you rest as much as you need. You might need the energy for a tough workday tomorrow,"

Aiwarin said, closing her MacBook and walking over to the bed.

"Let's just cuddle and sleep, okay?" She smiled.

"I thought that would be hard for you,"

Mevika laughed.

"It is hard, but I love my girlfriend too much to torture her when she's not feeling her best."

"That's true. We're just excited about being an official couple. This will probably settle down eventually." "Nope. I think it'll stay exactly like this,"

Aiwarin replied with a serious face.

"Huh?"

Mevika smacked Aiwarin's arm playfully.

"You always say things so bluntly!"

"I'm just being honest,"

Aiwarin laughed.

"I want you to know exactly how much I adore you."

"If you keep talking like that, we might not get any sleep," Mevika teased, quickly burrowing under the blanket and pulling it up to her chin.

"You'll sleep. I won't bother you tonight,"

Aiwarin reassured her, crawling closer. She reached out to gently arrange Mevika's hair, which was spread across the pillow, then leaned down to place a soft kiss on her forehead. Mevika closed her eyes, letting herself enjoy the gentle touch.

"Sweet dreams," Aiwarin whispered.

"Hmm... sweet dreams,"

Mevika murmured back, lifting her head slightly to plant a small kiss on Aiwarin's cheek before settling back onto the pillow with a smile.

Aiwarin smiled in return, slipping under the same blanket. She moved in closer, pulling Mevika into her arms, letting her rest under her chin. Mevika hugged her back, and they both fell into a peaceful silence, the warmth between them lulling them into a comfortable sleep. Moments later, they drifted off, staying like that until morning.

. .

"You're flying out the day after tomorrow, right?"

Athiwit asked over dinner, glancing at his daughter, who had brought her girlfriend home for the meal.

"Yes, we're staying for three nights. I'll only be working on the first day. The rest is for relaxing, but if the staff needs anything, I'm available,"

Aiwarin replied.

"Hmm. If it's a vacation, make sure to enjoy it. But I guess work is the main reason you're going, right? And you're staying at our hotel again. Next time, try planning a trip somewhere else so you won't have to mix work with relaxation,"

"You used to say we should travel to places where we own hotels so we could stay for free and support our business. Have you changed your mind now?"

Aiwarin teased.

"I just wanted to instill that mindset in the family first,"

Her father explained.

"It's our business-we should support it before expecting others to. But now that our hotel chain has grown so much, there are plenty of places to visit. If you want an easy option, of course, stay at our hotels. But if there's a location you've planned for, switch things up sometimes. I've stayed at every one of our properties already, so now I'd like to see how other hotels operate too. These days, many nature resorts have beautiful wooden lodges in the middle of the forest."

Athiwit continue,

"We only have one beachfront location with a relaxing atmosphere and another homestay in Chiang Mai. I'd like to expand with some fresh ideas."

"I'll help, Dad. If you have any ideas and want my input, I'm happy to contribute,"

Aiwarin replied.

"Most of the new hotels we've built in the past two years were your ideas anyway. I trust your judgment. If you have any proposals, let me know. Right now, I'm looking into land in a few provinces to see what locations would be best for future developments. We'll discuss which areas have potential soon."

"Sure, Dad. Even though I'm busy with Greater, I'll always make time for our hotels,"

Aiwarin reassured him.

"If we manage Greater efficiently, it won't be too exhausting. Our main role is overseeing the overall image and working with brands interested in investing. I heard a lot of brands reached out after we won the bid, right?"

Athiwit glanced at Mevika, who had been listening attentively.

"Yes, Superior has received many inquiries too,"

Mevika responded.

"Several brands want their stores in Greater. We can only tell them to submit their proposals, and if we're interested, we'll reach out."

"There are many different kinds of stores, but some aren't suitable for a duty-free zone. In those cases, I've instructed the staff to politely decline right away. It saves time for both sides. We make sure to explain the selection criteria clearly,"

Aiwarin added.

"That's the right approach. We can't just allow every type of store in there. The focus should be on what tourists need,"

Athiwit agreed.

"Yes, but we might be able to include a few more mid-range brands in select areas,"

Mevika suggested.

"Greater has more space for stores than an airport, so we can allocate some spots for mid-tier brands without compromising the premium image."

"Hmm... So when are we scheduling the meeting between Superior and Orianna?"

"After the two of us return from Phuket," Aiwarin answered.

"That way, both teams can start working together for the long term. Right now, we've been focused on internal preparations within each team, but we've also begun assigning staff specifically for Greater. Both sides are getting more ready to collaborate."

"That's great. I'll need to join the meeting as well," Athiwit said.

"Both you and Khun Nuttakorn,"

Aiwarin confirmed.

"But that will be for the main meeting. We want insights from experienced people like you and Maple's father."

"Alright, just set the date. Oh, by the way, about the hotel ideas-if Maple has any ideas to share, feel free to suggest them to Ai. Modern travelers, especially women, love discovering new destinations and taking photos. Maybe Maple has insights that could help us visualize things better. Of course, we agreed not to interfere in each other's businesses, except for our collaboration on Greater, but ideas are always welcome. No pressure-just suggestions."

"Oh, of course, I'd be happy to!"

Mevika smiled.

"It sounds interesting. If I get to contribute ideas for hotel development, that would be fun." "Good, good."

"Oh my god..."

Hathairat interjected with amusement after listening to the conversation.

"Maple has been dating our daughter for less than a month, and you're already putting her to work? It's like you're grooming her to inherit the business."

"It's not like that at all!"

Athiwit quickly denied.

"If Maple weren't already an heir to a major department store chain and a business owner herself, I'd have asked her to partner with Ai in running things. I believe her business skills would be valuable not just for managing malls but for hotels too." "You're exaggerating, Uncle."

Mevika laughed.

"When it comes to hotels, I still have a lot to learn. But if you say that, I think Ai would do just as well managing a major department store."

"That sounds really exciting,"

Aiwarin grinned.

"Otherwise, I wouldn't be interested in managing a duty-free business. It's not much different from running a major department store."

"And now you're doing it. I'll also help oversee the service aspect with you. Working together will be a breeze."

"Exactly. With Greater to take care of together, we don't need to get involved in each other's other businesses too much. Let's just focus on gaining as much experience as we can from this collaboration. We're both managing large national businesses, but we have different areas of expertise. That's a good thing."

"Yes, Uncle," Mevika smiled.

"It's more than just that,"

Hathairat added.

"Finding someone you're compatible with in both your personal life and work life isn't easy."

"Absolutely,"

Aiwarin agreed, flashing a warm smile at her mother before turning to Mevika with another affectionate look.

"That's true," Athiwit nodded.

"By the way, are you two staying at the hotel together all the time now? Is that really okay? Would you prefer moving into the house instead? Staying in a hotel isn't exactly private, even if you have your own space. What do you think, Ai?"

"I've thought about that too,"

Aiwarin admitted.

"I worry that Maple might get tired of it eventually. We have to take the elevator up and down fifty floors every day. It was fun when I was alone-I could even stay at home some nights. But now that we're living together, it's fine for now, but in the long run, I think we might want more privacy."

"When you say 'more privacy,' I think you mean moving into your own house, not staying with us,"

Hathairat teased with a smile.

"I'd say the same," Athiwit laughed.

"But you just started dating-are you already thinking about buying a house together?"

"Not exactly," Aiwarin chuckled.

"Maybe after six months or so, we'll think about moving. I mean, we just got together, but the thought has crossed my mind. I just hadn't mentioned it to Maple yet. Might as well say it now."

She turned to her girlfriend.

"I plan to buy a house. Since I have time now, I'll start looking around. It'll be a house I buy myself, and I want you to live there with me."

"You're buying a house for us to live in together?"

Mevika raised an eyebrow.

"Do you want me to help pay for it?"

"Mhm, no need,"

Aiwarin quickly shook her head.

"It'll be my property, but you can stay with me for as long as you want. Even though your name won't be on it-since we're not married yet-we can treat it as our home. We'll live comfortably, just like it's ours. And if we do get married in the future, we'll figure things out then."

"You're really generous, huh?"

Athiwit teased.

"If that's what works for you, then go ahead. As long as you can manage your own life, I won't interfere in this decision."

"Thanks, Dad,"

Aiwarin smiled, relieved to have had this conversation with her parents and girlfriend. Now she didn't have to worry about what anyone might think. As for Mevika's parents, they probably wouldn't have any objections either, since it didn't affect their daughter negatively in any way.

"Oh, there's something I forgot to tell you-Ohm called earlier."

"Ohm? What did he say? When is he coming back?"

"In two months."

"In two months? Wow!"

Aiwarin beamed, happy at the news.

"And he's coming back for good, right?"

"Yeah, he's finished his studies. He wants to stay a couple more months, then he'll return to settle down here. I'll have him take on some responsibilities, but you can decide which area he should help with. I've mapped out a few possible positions for him, and we'll talk it over when he's back."

"Sounds great, Dad! I'm so glad he's finally coming home."

She turned to her girlfriend, who looked a bit confused about the conversation.

"Who are you talking about?"

Mevika asked softly.

Realizing that she hadn't introduced them yet, Aiwarin explained,

"Oh....Ohm-he's my younger brother. He just graduated and is coming back to Thailand."

"Oh, your brother?"

She had vaguely heard Aiwarin mention having a younger sibling studying abroad, but she had almost forgotten.

Now that he was about to return, it was a bit surprising. Soon, she'd be meeting another member of the family.

.

❤❤ ❤ ❤ ❤

**translate by : sunyan**