

# Chapter 01

The alarm clock screamed loudly right next to her ear. The young woman jolted awake in shock, sitting up suddenly with her eyes still tightly shut. Normally, Tanyong was a heavy sleeper-almost like she was dead.

If she didn't wake up on her own, there was no hope she'd open her eyes easily. It had to be a sound that startled or hurt her for her to wake up. That's why her alarm clock was set up differently from most people's.

She had to place it right next to her ear. Luckily, she was not someone who moved much in her sleep. However she went to bed, that's exactly how she woke up-no need to worry about the alarm falling out of place.

Sitting with her eyes closed, she tried to gather her thoughts while the tiny alarm clock kept screaming. Its sound wasn't tiny at all. After a long while, when she was sure she wouldn't go back to bury her head in the pillow, she finally reached out and turned off the noise.

Then she remembered why she had planned to wake up at this time. Smiling widely to herself, she jumped out of bed, grabbed a robe, and put it on over her pajamas, which were just a tank top and long satin pants.

She quickly ran her fingers through her wavy, light-colored hair that hung down to the middle of her back, trying to make it look presentable.

Tanyong didn't have time to make herself look pretty. But even if she had time, she rarely did much with her face. She was naturally beautiful-far above average.

She was the kind of person people would secretly glance at in a crowd, wondering if she was the lead actress from some movie.

Looking at her watch again, she realized she was almost late. The 175-cm tall girl's long legs moved quickly as she rushed out of her room, stomping noisily down the stairs without concern for her neighbors.

On the way to the kitchen, the hem of her robe caught on a vase on the low table near the sofa, making it roll off. Luckily, the carpeted floor kept it from breaking. Tanyong only glanced at it but didn't bother picking it up. Dropping or breaking things was a normal occurrence for her.

Once she got to the kitchen, she opened the fridge and took out a plain food container she had prepared the night before. Then, she walked straight out of the house.

Her destination wasn't far-the house right across the street. She crossed the quiet neighborhood road without worrying about cars. This was a peaceful neighborhood, far from the city. Her lane, Soi 8, had only four houses. Although it was more expensive than other lanes, it came with great privacy.

In front of her stood a petite, cheerful neighbor, watering plants by the fence with a smile and humming a cheerful tune. Since Tanyong had known her, she had never seen this neighbor angry at anyone. Judging by her outfit, she seemed ready to head to work.

Tanyong stood secretly watching the sweet-faced, lively woman. She was watering the plants so carefully, as if she were afraid the leaves might get hurt. Her gentle actions towards nature made her seem so soft and kind.

And that's why Tanyong liked her-a person so different from herself. Tanyong lived in the spotlight, loved crowds, and enjoyed being the center of attention. Meeting someone so calm and serene was refreshing.

The world is beautiful, bright and cheerful. The nature of the girl in front of her was the type of Tanyong had always thought of as simple and uninteresting. But instead, she radiated a warm, calming light that made being around her peaceful and comforting.

A soft breeze blew by, making the shoulder-length hair of the girl in front of her fall across her pretty face. She lifted one hand to tuck her hair behind her ear. When she looked up, she noticed Tanyong standing there, watching her.

"Oh, Miss Yong! How long have you been here?"

"I just got here. But... when will you stop calling me Miss, Lin? We're about the same age. You don't need to be so formal!"

Linda chuckled softly and walked toward Tanyong, who was standing at the gate.

"I'm just not used to it. Once I start calling someone a certain way, it sticks. You'll have to let this one go, Miss Yong... Oh, come in."

Tanyong stepped inside and handed over the food container in her hand. "Here, it's a new menu item from my shop. I brought it for you to try."

"Wow, I already know it's going to be delicious without even tasting it!"

"Don't wow just yet. Open it first."

Linda excitedly opened the lid and found a Japanese rice dish shaped like a rabbit, with sesame seeds for the eyes, nose, and mouth. The rabbit was hugging a large sausage pillow, while a heart-shaped fried egg lay beside it.

The box also had two small compartments-one for salad and the other for neatly sliced fruit. After inspecting the box, Linda looked up at Tanyong, who was standing there trying not to laugh.

"This looks like... a kid's meal, doesn't it?"

Tanyong grinned and nodded eagerly.

"Exactly!"

Linda pouted.

"I'm not a kid! Are you teasing me, Miss Yong?"

This time, Tanyong burst into laughter. Linda's face became even more gloomy.

"Oh, no! I'm not teasing, I swear. This really is a new menu from my shop.

It's a kid's lunchbox. I just thought you'd like it since you love cute things. Please, try it for me."

Linda's smile slowly returned.

"Hmm... It is really cute. But now, I'm not sure if I can eat it!"

Holding the box and tilting her head, her rosy cheeks and delicate face looked so charming to Tanyong that she couldn't help but admire her.

While Tanyong was caught up staring at Linda's sweet face, a familiar black European sedan turned into their quiet lane, Soi 8. The car belonged to the house at the far end of the lane, beyond both Linda's and Tanyong's homes, which were located at the entrance of the street.

Tanyong glanced at the car and silently prayed, Don't stop... Don't stop... Just go straight to your house...

But it didn't work.

The car stopped right in front of Linda's house. Dr. Fang, the owner of the car, opened the door and got out, holding a cup of the popular green mermaid-branded.

A taller than average-size woman, with a flawless oval face and a radiant pale complexion-pretty in the style of Korean girl.

Her neatly arched eyebrows, sharp eyes, and high ponytail gave her an air of precision. Everything about her, from head to toe, was polished and professional.

She walked toward the house and glanced at Tanyong briefly before turning to greet Linda, the homeowner.

"Nong Lin, I brought you some coffee."

"Thank you! Are you just getting off your shift, Dr. Fang?"

Linda asked with a warm smile as she took the cup.

"Yes, but I have to go back for another round soon,"

Dr. Fang replied. Then she turned to Tanyong, who had been standing still, watching her with a neutral expression.

"Tanyong... You're up early today,"

She said.

Tanyong couldn't help but feel a little annoyed. Dr. Fang called Linda "Lin" affectionately, but with her, it was just "Tanyong."

*They were the same age, but clearly, Dr. Fang had a double standard.*

"I brought a new menu for Linda to try,"

Tanyong explained, holding up the food box.

Dr. Fang nodded, her gaze sweeping over Tanyong from head to toe. Still in her pajamas, with an unwashed face and unbrushed teeth, Tanyong suddenly felt self-conscious.

She looked down at herself and then back up at the impeccably dressed doctor. The difference between them was like night and day.

It didn't help that Dr. Fang's eyes had fixated on her chest, as if to confirm whether what she suspected was true.

*Yes, it's just like you think, doctor Tanyong wasn't wearing a bra.*

Flustered, she quickly pulled her robe tighter around herself to block Dr. Fang's gaze. The doctor, now looking directly at her face, had an unflappable, almost stoic expression that Tanyong found infuriating. "How could you leave the house dressed like this, Tanyong?"

Dr. Fang asked plainly.

"I was in a hurry,"

Tanyong mumbled, catching a glimpse of Linda stifling her laughter with her hand.

"No matter how rushed you are, you should at least dress properly. Even tying your robe tighter would be better,"

Dr. Fang continued. It wasn't surprising. She was known for being meticulous, and with her being 5-6 years older than them, she often acted like the big sister, always looking out for everyone.

"It's no big deal, Dr. Fang. There are only women living in this lane, and the other houses don't even have residents yet," Tanyong argued.

"Suit yourself. I'm just concerned about you,"

Dr. Fang replied, her voice softening slightly.

"Don't worry, Dr. Fang. I'm used to it,"

Linda chimed in, giggling.

"Honestly, I don't think Tanyong will ever change."

Taking the opportunity, Tanyong teased,

"Oh? Does that mean you've been secretly staring at my chest all this time, Linda?"

"Don't be ridiculous, Tanyong!"

Linda retorted, her cheeks flushing.

"When you dress like that, it's impossible not to notice when we're talking!"

"That's not true, Lin! When we talk, you should look at my face. If you see something else, it means you're looking there. Be honest, you actually like it, don't you?"

"Well... if you put it that way, I guess I kind of do. Haha... Okay, no more talking! I'll be late for work. I've got to go now, Miss Yong, Dr. Fang."

With that, Linda excused herself, leaving the two guests no choice but to step out of her house. They stood by as she locked the door, got into her small white car, and drove away.

That left the remaining two standing in awkward silence, staring at each other.

# Chapter 02

After being left alone with Dr. Fang, Tanyong and the beautiful doctor stood silently, neither saying a word. Finally, Tanyong decided to turn around and walk back to her house without even saying goodbye.

Dr. Fang watched her leave, her face filled with contemplation. The doctor couldn't help but feel uneasy. Day by day, Tanyong seemed to inch closer into the special space in her heart-a space she had guarded and occupied alone for years.

Dr. Fang had moved into this neighborhood about two years ago, just a few months after Linda. On the very first day after she had finished moving in, she was surprised by the sound of the doorbell.

When she opened the door, she was greeted by a petite, adorable young woman with large, sweet eyes, glowing skin, and a cheerful smile that revealed a small fang on the right side of her mouth.

Upon seeing Dr. Fang's face, the petite woman's eyes widened, her cheeks flushed, and the first words out of her mouth left the doctor confused.

"Oh wow, so Korean!"

She exclaimed, her jaw dropping.

"Excuse me? What did you say?"

Dr. Fang asked, perplexed. Only then did the woman seem to realize what she had said, quickly raising her hands in a polite Thai greeting.

"Hello, I'm Lin. I live just across from your house,"

She introduced herself, handing over a bouquet of white flowers.

"I've been living alone for months, so it's nice to have a new neighbor. If you need any help, just let me know. Don't hesitate!"

She ended with a sweet smile and sparkling eyes full of hope that the new neighbor might need her assistance.

Dr. Fang, though accustomed to dealing with strangers due to her profession, was taken aback by Linda's unusually warm and bubbly personality. As they talked, Dr. Fang learned that Linda owned a flower shop and also supplied plants. So, she asked Linda to help her pick out some flowers for her garden.

"I like frangipani flowers, but some people believe it's bad luck to plant them at home. What do you think, Doctor?"

"I don't believe in that. If you think it's good, I think so too,"

Dr. Fang replied with a smile, which made Linda blush and look down, playing with the leaves in her hands. The doctor couldn't help but find her endearing.

Linda eventually helped turn Dr. Fang's garden into a tranquil, green retreat. At first, the doctor thought nothing of it, but as time passed, Linda's cheerful and kind personality began to grow on her.

One day, after working herself to exhaustion and getting caught in the rain, Dr. Fang fell ill and stayed bedridden at home, not telling anyone. Unexpectedly, Linda showed up at her door, ringing the bell.

"I saw you stay at home and don't go out for two days. So, I came to check. Are you okay?"

The doctor, with a pale face, smiled and shook her head a little at Lin.

"I'm fine. I just feel tired, so I took a day off."

But when Lin saw the doctor's weak condition, she got worried. Lin quickly pulled the doctor into the house. She prepared food and took care of her without any hesitation.

"Doctor, you are a real doctor! How can you let yourself get so sick?"

Lin said.

The doctor, who had never been taken care of by anyone, only smiled and blinked at Lin, feeling warm inside.

"Thank you, Lin. But I can stay alone. You should go back to work."

"No one likes to be alone when they are sick. Trust me. Let me take care of you, please."

"But..."

"No buts. Wait here. I will get a wet towel to wipe your body."

Lin then quickly prepared everything. She came back and stood near the bed. Then, she was ready to take off the doctor's shirt.

"Wait! No need to take it off,"

The doctor said, feeling shy.

"No, I have to. Your shirt is sweaty. We need to change it."

The doctor couldn't argue anymore and stayed still. She thought, It's okay. We're both women.

As Lin helped take off the doctor's shirt, she suddenly stopped talking. She became quiet and stared at the doctor's upper body.

The doctor, curious why Lin was so quiet, opened her eyes and looked at her.

Lin's face turned red. She was staring at the doctor's chest, holding the towel in the air.

The doctor, feeling shy, quickly pulled the blanket to cover herself.

Lin realized her mistake and felt even more embarrassed. She looked at the doctor and said nervously,

"Um... I think it's better if you wipe yourself!"

Then Lin ran out of the room, leaving the doctor lying there.

The doctor could only smile and shake her head. She thought, Who is the shy one here, me or her?

Since that day, the atmosphere between the doctor and Lin felt softer and sweeter.

The doctor had never felt this way before, with anyone, no matter the gender. She started to think to herself, maybe the reason I've never been interested in dating anyone isn't because I focused only on studying, but because...

**I like women**?

The doctor admitted to herself that she didn't know and wasn't sure. But as a science-minded person, if she didn't know, she had to find out. She decided in her heart to take special care of Linda.

Or as people say, **"try to court her"** until she could be sure of her feelings.

She wasn't in a hurry. She let herself slowly figure it out.

**Until... Tanyong showed up.**

It had been about a year since Tanyong moved into the house next door. At first, the doctor wasn't close to her because their work schedules were both unpredictable. She only knew that Tanyong was a head chef at a restaurant where she was a co-owner. Sometimes she worked morning shifts, sometimes afternoons.

One thing the doctor knew for sure was that Tanyong liked to party and seemed to be quite a flirt.

The doctor didn't want to interfere with her neighbor's life, but Tanyong often stood on her balcony, talking on the phone. That balcony was right across from the doctor's office window. When the doctor worked, she liked to leave the window open for fresh air, so she often overheard the conversations. The names Tanyong mentioned were always different-Joy, Prang, Pai, and many others.

It wasn't just that. The doctor also often saw her come home drunk or not come home at all. It wasn't like the doctor was keeping track of whether her neighbor came home or not, but Tanyong made a lot of noise in her house.

Especially the sound of things falling and breaking. (The doctor later learned from Linda that Tanyong was extremely clumsy and often broke things in her house.)

So, when the house was silent, the doctor knew no one was home. She couldn't check the car either because Tanyong had two vehicles: a red Mini Cooper and a white Gorilla 125 motorbike with a brown seat. Both were parked in a closed garage. The doctor guessed that Tanyong must love her vehicles a lot.

In the past 2-3 months, the doctor started noticing that the clumsy neighbor was paying a lot of attention to Linda. Normally, the doctor wasn't a jealous person. She was very rational, so there was no reason to feel possessive over someone who wasn't even hers.

But if it was about worrying, then yes, she was worried.

If Linda liked someone, the doctor wanted that person to be a good one. Not someone like... Tanyong. A woman who was very beautiful but a womanizer.

It wasn't like the doctor was close enough to Tanyong to judge her as a bad person, but from her behavior, it was hard to say she was a good one either.

So, if it was going to be Tanyong, the doctor decided to step in and "play defense" for now-until Linda found someone better.

# Chapter 03

After clearing up in the kitchen and assigning tasks to the chef taking over her shift, Tanyong walked to find her business partner, who was working in the office behind the cashier counter.

"Fern, I'm going back first," she said.

The bespectacled woman looked up.

"Why are you leaving early? Every time you take the morning shift, you usually stay until 8 PM."

Tanyong and Fern co-owned a Japanese restaurant that operated in two shifts: mornings from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and evenings from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. It was only 4:30 PM now.

"I stay until 8 because I go out drinking afterward. Today, I'm not going. I'm going to see a girl,"

Tanyong replied with a cheeky wink.

"Who? ...Lin?"

"Yep!"

"Are you serious?"

"Of course! Why? Don't you like Lin?" "It's not that... but... don't mess with her,"

Fern said seriously.

"Why not?"

"To be honest, she's too good for someone as flirty as you."

"I'm flirty? How?"

"You're... everywhere."

"Watch your words. I just like to have fun. Or do you not approve?"

"No, I don't," Fern replied bluntly.

Tanyong held her forehead. She had forgotten that she'd asked the wrong person-this was Fern, the bookish, straight-laced type.

"Don't worry. I'm not doing anything bad. I just want to court her. Whether it works out or not is another matter."

"If it doesn't work, that's fine. But if it does..."

"And if it does?"

"You're not going to... you know... use her and leave, are you?"

"I've never done that. Especially with Lin. If I get her, I couldn't leave her even if I tried."

Tanyong's face turned dreamy. Fern, unimpressed, replied, "Yeah, sure," and quickly walked away, as though Tanyong were some kind of contagious fungus.

Tanyong didn't care about the disapproval. She waved goodbye to her friend and left the restaurant immediately.

Fern shook her head as she watched her friend leave and muttered to herself,

"So all that sleeping around with different people doesn't count as **'use and leave'**?"

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Today, Tanyong was riding her mini-sized Gorilla motorcycle. She had a soft spot for small vehicles. She wasn't sure if the reason she liked Lin so much these days was because Lin was also petite.

The timing was perfect to bring dinner, the small flower shop owner, who lived not too far from her home. She felt she needed to score some points quickly because lately, Dr. Fang seemed to be speeding things up too.

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As Lin finished arranging the flowers in her hands, the beautiful woman with long, light-colored hair styled in waves to her back, wearing a dark blue strapless dress, pushed the shop door open with her shoulder. One hand was holding a bag of food, while the other removed her brown leather jacket.

"Hello, Lin. Let's eat!"

Tanyong said with a smile.

"Did you ride the Gorilla today?"

Lin asked, tilting her head and furrowing her brows. She looked so cute to Tanyong.

"Yep. It's convenient. No traffic,"

Tanyong replied casually.

"You're wearing a dress? Can you ride in that?"

Lin asked with a curious expression.

"I can ride in any outfit,"

Tanyong answered confidently.

"Isn't it too revealing?"

"I don't know, but the wind feels nice."

"Lin is going to tell Dr. Fang,"

Lin said, teasing her. Tanyong frowned.

"Dr. Fang is a doctor, not my mom. Why should I be scared?"

"Dr. Fang meant well."

Tanyong pouted.

"I'll just wrap my skirt around and sit. It's not revealing."

She relented to avoid more talk about Dr. Fang.

Lin smiled, understanding that Tanyong who seems dislikes Dr. Fang. Lin knew why; although she was innocent and had lived her life among plants and flowers, without ever having a boyfriend, she wasn't so naive that Tanyong was flirting with her, even if it was a bit playful.

As for Dr. Fang, Lin wasn't so sure. She seemed to have some kind of strange rivalry with Tanyong, but she was an adult and often wore a serious, indifferent face. Lin felt like Dr. Fang was more like an older sister figure who was just taking care of her younger sister.

When comparing the two, Lin felt a bit shy around Dr. Fang, but at the same time, she found her warm and dependable. On the other hand, with Tanyong, she felt excited and fun. She had never had a friend like Tanyongsomeone who people might describe as playful, adventurous, and bold, or what older people might call a **"mischievous child."**

When they first met, Lin once saw a luxury European car drop Tanyong off at home, in a slightly tipsy state. Before she got out of the car, Lin saw two people inside kissing, and she had to look away, feeling embarrassed. The lights in the car were on, so she could clearly see that the person who dropped Tanyong off was a woman.

"Wow... Tanyong likes women,"

Lin thought to herself. That was quite a surprise, especially for someone who loved to imagine like her.

At first, Lin thought the woman in the car would follow Tanyong inside, but no, Tanyong got out alone, waved goodbye, and waited for the car to drive off before heading inside.

Interestingly, Lin had never seen Tanyong bring anyone to stay at her house. But she did go to someone else's house.

Lin looked up the beautiful woman in front of her. She didn't know why someone like her would catch the eye of someone so intense like Tanyong.

**But one thing was certain: she didn't think she was the right person for Tanyong.**

As for the person she thought would be suitable for Tanyong... it was none other than Dr. Fang.

The problem now is both of them seem to be enemies. Dr. Fang seemed reasonable, mature and respectable as an adult.

Lin admitted that she was a bit of a dreamer, and her fantasies about her imagined "couple" filled her heart with excitement. She really wished for her silly daydreams to become a reality one day.

"Why are you daydreaming, Lin?"

Tanyong's voice snapped Lin out of her thoughts.

"Hehe, sorry. I was just lost in my thoughts. By the way, I never asked youwhy do you live in this big house all alone? You're still young, only in your late twenties."

Tanyong laughed.

"You're the same age as me, and you live alone too, right? So why can't I?"

"Well, my mom worked hard to buy this house for me. It's also close to my flower shop, so I decided to move in. I couldn't afford it on my own, haha."

"Well, you should thank your mom, because if not for her, I wouldn't have met you,"

Tanyong said, giving Lin a playful, flirtatious look.

Lin shook her head and laughed.

"Well, you didn't just meet me... you met Dr. Fang too."

Tanyong immediately frowned.

"No, don't! Leave Dr. Fang up on a shelf and don't bring her up so much."

"Okay, I won't mention her. But anyway, you still haven't answered me, Tanyong. Why are you living alone? Don't you get lonely?"

"Hmm, I'm not lonely. I like it. I don't have to listen to complaints when I come home late. I'm living alone just so I can go out and have fun more easily. My aunt and uncle didn't want me lived alone, but they couldn't stop me because I bought the house with my own money."

"Wow, that's impressive. You managed to buy such a big house at such a young age."

"Actually... my older brother helped out with half the cost,"

Tanyong laughed.

Lin smiled.

"Well, I guess that's your personal life profit then!"

"But if you want to share the profit of life with me, then be my girlfriend,"

Tanyong said, blinking playfully at Lin.

Lin couldn't help but laugh.

"If I were your girlfriend, I'd probably get slapped by your other girls someday."

"Oh, no. No one's after me."

"Why does your voice go high?"

"It doesn't."

"It still sounds high."

Both of them burst into laughter, before Lin's voice turned more serious.

"I don't think I'm right for you, Tanyong."

"Whether it's right or not, you've got to try dating to find out."

"I think you should try looking around here. There might be someone better for you."

"Hmph, I know who you're talking about. No thanks. I'll take you. I want you, Lin."

"Who's going to let you have me?"

"You might not let me today, but maybe you will in the future. I'm not in a rush."

Tanyong flashed a carefree, charming smile at Lin, embodying the true essence of a Casanova. She seemed completely at ease with the idea of flirting.

Lin couldn't help but feel a little bit annoyed.

"Well, I'll just wait and see how long you can resist looking around here."

She said, and as soon as she finished, Tanyong's smile disappeared, leaving Lin to burst into laughter.

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The doorbell rang. The doctor, who had just arrived home, stopped for a moment while trying to undo the third button of her shirt. Her hair, which had been tied all day, was being loosened quickly with her hands to make it look nice. She smiled and walked to the door, already knowing who was ringing the bell.

"Doctor, I brought you some soy milk,"

The small woman said, smiling from a distance. The doctor opened the door and took the bag of soy milk.

"Thank you so much, Nong Lin. I forgot to eat dinner today,"

Doctor Fang said with a smile of affection.

"I knew it. After your shift, you always fall asleep before dinner,"

Lin said with a caring voice. The doctor couldn't help but gently pat Lin's head because Lin always thought of others.

"Do I need to be afraid of you, Lin? You know so much about my daily

life,"

The doctor said, smiling.

"Oh, I'm just worried about you. By the way, can I ask you something?"

"Hmm? What do you want to ask?"

The doctor replied.

"Well... I know you don't have a boyfriend, but I want to know if you like someone now?"

The doctor raised her eyebrows, surprised by the question.

"That's a strange question... Why do you want to know?"

"I just want to know. Please tell me, Doctor."

"If I tell you that I don't like anyone, will you try to date me?"

The doctor asked, teasing.

"Oh, Doctor, don't tease me," Lin said.

"Okay, I won't tease. But right now, the person I like is you, Nong Lin."

"Doctor!!"

Linda shouted and blushed immediately.

"Are you serious?"

The doctor laughed softly at Lin's reaction before finally answering seriously.

"I've never liked anyone. The only person I like is you, Lin. You are cute."

"Don't praise me like that. You're making me shy. So, are you telling me that you're not secretly interested in anyone else?"

"Yes...You wouldn't be wrong."

The doctor said, pausing for a moment before answering. It seemed like she had briefly seen someone in the background, but they disappeared quickly, so she didn't think about it too much.

Then, Lin's eyes went to the part of the doctor's shirt where the buttons were undone, and she saw a little bit of the doctor's chest.

Linda stood still, her face turning red. She tried to turn away from the view in front of her, but her eyes couldn't help but look back. The doctor noticed that Linda was quiet and looked down, following her gaze. Linda, feeling guilty, jumped a little. The doctor gave Linda a suspicious look. "Now I'm starting to think that you, Nong Lin, are a naughty girl,"

The doctor said.

Linda quickly denied, her voice loud,

"No! I didn't mean to look, Doctor! You didn't button your shirt properly!

You just told about it this morning, and now you're doing it yourself!"

"I'm at home, not outside,"

The doctor said.

"I don't care! I just saw it by accident,"

"By accident? But I saw you staring for a long time."

"I didn't!"

"Then why is your face red?"

The doctor asked.

"Uh..."

Linda stammered. Why does she always get into these awkward situations with the doctor?

"It's strange. Why would I be embrassed after seeing it?"

The doctor held back a smile. Linda looked up at the doctor, her face still red. She couldn't believe the doctor would bring up this topic so casually. When their eyes met, Linda quickly looked down, speaking softly,

"Uh... I won't tease you anymore. Please go rest, Doctor."

She turned and walked quickly to leave, but...

"Wait, Nong Lin!"

Linda stopped, raised an eyebrow, asking what else the doctor wanted.

"Mext time, if you want to look, you can ask me directly. If it's Nong Lin, I don't know why I should be protective. After all, you've already seen me naked before."

The doctor winked at her and turned to go back inside. Linda shouted from behind,

"Doctor!!"

But the doctor didn't pay attention, laughing quietly to herself as she entered the house.

Linda stood there, slapping her warm cheeks, trying to calm herself. After a deep breath, she muttered to herself,

"I didn't know the doctor had such a playful side."

She smiled and shook her head, then turned to walk back to her own house.

On the opposite side, on the second-floor balcony, Tanyong stood silently with her arms crossed, leaning against the wall in the dark corner. She had come out just in time to hear the last part of their conversation. What she heard made her freeze.

"**They've already seen each other naked?** So, the doctor and Linda have gone further than I thought?"

Tanyong thought.

*Unbelievable...*

She sighed, her eyebrows furrowing. She looked at the doctor's house, where the lights were already off. Tanyong was thinking hard about what she had just heard.

At first, she didn't think the doctor was a serious competitor. The doctor seemed like she was just trying to flirt with Linda, and Linda wasn't interested, or maybe just trying to get in her way. But now, Tanyong knew she had to rethink everything.

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# Chapter 04

Linda signed to receive the package after checking that everything was fine. She thanked the delivery man and called a staff member to put the ordered flowers into the storage cooler.

The shop's front door opened. Linda turned to greet the first customer of the day with a smile, but her expression froze when she saw the tall, elegant woman who walked in. While not as tall as Tanyong, she wasn't far off. She looked about the same age as Dr. Fang.

Her shiny black hair, fine and smooth, fell gracefully to the middle of her back. Her bangs were slightly layered, perfectly framing her eyebrows. Her face leaned toward a sweet look, but her eyes carried a mysterious, fiery allure. She was dressed in a sleek, tailored women's suit that gave her a confident and active appearance. She was a tomboy.

Linda couldn't help but admire her features and silently hummed a tune in her head, completely forgetting to greet the visitor. The new customer broke the silence first.

"Hello, Miss Linda,"

The woman said, her voice sweet with a slight huskiness - the kind people often call alluring.

Linda blinked in surprise.

"Oh, you know me?"

"Yes, I'm Rose," the woman replied.

"I work for RestInPark, a company that specializes in design and decoration."

Linda had heard of RestInPark - it was a well-known company.

However, she couldn't figure out how this woman knew her. Her confusion showed in her tilted head and puzzled expression, which made the elegant woman chuckle softly.

"You wouldn't know me, but I think you might know the Tree Me shop."

"Oh, yes! That's my friend's shop,"

Linda replied. Her friend's shop was a large nursery in a famous plant market, focusing on fruit trees and large plants. Whenever her friend needed flowering plants, they would ask Linda because she knew the best suppliers.

"My company gets plants from Tree Me," Rose said.

"Ohhh,"

Linda dragged out her response, but her face clearly still showed confusion. She couldn't understand how this connected to her. The mismatch between her long "Ohhh" and her puzzled face made Rose smile.

"You're so cute,"

Rose said, smiling.

"Here's the thing - I need some special flowers for a specific occasion, but I couldn't find the ones I wanted. Tree Me recommended you, saying you could find them for me."

"Oh, now I understand!"

Linda said, nodding quickly.

"I'd be happy to help. What do you need?"

"I don't have much time right now. Would it be okay if I schedule a meeting with you after work?"

"No problem,"

Linda replied with a sweet smile.

"Great. I'll call to confirm the time and place later."

"Okay,"

Linda continued smiling dreamily.

Before she realized it, the charming woman with the husky voice had already left the shop.

"What a charming person,"

Linda mumbled to herself softly. Then it hit her-she hadn't given the newcomer her phone number! How was she supposed to call her now?

"Ugh... what a shame."

But Linda quickly thought of a solution. She grabbed her phone and called her friend, the owner of Tree Me.

"Hello, Linda? What's up?"

"Oi, I have a question."

"Go ahead."

"Oi, do you deliver plants to RestinPark company?"

"Yes, they're one of our big clients. Why?"

"Well, someone from that company wants to meet with me, but I didn't get a chance to give them my number. I was wondering if you might have a contact number?"

"Who are you talking about? There are a lot of people there."

"Ms. Rose."

"Hello? Oi? Are you still there?"

"I'm here, I'm here."

"What's so funny, Oi?"

"Nothing. Ms. Rose works fast, doesn't she?"

"Works fast at what?"

"Never mind, you don't need to know. Anyway, what do you need?"

"Do you have Ms. Rose's number?"

"I do, but you don't need it."

"Why is that?"

"Well, Rose already has your number. She'll call you. That's it, I've got to get back to work,"

Her friend said before hanging up.

Linda stood with her hands on her hips, puzzled by her friend's behavior. Still, she didn't think much of it. Her friend must have already given her number to Rose.

That explained why Rose said she would call but hadn't asked for her contact directly.

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Today is Sunday, Linda didn't have to rush anywhere. She stepped outside to water her plants, humming a tune in a good mood. She glanced across the street. Tanyong's house was unusually quiet-perhaps Tanyong had stayed elsewhere the night before. She looked over at Dr. Fang's house but didn't see the car parked there. Maybe she was on shift last night.

Switching to water the plants on the other side, Linda was startled to see something unexpected. The house next door, which had been empty for ages, now had a sleek white two-door European car parked in front.

Curious, Linda leaned against the fence, trying to peek into the house. There was no sign of movement.

Hands on her hips, Linda wondered when the car had arrived. She remembered coming home late the previous night and not seeing it then. Eager to catch a glimpse of her new neighbor, she walked slowly along the fence, craning her neck to look into the house. She was so focused on peering in that she didn't notice the garden hose she was holding had stretched taut around a post.

Suddenly, it disconnected from the faucet, spraying water everywhere.

"Ahhh!"

Linda screamed as she rushed to reconnect the hose, only to get a full spray of water to her face and body. She shrieked again, soaked from head to toe, before realizing she should have turned off the water first instead of reattaching the hose.

"Heh-heh..."

A soft laugh from the second-floor balcony of the neighboring house made her look up quickly.

A beautiful woman stood there, her face fresh and free of makeup. Her long bangs brushed her eyebrows, swaying gently in the breeze. Her dark, silky hair was tied to one side, cascading like a waterfall over her chest.

Her deep eyes shimmered in the sunlight, filled with charm. She leaned her elbow on the balcony railing, a coffee cup in one hand, and smiled down at Linda.

Linda's eyes widened in shock.

**"Miss Rose!?"**

The woman on the balcony spoke in her husky, alluring voice, her smile teasing.

"Hello, Linda. We meet again."

"Can I meet with you after work to discuss?"

Rose asked with a calm, alluring tone.

"No problem,"

Linda replied with a bright, sweet smile.

"I'll call you later to arrange the time and place, then."

"Sure!"

Linda continued smiling dreamily.

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The house owner took the towel that was draped over her shoulder and lifted it to dry her hair as she walked toward the long sofa, where the beautiful guest was sitting and watching her. "Hehe, Miss Rose, did you wait long?"

"No, not at all. Did I interrupt your day off?"

"Oh, no, Miss Rose! I've been looking forward to meeting all the neighbors!"

"So, that means you know everyone in the houses across from yours?"

"Yes, the house across from yours belongs to the doctor, and the house across from mine is Ms. Tanyong's."

"Hmm, so we don't have to worry about getting sick or starving anymore."

Linda closed her mouth and laughed lightly.

"By the way, isn't it a coincidence that you became my neighbor?"

Rose only nodded, smiling, but the way she looked at Linda made her feel uneasy. Linda's hands felt clumsy, so she decided to tease her new neighbor to ease the awkwardness.

"Or maybe it's not a coincidence,"

Linda said, pretending to be surprised and putting a hand to her chest. Rose chuckled lightly, her voice warm and raspy.

"Why? If you think it's not a coincidence, what do you think it is?"

"Actually, it's worth thinking about. We just met yesterday, and now you're my neighbor. You're not following me to do something bad, are you?"

"If that's the case, would you be scared, Linda?"

Rose asked with a mischievous glance.

Linda thought for a moment.

"Wow, are you saying that I'm the one who would do something bad? To the point of planning to break into your house?"

Rose teased, giving Linda a mock glare from head to toe. She even pointed her finger to tap Linda's chin, acting as if thinking seriously.

"Hmm... actually, it might be a good idea."

Oh no... Linda thought, still shaken from her encounter with Tanyong, now worried if Rose was going to make her life even more complicated.

# Chapter 05

Tanyong rested her chin on her hand, looking at the young woman across from her during their dinner. The woman kept serving her food with care.

"P'Yong, here, have a little more. Let me get it for you."

"I'm already so full I could burst! Are you trying to fatten me up?"

"If you'd let me, I'd love to."

"Lots of people want to fatten me up. If I let them, I'd have turned into a hippo by now."

"Then just let one person do it."

"I can't. I'm a fair person. Very fair. Very, very fair," Tanyong teased.

"Right, I forgot. P'Yong belongs to the public. No one's allowed to keep you for themselves."

The younger woman puffed out her cheeks in mock frustration, prompting Tanchong to poke at them playfully.

"This is better, trust me. If you ever feel lonely and want company, I'll always be here if I'm free, okay, beautiful?"

"Fine, I'll stay like this for now. Maybe one day you'll change your mind."

Tanyong gave her a dazzling smile, making the younger woman blush and look away. She picked up her wine glass, took a sip, and glanced casually around the restaurant. Her gaze froze on a table by the window. She squinted to make sure she wasn't mistaken.

**It was Dr. Fang.**

Tanyong couldn't help but pout. Who would've thought Dr. Fang would come to a place like this? This wasn't exactly the kind of restaurant that matched her serious, professional demeanor.

Not that there was anything wrong with the restaurant-it was just known for its romantic atmosphere, perfect for couples, and its unique selection of alcoholic drinks.

And there she was, Dr. Fang, sitting with a handsome young man. Judging by their interaction, they didn't look like mere friends. So, the serious doctor had a wild side, after all.

While Tanyong maintained a lively conversation with her dinner companion, her eyes kept darting toward Dr. Fang. She noticed how the usually reserved doctor appeared relaxed, talking naturally with the man. Her typically stern face now carried a soft, subtle smile.

Tanyong felt a twinge of annoyance. If she already has a boyfriend, why is she meddling with Lin?

As soon as Dr. Fang left the table and headed toward the restroom, Tanyong quickly excused herself from her companion. "I'll be right back, just going to the restroom,"

She said, and followed the doctor.

Inside the restroom, it was empty save for one closed stall among the three. Tanyong deduced that Dr. Fang was inside and leaned casually against the sink counter, arms crossed, waiting for her. When the stall door opened, Dr. Fang stepped out and froze upon seeing her.

"Oh, Tanyong?"

"Who are you here with, Dr. Fang?"

Tanyong jumped straight to the question.

Dr. Fang maintained her usual composed expression, but Tanyong noticed the slight twitch of her brow. Without replying immediately, the doctor walked to the sink beside her and began washing her hands.

"And why do you want to know?"

"I saw you with a man. He doesn't look like just a friend. If you already have someone, why are you meddling with Lin?"

This time, Dr. Fang's brow furrowed visibly. She dried her hands with a paper towel before turning to face Tanchong fully, arms crossed.

"'Meddling' is a strong word, don't you think? I'm simply looking out for Lin as a neighbor. I've never done anything inappropriate. And for your information, that man is my brother."

Oh, great... Tanyong could feel the metaphorical cracks forming in her confidence, but she maintained her composure and flashed a graceful smile. "Alright then. I'll take my leave."

"Wait."

Tanyong froze mid-step as Dr. Fang called her back.

"You asked me a question. I think it's only fair I get to ask you one... Who are you here with?"

"Uh..."

Tanyong hesitated, unsure how to define her relationship with her dinner companion.

"A friend,"

She finally said, opting for the safest answer.

Dr. Fang narrowed her eyes slightly but shrugged nonchalantly.

"Alright. If you say so. That way, I don't have to ask why you're meddling with Lin either."

With that, Dr. Fang brushed past her and exited the restroom, leaving Tanyong fuming in silence. She stomped her foot in frustration.

Why did I even bring this upon myself?

So embarrassing!

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Later that evening, after parting ways with her dinner companion, Tanyong rode her motorbike leisurely through the quiet streets. The city's nighttime breeze was cool and refreshing, so she took her time, enjoying the ride.

Up ahead, she noticed the flashing hazard lights of a parked car by the side of the road. She sped up slightly to pass it but couldn't help glancing over out of curiosity. She caught a glimpse of a woman standing next to the car, talking on the phone.

Tanyong frowned. The woman looked oddly familiar.

Could it be...? she thought, but quickly shrugged it off.

Nah, probably not.

She rode past without looking back.

Dr. Fang, after stepping out of her car to inspect the issue, discovered that the front-left tire had completely deflated. She crouched down, scrutinized the situation for a moment, then stood up with her hands on her hips and tilted her head, knowing she wasn't equipped to handle this herself.

Her best option was to call for help rather than fussing over something beyond her expertise.

"Hello, P'First?"

She quickly dialed her brother, who she had only parted ways with a short while ago.

"What's up, Fang? Are you home already?"

"Not yet. My car has a flat tire."

"Oh no! Where are you right now?"

"Near the entrance to the village."

"Alright, I'll head back to you. I'm just refueling the car. Send me your location, and wait inside your car. Lock it up properly."

"Okay, P'First."

After ending the call, she pocketed her phone and was about to open the car door when a motorcycle approached against traffic, its lights cutting through the dark. The rider stopped in front of her car and stop the engine.

Already on edge, Dr. Fang quickly unlocked the door, intending to get inside. However, she paused when she heard a familiar, cheerful voice call out.

"Dr. Fang? It is you!"

Tanyong unfolded the bike's kickstand, swung her long legs down to the ground, and removed her helmet, holding it casually at her hip. She strode over toward the doctor.

"Tanyong..."

Dr. Fang's heart eased immediately. She swore she had never felt so relieved to see Tanyong before-situations like this made familiar company infinitely better than being alone.

"Car trouble?"

Tanyong asked, tilting her head slightly as she looked at the vehicle.

"Not exactly-just a flat tire."

"Hmm... That's tough. It's too dark to handle it right now."

Tanyong glanced around, as though weighing her options.

"I've already called my brother," Dr. Fang said.

"Oh? And where is he now?"

"He said he's refueling, but he lives in the opposite direction. It might take him a while to get here,"

Dr. Fang explained. She hesitated, wanting to ask Tanyong to stay with her until her brother arrived, but the words felt too awkward to say.

Tanyong nodded thoughtfully.

"Even if he gets here soon, he probably wouldn't be able to fix it now anyway. How about leaving the car here for tonight? Tomorrow, you can call a mechanic to change the tire. For now, you can come back with me."

Dr. Fang blinked, unsure at first how to respond. She glanced at her car, then at Tanyong, who stood there with an air of confidence and a reassuring smile.

"Is this a good idea?"

"It's fine. This way, your brother won't have to turn back, and you won't have to wait in the dark, it might be dangerous."

Tanyong secretly threatened, because she was really eager to go home and sleep.

After Tanyong said that, the doctor didn't take long to think. It was close to the village already, and it would be inconvenient for her brother to turn back. So, she immediately called her brother.

"Where are you now, First?"

"I just left the gas station. The card reader had a problem, so it took a little longer. Are you okay? Is everything fine?"

The doctor could hear the concern in her brother's voice, so she quickly replied.

"I'm fine. I just wanted to tell you not to come. I ran into a friend in the village. I'm going to ride with them back."

"Is it a guy or a girl?"

Her brother asked with a serious tone.

The area was quite quiet, so Tanyong could hear the voice clearly. She smiled to herself, thinking her brother must be protective of his sister. It wasn't surprising because if she had a sister who looked like the doctorespecially with that Korean-style face and curvy figure-she would be protective too.

The doctor glanced at Tanyong, who was looking at her with an unreadable expression, before responding to her brother.

"A girl. Don't worry, First. She's just a neighbor of mine."

"Alright. Then go back with your friend. You should rest. Don't worry about the car, I'll deal with it tomorrow. I have a spare key."

After the doctor hung up, Tanyong immediately teased,

"Wow... Dr. Fang, you're so sweet when talking to your brother. If you spoke to me like that... I'd be in love with you."

The doctor yawned.

"Stop teasing me."

The doctor didn't want to continue talking, so she sighed and said,

"Can we go now?"

Tanyong made a face, muttering to herself,

"Hmph... You're not cute anymore."

But things didn't go as smoothly as she thought. The doctor realized she had forgotten something. She had never ridden a motorcycle with Tanyong before.

"Hey, doctor, what are you standing there for? Get on the bike!"

The doctor sighed again. This kid had just teased her and now she was asking her to get on the motorcycle. She reluctantly walked over to the bike. Fortunately, she was wearing pants today, so sitting wouldn't be too difficult. But when she looked at the seat, she started to doubt it.

"The seat is so small. Are we going to fit two people?"

The bike seemed made for just one person.

"If it was the original seat, it would only fit one person, but I changed the seat to a two-person one. It's fine, you can sit."

Even though Tanyong insisted, the doctor still thought the seat looked too small. But since she was relying on her, she didn't want to complain. She was about to lift her leg up, but Tanyong stopped her.

"Wait, hold on."

"What now?"

The doctor's face was starting to look annoyed.

Tanyong took off her helmet and handed it to the doctor.

"There's only one helmet. You wear it."

The doctor made eye contact with Tanyong, then pushed the helmet back to her.

"You wear it. I'm fine,"

The doctor said.

Tanyong got off the bike again, moved closer to the doctor, making her step back a bit, and gently placed the helmet on her head. Her expression was serious, though she seemed a little tired.

"Just wear it. With your pretty face, you should take care of it. What if something happens? It would be a waste..."

Tanyong looked at the doctor's face carefully, her eyes lingering for a while. The doctor's face was oval-shaped, with long lashes and light brown eyes, beautiful brows, a small nose, and soft pink lips. Her pale skin had a rosy glow. If she didn't always look so serious, the doctor could be considered a typical beauty for today's standards.

Tanyong realized she had never really noticed this before. She stared at the doctor for a while until the doctor blinked, snapping Tanyong back to her senses. She quickly looked away, feeling embarrassed. She awkwardly adjusted the chin strap on the helmet, doing it wrong at first.

"Ugh..."

Tanyong thought to herself,

*"It's probably because Linda always talks about the doctor to me. That's why I'm acting weird."*

As for the doctor...

***Thud... thud...***

Something stirred in the doctor's heart. The way Tanyong had looked at her earlier made her feel flustered as well. She tried to make sense of what had just happened, but she couldn't.

*A small part of her realized it was... shyness.*

Why was she shy around Tanyong?

The doctor secretly glanced at her face, watching her carefully fasten the helmet. When she finished, Tanyong looked up at her and gave a soft, sincere smile, one the doctor had never received before.

***Thud... thud... again.***

The doctor frowned. Since she couldn't understand it, she turned her face to the side to avoid eye contact and quietly said,

"Can we go now?"

"Yeah, let's go."

Tanyong turned back to get on the small bike, waiting for the doctor to sit properly before starting the engine and slowly driving away.

The doctor sat stiffly, and Tanyong could feel it. She was leaning back as if trying to avoid being too close, even though she was almost about to fall off the seat.

"Doctor, come closer to me. You're going to fall off,"

Tanyong said.

The doctor moved a bit closer but still leaned back. Her hands clutched the side of Tanyong's shirt as if trying to hold onto something slippery.

"Hold on tight. Where are you trying to fall?"

Tanyong said, sounding a bit annoyed.

This time, the doctor didn't move at all. Tanyong grabbed her wrist and pulled her closer, forcing the doctor to press her body against Tanyong's back. The doctor startled and tried to pull her hand away, but Tanyong wouldn't let go. She made the doctor keep her hands wrapped around her waist.

"Don't struggled or the bike will fall over. And keep holding tight like this,"

Tanyong warned. Fearing the bike might fall, the doctor reluctantly placed her other hand around Tanyong's waist. Once they were secure, the doctor felt more at ease. The soft, faint scent from Tanyong's body made the doctor lean back against her without thinking.

Tanyong smiled secretly, partly because the doctor had stopped resisting, and partly because the soft warmth from the doctor's body against her back felt so nice.

She thought to herself: Why does this familiar road feel closer today? Why do I wish the ride could last longer? Why do I feel so reluctant to lose the warmth on my back once we reach the house?

After they arrived and parked the bike in the garage, the doctor took off the helmet and handed it back to Tanyong.

"Thank you," she said.

Tanyong just nodded in response.

"Alright, I'll head home now,"

The doctor said.

"I'll walk you home,"

Tanyong quickly replied, but then she hesitated. She and the doctor made eye contact. The doctor tilted her head in confusion.

"Walk me home?"

She asked. It was understandable that the doctor was confused. Her house was right next door, and someone like Tanyong, who wasn't very close to the doctor, wanting to walk her home was strange.

Tanyong felt awkward, realizing how silly she sounded. She couldn't help but think, This is so embarrassing.

"Uh, I meant, I'll walk you out to the front and also close the gate,"

Tanyong quickly corrected herself. The doctor nodded in understanding, and they both walked out. At that moment, a couple from the house across the street came out to stand in front of their house.

"Lin!" Tanyong called out.

"Oh, Ms. Tanyong, Dr. Fang, what are you two standing around for?"

Lin greeted them.

"We just got back. We happened to run into each other. Nothing much, what about you, Lin?"

Tanyong replied as she walked toward them, with the doctor following behind.

"Perfect timing! I wanted to introduce you to the new neighbor,"

Lin said, waving her hand for them to come closer. "This is Ms. Rose, our new neighbor. And this is Dr. Fang,"

Lin introduced.

"Nice to meet you both!"

,Rose greeted them with a smile. Lin then introduced Rose more.

"Ms. Rose just moved in today. I've been hanging out with her all day. She designs garden layouts. If anyone wants to make a garden, please contact through Lin."

"Hmm, so Lin is acting as my agent?"

Rose asked.

"Of course! I'm thinking of taking 60% of the fee,"

Lin joked.

"Sixty percent? That's not an agent, that's more like a boss!"

Rose laughed, and Dr. Fang smiled at how friendly their new neighbor was.

"It's nice to meet you, Ms. Rose. If you need anything, feel free to ask. We're neighbors, after all,"

Dr. Fang said.

"Likewise, Dr. Fang. If I get sick, you'll be the first doctor I'll think of!" Rose replied with a smile.

"You can think of Lin first, too. I took care of doctor when she was sick," Lin added.

"Oh, I don't really remember that. I only remember you left me to wipe myself down. You didn't help at all!"

Dr. Fang said seriously, which made everyone laugh, including Lin. The only one not laughing was Tanyong, who only smiled faintly at the corner of her mouth and didn't join in on the conversation.

She just looked at their new neighbor with a slightly disapproving expression.

Dr. Fang secretly glanced at Tanyong, thinking to herself.

**Looks like someone around here are becoming possessive.**

# Chapter 06

Linda sat watching the person in front of her carefully arranging the food she had bought, putting it beautifully on plates. Rose was busy picking up this and that, leaving the owner of the house sitting and blinking in confusion.

It had been a week since she finished working for Ms. Rose. Ms. Rose was so pleased with her work that she insisted on treating her to a meal. She ordered food to be delivered to her house so they wouldn't have to deal with crowded restaurants, especially during the busy holiday season.

Yes, today happened to be the start of a long holiday in early December.

"Uh... Linda thinks I should help."

"No, I'll take care of it myself. This is my way of thanking you for doing such a great job that I'm really pleased with,"

Rose said with a seductive tone, her voice carrying a soft, amused laugh. Linda couldn't help but feel a little dizzy, imagining how nice it would feel if that seductive voice whispered close to her ear.

"Why are you making such a weird face?"

Rose asked.

Linda startled and slapped her cheek to bring herself back to her senses.

"What face? What do you mean, Ms. Rose?"

"I can't quite explain, but it looks like you're thinking of something naughty,"

Rose said with a smile.

Linda didn't know how to respond because, in fact, she had been thinking something inappropriate. She hadn't realized it would show so clearly on her face. So, she quickly changed the subject.

"By the way, Ms. Rose, why are you preparing wine glasses?"

"Oh, I plan to intoxicate you,"

Rose said, causing a brief silence.

"Uh... if you want to do that, aren't you supposed to not tell me first?"

Linda asked, a little confused.

"I'll tell you beforehand. Let's see if it works,"

Rose said with a wink, then adjusted the angle of the wine glasses.

Linda placed her hand on her chest. Oh my, her heart was racing... She had to admit, she was helpless when it came to someone like Rose.

She admitted to herself that she had become close to Rose very quickly, even though they had only known each other for a little over a month. But perhaps it was because they were neighbors, they had become friends fast. They met almost every day, and their work was related, so they could talk endlessly. Plus, they spent Sundays together almost every week.

She had spent almost the whole day with Rose, and if they weren't close by now, she didn't know what else to say.

Rose made her feel warm, dependable, and charming, like how she felt with the doctor often. But at the same time, Rose was playful and easy-going, making things fun, much like how she felt with Tanyong

In conclusion, it was like having the doctor and Tanyong all wrapped into one person, and even more, Rose's seductive and dreamy presence made everything even more enticing.

No matter how she thought about it, she was either gaining or losing. Just look at those mysterious, sexy eyes; they made her heart race.

Linda, the imaginative girl, had already begun to picture herself with Rose in her mind, without being able to stop it. Once Rose had set the dinner table, the two of them finally sat down to eat.

"I thought we weren't going to eat today. It took so long to set the table!" Linda teased.

"Oh, but this is our first dinner together, Linda. I have to be extra careful to make sure you're impressed,"

Rose replied, her voice teasing.

"Just you standing there, I'm already impressed,"

Linda said.

"Why are you being so modest? You can be a little more generous. Smile! This is really delicious. You should try it,"

Rose said, picking up some sushi with her chopsticks and offering it to Linda.

"You don't need to offer it, I know it's delicious. But I'll let the owner know so they'll be happy,"

"Wait, you know the owner?"

"Heh, actually, you know the owner too. The restaurant you got this from is owned by Tanyong," Linda answered.

"Really? What a coincidence! Hmm... Should I be worried about this meal?"

Rose asked playfully.

"Why?" Linda replied.

"You don't know, but Tanyong can be quite protective. And from what I can tell, she doesn't seem to like me much,"

Rose said with a smirk.

"Tanyong is a great friend. If she does something you don't like, don't take it personally. Even though she might seem a little tough on the outside, she's actually very kind and cares a lot about me,"

Linda said, defending her friend.

"Don't worry, I understand. People who care tend to feel protective. But..."

Rose lifted her arm to rest her chin, locking eyes with Linda. The look she gave Linda was hard to read, and it made Linda feel nervous, so she quickly took a sip of water to cover it up.

Rose smiled slyly,

"Does it really matter if you came first or second?"

Again, Linda thought to herself. She didn't know how to deal with this feeling of being helpless. Rose's gaze, serious yet playful at the same time, left her unsure of what to do.

It wasn't really because of Rose's beauty, Linda thought. Her resistance to beautiful people was pretty strong. Just look at Tanyong, who was as beautiful as any top actress. Linda could talk to her easily, without feeling shy.

And then there was the doctor, with her beautiful Korean looks, who could melt anyone with his charming appearance. Even though she was a doctor, the real reason she felt flustered was because of certain things she had seen that stuck in her mind.

Look around her-everyone in her life was of that level. So why was she so lost in the charm of the person in front of her? They had just met, yet she was already feeling this way. If this were a boxing match, she was definitely in the middle of taking a good hit.

"What are you thinking while looking at me like that?" Rose asked.

"Uh, nothing," Linda quickly replied.

"Then how about we sit outside on the swing? The weather's nice and cool, and the sky is clear,"

Rose suggested. Linda nodded in agreement, and they took their glasses and the bottle of wine outside.

In the front yard, Linda set up a small round swing that fit perfectly for two people, so they had to sit close together. At first, Linda was stiff, trying not to let their arms touch, but Rose playfully nudged her with her arm.

"Are you shy or do you not like me, Linda?" Rose teased.

"I'm just afraid you might feel uncomfortable,"

Linda muttered, not realizing her tone sounded a little pouty. "How could I feel uncomfortable? You're so warm... and soft..."

Rose replied in her sultry voice.

Linda glanced at Rose.

"Sometimes you seem respectable, but other times, you come off as quite the flirt. I don't know what to think."

A soft laugh came from Rose, and Linda felt that even her laughter was somehow alluring.

"Well, I want you to feel at ease when talking to me. No need to be tense."

"Well, since we're so close now, I won't be tense anymore,"

Linda said shyly, though she didn't voice her inner thoughts.

"But if you want to be even closer, you should stop calling me 'you' and just call me by my name."

Rose smiled.

"No problem. In that case, you'll have to call me... Phi Rose, okay?"

Linda blushed again. Phi Rose? Just thinking about it made her shy.

"Don't just sit there blushing. Go ahead, try calling me."

"Uh...P..Phi Rose," Linda stammered.

Rose pretended to take a deep breath, then exhaled dramatically, making a loud "Ha!" that sounded playful.

"Okay, stop. I don't know what to do with my face anymore... Phi Rose,"

Linda said, but after saying it, she kind of liked it.

"Okay then... How about we celebrate this wonderful friendship?"

Rose emphasized the word "Phi," making Linda turn away from her dreamy gaze.

Phi... Linda liked that.

"Alright, I'll drink to my beautiful neighbor,"

Linda said, raising her glass. Rose clinked her glass lightly with Linda's.

"Cheers. By the way, when you say 'beautiful neighbor,' are you talking about yourself or me?"

"Why don't you check in the mirror and see who I mean?"

Linda replied with a playful grin.

Their laughter blended in the peaceful, quiet atmosphere of the evening. A beautiful friendship was forming, but for one person watching from a distance, it wasn't a moment to celebrate.

Tanyong had been standing by the garage door, watching the two of them for quite a while. She had originally planned to drop off some snacks for Linda since it was a long holiday, but when she saw the two sitting on the swing chatting in front of the house, she felt there was no space for her to interrupt.

Tanyong felt irritated. Part of her wanted to walk right in, but another part worried she might ruin Linda's happiness. She wasn't sure what position Linda saw her in, but she was certain her place wasn't anything more than a friend.

So, how could she just barge in and disturb the mood? As she was stressing over what to do, a voice suddenly broke the silence.

**"If they're going to fall in love, they'll do it even if they stand still."**

Tanyong turned her head to see the doctor from next door, who had just finished putting a bag in the trash bin in front of the house. Afterward, she walked back to wash her hands at the faucet by the garage. He didn't seem to notice her watching, but Tanyong was sure she'd said those words for her to hear.

"Were you singing just now?"

Tanyong couldn't help but ask from the shadows. The doctor turned and looked at her.

"Yes, didn't you hear?"

She asked with a deadpan expression.

"I thought you were chanting some prayers. It was so off-key, it didn't even sound like a song. And you still had the nerve to sing,"

Tanyong teased.

The doctor raised an eyebrow, genuinely puzzled.

"Oh, it was off-key? I thought something sounded odd, but I couldn't figure it out."

Tanyong burst out laughing, unable to hold it in.

"Doctor, please don't sing for anyone else again. I'm embarrassed for you."

The beautiful doctor stood there, staring at the neighbor who was now smiling, unlike before when she had been standing there with a serious face in the dark.

"I've never sung for anyone before, but I'm glad the first person was you. After your critique, I don't think I'll ever sing for anyone else again."

"Heh, I just wanted to annoy you before singing this song."

Before long, Tanyong turned away with her back to her.

The doctor sighed.

"Don't be too stressed, Tanyong. If they're meant to be, fate will bring them to us when the time comes."

She then decided to head back into the house, leaving Tanyong to watch her disappear from sight.

"But I won't wait for fate, Doctor. If I want something, I'll go and grab it,"

Tanyong murmured to herself softly.

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As time passed and it grew late, the two women sitting outside with their drinks seemed to be having a problem. Linda, who had been chatty an hour ago, was now leaning her face on Rose's shoulder, murmuring incoherently, making it hard for Rose to understand her. Rose had to keep nudging her gently.

"Lin, Lin, are you okay?"

"Umm... okay... fiiineee,"

Linda mumbled, her words slurring.

Rose laughed.

"What do you mean 'fine'? I think you're in trouble. Hold on."

She looked around. It was clear that she needed to get the drunk woman inside.

"Can you stand up, Lin?"

Linda immediately shook her head but still tried to stand, making Rose rush to support her before she collapsed.

"I can walk!"

Linda protested, her words slurring as she shook her head again. Rose couldn't help but smile at how confused she was getting by the drunk girl's mixed signals.

"Take it easy, walk slowly,"

Rose said, trying to steady Linda.

Once they made their way inside the house, Rose gently laid Linda on the sofa in front of the TV. Although Linda was small, Rose didn't want to risk taking her upstairs. Things weren't likely to go as smoothly as in the novels. If they tried, they'd probably end up rolling down the stairs together.

After making sure Linda was comfortable, Rose sat next to her, wiping the sweat from her forehead. She checked Linda's face and saw that she was likely asleep. Rose tried calling her name quietly, but there was no response. After a brief moment of hesitation, Rose stood up, looking around.

She thought about getting a towel to wipe Linda's face but wasn't sure whether she should go back to her own house for it or just get one from Linda's.

After standing indecisively for a while, Rose shrugged and figured that Linda wouldn't mind if she went into her room to look for something. Once the decision was made, she headed upstairs to the second floor.

She looked around at the three doors and guessed the one on the left might be the correct one. Hey, our house plans are kind of similar she thought to herself.

But as she reached out to turn the door handle, a voice suddenly called out, startling her.

"What are you doing?"

Rose quickly pulled her hand away from the door handle, but managed to keep a calm expression. She turned to look at the person standing at the bottom of the stairs, staring at her.

"You Yong..?"

Rose was slightly surprised.

"How did you get in?"

"The front door wasn't locked, and the lights were on, but when I called, no one answered. So, I decided to walk in,"

Tanyong replied in a neutral tone. In reality, she had been watching everything from the moment she saw Rose helping Linda into the house. At first, she was just observing, but after a while, when she didn't see Rose coming out, she began to worry.

She feared that Linda might be taken advantage of while drunk. Unable to hold back, she decided to go in and check.

She hadn't called out to anyone, though, because she planned to catch anyone in the act if something inappropriate happened. But when she entered the house, she saw Linda sleeping alone on the sofa. The other person was nowhere to be found. She walked around the house, looking for Rose, and only heard a faint sound from upstairs, so she decided to go up.

"So, what were you planning to do, Rose?"

Tanyong interrogated.

"I was going to find a towel to wipe Linda's face," Rose answered. "Then I'll help. I know where they are. You wait downstairs, Rose,"

Tanyong suggested.

Reluctantly, Rose nodded and went downstairs as instructed. She sat down on the sofa a little farther from where Linda was sleeping. After a while, she heard a mumbling sound coming from Linda.

"Mmm... Rose,"

The soft voice called her name. Rose leaned in closer to hear better.

"Lin, Lin, are you awake?"

Rose called softly, unsure if the faint voice had been calling her.

"Mmm..."

Was that a response? She couldn't tell.

"Lin?" Rose tried again.

"Don't... Rose... Eh... Mmm..."

Rose stopped at what she heard. Don't...? She hadn't even done anything yet. Now, she was sure Linda was talking in her sleep, but the things she was saying were strange.

"Not there...," Linda mumbled.

Rose couldn't help but stifle a laugh, even though her cheeks were starting to hurt from holding it in. What on earth is Linda dreaming about?

Suddenly, Linda tossed and turned, nearly falling off the sofa. Fortunately, Rose was close enough to catch her before she could fall.

"What are you doing!?"

Tanyong's voice came from behind, and Rose turned to look at her, then glanced down at her own position. She was leaning over to support Linda, holding her in her arms.

She closed her eyes and sighed. Great, Tanyong must think I'm doing something inappropriate...

From Tanyong's point of view, it probably looked like Rose was in the middle of taking advantage of Linda.

Before Rose could explain herself, Tanyong had already walked over and roughly pulled her away from Linda.

"How could you do this? And I'm still in the house!"

Tanyong said, her voice frustrated.

"Well, that's just it,"

Rose responded calmly, her voice steady.

"You were still in the house, so why would you think I would dare do anything to Linda?"

Tanyong paused, her expression thoughtful, then exhaled deeply.

"So, what exactly did I see?" "Linda almost fell off the sofa,"

Rose explained.

"I managed to catch her just in time."

Tanyong stared at her silently. Rose returned the gaze, unflinching, until Tanyong finally sighed and said,

"Okay, I'll believe you."

She then placed the basin with warm water and a small towel on the table in front of the sofa.

"Please move aside. I'm going to wipe Linda's face and body,"

Tanyong said as she twisted the towel in her hands. But Rose extended her hand.

"I'll do it myself. You should go rest; it's late,"

Rose said.

Tanyong pushed Rose's hand away.

"I'll do it. I'm more familiar with Linda."

"I should do it. I was the one who got her drunk, so I need to take responsibility."

"No, I don't trust others to do it," Tanyong said firmly.

"Do you trust yourself to do it?"

Rose raised an eyebrow.

"Of course. I've never been inappropriate with Linda, and I'm closer to her than anyone else."

"Are you sure you're closer to her than I am?"

Rose teased.

"Hey!"

Tanyong threw the towel on the table and put her hands on her hips, giving Rose a mock stern look. Rose just smiled slyly, which Tanyong took as mockery.

"Stop arguing,"

A new voice interjected, cutting off their bickering at the perfect moment. Both of them turned to see the new arrival. Rose couldn't help but think to herself how easy it seemed for people to just walk in and out of this house.

"Doctor / Dr. Fang,"

They both said in unison.

Dr. Fang glanced at Tanyong, relieved that she had decided to follow after seeing Tanyong walk into Linda's house with a serious expression and then go quiet.

Concerned that something might happen between the two women, she decided to intrude and assess the situation, and here she was.

"Give me the towel, Yong. I'll do it,"

Dr. Fang said.

Dr. Fang extended her hand towards Tanyong. The beautiful-faced woman looked at the doctor's hand, then at Rose, contemplating for a moment before deciding to place the towel into Dr. Fang's hand.

After all, Dr. Fang had been close to Linda before, so it should be fine.

Tanyong, who had misunderstood the situation earlier, thought of give up.

Rose couldn't help but be surprised that Tanyong had so easily yielded to the doctor. But it was for the best, as between the two, Dr. Fang definitely seemed more trustworthy.

"Why are both of you arguing about wiping her down?"

Dr. Fang said as she began wiping Linda's face and eyes.

"Because Yong doesn't trust Rose. How could I let her touch Linda?"

Tanyong replied.

"I just wanted to wipe Linda's face and eyes so she'd be more comfortable,"

Rose explained.

"Do you really think I would go any further? Oh... then when you said you'd do it, just how far did you intend to go?"

After Rose's remark, both she and Dr. Fang turned their gaze to Tanyong in unison. While Dr. Fang's gaze wasn't as striking, the way Rose looked at her with a sly smile made Tanyong feel uncomfortable. She started feeling uneasy.

"Well, when you wipe someone down, you have to take clothes off, touch, and see things, don't you?"

Tanyong said, her voice gradually growing softer as she realized she might have made a mistake.

"Yong..."

Dr. Fang spoke after letting out a sigh.

"Linda just passed out from drinking. We're just wiping her down so she can rest more comfortably..."

lWith that, Dr. Fang moved from wiping Linda's face to gently wiping her arms and legs.

"And the kind of wiping you're talking about, with taking off clothes, touching, and seeing? That's better reserved for when Linda has a fever, don't you think?"

Tanyong, feeling chastised by Dr. Fang's gentle but firm words, could only blush in embarrassment. Dr. Fang's gaze had softened, but it was tinged with pity, which made Tanyong feel even more flustered.

She realized she had let her imagination run wild. Glancing at Rose, she noticed that Rose was holding back a smile, her lips tightly pressed, and turning her head away.

Tanyong felt like Rose might have intentionally made things seem worse than they were. She was irritated, but since she had already misjudged the situation, she decided to stay silent to avoid further embarrassment.

As she turned her attention to Linda, who seemed to be stirring and muttering, she decided to distract everyone by raising her voice.

"Hey, I think Linda is waking up."

Linda, after being wiped down, began to regain consciousness. She tried to open her eyes, still groggy, and when she saw the three beautiful women staring at her, she furrowed her brows.

"Huh? Dr. Fang... Rose... Tanyong... What are you all doing here?"

Rose quickly moved closer and smiled at her.

"You had too much to drink, Linda, so you passed out."

Linda let out a soft groan in her throat. That's right, she had been drinking with Rose in front of the house. Suddenly, she started feeling sleepy and couldn't keep her eyes open. She had no idea when she fell asleep. She turned and gave Rose a sheepish smile.

"I'm sorry, everyone. I must've caused trouble for all of you."

"Does your head hurt, Linda?"

Dr. Fang asked.

"It's throbbing a bit. I guess I really did drink too much. My first time drinking and it hit me this hard."

Linda spoke weakly, causing the three women to smile.

"Linda, if you don't know how to drink, you should've told me."

"Sorry, Rose. I just wanted to try it, but I must've gotten carried away."

Tanyong raised an eyebrow when she heard them speaking. The change in how they referred to each other clearly indicated a closer bond. What bothered her more was that she had been trying to get Linda to stop calling her "Ms." for so long, but never succeeded.

"Linda, I think you should lie down upstairs. It'll help you feel more comfortable."

Linda nodded in agreement with Dr. Fang, and the three women helped the drunk girl upstairs. After getting Linda settled on the bed, Dr. Fang spoke to the groggy girl.

"I've placed some medicine for your headache on the table. If you're still in pain when you wake up, take it. I'll come check on you tomorrow morning." Dr. Fang then turned to the other two, suggesting that they leave.

Once outside the house, Tanyong noticed Dr. Fang locking the door behind Linda. She raised an eyebrow, looking at the doctor with curiosity.

"Dr. Fang, do you have a key to Linda's house?"

When Tanyong asked, Rose also turned to look at Dr. Fang, intrigued.

"Yes, Linda gave it to me a long time ago. I've only just used it now."

After Dr. Fang finished speaking, she excused herself and went back inside, leaving the two women to look at each other, both feeling slightly unsettled. For the first time, both women thought the same thing without any prior agreement.

**Hmm... could the most formidable rival be this beautiful, cold-faced doctor after all?**

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# Chapter 07

After the chaotic events of the previous night passed, everything returned to normal. The four women became busy with work as they entered the last two weeks before the New Year festival.

Dr. Fang had just finished her shower when she heard the sound of the doorbell ringing. She thought to herself that there was only one person who would usually visit her at this hour.

So, she casually grabbed a bathrobe and tied it securely around her waist before walking downstairs, drying her hair along the way. She opened the door to welcome her evening guest but was surprised to see that it wasn't who she expected.

"Yong?"

Dr. Fang greeted in surprise.

Tanyong froze for a moment, looking at the homeowner. Dr. Fang, with her Korean-style features, appeared at the door in a bathrobe, one hand drying her damp hair.

Her bare face, free of makeup, revealed smooth and radiant skin, making her look younger than her age, even though she had already reached her thirties. A faint scent of soap lingered in the air, causing Tanyong to unknowingly take a deep breath.

"Is there something you need, Yong?"

Dr. Fang asked, breaking the silence as she noticed Tanyong staring at her.

"Um... Do you have any adhesive bandages at home?"

Tanyong quickly replied, regaining her composure and masking her admiration for Dr. Fang. Hearing this, the doctor instinctively scanned her guest for injuries. Her eyes landed on Tanyong's left pinky toe, where a tissue was loosely wrapped and stained with blood.

"Come inside. I'll take care of it for you,"

Dr. Fang said, opening the door wider.

Tanyong hesitated, refusing to enter.

"It's okay. I just need a bandage. I ran out at home."

Dr. Fang ignored her words, leaving the door open as she walked back inside. Her tone became slightly firmer,

"Come in."

Tanyong pouted and quietly mimicked Dr. Fang's stern tone as if mocking her. But in the end, she stepped inside.

After waiting on the soft living room sofa for a while, Dr. Fang returned with a first-aid kit in her hand. She sat down on the floor in front of Tanyong. Surprised, Tanyong instinctively pulled her foot back and tried to stand, but Dr. Fang gently pushed her shoulder, signaling her to sit still.

"Sit still. I will clean your wound."

Tanyong felt a bit strange. Even though she appeared confident and tough, she had graduated from a school where good manners were strictly taught. So, it felt odd for Dr. Fang, who was older than her, to sit lower than her and be so strict about proper behavior.

"Doctor, please sit next to me,"

Tanyong said.

Dr. Fang ignored her request and asked,

"How did you get hurt?"

Tanyong glared at her but answered softly,

"I bumped my foot on the table."

Dr. Fang couldn't help but hide a smile. Everything about Tanyong was great, but she seemed to trip up on her own clumsiness.

"Focus your mind. It'll get better."

Tanyong sighed,

"I've had this for a long time. It's probably won't get better."

Before she could finish speaking, she flinched in pain as Dr. Fang applied medicine to the wound. She tried to pull her foot away, but Dr. Fang had already held it firmly, so she stayed still, blowing on her foot to ease the sting.

A soft laugh came from Dr. Fang's direction. Tanyong turned her head and realized how close her face was to the doctor's.

She froze, her heart racing. She had gotten so close that she could feel the doctor's breath. Dr. Fang noticed her gaze and immediately stopped smiling.

Tanyong stared at her, feeling light-headed. The scent of soap from Dr. Fang's freshly washed skin made her dizzy. The bathrobe added to her thoughts-wondering what else might be underneath. Her face, calm with a hint of redness, was now right in front of her. She couldn't help but wonder how soft those lips might be.

As these thoughts ran through her head, the distance between their faces closed without her realizing it.

Before anything could happen, Dr. Fang turned away to finish treating the wound and spoke softly, her cheeks slightly flushed,

"I think... the wound this time wasn't because you were clumsy."

Tanyong quickly sat up again, feeling awkward, not knowing what to do with her hands. She brushed her hair back and rubbed her face, trying to calm herself down. She spoke to Dr. Fang without making eye contact,

"If it wasn't because I was clumsy, then what do you think it was?"

Dr. Fang glanced at her from the corner of her eye and answered,

"You were drunk."

Tanyong immediately frowned and opened her mouth to argue,

"No, I wasn't! I did drink, but not enough to get drunk."

"Don't make excuses,"

Dr. Fang said, pressing her lips together before continuing,

"The smell gave you away..."

This time, Tanyong didn't argue. She sat there, her face red, uncharacteristically quiet.

After finishing the wound treatment, Dr. Fang put the first-aid kit away and returned with a glass of water. She sat down next to Tanyong and handed her the glass.

"Thank you,"

Tanyong said as she took the glass but simply held it, not drinking. She was already thinking about leaving; staying longer would only make things more uncomfortable.

She had never been alone with Dr. Fang like this before, especially since she had been treating her as an adversary from the beginning. Acting friendly now felt awkward and unnatural.

"Drink all of it," Dr. Fang said calmly.

Tanyong glanced at her, slightly annoyed.

"I'm not thirsty. Thanks for treating my wound, but I think I should go now. I don't want to bother you."

"Finish the glass first,"

Dr. Fang insisted, gently pulling Tanyong's arm to stop her from standing.

"Dr. Fang, I'm not thirsty!"

Tanyong replied, her voice rising in irritation. Why was the doctor being so insistent?

"Drink it. It'll help dilute the alcohol in your system. Otherwise, you might bump into something again,"

Dr. Fang said, her tone softening.

"I'm not drunk!"

Tanyong protested but softened her tone as well.

"Are you sure about that?"

"I'm positive! I'm completely fine, clear-headed, walking straight. Not drunk at all. Got it? Okay?"

Tanyong replied confidently, raising the glass to take a sip, trying to appear cool.

**"Then, what was that earlier when you almost kissed me?"**

*"Pffft!"*

Tanyong spat out the water she had just sipped, coughing and sputtering. Dr. Fang had to pat her back and clean up the mess with a towel, shaking her head in exasperation.

"Are you feeling better now?"

Tanyong avoided eye contact, nodding awkwardly. Inside, she was fuming. Why did Dr. Fang have to bring that up and make the atmosphere even more uncomfortable?

"Honestly,"

Dr. Fang said with a small sigh,

"I've always had a sense of what kind of person you are. But I didn't think you'd be bold enough to try something like that with me. Especially since you usually seem to dislike me."

*Still... it's not stopping...*

Tanyong didn't know where to hide her face. Why did Dr. Fang keep teasing her? This woman was so cold-hearted! Tanyong could only turn her face away, trying to make a weak excuse.

"I didn't try to kiss you, doctor. You're imagining things!"

Dr. Fang looked at Tanyong, who had turned her face away. But the tips of her ears, now clearly red, gave her away. The doctor felt amused. She must be really embarrassed. Fine, Dr. Fang decided to let it go-for now.

Even though she was sure that if she hadn't turned her face away earlier,

Tanyong's lips would have touched hers for sure. She wasn't sure what Tanyong was thinking to make her want to kiss her, but judging by the faint smell of alcohol, she had a good guess-it was the alcohol talking.

"So, why did you come to me for medicine? Isn't Lin at home?"

"I don't know,"

Tanyong answered, avoiding eye contact.

"I haven't visited for a few days."

"That's strange."

Dr. Fang squinted her eyes as if trying to read Tanyong's face.

"It's nothing. I just..."

Dr. Fang waited for her to finish, but Tanyong didn't say more. So the doctor had to ask,

"Just what?"

"I just... feel like Lin has found her person."

Silence fell between them.

Dr. Fang thought Tanyong must feel quite heartbroken. But after watching her face closely, she didn't seem as upset as expected. That gave the doctor some relief.

"You've accepted it already?"

Tanyong nodded.

"It's strange. I'm not as sad as I thought I'd be. Lin has always made it clear she sees me as a friend, but..."

She stopped again. This time, Dr. Fang guessed right.

"But you feel embarrassed, don't you?"

Tanyong turned to Dr. Fang with wide eyes.

"How do you know that, doctor?"

"With your personality, I bet it's about your pride. You're not used to rejection, right? I'm guessing you've never failed at flirting before."

Tanyong frowned. She didn't want to admit it, but deep down, she knew it was true. So she stayed silent, neither confirming nor denying it.

Dr. Fang looked at her sulking face, which reminded her of a child who didn't get what they wanted. She found it endearing and gently patted Tanyong's head.

"It's okay. Learning to deal with failure helps us grow stronger."

Tanyong's heart skipped a beat at the soft touch of Dr. Fang's hand on her head. She looked into the doctor's calm, Korean-featured face. The person she used to dislike suddenly seemed so reliable.

They locked eyes for a long moment before Dr. Fang finally broke the silence.

"Also... I think you still have so many options, Tanyong. You won't feel sad for long. I hope you find happiness with someone new."

Someone new? Tanyong thought to herself. It was true-she had plenty of people on her list. But for some reason, no name came to her mind right now.

Instead, the only person she could think of was someone who had never been on her list before.

The person who had suddenly taken the lead over everyone else.

The person she was locking eyes with at that very moment.

But how could she dare to flirt with her?

*Oh no...*

"What is it now? Why do you look like that? If you have something to say to me, just say it,"

Dr. Fang said, looking slightly uneasy.

This was exactly the problem. She acted so confidently like this-how could anyone dare to flirt with her?

Tanyong sighed, then tried to come up with a clever plan.

"Doctor."

"Yes?"

Dr. Fang tilted her head, waiting to hear more.

"Well..."

But Tanyong hesitated, unsure of how to begin.

"Come on, Tanyong. You're not usually like this."

"Heh... I just wanted to say that at first, I was planning to celebrate New

Year's Eve with Lin. But now, I think it's not such a good idea anymore."

"Yes, I agree. I think Lin is already taken by someone else."

"So now... I want to ask for your help."

"Sure. What is it?"

**"Will you celebrate New Year's Eve with me "**

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# Chapter 08

Today, Tanyong took her staff out for a party before the busy New Year season. Of course, the restaurant would be especially hectic during the holidays.

She chose this day because everyone was free at the same time. She and Fern, her bespectacled business partner, decided to close the restaurant for one evening just for this occasion.

Now, it was almost midnight, but the party was still going strong. After all, it was a rare occasion for the two owners to treat everyone to unlimited alcoholic drinks.

"Lately, you haven't been talking about Lin at all,"

Fern said when Tanyong sat back down at the table after dancing wildly with the staff. "Well, I've given up,"

Tanyong replied.

"What? You? Giving up? Did Lin ignore you or something?"

"Something like that. I met a tough competitor, so I decided to back off."

"Usually, you're the type to fight head-on, though."

"Just let it go. Don't ask too much. I'm heartbroken."

"Heartbroken? Please. I haven't seen you sulk even once,"

Fern said with a suspicious look.

"A little bit, okay?"

"Strange,"

Fern muttered, narrowing her eyes.

"It's not strange."

"It is strange! Don't tell me... you've got someone new in mind!"

Fern pointed a finger at her friend.

Tanyong pushed her hand away.

"Can't you just not interfere for once?"

"You're hiding something from me, aren't you? You never used to hide anything. Who is it? Tell me."

"Not telling."

"Tanyong! The more you hide it, the more I want to know!"

"You don't have to know everything. You're my friend, not my mom."

As soon as she finished speaking, her phone rang. Her eyes widened because she instantly recognized the ringtone-it was set specifically for her mother. She had just mentioned "mom," and it was as if her words summoned her.

"Wow, how magical," she thought.

Without wasting time, Tanyong quickly answered the call, her voice dripping with sweetness.

"Hello, Mom! I was just thinking about you!"

"Tanyong, you're so loud! I told you, didn't I? At this hour, you're still out?"

"No, not at all. Today I took the restaurant staff out for a meal before the year-end rush."

"Don't lie to me, Tanyong. Don't party too much. I'm worried about you."

"I'm not lying, Mom. I really brought the staff out. It's over now, and we're about to head back."

(She waved her hand, signaling to her friend to get the bill.)

"And have you done a health check-up lately? You've been working so hard."

"I'm only 28, Mom. I'm strong, don't worry."

"I still worry, because you're just like this."

"Like what, Mom?"

"You know, the way you are. Always going out with this person and that person. I've never said anything about who you date, but could you settle for just one, please?"

"I've never dated more than one person at a time, Mom!"

"Alright, I won't argue. But I've already bought a health check-up package for you. Go get it done before the New Year."

"Ugh, Mom, I don't have time!"

"I don't care. I already bought it. It's up to you-either get it done, or come back home. If I can keep an eye on you, I won't worry."

"Moooom..."

"That's final. If I find out you haven't gone for the check-up before New

Year's, pack your bags and come home for good. I'll send your brother to pick you up."

With that, her mother hung up the phone.

Tanyong sat there holding her head while Fern, her bespectacled friend, patted her shoulder in sympathy, having overheard the entire conversation.

"Don't worry, just go get the check-up like your mom wants. That's all you need to do."

"Yeah, yeah, I guess I have to. I'll take leave tomorrow."

"Tomorrow? After drinking so much tonight?"

"Oh, right. Then the day after tomorrow."

After settling the bill, she told everyone to head home before it got too late.

It wasn't just to avoid staying out late-she was terrified her beloved mother might call to check on her again!

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Finally, today Tanyong had to go for the health check-up as per the package her mom had bought for her. To be honest, she had never done anything like this before. Thankfully, the hospital was a private one, so the process was more comfortable than she expected.

Moreover, this was the same hospital where Dr. Fang worked. If she was lucky, she might even bump into her while walking around. Tanyong thought to herself with a cheerful mood. First, she went to the nurse's counter to confirm the details of her check-up program. She was eager to get it done quickly so she could use the time to look for Dr. Fang.

However, her mood didn't stay cheerful for long. After completing the blood test, chest X-ray, and ECG, the same nurse came to call her again. "Ms. Tanyong, you can sit and wait outside examination room number 2. You won't have to wait long, there's only one person ahead of you."

"Is it not finished yet? I thought I was done,"

Tanyong asked, surprised.

"There's just the internal exam left. It won't take long."

Tanyong's eyes widened. She grabbed the brochure detailing the check-up program, which she had casually glanced at earlier, and began reading it more carefully. Only then did she realize that the program her mom bought for her included an internal exam.

Now, Tanyong was sitting in front of examination room number 2, palefaced. There was only one person ahead of her, just as the nurse had said, but it didn't make her feel better. She wasn't ready for this. Why were there so few people waiting for this exam?

If her blood pressure were taken now, there was no doubt it would be skyhigh. She felt so dizzy that she had to rummage through her bag for some smelling salts, taking a few deep breaths.

A woman in her late thirties, who had been waiting before her, turned and smiled at her. She must have noticed how tense Tanyong looked, so she struck up a conversation.

"Is this your first time here?"

Tanyong jumped a little, then turned to look at the woman and gave a weak smile.

"Yes."

"Don't be scared, the doctor is very gentle. I've been coming here for three years now."

"Really? Doesn't it hurt?"

"A little, but not too bad. You still look young though, why are you getting checked so soon?"

"Uh... well, my mom made me do it,"

Tanyong replied. She knew her mom probably thought she was involved with too many people and might be worried about her catching something, so she planned for her to come here.

*Oh, mom...*

The door to examination room 2 opened, and a middle-aged woman stepped out, followed by the nurse calling for the next patient.

"Don't worry,"

The woman smiled at Tanyong again before walking into the room with the nurse, leaving Tanyong sitting alone, pale-faced.

Tanyong wasn't sure how much time had passed, but she could tell it had been a while. Even so, it still felt too fast. She wasn't ready. The woman who had gone in before her walked out, and the nurse called her name.

Once inside, the same polite and kind nurse instructed Tanyong to sit on the examination chair, adjusting her posture correctly before saying,

"Please wait a moment, the doctor will be right in."

Tanyong closed her eyes, feeling a sense of unease that she couldn't shake. She was sitting in an unfamiliar, awkward position that made her feel out of place.

She couldn't bring herself to open her eyes, just hoping that the doctor who would come in was a woman.

And then, her wish was granted. She heard the doctor's footsteps, followed by the rustling of paper as they likely opened a patient file. The doctor then greeted her with a sweet voice,

"Hello, Ms. Tanyong?"

Tanyong's heart skipped a beat, and she opened her eyes in shock. **...Dr. Fang!!**

Despite the mask covering half of her face, Tanyong immediately recognized her eyes and familiar voice. It was Dr. Fang.

Damn it.

Why had she never thought to ask what kind of doctor Dr. Fang was? She had always been so focused on other things. If this was fate smiling on her, then fate was clearly playing a cruel joke today.

Tanyong felt like banging her head against the examination chair, just to escape from this situation.

She had never been shy, and in her whole life, there had been few instances where she felt embarrassed.

But this... this was beyond embarrassing.

*She was sitting with her legs spread open in front of the very person she liked!*

No, wait. No one had ever seen her like this before.

But to her surprise, Dr. Fang seemed very professional. After a brief pause, she quickly regained composure and acted as if nothing was unusual, proceeding with the exam like a regular patient visit.

"Is this your first time getting this check-up?"

Dr. Fang asked as she typed something into the computer.

"Yes."

Tanyong responded quietly, her voice softer than usual.

"So, were there any abnormalities before you decided to come for a checkup? Or did you just want to get checked?"

"No."

She answered, her words minimal, clearly not eager to elaborate.

Dr. Fang looked at her, blinking for a moment, before standing up and moving closer. She put on rubber gloves and began preparing some equipment that Tanyong couldn't quite see, as the nurse had draped a cloth over her knees earlier, covering her lower half.

Before proceeding, Dr. Fang asked,

**"Have you ever had sexual intercourse before?"**

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\*

A brief silence followed. Tanyong turned her head away from her gaze, her voice barely audible as she muttered,

**"Um... no, I haven't."**

Had she dared to make eye contact, she might have seen Dr. Fang struggle to maintain her professional composure. She couldn't quite suppress a smile at the response.

...Dr. Fang couldn't help but smile.

# Chapter 09

Today, Linda stopped by Tanyong's restaurant to have lunch. Her friend, Aoi, who owned a large plant shop called Tree Me, had come to visit her at home, and Linda decided to bring her out to eat.

After they had ordered their meals, Aoi casually asked,

"So, how's it going with Rose?"

Linda's eyes widened at the question.

"What? Aoi, why are you asking like that? What do you mean by 'how's it going'? She's a customer!"

Aoi chuckled.

"Come on, Linda, with friends, you don't need to hide things."

"I'm not hiding anything! There's nothing between me and Rose. We're just neighbors, that's all."

"Nothing? But you call her P' Rose so naturally, huh?"

"Well, we're close... but it's not like what you think."

"Stop being stubborn and hard-headed! P' Rose is a good person. All the guys who are her customers try to flirt with her, you know? If you don't act quickly, you might miss out."

"Come on, Aoi, P' Rose isn't like that with me."

"Linda, seriously. She even moved next door to you just to be closer. I'm totally rooting for you two."

"Rooting for what? She just happened to move next door. I don't even know how she feels about me."

Linda's expression soured, showing how uncomfortable the topic made her.

"Ugh, fine. Let me ask you this, if you knew for sure that she liked you, what would you do?"

"I... I don't know. I can't answer that because I still don't know how she feels."

"She likes you."

"Why are you so confident about someone else's feelings, Aoi?"

"I'm not confident, I know. And I've known for a long time."

"Huh? What do you mean by that?"

"She met you when she came to buy plants at our store a few months ago. After that, she kept stalking and following you."

"What?! Really?!"

Linda's eyes widened at what her friend was saying.

"I'm the one who gave P' Rose all your information, like your address, phone number, email, and Facebook. And then P' Rose used your Facebook to keep an eye on you."

"P' Rose? The one who's so private and reserved? She stalked my Facebook?"

"Yeah, she even watched you when you went to buy plants. A lot."

"...."

"I've been cheering for her to make a move on you for a long time, but she didn't. So, I had to trick her by telling her that you were about to start liking someone else. That's when P' Rose finally decided to try making a move."

"....."

"Then, when I told her that someone like her would totally fit your type, she went and bought the house next door to you! And then she acted all casual and came to see you at the store that day."

"Wait, wait-what did you say?! My type?"

Linda blinked, still processing everything her friend had said.

"Yeah. Or do you want to argue with me?"

Aoi smiled confidently, crossing her arms.

"Ugh... I won't argue."

"See? So, now that you know all this, what are you going to do? You should hurry up and do something."

Aoi's words made Linda feel like she couldn't just sit back anymore, but she still wasn't sure what she could do about it. Plus, P' Rose had been working out of town for the past few days, and Linda had no idea when she'd be back.

The meal eventually ended on a pleasant note. As Linda was about to leave, she noticed Tanyong walking out of the kitchen and decided to stop and chat with her for a moment.

"Hey, Tanyong,"

Linda greeted with a bright smile, causing Tanyong to pause in her steps after handling some business with a friend.

"Linda!" Tanyong beamed.

"Here to eat?"

"Yeah, I just wanted to come say hi. It's been a while since I've seen you. Work has been keeping you busy?"

"Just a bit, you know how it is with the holidays coming up." "I heard Dr. Fang mention that she hasn't seen you in a few days,"

Linda remarked casually.

Tanyong paused for a moment, feeling her face heat up as she recalled the events that had just occurred. It was clear that she was avoiding Dr. Fang now. She responded to Linda with a hesitant voice,

"I've been coming home late every day."

Linda tilted her head, noticing Tanyong's strange behavior and the clear flush on her face. She couldn't help but grin mischievously, her excitement rising.

**"Ohh... something's changed. Did something good happen between you and Dr. Fang?"**

Tanyong became even more flustered and tried to avoid the conversation.

"No, no, Linda. There's nothing going on... Uh, I have to go back to the kitchen now. Let's talk later."

Linda watched her friend quickly leave, her eyes sparkling with excitement. She was already imagining all sorts of possibilities between the two of them.

'*Oh, Linda, you're really tickling my heart.'*

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Finally, New Year's Eve arrived. The store was busier than usual, but still manageable for the mini-sized shop owner. Linda had just finished arranging a bouquet of roses when her assistant, Wan, returned from delivering flowers to customers.

The shop offered free delivery within a 5-kilometer radius, but anything beyond that required either a delivery service or customers picking it up themselves.

"Does this bouquet need to be delivered, P' Lin?"

Wan asked after noticing Linda finishing up the arrangement.

"This one, the customer will pick it up themselves. They just called and requested it urgently, so I prepared it first,"

"Alright, I'll go take care of the things in the back then."

"Okay, I'll wait for the customer,"

Linda said as she continued to arrange flowers. A bell rang at the door, and someone walked in with a smile on their face. It was someone Linda hadn't seen in three days.

"Rose! You're back already?"

Linda greeted warmly.

"Yes, just finished work. I just got back."

"Did you come to see me, or was there something else?"

"Actually, I came to pick up the flowers I ordered."

Linda smiled, but her heart secretly hoped that P' Rose wasn't just here for business but might have come to see her because she missed her, or maybe just wanted to pop by since she was in the area.

Linda hadn't expected that Rose had a purpose in mind when she came to pick up the flowers. She was slightly hurt that Rose hadn't informed her about it earlier. It seemed that if it weren't for the business, she wouldn't have come at all. Linda pouted in silence, her thoughts drifting far off.

"So, what kind of flowers did you order, P' Rose? Why didn't I know about it?"

Linda asked, trying to sound casual.

Rose bit her lip to suppress a smile as she noticed the small glare Linda was giving her. Linda probably didn't even realize how cute she looked, annoyed by something so minor. Rose was amused. Rather than being happy that she had ordered the flowers, Linda seemed upset.

"I had someone call to order the flowers before I left the office,"

Rose explained, trying to hide her smile.

"It's a bouquet of roses. Did you finish arranging it?"

"Oh, yes, it's done,"

Linda replied, handing Rose the freshly arranged bouquet.

"Is this the one you ordered?"

"Wow, it's beautiful. Thank you so much. The recipient will definitely be happy,"

Rose said, receiving the bouquet with excitement, a little more than necessary, which made Linda feel a twinge of annoyance.

"If the recipient is happy, it's probably because you took the time to pick it up yourself, not because it's pretty,"

Linda commented, her voice a bit teasing.

Rose raised an eyebrow, her tone turning playful.

"Is that what you think?"

"Yes, I think the value isn't in what you get, but in who gives it to you,"

Linda replied with a smile, not realizing how much it hinted at her own feelings.

"So, if I gave it to you, would you be happy?"

Rose asked, her tone almost playful yet serious.

Linda froze, momentarily caught off guard by the question.

"Why would I be happy?"

She responded, trying to keep her composure.

"Because I gave it to you,"

Rose said with a slight smirk.

Linda was taken aback, her mouth hanging open.

"Wait, when did you give it to me?"

She asked in confusion.

Rose reached into her pocket and handed her a card.

"Here, this is the card I prepared to give along with the flowers."

Linda quickly grabbed the card, still processing the situation. She opened it and began reading, not realizing what it said until she finished:

***Will you be my girlfriend?***

Linda's eyes widened as her heart raced. She wanted to scream in excitement, but she kept her expression neutral. Her mind was swirling with emotions, but she didn't want to let Rose know how she felt.

She chose to avoid directly answering the question posed in the card, hoping to buy some time before responding.

"Would you be happy to receive flowers you arranged yourself?"

Rose teased, knowing Linda was already flustered.

"Hold on, is that the point?"

Linda replied, trying to stay composed but still avoiding the topic at hand.

Rose smiled mischievously.

"The card, Linda. Read it and kindly give me an answer."

Linda continued to feign ignorance, hoping to sidestep the conversation.

"The card, please,"

Rose said, holding it out.

"Read it and answer me."

Linda hesitated, her fingers gripping the card tightly.

"Linda... are you going to answer or not?"

"If you don't answer, I'll just take it to someone else,"

Rose said dramatically, turning as if to walk away from the shop.

Linda's heart skipped a beat at the thought. She couldn't let that happen. Without thinking, she shouted,

"Yes! Yes, I'll marry you!"

Rose paused, barely containing her laughter.

"Haha! What? I asked to be your girlfriend, not to marry you."

Linda's face turned bright red, realizing her blunder. She had responded too quickly and used the wrong words, completely missing the point.

"Oh my gosh, P' Rose!!"

Linda groaned, covering her face in embarrassment as Rose burst into laughter, thoroughly enjoying the moment.

# Chapter 10

Dr. Fang sat staring at the digital clock next to the flat-screen TV, which was placed in front of the couch. It was 9:49 PM on December 31st.

Not long ago, she had just sent a couple of guests home. And it wasn't just any couple-it was the young woman from the house across the street. But today, Linda didn't come alone. She came with her companion, none other than Rose, but in a completely new and official relationship status.

Dr. Fang had suspected it all along, but it had happened sooner than expected. Still, she knew that when it came to love, it's always hard to predict the outcome.

Sometimes you think it's right, but then suddenly it's not. Or sometimes, love just hits you when you least expect it, just like with Linda and Rose.

Dr. Fang glanced at the basket that Linda had given her. She couldn't help but smile to herself. Linda had always been kind and thoughtful. She had never stopped checking in on Dr. Fang. And now, with Rose by her side, Dr. Fang could only wish them the best for their relationship.

From the look on Linda and Rose's faces, it was clear they were genuinely happy together. But then, there was the other person-the beautiful but clumsy girl from next door.

Dr. Fang hadn't seen her since the day they met at the hospital. It was so quiet around her house, almost as if no one was living there. And it was true-no one had been. Dr. Fang knew because she had been quietly watching every day.

Normally, the girl would stay at someone else's place from time to time, but she always returned within two or three nights. This time, however, she had been gone for almost a week.

Dr. Fang was pretty sure that Tanyong was avoiding her. While she could understand why, it didn't stop the feeling of disappointment. It was as if she had done something wrong, even though she hadn't.

After all, Tanyong had come to her for a check-up, and Dr. Fang had done her job well. There was nothing to fault.

What made her feel worse was the thought that maybe Tanyong had forgotten about their appointment.

Had she really forgotten, or was there something else going on?

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*"Please come and count down the New Year with me."*

Dr. Fang closed her eyes. She had worked hard to change her shift so she could get home early. She hoped that even though Tanyong was avoiding her, she would still keep her promise and come.

But maybe she was hoping too much.

Dr. Fang looked at the clock again. It was 11:26 PM. She gave up, stood up, turned off all the lights in the house, and then walked to the couch.

She decided to sleep there tonight because she was too tired to go up to her bedroom on the second floor.

But just when she was about to close her eyes, the car headlights shone through the house and then passed by. After a while, the car engine turned off.

Dr. Fang jumped up immediately. Did Tanyong come home?

Without waiting for too long, Dr. Fang walked to the window and peeked through the curtain. She saw Tanyong get out of the car. But she didn't go into the house. She just looked at Dr. Fang's house. Dr. Fang smiled to herself.

At least Tanyong didn't forget.

But Dr. Fang knew she shouldn't expect Tanyong to come in. After a big sigh, Tanyong turned around and went into her house.

That's okay. Dr. Fang wasn't asking for much. She was happy as long as Tanyong came home tonight.

Even if Tanyong was avoiding her, Dr. Fang knew that if she really wanted to meet her, it wouldn't be too hard.

Dr. Fang smiled a little, then went upstairs to her bedroom, thinking about what to do next.

A while later, Tanyong had just finished taking a shower. She took a thin tank top and white pants and put them on. Then she looked at the clock on her nightstand. There were only five minutes left until midnight.

She still had some time. She grabbed her robe and put it on. She turned off the lights in her bedroom and made it dark. Then she carefully pulled back the curtain and looked outside.

She looked at the house next door. She knew Dr. Fang's room was in the same place as hers. The light was off, and the room was quiet, just like when she first came home.

After she was sure Dr. Fang was asleep, Tanyong opened the balcony door. She stepped out and leaned against the railing. She enjoyed the cold winter air.

Her eyes looked at Dr. Fang's bedroom window.

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Tanyong had already planned to count down the New Year with the doctor.

Even though she was too shy to meet her face-to-face, she secretly came back late at night. She hoped the beautiful doctor would be asleep by then, and she would just stand here on the balcony to count down.

Not in front of her, but at least she could count down from the balcony. Tanyong smiled at her own thought and looked up at the sky, waiting for the fireworks to explode and fill the sky with loud sounds from all directions.

But then, while she was lost in thought, the familiar sweet voice called out from the opposite balcony.

"Yong..."

Tanyong quickly turned her head toward the opposite balcony. Dr. Fang, dressed similarly to her, wearing just a robe over her pajamas, was standing with her arms on the railing in the same way as Tang Yong.

Her pale, Korean-style face smiled at Tanyong in a way she had never seen before. Her hair, which was usually tied up neatly, was now loose, flowing gently in the breeze.

Tanyong wasn't sure if Dr. Fang looked even more beautiful than usual because she hadn't seen her face for a few days.

Just seeing her now made her realize that the short time she had been avoiding Dr. Fang made her miss the beautiful doctor so much.

Before Tanyong could say anything, Dr. Fang spoke again.

**"Happy New Year, Tanyong."**

As soon as Dr. Fang spoke, the fireworks in the sky exploded, filling the air with light and sound. Both Tanyong and Dr. Fang looked up at the sky, filled with colorful fireworks that lasted for several minutes.

After everything settled down, Tang Yong kept her gaze on the sky until she was sure there was nothing more. Then, she lowered her head and looked at the opposite balcony again.

But then, she was caught by the gaze of the person on the other balcony, who she didn't know had been staring at her for how long. This made her feel a bit embarrassed.

"Doctor?"

**"Uh... Happy New Year, Dr. Fang."**

Dr. Fang still didn't stop looking at her.

"I've counted down with you, just like I promised."

"Uh... yes, thank you,"

Tanyong replied, still unable to make eye contact with Dr. Fang.

"Yong..."

"Yes?"

"Should I come to you, or do you want to come to my room?"

"Eh?"

Tang Yong didn't understand what Dr. Fang meant.

Dr. Fang sighed.

"We need to talk... Now, you choose. Should we talk in your room or mine?"

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Tanyong sat nervously on Dr. Fang's bed, not daring to look at her. Instead, she looked around the room, left and right. "How can I make things go back to normal?"

Tanyong asked.

Tanyong just sat quietly.

"We need to talk. Otherwise, we'll just keep getting further apart until there's nothing left to talk about,"

Dr. Fang said.

Tanyong quickly looked up. "No, I don't want that to happen."

This made Dr. Fang smile.

"I don't want that either... I just want us to talk and understand each other."

Tanyong nodded, but when she remembered that Dr. Fang had done her physical exam, she felt embarrassed again and had to close her eyes.

"It's hard to accept, Doctor... When I think about how you saw everything about me, I still feel embarrassed."

"Well... I understand how you feel. But I asked, what do I have to do so things go back to normal?"

"I don't know. Maybe it just takes time."

"No, no. You've had time all week, and I don't see things getting better."

"Then, do you have any good ideas?"

"Actually, I have two ideas. Let's try the easier one first."

"What's that?"

Tanyong started to be interested.

"We just talk, and try to break the ice."

"Okay, I'll try."

"Alright, let's start. I've always understood that you, well... have been with many people, as a flirt, but you told me you've never had sex?"

"I just like to go out, and the most I've ever done is kiss." Dr. Fang held back a smile.

"And what about when you go sleep at other places?"

"At Dad's house."

"Really?"

"Sometimes. If I get too drunk to go home, I sleep at a friend's house. But most of the time, I go back to sleep at my house."

Dr. Fang smiled a little.

**"Ah, so all the Casanova stories are just exaggerations?"**

Tanyong gave Dr. Fang a playful glare.

"You're just trying to trick me into answering your questions. Let's skip to the second method. The one you said is harder."

Dr. Fang laughed softly before gently holding Tanyong's face with both hands, making her look into her eyes.

"The second method is harder, but I think you'll like it more,"

Dr. Fang said. Then she slowly leaned in and kissed Tanyong lightly.

Even though it was supposed to be a soft, gentle kiss, Tanyong couldn't help herself and started to kiss more passionately, pulling Dr. Fang closer. Dr.

Fang had to push her back to catch her breath, giving her a playful glare.

"I really do like the second method more,"

Tanyong said softly.

"Actually... I was just getting started. The second method is a lot more than this."

Tanyong's eyes widened.

"How much more?"

Dr. Fang threw a pillow at Tanyong before replying,

"You don't need to know. After just that kiss, you're already back to normal. I'd say the lesson is over."

"Wait, Doctor. I'm still not okay. I'm still too shy to look at you, and my heart is still hurt."

"You're still shy? But the way you're looking at me almost strips me naked."

"No, that's not true."

"You can go home now, Tanyong. I'm going to sleep."

Dr. Fang lay down and pulled the blanket up to her chin.

"No, I'm staying here,"

Tanyong said. She ran to turn off the lights, then jumped into bed with Dr. Fang, snuggling into the same blanket.

"Hey, Tanyong, I didn't say you could join me."

"I don't care. I'm staying. You've seen everything about me, so now you have to take responsibility for me."

"Can I really do this?"

"I don't care. I like you, so you have to take responsibility."

"What's going on?"

Doctor Fang, who seemed like she was going to turn away, changed her mind and turned back to face her. This time, Tanyong was already looking into her eyes. She stared for a long time until she was sure enough to say something.

"I like you, Doctor. Even though I just realized it not long ago, **I'm sure I like you... a lot...** That's why I'm so embarrassed that the person I like has seen my body completely, every part of it... I just want you to know this. That's all. Good night."

After saying that, she turned over and faced away from the doctor.

Doctor Fang smiled slightly and watched Tanyong's back for a long time. She watched so long that she thought Tanyong had fallen asleep.

Then, suddenly, Tanyong spoke again in the silence.

"So, how far should we really go with the second method?"

The doctor couldn't help but laugh softly before answering in a quiet voice,

"Well... the point where we can see each other naked, and not feel embarrassed anymore."

After the doctor finished speaking, Tan Yong gasped,

"Really!"

She seemed excited and was about to turn back to face her. But Doctor Fang, who had been waiting for the right moment, quickly pushed her shoulder to stop her from turning.

"Lie down," she said.

Tanyong grumbled a little, but in the end, she lay still and obeyed.

Time passed, and Tan Yong still couldn't sleep. She didn't even dare to check if the doctor was asleep, so she just lay there with her eyes wide open. Then...

"Yong..."

The soft voice came again in the darkness.

"Earlier, when you said you felt so embarrassed because the person you like saw every part of your body... I don't think you said it correctly..."

Tanyong stayed quiet, listening carefully to what the doctor was going to say.

"Because I've never seen your upper body..."

**"And actually, I really want to see it..."**

"That's why, how about we try dating each other?"

And how the last night of the year for these two people would end, no one could know... except the two of them on the same bed.

# Chapter: The Farewell

The sunlight came in, waking up the person lying in bed. The first thing she felt was the soreness in her body. She had never used her body this much before.

She turned to look at the person next to her, who was still sound asleep, even though the sunlight was shining directly on their face. She was surprised. How could she still be sleeping?

She slowly got up, carefully lifting her naked body from the bed. She pulled the curtains together to block the sunlight and then gently got back into bed, making as little noise as possible.

"Hmm... Where did you go?"

The person beside her finally woke up, even though the sunlight had been shining for a long time.

"Did you wake me up?"

"Did I wake you?"

Tanyong smiled and shook her head, even though her eyes were still closed. She had forgotten that their way of talking had changed since last night.

"No, I usually don't wake up easily. But when you disappeared, I was worried."

"I just went to close the curtains. The sunlight was in your face."

Tanyong turned and hugged the person beside her, pressing her nose against their cheek. After a while, she started laughing. Doctor Fang raised an eyebrow, curious.

"What are you laughing about?"

"I'm laughing at us from last night. How did we even come up with that second method? We really went for it so easily."

Doctor Fang hugged Tanyong back, then pressed her lips to her forehead.

"I'm not easy. I agreed because... I love you."

Tanyong lifted her hand to cover her face, shaking her head.

"Oh, that's sweet. If I knew this earlier, I would have tried to date you sooner."

"Did my way work? You’re not shy anymore."

Tanyong thought to herself. Of course, how could she not stop being shy when they had already seen, touched, and tasted everything equally?

"Is this really how you are, Doctor Fang? Should I be suspicious?"

"Suspicious about what? You know how I usually am."

But then Tanyong suddenly remembered something. She quickly sat up, making the blanket slide off her body. Doctor Fang quickly grabbed the blanket to cover her up again, but Tanyong sat there, still showing her bare upper body. Doctor Fang thought to herself,

*How could she not be embarrassed after all that?*

"I just remembered something. Doctor Fang, answer me right now!"

"What? Aren't you embarrassed?"

Tanyong ignored her.

"When did you have something with Lin?"

"What!! What do you mean by that?"

The doctor frowned.

"Don’t hide it. I heard you talking to Lin. You were even talking about taking off clothes. What did you do? When? Where? Are you still together?"

"Wait... Did you eavesdrop?"

"Yes, if I didn't eavesdrop, how would I know your secret?"

Doctor Fang looked at Tanyong, who was still sitting there, showing her body. She sighed and shook her head.

"Well, if you eavesdropped, then that’s how it is. If you didn’t realize last night that you were the first one, I don’t have anything else to say."

After saying that, she threw off the blanket and stood up, walking naked into the bathroom. Tanyong was so lost in thought, staring at her body as she walked away, that she didn’t realize what she was thinking until she was out of sight. She smiled widely.

Actually, she didn’t mind things like this, but thinking that they were each other’s first, she couldn’t help but feel a little excited.

**She should have noticed last night that neither of them was experienced.**

It would take a second or third time before they got it right.

But now was not the time to think too much. She quickly jumped up and ran straight to the bathroom door, knocking on it.

"Doctor!! Beautiful Doctor Fang!! Can I take a shower with you?"

And guess what? Will the person inside open the door?

Well, no... because the door wasn’t locked...

.

**--------THE END-------**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**AND**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**12 Dec'24**