

Trapped In Paradise

Volume 3 Chapter 21 / Chapter 526: Uncle

When Ning Chu tiredly stepped out of the bathroom, she happened to catch sight of Black Bean turning into a blur as she dashed toward the bedroom.

Ning Chu frowned suspiciously. In her mind, she could already picture Black Bean pressing herself against the bathroom door, eavesdropping.

The lingering aftereffects hadn't faded yet, and another blush spread across her cheeks. Covering her face in embarrassment, she felt that her image in Black Bean's eyes had probably been completely ruined.

Then again, Black Bean had already witnessed her intimate moments with Wen Yang before—though back then, Black Bean had still been just a cat.

"Seriously... so sudden..."

Fortunately, it hadn't happened at school. Otherwise, she would probably have had to drag Wen Yang out of the classroom in a hurry while a bunch of sharp-nosed beast-girls watched knowingly and the teacher looked completely confused.

Ning Chu hesitated, not daring to enter the bedroom and face Black Bean. But the black box she had taken out earlier now had nowhere to be hidden.

If she shoved it back under the bed, Black Bean's curiosity would definitely drive her to pull it out and see what was inside.

With a sigh, she walked to the living room and collapsed face-first onto the sofa, burying her burning face in a cushion.

It had to be because Wen Yang hadn't "fed" her enough before leaving a few days ago. Otherwise, how could she be having trouble after less than three days?

So it was all Wen Yang's fault!

She felt restless all over.

Compared to Wen Yang, those toys were hopelessly inferior.

After lying on the sofa for a few minutes, Ning Chu pushed herself up and called toward the bedroom:

"Black Bean!"

"..."

"Black Bean? Come watch TV!"

She planned to lure Black Bean out of the bedroom with television so she could hide the box properly.

"Big Sis! I'm doing my homework!"

Today, however, Black Bean was unusually obedient—so obedient that it felt strange.

Normally, Black Bean hated homework with a passion. Her mind was always on having fun. Whether it was watching TV or going outside, anything that wasn't homework would immediately get her attention.

A puzzled expression appeared on Ning Chu's face. Then she suddenly realized the remote control was underneath her, pressing uncomfortably against her body.

It had been on the coffee table earlier.

"Black Bean! Did you secretly watch TV?!"

Suddenly, Ning Chu relaxed.

So that was it.

It wasn't that Black Bean had overheard anything—she had simply been sneaking TV time while she was busy in the shower.

Otherwise, how could this cat be even more guilty-looking than she was?

A moment later, Black Bean's little head poked out from the bedroom. Sure enough, guilt was written all over her face. Her beautiful cat-like eyes didn't even dare meet Ning Chu's gaze.

Still, she stubbornly insisted, "I didn't... I've been doing homework the whole time."

"Come here! Watch TV!"

"Really?" Black Bean hesitated, afraid it was some sort of trap. "What if Mom sees me..."

"She just left and won't be back until six or seven. There's no way you've been doing homework the entire time."

Her eyes immediately lit up. She rushed over and leaped onto the sofa in a single bound.

Ning Chu seriously doubted the sofa would survive more than a few years.

Before long, Black Bean was completely absorbed in the television. She had started out sitting properly on the couch, but somehow ended up right in front of the TV, looking as though she wanted to crawl inside the screen.

Only then did Ning Chu get up and tiptoe back to the bathroom, where she carefully put away the large box full of toys.

Black Bean didn't notice a thing.

After hiding it, Ning Chu called out to her from the bedroom.

"Black Bean, I'm going to take a nap. Turn the volume down and don't make too much noise."

"Big Sis, how come you sleep even more than I do?"

"Just watch your TV and quit talking back."

Ning Chu casually shut the door.

"Wake me up at four this afternoon. Don't forget."

"Okay~"

Normally, she didn't have a habit of taking naps. After all, she ate well, slept well, and was usually full of energy.

But during these few days at home, she was bored out of her mind. With nothing else to do, taking an afternoon nap was about the only way to pass the time.

Besides, she felt exhausted right now.

Back then, all she had to do was lie there and let Wen Yang do whatever he wanted...

Resting her head on the pillow, she had barely closed her eyes when scenes of her time with Wen Yang began replaying endlessly in her mind. Eventually, her consciousness drifted into a haze.

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The sound of voices outside woke Ning Chu up.

Yawning, she rolled over and opened her bleary eyes.

It seemed she'd had a dream about Wen Yang thoroughly satisfying her...

Though she couldn't remember the details anymore.

Rubbing the corners of her eyes, Ning Chu listened to the sounds outside and vaguely made out a deep, booming voice.

Mom and Uncle were back already? That was early.

She picked up her phone and glanced at the time, only to discover it was already a little after five o'clock. Black Bean had never come to wake her up—she must have gotten completely absorbed in watching TV.

Looks like she'd be staying up late tonight.

She lay in bed for a while, waiting for the dizziness from oversleeping to fade, when her mother suddenly knocked on the door, startling her.

"Get up already. Do you plan on sleeping tonight or not?"

"I'm awake!"

"Your uncle bought lobster. Hurry up and get out here before it gets cold."

"Okay~"

Ning Chu stretched her body taut, raising her arms high and arching her back off the mattress.

She quickly got up to leave the bedroom, but suddenly remembered the tail behind her and the cool little tank top she was wearing.

At home, she usually didn't wear a bra. The slightly loose tank top made it easy to accidentally expose herself from the side, revealing the pale curve of her breasts. It wouldn't matter much if her mother or Black Bean saw, but Uncle was a different story.

After locking the door, Ning Chu changed into a conservative set of loose pajamas. She tucked her tail inside the roomy pant leg and put on a bra to prevent any wardrobe mishaps before finally leaving the room.

Her mother was lounging on the sofa playing with her phone. Beside her sat Black Bean, gnawing on a lobster head. In the kitchen, the rugged-looking man was busy cooking.

Although she'd known Uncle for several years, they hadn't actually met that often, so Ning Chu still felt somewhat reserved around him.

A few years ago, Uncle had been quite fit, but now his stomach had started to bulge a little. Already suffering from hair loss, he had simply shaved his head completely. Combined with his stern, rough features, the bald look made him appear somewhat intimidating. If he put on a suit, he'd probably look exactly like a stereotypical gang enforcer.

Yet this "gangster" was currently occupied in the kitchen, wielding knives and cooking utensils.

"Mom, you just got back from a business trip. Why is Uncle cooking while you're relaxing here?"

Ning Juan shot her daughter a mock-annoyed glare. "Go eat your lobster and stop talking so much."

After teasing her mother, Ning Chu happily trotted over to the dining table. At a glance, she spotted the enormous lobster tail.

The lobster had been split in half, exposing plump, tender white meat garnished with shredded scallions. The rich aroma made her mouth water instantly.

"Isn't Black Bean eating any?"

"I'm coming in a minute! Don't eat my half!"

Black Bean was still wrestling with the lobster head, chewing on one of its long antennae without even looking up.

"Mom, should I save some for you and Uncle?"

Just then, Uncle emerged from the kitchen carrying a basin filled with freshly sliced raw lamb.

"Eat it yourself. No need to save any for us."

His voice was exceptionally loud, making Ning Chu rub her ears.

"I bought you a pair of shoes. See if you like them."

Setting down the lamb, Uncle somehow produced a shoebox and handed it to Ning Chu. Before she could even thank him, he chuckled and headed back into the kitchen.

Every time they met, Uncle would bring her a gift of some sort. She seriously suspected it was bribery—to make sure she wouldn't oppose his marriage to her mother.

Ning Chu eagerly opened the shoebox and found a pair of transparent crystal sandals inside.

Delighted, she accepted them without hesitation.

A bribe was a bribe~

Besides, she'd always had a pretty good impression of Uncle anyway.

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Link for character illustration:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IxOucqi87ss3bmqfO9zI2gYiM1Gy8Hz2>