

## Sweet tooth

### BIGHIT Cafeteria – 3.09 PM

Lexi and Namjoon sat across each other, enjoying their meals. Meanwhile, a deafening silence reigned over the room. The cafeteria was empty. Lunch time being over, all employees went back to work.

Namjoon was a good eater; Lexi, on the other hand, barely finished her plate. She was too busy gazing at him to eat. As her stomach growled, she was lost in her own thoughts: to be seated in front of her mentor, actually sharing a meal, although amidst an eternal silence, was not how she imagined her day to turn out, especially after the mini-heart attack she had earlier.

Feeling her gaze haunting him as he ate, Namjoon raised his head glancing at her. His sudden move startled Lexi, who immediately looked back at her plate.

“Are you okay? You haven’t touched your food” he pointed out.

“Y-Yes, I’m fine. I was just thinking ...” she stopped herself, unsure what her next words would be  
“Never mind” she resumed.

“What’s on your mind?” he asked, eager to find out what was going on inside the new trainee’s head.

“I was just thinking that we should probably head back to work. I have a lot of catching up to do, and the sooner I get back to the studio the better so I can ...” before she could finish her talk, he called her name, interrupting her appeal.

“Alexandra” he paused “you should give yourself a break”.

Hearing his words, she grabbed her fork and started playing with her food, flustered by her mentor’s verdict. No matter how physically tired she was, she liked to overwork herself because it prevented her from overthinking; her latest stickler was her father’s recent outburst. A brief but acute sound of a candy wrapper caught Lexi’s attention, breaking her chain of thought.

“That’s bad for your teeth, you know” she claimed as Namjoon put a lollipop in his mouth. He’d often eat one whenever he was busy writing; it somehow triggered his inspiration. However, he recently grew a habit of having one every now and then, which did not go unseen by Lexi.

“I didn’t know you were a dentist” he teased, continuously sucking on the lollipop.

“It just so happens that I am one. Well, I used to be anyways” she revealed, remembering that particular chapter of her life.

For the next hour, Lexi reminisced about her old life. She told Namjoon about her upbringing, her academic studies, and her sudden interest in Literature. She also revealed her past and recent issues with her intolerant father. She expressed herself comfortably, her hand gestures following her monologue in an artistic way, captivating her audience.

Namjoon listened to her as she communicated her feelings freely. Unlike the timid character she showed when working together at the studio, her spirit outside work felt liberated, much to his surprise. He enjoyed her incessant chatter, and he had yet to learn about her true self.

“Do you have a sweet tooth?” he asked out of the blue.

Lexi, caught off guard by the question, responded shyly “I do enjoy frozen yogurt occasionally”.

“Come then” he insisted “I know just the place”.

#### **Yogorino – 4.12 PM**

The pair jumped in the car and headed to the venue. Back home, Yogurt was Lexi’s comfort food and she hasn’t had any since she set foot in Seoul. Her enthusiasm about the idea slowly faded as she remembered Namjoon’s idol status.

“Are you sure it’s wise for you to expose yourself in broad daylight?” she worryingly wondered.

The rapper showed her some props that he usually kept in the car: a beanie, a mask and sunglasses.

“Problem solved” he cleverly asserted “Besides, the taste is worth being busted for”.

On their way to the shop, Lexi took advantage of the long ride to look up a new scriptum online to add to her collection. Glimpsing at her phone, Namjoon could only just spot a display of numerous book covers onscreen.

“Are you an avid reader?” he stated, referring to the content of her gadget.

“Oh yes, I’m quite the bookworm. I finished the books I brought with me and I am looking for something more intriguing for my next review” she clarified “It’s part of my studies”.

By the time their little discussion came to an end, the car stopped in front of the store. The shop was packed, making it impossible for the idol to go in unnoticed. As he wore his accessories and meant to exit the car, Lexi held him by the shoulder, pulling him back in.

“There is no way I am letting you leave the car” she exclaimed “I have read enough about *sasaeng* fans to know that an idol should not be spotted by one. I refuse to be bullied on my day off”.

“My face is covered, I will not be recognized” he debated.

“Clearly, you underestimate the power of *sasaengs*. You do know why people call them that, right?” she cynically argued “I’ll order for the both of us. Do you have any preferences or will a Lollipop-flavored yogurt do?”

After deciding upon the order, Lexi left the car unaware that her phone fell off her lap. The screen was unlocked, and Namjoon managed to read her latest search entry which spelled “Herman Hesse”; he was familiar with the name. Once he saw Lexi approach the car with their desserts in both hands, he locked the phone and slid it his way to make room for her as he opened the door.

On their way back home, Namjoon became quite talkative. He mostly talked about the books he read that has left an impact on him, the artists that influenced him as he rose to fame, and he shared some anecdotes of him during the debut era. When he was expressing himself, a wide smile was drawn on his face, showing off his dimples. The latter set Lexi in such a joyful mood that she wished he’d never stop talking.

### **External Dormitory – 7.15 PM**

The twosome’s little hangout came to an end as Namjoon dropped Lexi off at her residence. She stepped out of the car, and bid him farewell with a bow, grateful for her first day off in weeks.

“*Kamsahamnida*, Namjoon-ssi. I will see you tomorrow at noon sharp” she notified.

“I hope this little break was of help. I expect you to regain enough energy to pick up again where we left off in our training sessions” he reminded her.

Before she entered the building, Lexi watched the car drive off. Once the elevator reached her floor, she locked eyes with a certain David heading out of his dorm room.

“David!” she excitedly shouted “You will never guess what happened to me today”.

“Well, hello to you too” he responded, glad that he was finally able to get a hold of her.