

Lost in translation

It's been a happy couple of weeks for Lexi. Earning herself a new status in the company enabled her to share her experience and make use of her talent to help a rising idol. On the side, she finally allowed her heart to love again, truly madly deeply. Even her classes became less stressful as David stopped bullying her around. All was well in Lexi's life: A mended heart, a peaceful mind and a healed soul.

In the meantime

Autumn was two months away. Lexi counted the days as she trained with Shinah and helped her build her confidence when delivering the lyrics. Although the fresh trainee had her own training sessions on the side, she felt more comfortable rehearsing in her mentor's presence. Her debut single being ready, she needed to do her best in order to become one with the song, be it during the MV filming or the debut live performance.

While Sunnie gave her maximum effort in the isolation booth, Lexi watched her from the control room, showering her with thumbs up every now and then to boost her self-esteem. Listening to the future idol's life story through a mix of Korean and English verses serenaded her, almost disconnecting her from the real world.

A pair of hands resting on Lexi's shoulders brought her back to reality. Startled at first, she quickly turned around to identify the perpetrator: it was none other than Kim Namjoon. Due to his packed schedule, the couple hasn't seen each other in a while, which made every moment they spent together valuable.

"Finally!" Lexi yelled as she threw herself in Namjoon's arms.

"Miss me?" he held her tight in his embrace.

"It's about time you showed up, I was slowly losing my mind" she dramatically whined.

"I'm here now" he pacified her "Are you almost done? I brought us late lunch".

"That would be early dinner for me, but I wouldn't say no to food either way" she jested.

The pair started getting intimate but were interrupted by Sunnie clearing her throat via the microphone "I'm still here you know, I may not hear you but I can see you through the glass".

Namjoon laughed at the awkward situation they've put themselves in, while Lexi covered her face in embarrassment "That's all for today Sunnie-Ah, you can go home".

"Or you can join us for lunch if you want to" Namjoon suggested.

"*Kwenchanayo*" the newbie sought herself out "If I stay near you any longer, I am going to lose what's left of my appetite" making her *sunbaes* chuckle at her objection.

The love birds seated themselves comfortably on the couch. She rested her head on his chest as usual while he playfully ran his fingers through her hair; whenever they met, they spent most of their time displaying their love in motion rather than words. Forgetting about food altogether, they caught up on their lives' schedules and events.

"How is practice? Are you guys still busy with rehearsals?" she asked.

"I've been rehearsing for extra hours. Being the group's Dance prodigy, I must make sure to deliver in our future performances" he sarcastically replied.

"Only Kim Namjoon would make fun of himself and sound confident at the same time" she commented.

"Isn't that why you fell for me?" he taunted her some more.

"Actually, your gray hair attracted me the most" she returned the favor "And your rap skills, but mostly the hair".

Upon hearing Lexi's answer, Namjoon squeezed her face, bringing her cheeks together. As she complained from the pain he caused her, she couldn't help but comment further "*Yeokshi*, you are the God of destruction".

"Let me fix that for you" he apologetically suggested. He started planting kisses all over her cheeks, tickling her in the process. She put one hand on her face to make him stop his silly game. As he stepped backwards, she put her other hand on the nape of his neck, bringing him closer to her "If you want to fix it, do it right".

Namjoon leaned forward towards Lexi, putting all of his weight on her. He brushed his lips against hers and she countered his move with a light peck. Making eye contact, he locked her lower lip between his, initiating a deep kiss.

As they both closed their eyes, he swept the tip of his tongue over her lip in one swift motion, to which she responded with a soft moan. He playfully tagged her tongue lightly, making her reciprocate by gently touching his in a flirty way. As their tongues intensely engaged, their hands studied each other's bodies. While she placed her hand on his back and tightened her grip on his shirt as the kiss became sensational; he rested one hand on her hip and placed the other one on the back of her neck to dominate the kiss.

Breaking free from their moment and resting his head on hers, he gazed at her "Better?"

"Perfectly" Lexi smiled, slowly catching her breath from the steamy make out session.

Minutes later, the idol's phone rung: the other members were waiting for him to carry on with practice.

"Aish ... Time's up *Jagi*" he stood up "I have to get going".

She pouted "*Arasseo*. When will I get to see you again?"

"This week is pretty crammed but I'll tell you what; next weekend I'm taking you out on a date" he announced.

"Ouh, an actual date?" she wondered ecstatically.

"Yes, a proper one. We still didn't have our official first date" he clarified.

Hearing his reply made her jump out of joy. She never complained about his busy life, fully understanding his idol obligations, but she always felt saddened by his short visits and long absences. Pleased with his offer, she stood on the tip of her toes to meet his height, her arms surrounding his waist "I will hold you to your offer".

"It's a promise, baby" he tucked her hair locks behind her ears and cupped her face to steal a quick kiss before leaving for work.

A week afterwards

This week was the slowest. Lexi was longing for the weekend to finally get a tête-à-tête with Namjoon. Promising her a decent first date, she rushed home after work to get ready.

After taking a nice bath, she took the time to do her hair: she usually wore it in a pony tail or a messy bun style, and rarely let it down. This time, she made sure to curl her locks in order to put emphasis on her look. On the bed was her dress for date night: a sleeveless flowery pink knee-length dress with little berry red spots in the center of each flower, perfectly matching her red shoes. By the time she was touching up her makeup, a triple knock on the door announced Namjoon's arrival.

"*Jagi*, I'm here. Are you ready?" he shouted, after unlocking the dorm's door.

"In a minute" she asked him to wait in the living room while she picked her handbag. As always, his sense of fashion never disappointed: he was wearing a crimson jacket on top of a white collar shirt with a pair of blue jeans and black shoes.

Amazed by her boyfriend's outfit, she teased "And I thought I was the one to steal the spotlight tonight".

The moment she revealed herself, Namjoon couldn't take his eyes off of her "You look as beautiful as ever".

He kissed her on the cheek and handed her a little black box wrapped with a white ribbon "I know that flowers aren't your thing, so I hope this one will do".

Lexi opened the box. To her surprise, it contained a red velvet cupcake topped with a rose-shaped frosting.

Pleased, she pointed out "Ouah! You know me so well!"

"I'm glad" his genuine smile dimpled his cheeks.

She put the pastry in the fridge and smooched him "*Komaweo Ramonie*".

"My pleasure" he planted a kiss on her temple "Shall we?"

The chauffeur was waiting for the couple downstairs. Namjoon has set a classic date: dinner and a movie. On their way to Itaewon, they confirmed their reservation at Eid Restaurant. The venue was small, which made it easier for them to get a hold of the whole place for the night. The food was delicious, the service was satisfying and the ambiance was just right: everything was perfect.

Soon after they finished their meal, they arrived just in time to catch the last projection in the movie theater. Arrived at the Sweetbox Theater, they took a seat in the middle of the last row of the room. It took Lexi a minute to realize that the theater was booked as well.

“This is one expensive date you have put together” she noticed.

“The way I see it” he complimented her “It’s an expensive date for my favorite girl”.

“The way I see it” she winked at him “one of your old mixtapes is going to resurface by the end of the night”.

The displayed projection was a sequel to one of Lexi’s favorite movies. Namjoon gave a lot of thought to make this date perfect. The theater’s best feature was the couples’ seating, which allowed the love birds to snuggle up comfortably.

Despite being excited for the new movie, Lexi couldn’t help but fall asleep during the last half hour. When she woke up, the end credits were already onscreen.

“Great, now I have to watch it all over again” she sighed.

He patted her on the head in a comforting manner “*Kwenchana*, let’s leave it for another date”.

On their way back home, they passed by **Han River**. Lexi has always wanted to walk along it but the place was of too much exposure to her partner. For that reason, she was content to simply see it through the car’s window while cuddling with her lover. As the car stopped in front of the dormitory, Namjoon stepped out of the car and held the door for his date. He walked her back to the door.

“Tonight was the best date I’ve had in my entire life” she thanked him.

He grinned “Tonight was the best date because you were part of it”.

Putting her arms around his neck, she chuckled “Ah Namjoon, you can be so cheesy at times”.

“But it works every time” he argued with his hands in his jacket’s pockets.

“It does” she confirmed “Do you want to come in for some frosting?”

Two weeks later

Sapped by work and studying for finals at the same time, Lexi needed some time off. Unfortunately for her, this required a sacrifice from her side. Hearing Namjoon access her place, she hid under her blanket and held on to it in a tight grip.

“Wake up sleepy head!” he shouted from the entrance “We have twenty minutes before sunrise”.

She shoved her head under the pillow “I changed my mind, let’s just sleep in”.

“*Ya Jagi*, we barely find time for suitable hangouts. Besides, this was your idea” he hugged her on top of the blanket before he snatched it and uncovered her “*Ppali*, get up”.

Grunting, Lexi finally subdued to his pleas. She only slept three hours and she could barely keep her eyes open; she needed to finish up some work late at night to be able to enjoy her half-day off.

Dragging her feet, she eventually washed up, changed into a plain gray T-shirt and sweatpants and styled her hair in a pony tail. She picked up an already packed bag on the bedroom’s floor and met Namjoon in the kitchen.

“I got us some snacks. I wanted to cook but it won’t stay warm until lunch time” she apologized.

“That’s okay, baby” he reassured her “Besides, eating will be the last thing on our mind today”.

“It’s always the first thing on mine” she cynically objected.

Holding her bag for her, Namjoon locked the apartment and the pair took the elevator. The chauffeur was waiting in the car: Kim Suro-ssi was the designated driver for all of their dates and escapades; he was basically their cupid.

“*Annyeonghaseyo Ahjussi*” she greeted “Long time no seen”.

Viewing her on the rear-view mirror, he responded with a nod. He was a very quiet man, which made their car dates exclusively comfortable. They had breakfast in the car before heading to their first location, which embodied Lexi’s favorite spot: **Han River**.

Reaching their destination five minutes before sunrise, they arrived just in time to witness the sun rise from the depth of the river. Lexi wasn’t much into nature, but this specific location held a deep meaning for her. Soon after viewing the sunrise, they rented a couple of bicycles and went for a

speedy stroll along the river. The early morning was the only time they could afford to properly enjoy such public activities.

After they ended their Tour de Han, the pair hopped again in the car to go to the second location: the beach. They argued for days about having an outside date, and they couldn't make up their mind whether it should be a picnic or a day at the beach. They eventually agreed on a picnic at the beach.

"Ouah! The sea is so calm, it must be pool day" she exclaimed.

After picking a spot out of sight, they set their parasol, laid a huge blanket on the sand and started feeling the weather. Lexi took off her sweats revealing a one-piece navy blue swimsuit and applied sunscreen on her body. Namjoon on the other hand, kept his baggy black outfit and put his sunglasses on.

"*Aigoo*, Namjoon you're no fun!" she complained "What's the point of coming to the beach if you're not going to swim or tan?"

He teased her "I am as tan as any Korean could get. All that matters is that I'm with you".

"Great. I wore this swimsuit for nothing" she repined further.

"I wouldn't say it was for nothing" he lied down on the blanket and motioned her to sit by his side "I like what I'm seeing".

Namjoon was right: as long as they found time to spend with each other, that was all that mattered. They didn't need conversations to feel close, although their little chats seemed endless at times. Spending a whole day on the beach woke Namjoon's inspiration; he started drafting some lyrics on his phone.

"*Jinjja* babe, do you ever rest?" Lexi sighed.

"I do whenever I'm with you" he replied, winning the argument in a matter of seconds.

By lunch time, Lexi picked up a couple of sandwiches from her bag along with two bottles of water and napkins.

"Quite the snacks you got there" he goaded her "I didn't know you were a chef".

"I am not" she pushed him "I ordered these at 2 AM. God bless 24 hours delivery services".

The couple enjoyed their lunch and crowned it with a long cuddly nap. The peace and quiet was everything they needed for the time being; their busy lives worn them out so much that they usually slept in each other's company.

A heavy wave swashed on the shore, waking Lexi. The sun was about to set. She turned to her partner only to find him sound asleep. She contemplated Namjoon's features in admiration as he slept: His breathing was slow but regular, and his eyelids twitched every now and then. While he lied there peacefully, Lexi realized that she was the luckiest girl in the world to have him in her life.

Waking him up with a sensational kiss, she left his side to get dressed and pack their things; the late afternoon's breeze sent chills all over her body.

"Get up Namjoon! We have one last thing to do" she shouted from afar.

After he folded the parasol and the blanket, he ran to her in full speed. They walked hand in hand by the beach, feeling the waves wash their feet as they drowned deeper in the sand. It was a beautiful day, and they completed their sunrise sightseeing with a beautiful sunset. Sneaking behind her back, Namjoon lifted Lexi off the ground and twirled her in circular moves. She begged him to stop as she got easily dizzy. Finally granting her wish, he put her down and turned her to face him.

"Was today of your liking?" he inquired, hoping for her approval.

"It was everything I wanted and more" she pleasantly replied. While she tiptoed for a kiss, he raised her and held her up in the sky for a moment, before lowering her to meet his height. Planting a soft peck behind her ear, he finally put her down "Let's go home".

A month thereafter

It has been exactly two months since the pair officially became an item. Lately, they could barely find time to spend with each other, but they knew they should make the most of it before BTS's scheduled comeback and Sunnie's expected debut.

Lexi invited Namjoon over for an indoor date. Since he only had a couple of hours for lunch, she promised him a decent home cooked meal. Namjoon wasn't a picky eater, and his favorite food mainly consisted of pasta; which made the task simple for his girlfriend.

While her date picked up his phone from his backpack and left it on the living room floor as he sat comfortably on the couch, Lexi took her time in the kitchen.

Setting an apron on her black crop top and short skirt, she started by making a treat to serve for dessert. Moving on to the main dish, she simmered water and put some Linguini in the cooking pot, then sliced the chicken breasts and mushrooms into cubes. It was her easiest recipe and Namjoon's favorite dish.

Installed at the dining room across each other, the couple enjoyed their meal. Soon after, Lexi served dessert: a crème caramel pudding, satisfying Namjoon's sweet tooth. As she reached out to feed him the first spoon, he missed half of it and dropped it on his white shirt, missing his white shorts by this much.

"Aigoo, must I ask you to open wide? Look at your shirt!" she scolded him.

Leaving her seat, she dragged him to the kitchen to clean his shirt. She opened the water tap and dampened a napkin to scrub the stain off.

"Aish, this won't do it! The spot won't come off" she sighed in frustration *"Take it off, I will wash it and dry it for you"*.

Namjoon instantly succumbed and removed his shirt, revealing his upper body. Bewildered, Lexi froze unable to take her eyes off of his torso. Sensing her heavy breathing, he stepped forward as she took a few steps back. Jamming her against the kitchen counter, he blocked her way on both sides with his bulky arms, leaving her trapped in-between.

Feeling his breath down her neck, Lexi gulped and tried to outwit him *"the washing machine is over there"*.

"But I haven't had my dessert yet" Namjoon flirtatiously stroke her neck with his fingers.

The next thing she knew, Lexi found herself on top of the kitchen counter with Namjoon's hands on her hips. Placing his lips near her jaw line, he initiated a series of slow wet kisses down her neck giving her shivers. Soon enough, she grabbed his shirt and put both her arms and legs around his body while he supported her by positioning his hands under her rear.

"Shirt ... Wash ... Rehearsal" she stuttered mid-kiss.

Namjoon carried her to the laundry room. On their way, he bumped into his backpack: the kick dropped a parcel from it. The package was neatly wrapped in a hot pink wrap with a purple bow on top and a little note: to Alexandra from Namjoon, with love.

The stumble brought Lexi back to her senses “*Eomo*, what’s that?”

“Aish ... You weren’t supposed to see that. I was going to leave it on your bed before I head back to practice” he groaned, almost dropping her from his grip.

While still clinging to his body with her legs, Lexi arched her body backwards to pick up the package. Unwrapping the exterior, she found a large rectangle-shaped box. Opening it, she did not expect to see what her eyes just laid upon: An English copy of **Demian**.

“*HEOL!* No way!” was all she kept repeating for a while “I’ve been looking for this ever since I set foot in Seoul. How did you know?”

He took a seat on the couch with her legs still wrapped around him “It was a lucky guess. **Herman Hesse** was all over the office’s search bar, and you’re quite the truest BTS fan” he insinuated.

“Kim Namjoon, you sweep me off my feet every time I get to know you a little more” she joyfully stated “*Jeongmal Komaweo*”.

Lexi showed her gratitude with a heartfelt kiss. Suddenly, an incoming call killed the mood. The couple deliberately ignored the repeated phone ringing but whoever was calling did not seem to give up. Flustered, Lexi picked up her phone: the caller’s ID made her instantly jump off Namjoon’s lap and answer the call.

“Hello?” she said the minute the line opened. She went to the laundry room to wash Namjoon’s shirt while conversing with the mysterious caller. The conversation lasted for about ten minutes.

Although she has hung up, Lexi remained in the room. Growing anxious, Namjoon decided to check on her. He entered the room to find her sobbing as she was seated on the floor: her face read mixed emotions of shock, confusion and sadness. Taking a seat by her side, he wiped her tears and put his arms around her, gently patting her back. He then lifted her chin until her eyes met with his.

“Alexandra is everything okay?” he asked in a low pitch.

Unable to look him in the eye, she mumbled “Namjoon, we need to talk”.