

The ultimate gift

Present day

A month has passed since Lexi came back to Korea. She has been yearning for the soul city, her rightful home. Getting back with Namjoon after being away for so long, retrieving her contract with BIGHIT Entertainment and working on her book's Korean version were the main pillars of her current life: Everything fit altogether like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

BIGHIT Entertainment, 7th floor – 2.18 PM

Lexi wrapped up her work in the studio with Sunnie and headed upstairs. She often visited Namjoon at work since he rarely came down due to his busy schedule. On the plus side, the fact that she got acquainted with the other members allowed her to be more comfortable in their presence: the maknae line was the closest to her and they eagerly waited for her visit as much as their leader did.

Upon accessing the floor, Lexi found her partner in the recording room concentrated on a draft while blasting his headphones with a fresh beat. She approached him and slowly removed his headphones "Ramonie, are you all set? It's time".

Realizing that the thought has totally slipped his mind, Namjoon tried to buy himself some time "In a minute, *Jagi*. I just need to get this checked ..."

"... After we get back" Lexi grabbed his wrist and dragged him out of the room "We have been planning this for a long time, I am not cancelling again".

Namjoon tried to plead his case but his words failed him. He couldn't even tell her that he hasn't packed yet "B-But *Jagi*, I still haven't ..."

"*Jagi* asked Jin-ssi to pack a bag for you because *Jagi* knew that you will forget, yet again" she lovingly jested him "*Kaja!* The plane leaves in a couple of hours. We still need to check-in and you know how much I hate waiting in line".

Lexi has been planning a getaway vacation with Namjoon for weeks. But every time a commercial film or a photoshoot popped up, they had to reschedule. They haven't had some alone time since they reunited outside the country, and an intimate weekend is exactly what they needed.

Jeju Island, The suites Hotel – 3.09 PM

The flight to Jeju only took an hour but the couple fell asleep the minute they boarded the plane. Their busy schedule didn't help much either as it drained them from their energy: all they had in mind at the moment was to get to their destination and sleep it off.

The pair checked-in once they arrived at the hotel; their room was set on the 20th floor. As they accessed the elevator, Namjoon sighed "It's going to be a long way until we reach our room".

"I can think of a thing or two to pass the time" Lexi winked at him deviously.

Smirking at her plea, Namjoon crudely approached Lexi, pinning her against the wall right under the elevator's camera. With both of his hands on her hips, he leaned towards her until his lips met her neck and gently sucked on her skin, leaving a hickey on the spot. Lexi bit her lower lip and placed her arms around his waist, pulling him closer by his rear. Grinning at her gesture, Namjoon lifted her and put her legs around him, then drew her in for a peck. The couple lost each other in a lustful wet kiss until they reached their floor.

As the elevator's doors opened, Namjoon and Lexi chuckled at their little venture; he then slowly put her down and held her hand while exiting the elevator. Lexi raced Namjoon to the room and motioned him to chase after her.

Upon entering room 1209, they gasped at the interior design. Lexi has made sure to get her hands on the best room in the hotel: a VIP suite that contained various areas: in addition to the main bedroom, the place included a sitting room positioned in front of the fire place and a small dining room set on the balcony. At the far end of the room, a Jacuzzi was built and fully equipped.

"Ouah! This is beautiful!" Lexi exclaimed "If only we could spend the whole weekend indoors".

"That can be arranged" Namjoon winked at her.

Lexi met his answer with a light smirk "But first, let's get something to eat. I'm starving".

While she called room service to order lunch, Namjoon threw himself on the bed and sunk in the softness of the silk sheets. Soon after their luggage arrived from the front desk, Lexi opened her bag and picked a towel.

"Babe, I am going to clean up. Get the door when food arrives, okay?" She requested.

"*Arasseo*" Namjoon replied.

Once Lexi left the room, he grabbed the phone and called the room service back "*Annyeonghaseyo*. We just ordered food a few minutes ago; could you please postpone it for a couple of hours? We'd like to make it an early dinner. *Kamsahamnida*".

Namjoon took his clothes off, keeping only his briefs, and headed to the bathroom. When he opened the door, his partner was wearing nothing but her underwear and facing the mirror.

"Hey *Jagi*, can I join you?" he glanced at her silhouette with desire, hoping for an invitation.

"Not now Namjoonah" Lexi stared at his reflection through the looking-glass "I just want to take a quick shower and rest".

Namjoon stood behind her and placed his hands on either side of her arms. While gazing at her image in the mirror, he smoothly loosened her bra straps and watched them fall off her shoulders. Coming near her ear lobe, he softly whispered "It won't take long, I promise".

Two days later

Once their romantic weekend came to an end, the lovebirds showed up at the company first thing in the morning. While Namjoon went straight to the recording room to resume his work, Lexi headed to the cafeteria for a fresh drink before meeting up with Sunnie. Upon accessing the site, she spotted the dance line at the checkout.

BIGHIT Cafeteria – 9.01 AM

"Good morning boys" she waved at them from afar "Are you here for breakfast?"

"Hello *Noona*" **Jungkook** greeted her back "We're actually taking a break from our dance practice".

Lexi glanced at the boys in amazement "This early? It's barely 9 AM!"

"If we don't work hard, there won't be good results" **J-Hope** intervened.

"We were about to sit. *Noona*, please Join us" **Jimin** offered; the other members nodded in agreement.

Lexi accepted the boys' offer "*Komaweo* Jiminah. So where do you guys usually sit?"

The group grabbed their respective seats at a table near the cafeteria's main door. Hoping to start an exciting chatter, V deliberately asked "Noona, how was your weekend? What were you guys up to in Jeju?"

"Ya taehyungah!" J-hope scolded him "You can't ask Lexi-ssi that, it's personal".

"Kwenchana, Hobi" Lexi assured him "Jeju was refreshing. It was exactly what we expected, thank you Taehyungie. How was yours, boys?"

One by one, the members told Lexi about their time off: V caught up with his webtoons while Jungkook went back to drawing, which he hasn't done in a while. On the other hand, Jimin and J-hope spent the weekend in the dance studio, working on a potential new choreography.

The conversation lasted for a while; Lexi could tell that the members enjoyed talking to her as much as she enjoyed listening to them. She had a lot on her mind lately and her little chatter with the boys finally helped her come to a decision after a long disarray.

"I'm sorry guys, I just remembered something. I have to go" she abruptly stood, startling the boys.

"Is everything alright Noona?" Jimin hastily inquired.

"Everything is fine Jiminah, don't worry" she patted him on the shoulder "I'll tell you all about it when the time is right".

Upon leaving the cafeteria, she turned back and called out the maknae "By the way Jungkookie, I dropped by Yogorino before I got here this morning; I brought you a little treat with me".

"Iceu Cream? Ouah Noona, Jeongmal komaweoyo!" Jungkook cheered.

His reaction drew a smile on Lexi's face "I sent it upstairs with Namjoon. I hope you like the cookie and cream flavor".

BIGHIT, Main floor – 10.13 AM

Lexi headed to the lobby and called the elevator. After her talk with the boys, she eventually managed to make up her mind about an issue that has been eating her up for weeks now. As the elevator's doors opened, she found a tardy Seokjin coming up from the parking lot.

"Going up?" the visual greeted her with a friendly nod.

"Ah Jin-ssi! It's a good thing I ran into you" she rejoiced at his sight "I need your help with something".

"*Nae Lexi*" Jin smiled "What can I do for you?"

Lexi took a deep breath before revealing her request "How familiar are you with dinner parties?"

One week forward

BIGHIT Entertainment, 7th floor – 4.12 PM

Unlike its usual state, the BTS floor was pretty calm. Namjoon locked himself in the isolation booth as he was recording a track for his second mixtape. Once he wrapped up his work, he searched for his *hyungs* in the other rooms but none of them were anywhere to be found: all of the members deserted the area.

"That's weird, I just heard V's alien laugh an hour ago. Where did everybody go?" he shrugged.

Unaware of the reason behind their absence, Namjoon went to the studio downstairs to check up on Lexi but she wasn't around either. As he was about to leave, Sunnie arrived.

"*Annyeonghaseyo* Namjoon-ssi, are you looking for *Unnie*?" She asked.

"Yes" he responded "She's usually on time. Do you know where she could be?"

"Her publicist just called and requested her presence" Shinah divulged "The Korean print of her book will be finalized today".

"Ah *mansae!*" Namjoon shouted "Did she tell you when she will return?"

"*Mollayo*, she will probably be gone for the rest of the day" she added "She still needs to go through some legal paperwork".

"I see ... Well, *komaweo* Shinah" he smiled at her, to which she replied with a bow.

Shortly afterwards, Namjoon left the studio and took the elevator down to the parking lot where Kim Suro-ssi was napping in the car.

"*Ahjussi*" Namjoon knocked on the driver's side window "I'm sorry for cutting your nap time short but could you please take me to the dorm?"

The old man lowered the car's window "*Kwenchanayo* Namjoon-ssi?"

"Yes *Ahjussi*" Namjoon replied "I'm done for the day".

BTS Dormitory – 7.15 PM

As Kim Suro-ssi arrived at the appointed destination, Namjoon stepped out of the car and walked nonchalantly towards the dorm entrance. Upon turning the door knob, a set of confetti and loud cheers filled the place: "*Saengil Chukhahamnida Hyung!*" the members shouted in unison.

Taken aback by the sudden welcome, Namjoon took a second to look at the dorm, almost unrecognizable with the celebratory set: a bunch of colorful balloons were attached to the wall and a large banner with his full name on it was hung across the room, containing handwritten wishes by each member. Right under the banner, a table was ornamented with birthday gifts surrounding a lilac flower bouquet.

The boys' dining table was garnished with all kinds of meals including Namjoon's favorite dish: *Kalguksu* which was placed in the center with chicken wings and beef barbecue both served separately alongside various side dishes set across the table such as plain rice, *Kimchi*, *Tteokbokki* and *Koguma*. Melodic tunes were playing in the background, serenading the festive atmosphere.

"*Hyungs!* I can't thank you enough for this!" Namjoon was in awe "How did you get all of this done?"

"I was in charge of the decorations" J-hope spoke "The hyungs didn't allow various flowery settings though".

"And we took care of the dinner menu" Jin and Suga high fived.

"Wait ... You guys didn't come for practice today, did you?" Namjoon inquired.

"We never left the dorm, *Hyung*. And it was worth it" Jungkook intervened.

"We were just lucky that you're the first one to leave in the morning" Jimin hinted.

"B-But ..." Namjoon stated, even more puzzled "I swear I heard V giggle in the lobby a few hours back".

"*Mianhaeyo*, I went to bring the birthday gifts back" Taehyung intercepted "We were going to celebrate your birthday in the break room at first but we had a last minute change of plans".

Jimin approached Namjoon "Monie, you should stop tiring yourself and take a glimpse at the calendar every now and then".

"*Hyung*, do you like the music?" Jungkook ecstatically asked "I made sure to pick your favorite songs".

"The music is perfect, Jungkookah. You guys are the best" Namjoon revealed his heartfelt gratitude through his dimples "I was so swamped with work that I even forgot about my own birthday. To be honest, I wasn't expecting any of this but you outdid yourself like you do every year. Everything is just right".

As Namjoon concluded his short speech, the doorbell rung. Being the closest to the entrance, he took a few steps back to get the door.

"And it's about to get better" J-hope declared with a silly smile drawn on his face.

Namjoon eyed Hoseok suspiciously as he stood behind the door "*Nuguseyo?*"

"Special Delivery" a soft voice replied.

"Ah *Jinjja!*" Namjoon chuckled, recognizing the voice. He opened the door to a belated Lexi who was carrying a pastry box in her hands.

"Sorry I'm late" she smirked "I hope this will make up for my absence. I picked it up last minute".

Namjoon ushered her in. From the way she greeted the other members, he understood that she took part in the party planning. Once Lexi placed the delivery on a table set aside for the cake, she pulled him closer and asked everyone to gather around them.

"Happy birthday Namjoon" Lexi gazed at him with loving eyes "Open it".

An expression of astonishment appeared on Namjoon's face as his eyes widened "Ouah! Ouah!" was literally the only thing he kept shouting while looking at his birthday treat: a Ryan-shaped birthday cake "*Ya Jagi!*"

"Actually, this was Jimin's idea" she disclosed "But I got the candles, and they are all safe and sound this time".

"*Ya* Alexandra, it's been two years already. Can you just let it go?" Namjoon implored.

"*Arasseo*" she comforted him with a smooch on the cheek "Just let me put the candles on the cake and light them".

"*Ah jinjja*, jiminie!" Namjoon hugged Jimin "I love it, thank you".

"Alright" J-hope stepped in "Are we going to celebrate this birthday or what?"

"Namjoonah, make a wish" Suga smirked at the birthday boy.

Reading through Yoongi's tone, Namjoon responded with a wink and blew out the candles. He didn't care about celebrating his birthday as much as he cared about being with the people he loved the most, his second family.

While Lexi removed the candles and unboxed the birthday cake, Jin ushered the small crowd to the dining table "Everybody gather around! I will not be held responsible for the cold food".

As the other members regained their seats, Namjoon grabbed Lexi from the wrist, motioning her to slow down "Babe, how was your day? Shinah told me about your book progress".

Lexi chuckled "Ah Namjoonah, there is no book event! It was just a ruse to get your mind off of any speculations".

Baffled by his girlfriend's slyness, he pondered "Then, where were you all day?"

"Preparing your other birthday party" she winked at him "Come, let's eat. You're going to need all of your energy for what's in store tonight".

A few months afterwards

Six months ago, Lexi and Namjoon moved in together. However, they could barely see each other although they were living under the same roof. Due to their schedules' conflict, she was the first one to wake up, and he was the last one to go to sleep: while she was an early bird, he was a night owl.

After hosting many book signing events and giving lectures in various universities, Lexi finally earned herself a day off. Luckily for her, Namjoon freed the rest of the evening to celebrate their mutual successes. While she was working on her scholar image, **Bangtan Sonyeondan**'s popularity skyrocketed with their most recent comeback and they became the first Kpop group to top international charts with the highest ranks, beating all of their predecessors' achievements in the field.

Once Lexi arrived to the apartment's doorstep, she could hear a familiar melody playing inside. When she entered the password, the door unlocked to a widely unexpected scenery: Namjoon was wearing her apron over an all-black shirt and trousers while setting the dinner table and his gray hair was tidily brushed up. He was expecting her at any minute and her long awaited presence exposed his sculptured dimples.

"Ah *Jagi*, you're finally home!" he kissed her temple.

Lexi eyed him, bewildered "Babe, what's going on? And is that Dilemma's instrumental playing?"

"I thought we could enjoy our date better if we spent it in our home. I want to look back at this day and remember it as one of many valuable memories that we will be sharing in this household" he explained further "I also thought that the song makes the best moodsetter".

"*Eomo* Ramonie! The way your words always make my heart flutter is enchanting" Lexi threw herself in his embrace "You thought well. So, what's the plan?"

Namjoon revealed the evening's highlights: he wanted to revive their very first date. Only this time, everything was indoors: the meals were homemade and were the same as their dinner back then, and he managed to get his hands on a DVD copy of the movie that she slept through on their date.

When their date replica was brought to an end, the couple sat comfortably on the couch and leaned their heads against one another, ruminating their love for each other in beautiful silence. Soon enough, Namjoon put his hand through Lexi's locks, gently stroking her hair while resting his head on hers.

"Alexandra ..." he called her name to make sure that she was still awake. Upon hearing her name, Lexi lifted her head to look at him and responded with a "Hmm?"

Namjoon changed his seating position so as to face her; he then reached out for her hand and tenderly caressed it as he was preparing himself to initiate a heartfelt speech “Did I ever tell you the real reason I fell for you? I know I often express my feelings but I never revealed what made me realize that you’re the one. Surely, your interview outfit did not go unnoticed back then, and your dynamics at work motivated me during my worst days, even your kindness often left me in awe ...”

“Namjoon, are you trying to win me over again? It’s been almost four years, I am not going anywhere” Lexi taunted him.

“*Jagi*, please hear me out until the end” He pressed on her hand as he resumed “Truth is, you have always been there for me long before you met me. Although you didn’t know me personally back in the days, you still reached out to me in my darkest hour. Numerous allegations were coming my way, attacking me and affecting my *hyungs* through my *idol* image: everything was piling up and I thought that I’ve hit rock bottom. I thought that these accusations would be my downfall. Fortunately for us, our fans always defended us, believed in us and, when in fault, forgave us. I know that I have grown so much from the person that I was many years ago, but there was one thing that has affected me personally, inspired me and allowed me to carry on despite the constant criticism and hate”.

As he paused, Namjoon freed his hands and pulled an envelope from underneath the cushion he was sitting on. Upon handing it over to his girlfriend, Lexi immediately recognized it.

“My fan letter! I thought it was lost in the mail!” Lexi gasped “So, you were still keeping it after all these years?”

Namjoon smiled at her reaction “Reading how you visualized me freed me from my agony. I told myself that if one fan saw me the way you did, then I should focus on doing me and let the haters eat dust rather than feed their petty ego. I used to read your letter over and over again whenever I felt that I was about to break; one glimpse at your words was all it took to chase my worries away”.

Lexi stared at him, perplexed “But how come you never told me about this until now?”

“I was waiting for the right moment” Namjoon unfolded “I may be a smooth talker but this exact tale meant a great deal to me back then, and it still does. I didn’t want this discussion to be an idle chatter that time would wash away eventually. Before you were my trainee, my colleague and my lover, you were my fan: a fan that loved me unconditionally through my music and showed me her full support despite the distance and the celebrity barrier. When our paths finally crossed, your presence granted me inspiration, comfort and more support. And when you opened up your heart

to me, you showered me with love; a feeling that I wasn't expecting to explore at a very young age, especially within my line of work".

While Namjoon proceeded with his speech, Lexi felt a cold metal sliding on her ring finger "I made this golden replica of your original ring exactly one year after you were gone, and I kept it with me ever since. I know how much your ring meant to you and I wanted mine to mean just as much, if not more. I know that I have probably waited too long to do this, but at the same time I didn't want to rush you. It just so happens that today felt right and I couldn't wait any longer. I also made sure to engrave your name inside it, a name that has always captivated me the most amongst your many identities: Alexandra, be my wife".

Although she was usually talkative, Lexi couldn't find the proper words this time. Instead, she kept admiring her newest piece of jewelry, hoping that something will come out of her mouth eventually. Gathering her thoughts, Lexi finally spoke "Alexandra Kim, I love the sound of that".

Upon hearing her answer, Namjoon pulled her against his chest and hugged her tightly "Well, it took you long enough to answer".

"Not as much as it did for you to propose" Lexi teased him "Wait, our first date involved frosting. Where is my dessert?"

"In the bedroom" Namjoon unveiled, his husky voice sent chills down Lexi's spine. He picked her up bridal style and carried her to the bedroom. Upon entering the room, Lexi spotted red petals on the bed.

"Babe, I know that you did everything to make our date night unforgettable, and it's perfect" Lexi questioned "But I was wondering if you came up with all of the preparations on your own?"

Namjoon laughed at her suspicion "*Aish*, the boys did tell me that the petals will sell me out ... Actually, everybody contributed: **Jin** cooked dinner, **Taehyung** and **Jimin** rented the movie, **Jungkook** arranged the playlist and **Hoseok** suggested the flowers. *Hajiman*, I planned it all".

"I see that you borrowed my planning team" Lexi cleared up her doubts "What about **Yoongi-ssi**?"

Growing impatient, Namjoon smirked and threw his fiancée on the bed before pinning her down "He gave us his blessings".

The next morning

After a torrid night, Lexi woke up in Namjoon's arms, feeling his heartbeats against her temple. As she slowly freed herself from her lover's embrace, she raised her hands at eye level, admiring both of her rings; a confident beam was revealed on her face as she removed her silver ring and aimed for the bin.

The clank emitted by her free throw woke Namjoon bit by bit from a deep sleep. As he hazily opened his eyes, Lexi placed a soft peck on his chin "Good morning baby, did I wake you?"

Still half asleep, Namjoon playfully pulled the sheets over Lexi's face while she effortlessly fought him. He then leaned forward and gently kissed her on the forehead "*Jagi*, what are you doing up this early? Go back to sleep".

"I can't, I am too overwhelmed to sleep" Lexi protested "Besides, our time is up. We need to pick up where we left off, duty calls".

"*Aigoo*, Alexandra you have no jams" Namjoon sighed "Well then, what's the first thing you want to do as Mrs. Kim Namjoon?"

"I'm glad you asked" Lexi responded with a broad smile "I want to write with you".