

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 101

This place did not look like a pub nor a restaurant. The interior seemed high-classed, and the place was quiet. There was barely anyone around.

Lin Xinyan was perplexed. "What place is this?"

"A bar." He Ruize pulled her towards the room at the end of the corridor.

Lin Xinyan frowned. "It's rare to see such a quiet bar."

"This is a private bar. It's not opened to the public, only to certain people. He Ruize explained, "It's quiet here."

"Oh."

Soon, they reached the room. He Ruize pushed the door open. The warm lighting was dim, and the room was spacious. At the end of the room was a black leather couch and a round table. On the table, there were two bottles of red wine and two glasses.

Lin Xinyan looked at He Ruize. "You've booked this earlier?"

He Ruize's expression stiffened, but he quickly returned to normal. "I'm a VIP here. This is my regular room. This wine is from my collection."

Lin Xinyan walked in. "I thought you don't like to drink."

He Ruize stood at the entrance and fell into a momentary trance looking at her thin back. "People change, don't they? I'm human and I have desires. I get upset when my love doesn't get returned."

His words meant something else.

Lin Xinyan understood.

She pretended to be casual as she looked around the room. Her hands traced the lampshade, knocked on the wine bottle, and moved the wine glasses. "There are billions of people in this world. To be able to meet is already fate. Some people are just not meant to be. You can't force something that's not meant to be."

He Ruize lowered his head and laughed. "You're still witty. Let me off a little. Don't you know you should respect your elders?"

Lin Xinyan turned around and smiled at him. "You're not old. In my eyes, you'll always be that person dressed in a doctor's coat with glasses, gently asking about Xinqi's condition. You're that person who takes care of me like a big brother. I'll always remember that."

He Ruize took out the cork and poured the wine. "Let's not talk about the past."

He was afraid that he would become soft-hearted and wouldn't bear to do it.

However, if he did not ruin her, it would be impossible for He Ruilin and Zong Jinghao to be together. There would be no chance for them to get married to create a good future for his family.

He poured two glasses of wine. "Don't keep looking. Come over and have a glass with me."

Lin Xinyan sat on the couch and raised the glass that He Ruize had poured for her. The color of the wine was bright red, and the scent was rich. It was a good wine. He Ruize raised his glass and clinked onto hers. "Accompany me in getting drunk today."

“My alcohol tolerance isn’t good. I won’t be getting drunk with you. I still need to go home early. Ruixi can’t sleep without me.” She had to accompany Lin Ruixi to sleep. If she was not home at night, she was not sure if Lin Ruixi would pester Zhuang Zijin.

He Ruize did not answer her. He tilted his head and finished the wine.

He raised his empty glass for Lin Xinyan to see. “I’m done with mine. It’s your turn now.”

Lin Xinyan had no choice but to drink hers.

Unlike white wine which burned, red wine was smooth and easy on the throat.

He Ruize poured another glass for her. “This is the first time that both of us are drinking in a quiet place.”

“Yes.” Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes as she stared at him pouring the wine. Her vision was blurry, and she was starting to see doubles. She blinked her eyes and said, “Yes. This wine tastes mild, but it’s strong.”

He Ruize looked at her and asked, “Is that so?”

“Yes.” Lin Xinyan clearly felt dizzy.

“Are you looking for excuses not to drink with me?” He Ruize deliberately said.

“No, no.” Lin Xinyan gently rubbed her forehead. Instead of going away, the dizziness became stronger.

He Ruize handed her another glass of wine. “Don’t bluff, you said you were going to accompany me for a drink.”

Lin Xinyan widened her eyes, trying to see his face clearly. However, she could not. It was as if there was a layer of mist in front of her, and everything seemed blurry.

She had another glass urged by He Ruize.

He Ruize continued to pour for her.

“I can’t drink anymore. I’m drunk. I’m going home now. Xichen and Ruixi are waiting for me at home.” She stood up and walked a few unsteady steps. Her mind went blank as her vision went dark, and she collapsed onto the floor.

The entire time, He Ruize had been sitting motionless on the couch; as if he knew she would not manage to leave the room.

He put the glass down after finishing it, then stood up. He carried Lin Xinyan, who had passed out on the floor, to the couch.

She was skinny and light. It barely took him any effort.

After placing her on the couch, he sat by her and caressed her hair. “Don’t blame me for this. You made me do it.”

It was all planned.

It was just that he was not determined enough, and he was forced by He Ruilin.

After listening to Lin Xinyan’s words, he stopped hesitating.

He gently caressed her face. “You no longer care about me, why should I care about you?”

Lin Xinyan could not feel anything, nor could she hear his words.

Button by button, he undid her clothes. Her skin was fair and smooth, like white porcelain. His hand touched her face, her neck—

He swallowed.

“I know you’ll hate me when you wake up, but I have no other choice. The moment you drank the mineral water that I had drugged, you had nowhere left to run. You don’t, and I don’t.” He had added a drug for digestion in the mineral water. This red wine had high alcohol content. When combined, it was easy to make someone fall unconscious.

Even if there was an investigation, the only conclusion would be that the person had been drunk.

Her top was fully unbuttoned by He Ruize. She wore a black bra, and it wrapped around her round breasts. It rose and fell with her breathing. It was an indescribable temptation.

Her stomach was flat, and there were few stretch marks under her belly button. It was from her pregnancy with Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi.

The two children had been small-sized when they were born, so her stretch marks were not obvious. Some had terrifying stretch marks like the cracks on the floor, but hers were faint. It looked a little sexy instead of looking ugly.

His large hands covered and caressed her stomach. “Lin said that women were sensual beings, and they feel attached to men who were their first. If you knew that man was Zong Jinghao, would you fall in love with him?”

“No... You’ve already fallen in love with him, haven’t you?” He Ruize lowered his head and laughed, each time the laughter got lower and lower in tone. “He broke off the engagement with Lin after seeing you. And you, who had not wanted to return here, came back after you saw him. It’s all because of him, right?”

He leaned to kiss her lips. “This is the first time you’re not rejecting me from kissing you.”

In his previous attempts, she would stop him right before he kissed her.

He knew that was her rejecting his intimacy.

She did not love him, that was why even when she said yes, her body still subconsciously rejected him.

He leaned by her ear. “Maybe Lin was right. Even when you didn’t know that that man was Zong Jinghao, but because you were intimate with him once, that’s why you subconsciously had feelings for him”

“If I made love with you, would you feel something for me too? Yan—”

As he spoke, he unbuttoned her pants.

And pulled the zip down.

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Just as He Ruize was about to pull her pants down, the phone in her pocket suddenly rang.

He Ruize quickly took out the ringing phone. On the screen was Xichen's name.

The call was from Lin Xichen.

He stared at the screen and gripped tight on the phone. After a few moments of hesitation, he picked up the call.

If he had not, he was afraid that there would be raising suspicion.

"Hello mommy, why aren't you coming home yet?"

Lin Xichen's voice came from the other end.

He relaxed himself to make it sound like he was calm. "Your mommy went to the bathroom. She'll be back in a moment."

"Oh, it's uncle. Do tell her to come home early. Ruixi is looking for her and she doesn't want to sleep."

"Alright." After the conversation ended, He Ruize instantly hung up the phone.

Lin Xinyan's eyelashes fluttered. She felt like she had heard something, but her eyelids felt heavy and she could not open her eyes.

He Ruize placed the phone on the table and retracted his hand quickly as if the phone was a hot potato.

It had taken him great effort to prepare both the plan and himself. After Lin Xichen's interruption, he felt loss again.

His gaze landed back on Lin Xinyan. Looking at her seducing figure, his heart started throbbing again.

He loved this woman for many years.

"I'll be good to you." He clasped his hands a few times before calming down. He reached out to take off her pants.

His hands were cold, and she felt it when it touched her skin.

She could feel the coldness crawling in her.

"Mmm—"

She raised her heavy eyelids.

He covered her clothes back in a panic when he heard her.

Lin Xinyan woke up.

"What are you doing—"

Just as she finished her sentence, she realized that her clothes were all unbuttoned. Her skin and undergarments were all exposed in the air.

Boom!

It was as if her brain had exploded.

She stood up in a panic. She hugged her own body, and her pupils constricted. She stared at He Ruize with a look of disbelief and shock. “You——”

“I—” He Ruize wanted to explain, but his words could not form.

Lin Xinyan gathered her wits in a second, and she seemed to realize what was going on.

She could not believe that He Ruize would do such things to her, but the truth was right in front of her.

The person that she respected and felt apologetic to was about to—

“Get lost!” Lin Xinyan shouted with all her might.

Her heart was filled with pain, shame, and disappointment. She could barely breathe in it.

“Listen to me—” He Ruize tried to explain.

Lin Xinyan sneered, “The truth is right in front of us. What are you trying to explain?”

“I—” He Ruize stared at her disappointed face, and he pursed his lips as he said, “I’ve protected you for so many years, I just want you once.”

“What— What are you talking about?”

It was as if her heart was tied to rock in the ocean, and it kept sinking.

“You’re no longer a virgin, and you have children. Why are you pretending to be pure?” He Ruize leaned over and hugged her. “I’ll marry you. And I’ll treat Xichen and Ruize like my own children—”

“Go away.” Lin Xinyan pushed him hard. “Let go of me.”

“It’s too late.” It was as it was. Even if he did not do anything, she would still hate him.

He might as well do it.

“Let go of me, let go of me!” Lin Xinyan pushed him frantically, trying to break away from him.

A man was stronger than a woman physically. Even if He Ruize was not the muscular type, he still had more strength than Lin Xinyan.

She could not break away from him.

He Ruize pushed onto the couch and kissed her face, hair, and neck frantically.

Lin Xinyan twisted her head to one side and saw the wine bottle on the table. She reached out to grab onto it and smashed it on He Ruize’s head.

Crash!

The red liquid instantly dripped from his hair, and there was a scent of red wine on her.

He Ruize could not believe that she had smashed that bottle onto him.

There was a throbbing pain in his scalp. If it was not for the red wine, his blood would be obvious.

There was even a metallic hint of blood in the air.

Lin Xinyan broke free from him while He Ruize had slightly let go. He Ruize was pushed away and he fell onto the ground.

In Lin Xinyan's head, there was only one thought—run. She did not have time to see how he was. She pulled up the zip on his pants, gathered the openings of her clothes with her hands, and ran out of the room.

Her running was unsteady, and she looked back once in a while to see if He Ruize was after her.

He Ruize bore with the pain and ran out for her. “Yan—”

When Lin Xinyan heard his voice, she tensed even more, and ran even faster. She was not focusing on the front, and she crashed into a person by the entrance.

She held onto herself and apologized, “I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Please make way.”

The person did not make way. Instead, he reached out to lift her chin.

There was shock when the two pairs of eyes met.

Lin Xinyan gaped. “Why are you here?”

Instead of answering, Zong Jinghao stared at her. Her top was completely unbuttoned, and if she had not gathered the edges of her clothes together, her bra would have been exposed. Her top was white, but it was stained by a red that looked like blood. Her hair was in a mess, her face had tear tracks, and there were wine stains on her.

Her pants looked fine, but she had no shoes on.

She had been wearing high heels, but high heels were unsuitable for running, so she had kicked off her heels when she ran.

Zong Jinghao looked at her. His eyes were like an ocean with crashing waves.

Without saying anything else, he took off his shirt and covered her body. He carried her into his car.

Lin Xinyan's body was curled up at the backseat.

As if she was dealing with a shock.

Zong Jinghao started the car and left the place. The car sped.

His expression was sharp, and his tightly pursed lips were like a sharp sword.

He could have exploded any time.

Just then, his phone rang.

He picked the phone and ended the call without looking.

Just as he put it down, it started ringing again. It seemed like the caller was persistent.

He picked up the call, and a male voice immediately came from the other end. "Are you coming yet? Everyone is waiting for you."

"I'm not going."

"It was difficult to gather everyone, how could you not come—"

Before the other man finished his words, Zong Jinghao had ended the call and threw his phone into the storage compartment.

He rubbed his fingers and was about to ask Lin Xinyan what had happened before his phone rang again.

The fury that he had been holding back finally exploded. He picked up the call, and shouted, "I said I wasn't going, are you deaf? Or do you not speak human?"

Guan Jing jumped from his volume. What was wrong with him?

He did not offend him, did he?

"I— I was just going to ask about the car. I've bought that car, should I send you the keys?" Guan Jing carefully asked.

Previously he heard Yu Doudou mentioned that Lin Xinyan wanted to buy a car.

So he told Guan Jing to check which model she was interested in, and to buy it.

"Leave it at your place first." Zong Jinghao ended the phone. To avoid someone else calling in, he turned off his phone and threw it aside.

By now, he had reached his place.

It was not the villa, but a hotel that was near his company. This was a room that he had booked for long-term stay.

This place was closer to the company. If he was too busy, he would rest here.

Aunt Yu was at home, if he were to bring Lin Xinyan back there, she would have much to say.

He just wanted some peace right now.

He did not want any disturbance.

After parking his car, he carried Lin Xinyan down.

He entered the hotel and went in the elevator.

Lin Xinyan's head was lowered. She was quiet as if she had not come back to her senses yet.

Entering the room, Zong Jinghao placed her on the bed.

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Entering the room, Zong Jinghao placed her on the bed.

Then he soaked a towel and cleaned her face. The more he looked at her, the more frustrated he became. He threw the towel and stood in front of her. He suppressed his frustration as he asked, "What happened? Why are you like this?"

Lin Xinyan trembled when she thought about what He Ruize did to her.

She did not know how to say nor what to say.

"Talk." Suddenly, he grabbed onto Lin Xinyan's shoulders and stared into her eyes. "Tell me, have you lost your virginity?"

There was a gathering storm in his eyes.

Lin Xinyan shook her head.

If she had not woken up in time... She did not dare to think further than that.

She had never expected He Ruize to do this to her.

The storm in Zong Jinghao's eyes did not dissipate; it was still swirling in his eyes. "Who did this to you?"

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips as she remained silent.

She only hugged herself and trembled.

“I’m asking you a question!” He gritted his teeth in his insuppressible anger.

Lin Xinyan kept her eyes opened, and the tears flowed out without warning.

She remained quiet and her tears kept falling. One by one, they streamed down her face.

Zong Jinghao was pacing by the bedside.

He had never felt so agitated before.

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes. Soon, he stopped. The room was so quiet that there were only his breathing and her sobbing.

A dark shadow lightly came down and hugged onto her trembling anxious body. His warm hand was gently caressing her face, lovingly and tenderly. Finally, he kissed the tip of her nose.

In the whole process, Lin Xinyan was helpless, shocked, surprised, and soft. She had felt in that moment, the love that Zong Jinghao had never expressed.

“Wash up.” Zong Jinghao carried her up into the bathroom.

He filled a tub full of warm water, and the steam rose from the tub.

Lin Xinyan looked at him, stunned.

She had never thought that this prideful man would ever do this for her.

Zong Jinghao turned around to look at her. “Do you want me to wash you?”

What?

Lin Xinyan hurriedly shook her head and rejected him. "No need, no need."

"I'll be outside. Call me if you need anything." He told her.

"Okay."

Lin Xinyan closed the bathroom door and locked it. Only after she made sure that it was firmly locked then did she take off her dirty clothes.

Her heart still skipped a beat when she thought about He Ruize's actions.

She entered the water. The temperature was just right and she sunk to the bottom. Like seaweed, her hair floated at the surface of the water. Vaguely, her body could be seen under the water.

She was rubbing every inch of her skin. She did not dare to think what He Ruize had done when she was unconscious.

She rubbed vigorously. She wanted to clean the skin that he had touched.

Outside the bathroom, Zong Jinghao was thinking. He knew that Lin Xinyan was not telling the truth. How could she not know who it was?

She must have not wanted to tell him.

Zong Jinghao picked up the phone by the bed and gave a call to Guan Jing. "Check who was with Lin Xinyan tonight at KS Private Club."

"Alright." Guan Jing answered.

Zong Jinghao hung up the phone. He rubbed on his temple as he sat on the edge of the bed.

Lin Xinyan had not come out after a long while, so he went to knock on the door.
“Are you done?”

“I’m done.” Lin Xinyan was wrapping a towel around her. There were no clothes for her to wear.

After an hour-long bath, she felt calmer, and her head had cleared up.

She opened the door to see Zong Jinghao standing by the door. His shirt’s collar was slightly opened and his black suit pants wrapped around his slender legs. He was staring at her.

Her hair was still damp and droplets were still on her shoulders. On her fair skin, it looked as if they were crystals.

Lin Xinyan was grabbing onto her towel with both hands, as if she was afraid it would fall off. “Could you help me with something?”

“Yes.” Zong Jinghao dropped his gaze and answered softly.

“Could you get me a set of clothes? Anything is fine, as long as I can wear them.”

Zong Jinghao gave her a glance. “Do you know what time it is?”

She shook her head.

“It’s already one in the morning. Where am I going to get clothes for you?” The malls were closed at this time of the day.

Zong Jinghao took one of his shirts and passed it to her. “Wear this for now. I’ll buy you some clothes when the sun is up.”

Lin Xinyan held onto the shirt but did not move to wear it. She shifted her feet as she said, “I want to go home.”

Zong Jinghao's expression turned cold. "You don't remember who you are?"

She had promised him the last time, was she going to break her promise now?

Zong Jinghao's long arms held onto her waist, and the two bodies were leaning tightly against each other. She was about to resist, but her hand was grabbed by Zong Jinghao. He looked into her eyes. "You need to get used to me touching you like this."

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes as she quietly stayed in his embrace.

"I'm tired."

"I'll hug you as you sleep." He carried her up and put her under the blankets. Then, he went under the blankets and hugged her from behind.

Lin Xinyan was not used to being hugged.

She twisted her body, trying to struggle out of his arms.

Zong Jinghao frowned and warned, "Don't move."

Lin Xinyan stiffened instantly. She could feel his hard body getting hotter and hotter. There was something hard pressing against her waist.

She was not a naive little girl. She knew what that was.

She did not dare to move, and even her breath was slow. She was afraid she would trigger the man behind her.

Although she had agreed to continue maintaining their marriage status, she was not mentally prepared to do what married couples did.

“Relax, you’re being too stiff. It’s like I’m hugging a rock.” Zong Jinghao closed his eyes and covered his heat away.

Lin Xinyan’s body was out of her control.

She could not relax at all.

She was not wearing much. She did not believe that he would not do anything while he hugged her like this.

Furthermore, he was already having a reaction.

And it seemed quite intense too.

“Good girl.” He kissed her hair from the back.

Lin Xinyan swallowed. “Although I had promised you, b— but you have to get my permission, then you can—”

“Then I can?” He suddenly opened his eyes, and there was a teasing smile at the corner of his lips.

Lin Xinyan buried her face in the pillow. “You know.”

“I don’t.”

The smile got wider.

Lin Xinyan pretended to be asleep. She stayed quiet.

It was obvious that Zong Jinghao did it intentionally. He knew it and yet he still asked her.

He wanted her to be embarrassed.

Zong Jinghao laid on his back and looked to the ceiling. He asked, "When will you give me permission?"

To willingly do what married couples do.

Lin Xinyan blinked. She did not know; she still rejected it until now.

She did not want to give in herself just like that.

The first time was not her choice.

This time, she had to be the one who decides.

"When I can accept the opposite sex."

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

If she could not accept it until the end of her life, does that mean he could not touch her until then?

It was absurd!

Was she expecting him to become a monk?

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes again. She said nothing else and pretended to have fallen asleep.

Her body was stiff, unlike what sleeping people's bodies were.

Zong Jinghao turned to look at her, then laughed. He turned his body to hug her and sleep.

Lin Xinyan fell into a deep sleep. She only woke around six in the morning.

The man beside was still fast asleep. Lin Xinyan pulled away the blanket and quietly went down the bed, fearing that she would wake him up. She had not noticed that her towel had loosened throughout the night. A part of the towel was under Zong Jinghao and when she stood up, she felt a cold breeze on her body. Her towel had fallen off.

She was about to pull it back when Zong Jinghao moved.

Lin Xinyan was afraid that he would wake up to the naked sight of her, so she went back under the blankets.

Zong Jinghao turned over and his leg was placed on top of her. He hugged her and continued sleeping.

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Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She tried to move his leg away but it was too heavy.

She could not move it away at all.

Lin Xinyan could only give up and stop moving. She turned her head to look at the phone on the table. She reached out for it, and as the phone was near her, she managed to grab it.

She dialed the number for the reception. "Hello, could you help me to buy a set of clothes? I'll pay you when you get back."

"Sure, but what size do you wear?"

"S."

"Alright."

Lin Xinyan was just about to hang the phone up when the voice continued, "Which room are you in? I'll send it up for you."

Lin Xinyan did not know how to answer her.

"88." His voice still sounded relaxed from the sleep.

Lin Xinyan turned her head around and saw Zong Jinghao looking at her with half-closed eyes.

When did he wake up?

“Room 88.” Lin Xinyan said to the receptionist.

“Alright.”

After ending the call, Lin Xinyan placed the phone back.

“When— When did you wake up?”

Did he see her when she stood up?

There was a faint smile at the corner of his lips, as if he was not fully awake.

“Just.”

Lin Xinyan breathed a sigh of relief. She held tightly to the blanket and said after a long hesitation, “Are you not getting up?”

He turned over. One of his hands was supporting his head and the other was on her. His words were slurry as he said, “Hm?”

Lin Xinyan turned her head aside. “Nothing.”

She had been speaking clearly just now, how could he have not heard it? He must be doing this deliberately, so there was no point for her to repeat herself.

If he was not getting up, Lin Xinyan would not dare to get up either. All she could do was to lie down and wait for the clothes.

Half an hour later, the doorbell finally rang.

As if she heard her savior, Lin Xinyan said, “Open the door.”

Zong Jinghao did not move from his lying position. He moved closer to her and onto her towel that was under him. “Why don’t you go?”

Lin Xinyan did not answer him.

The corner of his lips turned upwards as he said, “I can go.”

Lin Xinyan watched him as she waited for his next sentence.

He tilted his head forward to look into her eyes. “If you kiss me, I’ll go.”

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

Zong Jinghao smiled. “You don’t want to? It’s alright; I don’t have anything to do. No one’s waiting for me either. It’s good for me to take a rest today.”

Lin Xinyan remained quiet.

She had not gone home the entire night. She had no time to waste with him here.

After a long moment of hesitation, Lin Xinyan finally said stuttering, “Close—
Close your eyes.”

“Okay.”

Zong Jinghao closed his eyes; his long eyelashes were thick and curled.

Lin Xinyan stared at him. It was similar to her Lin Xichen. They both had long eyelashes that were thick and curled.

She felt envious when she looked at it sometimes.

She was not expecting his to look good as well.

She pretended to stay calm. "You're not allowed to open your eyes."

"Okay."

Lin Xinyan slowly moved over while hugging onto the blanket. His skin was smooth; now that she was close, she could see the thin hairs on his face. She closed her eyes and placed her lips on his. It was as light as a dragonfly skimming across the surface of the water.

For a moment, Zong Jinghao did not know what to say.

He opened his eyes and thought, that was too quick.

Before he had time to savor it, it was already gone.

"You can't go back on your words." Lin Xinyan bit onto her bottom lip. She was afraid that he would request for more ridiculous things.

Zong Jinghao sighed. When would she kiss him willingly without him needing to do something in exchange?

He pulled away the blankets and went down the bed. Before going to the door, he adjusted the blankets on her.

The door opened, and it was Guan Jing. There was a bag of clothes in his hand. "I was passing by the reception and they gave this to me. I've paid for it."

As he spoke, Guan Jing's gaze wandered into the room. He wanted to see which woman was it in the room.

When did Zong Jinghao start to indulge in his private life?

How wild were they last night that the clothes were no longer usable?

Zong Jinghao was irritated. He frowned and his tone was cold as he said, "Are you done looking?"

Guan Jing hurriedly dropped his gaze. However, he was still extremely curious, so he asked, "Who's in there?"

"When were you allowed to ask about my life?"

Guan Jing grinned. "I thought it would be Ms. Lin."

Everyone knew who he was interested in.

And now, he was interested in Lin Xinyan.

"These are the clothes and the car keys." Guan Jing handed Zong Jinghao the things. Zong Jinghao gave a cold look to him. "Have you found out what I asked you to check?"

He was afraid when he thought about someone out there thinking of her in this way. He was afraid that person would succeed in their plans.

He did not dare to imagine that future.

He could not handle it.

Nor could he accept it.

"Hurry. And check what He Ruilin had been doing lately." After calming down, he had given it some thoughts. Lin Xinyan had just returned to this country; she did not have enemies.

There was only He Ruilin who kept trying to hurt her.

It was for her best that she was not the one behind this.

Or else she was going to suffer under his hands.

“Okay.” Guan Jing looked down at his watch. “I have an appointment at seven-thirty.”

“You can leave now.”

Zong Jinghao closed the door.

He walked to the bed side and handed her the clothes and the car keys.

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment. She raised her head to look at him.
“This—”

“Didn’t you like this?” He sounded casual.

The reason she wanted to buy it was not because she liked cars, but because she needed it. She just was not expecting Zong Jinghao to remember something Yu Doudou had mentioned off-handedly.

“I’ll pay you back.” Lin Xinyan took the car keys.

“Are you being that particular with me?” He bent over and looked at her. “I don’t want the money. What about this? If you kissed me again, I’ll take that as payment.”

Lin Xinyan pushed him away. “Be serious. I’m going to change.”

Zong Jinghao took a step back from her push. He reached out to caress her hair.
“You’re my wife. As your husband, shouldn’t I buy a car for you?”

Lin Xinyan nearly choked on her own saliva when she heard him say “husband”.

She no longer dared to talk about paying him back.

“I’m going for a shower.” He found some new clothes from the cupboard and went to the bathroom. He had not showered last night. He had fallen asleep holding onto Lin Xinyan. He felt uncomfortable, so he had to wash up now.

Also, he had given Lin Xinyan some space.

He knew that she would feel uncomfortable with him here while she changed.

Lin Xinyan was at the corner of the bed and wrapped in blanket. Staring at the closed bathroom door, she gripped tight on the car keys in her hand. Although Zong Jinghao liked to touch her and did not seem to respect her, he had never done anything out of line.

Just like last night. He clearly was interested, but he did not force her.

He listened to every word she said.

And he kissed her so gently last night.

Lin Xinyan felt complicated.

She wiped the damp corners of her eyes.

On the other hand, He Ruize, whom she had respected and trusted, had done such shameful things to her.

By the time she had worn her new clothes, Zong Jinghao had also changed. The two of them packed and left the room together.

The car was parked at the parking lot of hotel.

Zong Jinghao sat in the front passenger seat. “This is my first time having you drive a car I’m in.”

Lin Xinyan looked at him. “Are you sure you’re not going to drive?”

Zong Jinghao did not answer her. Instead, he showed her his answer through his actions—he buckled his seatbelt.

Lin Xinyan started the car and drove onto the road skillfully.

The trip was quiet. Both of them were not talking; they both were thinking.

When they reached outside her house, Lin Xinyan released her seatbelt. “I’ll go up to take a look at them, then we’ll go for a meal.”

She had not returned the entire night. She was worried about her children.

She had never stayed out the entire night.

“Okay.” Zong Jinghao remained leaning on the seat.

Only when Lin Xinyan’s thin figure disappeared in the stairwell then did Zong Jinghao dropped his gaze. He leaned on the seat and looked at her house window.

Knock knock.

There was knocking sounds on the car window. He turned his head and saw a small hand.

He winded down the window and saw a small figure tilting his head up in front of the car door. “Were you with mommy last night?”

Before Zong Jinghao could answer him, Lin Xichen shouted, “Rascal!”

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

Every time he saw him, this boy was seething.

What did he do to make the boy so hostile to him?

“I think we need a talk.” Zong Jinghao raised his eyebrow. This naughty boy’s attitude was going to affect his relationship with Lin Xinyan.

After all, Lin Xinyan cared about him a lot.

“I won’t talk to you. I’m going to look for a man richer and more handsome than you for mommy.” The moment Lin Xichen thought about the fact that he abandoned them, he was furious.

He wanted to bite him to relieve his anger.

Zong Jinghao pushed open the car door and came down.

“Boy...”

The phone in his pocket rang. He took it out and saw that it was Guan Jing who had sent him a video.

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Right after was another message from Guan Jing. He lowered his head and looked at the message.

KS Private Club does not have video surveillance to protect their customer's privacy. The corridor has, however, and this was the footage where Ms. Lin appears.

He Ruilin was here last night.

Although Guan Jing's words were not straightforward, Zong Jinghao knew what he wanted to say. He Ruilin was involved with Lin Xinyan's incident.

To be specific, she was the one who planned Lin Xinyan's incident.

Lin Xinyan knew that she was devious, she should have been wary of her. Lin Xinyan should not have fallen into her trap.

With a curious mind, he clicked on the video.

The download was completed.

The video played.

Lin Xinyan was running unsteadily with a disheveled look of panic.

“Yan—”

Soon, he saw who was chasing after her.

He Ruize!

His expression changed, and his gaze turned cold. His voice was deep and loud as he said, "Fantastic!"

The siblings were fantastic!

They were cooperating with each other to hurt her.

Lin Xichen jumped in fright, thinking that he was saying about him.

He was clearly afraid but he put on a brave face and kept his chin up. When he spoke, his incoherent words betrayed his feelings. "D—D—Don't think I'll be scared of you!"

Zong Jinghao looked up and stared at him. "Boy, your mommy was bullied by other. Do you want to take revenge?"

Lin Xichen blinked. Was someone bullying his mommy?

Who else would bully her other than him?

"Do you think I'm three? I'm not going to fall for your tricks." Lin Xichen still had an arrogant look on his face with his head tilted up.

That was right. He was not three, he was five. He was older than three-year-old by two years. It was not easy to trick him.

"Come over." Zong Jinghao beckoned him to come over.

Lin Xichen remained standing at his spot and looked at him warily.

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

He narrowed his eyes. How did Lin Xinyan teach this boy? He was still so young but he was already overthinking.

“I’m not lying to you.” He played the video and showed it to Lin Xichen. “Look at it yourself.”

Lin Xinyan was at the start of the video, so Lin Xichen had seen her instantly. He widened his eyes.

Mommy...

Halfway through the video, he clenched his fists. Who was bullying his mommy?

Soon, he saw who it was.

His eyes widened further.

Until it almost looked like his eyeballs were going to pop out.

He had picked up the call he made to mommy last night, so that meant that he did see mommy last night.

He had said that mommy was at the bathroom, so she could not take the call.

What did he do to mommy?

Zong Jinghao took back his phone and Lin Xichen leaned forward to snatch it. Zong Jinghao raised his hand high, and he could not reach it even when he tiptoed.

He looked downwards at the boy. “What about now? Do you want to take revenge for your mommy with me?”

Lin Xichen’s face was red from anger and he glared at Zong Jinghao.

“Think about it. You’re just a kid. Even if you want to take revenge, you don’t have the capability.” Zong Jinghao kept his phone back into his pocket and came down. As if he had remembered something, he turned to look at the boy. “Right. Last night your mommy was indeed with me and we slept on the same bed. She told me she’ll be having breakfast with me later.”

Lin Xichen was about to explode.

His tears were going to stream down from his eyes.

Did mommy lose her mind?

Did she not know that she should not turn back for him?

“I saved your mommy last night.” Zong Jinghao did not continue to frighten him.

After hearing his words, Lin Xichen felt more relieved.

So it was not that mommy had lost her mind.

“What— What you said earlier. Are you really going to take revenge for my mommy?” He looked at Zong Jinghao with wide eyes.

Zong Jinghao looked at him for a second. “Yes, but...”

He crouched down to look at Lin Xichen on the same level.

And for once, Lin Xichen was quietly watching him without any rejections.

His small hands twitched as his heart thumped. This was his dad.

If only he never abandoned them.

They could live as a family.

The others would not say that he and his sister were fatherless children.

“You need to help me get together with your mommy.”

For a moment, Lin Xichen did not say anything.

Why did you divorce and abandon her if you liked her? He thought mockingly.

She had suffered so much. She gave birth to him and his sister and raised them as the others judged her.

Lin Xichen pursed his lips tightly. “Do— Do you still like my mommy?”

They must have been in love back then, that was why they had married. Later, he must have fallen in love with someone else, or he must have fallen out of love with mommy. That was why they divorced.

Now he was going after mommy. Does that mean he had fallen in love with her again?

Zong Jinghao slightly raised his eyebrow. What had he meant by “still”?

However, he gave it no further thought and dismissed it as the boy’s lack of capability to express himself.

“I do...”

“Xichen.”

Lin Xinyan ran over. She had not seen him upstairs, and Zhuang Zijin had told her that her son had been waiting for her downstairs.

She had confiscated his smartwatch.

She could not contact him and she was afraid he was lost. When she ran around the park and could not find him, she was about to call the police in a panic, then she realized that he was at the entrance of the district.

“Where did you go? I was so worried for you when I couldn’t find you.” Lin Xinyan knew that her son was hostile towards Zong Jinghao, so she pulled him behind her. “About that. He’s just a kid, so don’t take his words to heart.”

“Of course.” Zong Jinghao leaned at the side of the car and pointed to Lin Xichen with his chin. “I won’t be calculative with children.”

Lin Xichen had just started getting a good impression of him before it all went away with his last sentence.

Lin Xichen held onto Lin Xinyan’s neck and kissed her cheeks. “Mommy, I want to sleep with you tonight. I want to sleep in your arms, is it okay?”

Zong Jinghao stared.

This kid.

Lin Xinyan looked at her son with surprise. Why was he acting weird today?

He had been angry with her because she had confiscated his things.

He was alright with her now?

That was weird.

“Mommy, are you going out to eat? Can I come with you?” He hugged Lin Xinyan and tilted his head sideways. “Can I?”

Lin Xinyan looked at Zong Jinghao with a questioning gaze.

Zong Jinghao nodded. "Let's go."

This time, Zong Jinghao was the one driving while Lin Xinyan and Lin Xichen sat at the back.

As if showing off that Lin Xinyan was his, Lin Xichen was particularly clingy to her. He hugged her, held her, and kissed her.

He even looked at Zong Jinghao provocatively through the rearview mirror, as if saying Mommy was his, and no one could take her away from him.

Only he could hug her and sleep with her.

Lin Xinyan was shocked by her son's sudden enthusiasm.

"Xichen." She reached out to touch his forehead.

He was not having a fever.

What was going on with him?

"I'll return you your smartwatch, okay?" Lin Xinyan was not used to her son's sudden enthusiasm.

It was inconvenient to not be able to contact him.

However, she was not going to return him his tablet yet.

He had not admitted to his mistake.

"Really?" Lin Xichen's eyes were bright. "What about my tablet?"

He was bored without his tablet.

He could not play any games.

“I can give to you, but you know—”

“I was wrong.”

Before Lin Xinyan could finish her sentence, he had admitted to his mistake.

He had already decided to take revenge for mommy with that heartless man. Obviously, he would not embarrass him further.

He was going to pause his revenge on him for a while.

Lin Xichen had really surprised Lin Xinyan a lot today. He had never done this before.

He was a good boy, but he was stubborn. He would not give up on things he had decided on, and it was difficult for others to advise him.

“Here.” Lin Xinyan said as she looked at the restaurant banner.

Zong Jinghao looked into the store. It seemed like it was crowded.

He parked the car.

Lin Xinyan carried Lin Xichen down the car.

And they walked into the store together.

The shop was crowded at this time, and people turned to look at them when they entered.

The sight of the three of them looked like a family.

The husband was tall and handsome. The boy took after his father and looked like handsome too. The mother was young and pretty.

It was a perfect sight.

Zong Jinghao rarely ate his breakfast outside. He was not used to these kind of places.

“Sit down first. I’ll go take a look on what to eat.” Lin Xinyan put her son down and asked, “Is there anything you want to eat?”

“I want pumpkin porridge and dumplings.”

“What about you?” Lin Xinyan turned her gaze to Zong Jinghao.

“Anything.” He had never been here. He did not know what was available here.

And there were so many people.

“There’s a table there.” Someone had stood up, and Lin Xichen pulled Zong Jinghao towards the place.

The table had not been cleared, and Zong Jinghao frowned at the sight of it.

Lin Xichen could see that Zong Jinghao did not like the place. The corner of his lips turned downwards. “Mommy and I always come to these kinds of places to eat.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes.”

“I’ve promised to cooperate with you to take revenge for mommy.” Lin Xichen looked at the figure walking in the crowd and taking food for him. He clenched his fists. “Mommy had suffered a lot. I have to protect her.

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He was still young; his capabilities were limited. All he could do was to work with this heartless man for now.

Zong Jinghao looked downwards at the boy.

He knew about caring for Lin Xinyan at such a young age.

He knew how to appreciate her.

Lin Xinyan had educated him well.

A kind mother and a filial son.

That was what they were.

At this moment, a server came to clean the table. The server kept away the previous customer's utensils and wiped the table with a tablecloth. The tablecloth must have been used on many tables, as the table still shone with oil after cleaning.

Lin Xichen pulled the chair. "Sit."

He climbed skillfully onto the chair and waited for Lin Xinyan to bring the food over.

"Do you dislike this kind of place?" Lin Xichen looked at him.

Zong Jinghao took a look at him, pulled the chair and sat down. It was not that he disliked the place. He had just never come to such places for breakfast and there were people who glanced over once in a while.

It felt like he was an animal in the zoo, meant to perform for others.

It did not feel good.

Lin Xinyan was holding a tray of porridge, dumplings, scallion pancake, and some eggs as she was walked over.

She took out two bowls of porridge and placed one in front of Zong Jinghao and Lin Xichen. She placed the last bowl in front of her and the rest of the plates on the table. She put away the tray and sat on her chair.

Lin Xichen had already started eating. He was eating the porridge and the dumplings at the same time.

It looked tasty from the way he ate it.

“Eat slower.” Lin Xinyan took a tissue and wiped the porridge stain at the corner of his mouth.

Zong Jinghao looked at him. The boy had a good appetite.

“Why are you not eating?” Lin Xinyan asked when she saw Zong Jinghao not touching his food.

Only then did Zong Jinghao pick up the spoon and scoop the pumpkin porridge. The rice in the porridge was cooked well. The pumpkin was also sweet, and it had a strong fragrance.

Lin Xinyan looked at his face and asked, “Is it good?”

“Yes.” Zong Jinghao did not lift his head. He scooped another spoonful and ate it.

Lin Xinyan smiled, her eyes turning into crescents as she did.

This shop was not far from their place. Zhuang Zijin was the one who found this place. When she brought them here the first time, Lin Xichen had fallen in love with the pumpkin porridge.

“This is good too.” Lin Xichen took a dumpling for Zong Jinghao.

He looked at the dumpling in the boy’s chopsticks. He had eaten many dumplings that had exquisite appearances. The ones that Aunt Yu had made, and the ones he had in restaurants.

This one did not look nice, and it looked oily.

“It’s really good.” Lin Xichen looked at him expectantly with big, bright eyes.

Zong Jinghao was stunned when he looked back into Lin Xichen’s eyes. His eyes were pretty.

It looked like his when he was a boy.

He remembered how he looked like from Aunt Yu’s photo.

He leaned forward and ate the dumpling that Lin Xichen had taken for him.

It was filled with pork, shrimp, and leek.

He thought that the dumpling would taste greasy because of its oily exterior, but it did not. It tasted fresh.

“It’s good, right?” Lin Xichen asked.

He felt that the taste was good and he had wanted others to agree with him. So for a moment, he had forgotten that the man in front of him was a heartless man. He just wanted to prove that the dumplings he liked were tasty.

Zong Jinghao realized what the boy was thinking and decided to throw him a wet blanket. "It's just fine."

Lin Xichen was rendered speechless for a moment.

"There must be something wrong with your taste buds!" Lin Xichen was unwilling to submit.

Zong Jinghao did not want to answer him.

He was healthy and his taste buds were fine.

After breakfast, Lin Xinyan went to pay while Zong Jinghao and Lin Xichen went ahead.

In the car, Lin Xichen leaned towards him. "What are you planning? What do you need me to do?"

Now he was standing on the same side as him?

Zong Jinghao beckoned him, and Lin Xichen obediently leaned his ear over.

"Just leave the revenge to me. As for you, protect her when I'm not around. Make sure she's not dumb enough to fall into someone else's trap."

"My mommy's not dumb!" Lin Xichen exploded.

"That's not being dumb?" The bad guys nearly won.

“No.” Lin Xichen shook his head. “My mommy wasn’t wary because it was someone she knew. She’s not dumb.”

Lin Xichen did not agree with Zong Jinghao’s comment on Lin Xinyan.

“If my mommy is dumb and you still like her, aren’t you dumber?” Lin Xichen retorted.

Zong Jinghao had nothing to say.

His words seemed logical.

He could only admit that Lin Xinyan was not dumb, or else this boy would never end the argument.

“I’ll protect my mommy.” Lin Xichen reached his hand out for him. “Give me your phone. I need to have your number so we can contact.”

Lin Xichen was a meticulous person.

Zong Jinghao handed him the phone, and he dialed his number. He returned the phone to Zong Jinghao when the call went through. “Here. That number is mine, and I have yours.”

Lin Xichen stretched his hand out. “Here’s to our cooperation.”

He looked at Lin Xichen’s small hands and was at a loss on what he should feel. Must the boy make it so official?

Alright.

He reached out his hand and grabbed onto Lin Xichen’s small hand. The boy’s hand was plump. It was round and soft.

“Here’s to our cooperation.”

“We’ve reached an agreement!”

“What agreement?” After paying, she heard Lin Xichen’s words as she entered the car.

She looked at her son then back at Zong Jinghao. She asked with a confused tone. “What were both of you talking about?”

“Did we talk?”

Lin Xichen did not know how to explain himself, so all he could do was to not admit to it.

“Did I mishear it?” Lin Xinyan frowned. She did not mishear it. Lin Xichen had clearly said something earlier.

“You misheard it.” Lin Xichen buried himself into her arms and hugged her neck. “Mommy, you’re not that old yet. Why are you starting to hallucinate?”

“Naughty boy.” Lin Xinyan caressed her son’s hair.

Zong Jinghao watched their interactions through the rearview mirror. His eyes were shimmering.

Back at the district, Lin Xinyan sent her son upstairs.

Zong Jinghao waited for her.

Lin Xinyan sat back in the car. “Are you going to the company?”

“Hand me the evidence in your hands.” He did not answer her question.

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a second. “What evidence—” Halfway through, she realized what he was talking about.

“The evidence is with Yu Doudou.”

“Ask him to bring it over.”

“You want it?” Lin Xinyan did not understand why he wanted the evidence.

“Did you think that you can pin the crime on her as long as you have the evidence?” He family’s business was not doing well, but their reputation was well established.

They had connections.

If there was a lawsuit, they would just bribe their way out of the case.

Not only would they not be able to hit the enemy, they would be showing them the ace up their sleeves.

“You’re going to help me?” Lin Xinyan did not know how she had managed to ask this.

She was secretly hoping for it but at the same time, she did not dare to believe it.

She could not believe that he would do this for her.

Without looking at her, he quietly hummed in response.

Lin Xinyan clenched her hands.

She looked out the window as she did not want him to find out that she was overjoyed.

This was the first time her hopes had not fallen.

After a while, she made a call to Yu Doudou.

On the other end, Yu Doudou was equally excited. "Let me tell you this. I've found a lawyer in B City. I was about to look for you. When are we going to meet and discuss this? We should find a date to submit the case to court."

"Are you free now?" Lin Xinyan asked.

"Yes."

"Let's meet then. Bring the evidence along with you." Lin Xinyan said.

"Alright."

"Where do I find you?" Yu Doudou asked.

"Wanyue." This was from Zong Jinghao because he was on the way to the company. Now Lin Xinyan realized that he had been driving towards the town center.

After ending Yu Doudou's call, Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. "You're going to the company. Why am I going there for?"

He reached out a hand and grabbed onto hers. His fingers brushed her palm. "Accompany me."

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Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She did not reply him when she thought about Yu Doudou coming over. Anyway, she had nothing to do for the next few days.

Qin Ya was taking care of the store for now.

She had not had so much free time for a long while.

After giving birth to Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi, she had to prepare for her exams. After that was work. For these few years she had not let herself relax. It was good that she would be able to rest for the next few days.

She leaned on the seat and relaxed. She took out her hand that Zong Jinghao had been holding. "Focus on the road."

There was a sense of lost when his hand was empty. Zong Jinghao gripped the steering wheel, and that sense of lost never went away.

It felt like there was a void in his heart, and it was only filled up when he was near this woman.

At the junction, the traffic light was red.

Casually, he placed his hand on Lin Xinyan's thigh.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

This man.

His finger was slowly brushing her skin. Before Lin Xinyan could reject him, he said, "We're husband and wife."

She had to give him something if she did not let him touch her all the time.

He was a normal man, not a monk.

For a woman, the thigh was quite a private place. Instead of staying unmoved, his hand kept brushing on her skin. Her face started to turn red.

She grabbed onto the edge of her shirt. Her head turned away as she did not dare to look at him.

Her heart was beating as rapidly as a hummingbird's wings.

It was as if her heart was no longer hers and she had no control over it.

This heart would always illogically thump for this man.

Lin Xinyan did not reject him and Zong Jinghao's mood was good.

Under his palm was her thigh and he stopped moving his hand. He drove the car through the crowded city center until it reached the office area.

Soon, the car is in Wanyue Group's office parking lot. As this was a new car that Zong Jinghao had bought for Lin Xinyan, it was yet to be registered here. The employee at the parking lot did not lift the pole and said, "This is Wanyue Group's parking lot. It's not opened to public, please park somewhere else."

Zong Jinghao lowered the car window and the employee looked at his face. The employee recognized him instantly and hurriedly lifted the pole with an apologetic smile. "Oh it's Mr. Zong. I didn't see you earlier."

He did not want to lose his job because he blocked his boss' car.

When his gaze landed on the woman in the front passenger seat, he froze for a moment.

He had been here for at least four years. He had never seen any woman sit in his car. This was the first.

And so, he stared at her.

Zong Jinghao glanced at him and winded the window up.

It blocked the gazes from the outside.

When the car stopped, Zong Jinghao handed Lin Xinyan the keys.

She took it from his hands.

“Thank you.” Although he had been reminding her that they were husband and wife, Lin Xinyan knew that this relationship was not a willing and loving one.

It was just a marriage arranged by their parents.

She knew that this car costed at least a million.

She felt bad that he did not want her to pay him back.

She had to show him that she appreciated this.

“Do you really want to thank me?”

There was a smile at Zong Jinghao’s mouth.

Lin Xinyan’s expression was serious. “Of course.”

He leaned over to her. "If you're sincere, kiss me. That'll be your show of sincerity. How about that?"

Lin Xinyan did not want to answer him.

There was no end to this man.

Did he not know where this place was?

This was his company.

Would he not be embarrassed if others saw it?

Lin Xinyan pushed him. "Be serious."

"Then you'll owe me for now." He took Lin Xinyan's arm and wrapped it around his arm. They walked towards the elevator.

Lin Xinyan felt uncomfortable. She bit her lips and asked, "Won't it look bad if the employees see us?"

She was in an awkward position.

Furthermore, he had just broken off his engagement. Would the others think that she was the mistress that made Zong Jinghao break off the engagement?

"I don't want others to think that I'm a mistress. I don't like it."

She did not like mistresses.

Especially when they said words like "they had met love too late".

Or that "they met the right person at the wrong time".

To her, those were all excuses.

Lin Guoan was a good example. He just thought of his own happiness and could just abandon his wife when he had a change of heart.

“In the future, if there’s a chance... Let’s do this again.”

If he really loved her in the future, and not the momentary interest he had in her now, she would hold his hand and stand beside him in public.

The expression on Zong Jinghao’s face slightly darkened and turned sharp.

He did not like mistresses too.

There was also one in his family.

He let go of Lin Xinyan’s hand.

Just then, the elevator stopped and someone came in. The man greeted when he saw Zong Jinghao, “Mr. Zong.”

Zong Jinghao nodded his head slightly as a response.

It was unusually quiet in the elevator.

Zong Jinghao sneakily reached out to touch Lin Xinyan’s hand.

As if electrocuted, Lin Xinyan quickly hid her head behind her back and took a step away from him.

When the Wanyue employee heard the commotion, he turned around to look at Lin Xinyan. “Are you also Wanyue’s employee? Why have I never seen you?”

Six years ago, Lin Xinyan had come to Wanyue to work as a translator for Zong Jinghao. It was just for a few days. After so many years, no one would know her here.

The gears in Lin Xinyan's head turned. She could not come up with a good explanation, so she lied, "I'm new."

"Oh, which department?" This colleague was quite enthusiastic and talkative.

Lin Xinyan did not answer him.

She fidgeted her hands.

Zong Jinghao stood straight, his tall figure taking up much space in the elevator. His figure shrouded a part of the elevator in shadows.

The corner of his lips was slightly turned upwards, as if waiting to see what Lin Xinyan was going to say.

Ding!

Just as Lin Xinyan was at a loss for answers, the elevator stopped.

The employee went out.

Lin Xinyan breathed a sigh of relief and her shoulders drooped.

"I haven't hired a secretary."

Zong Jinghao's head was tilted high.

Lin Xinyan looked at him and rejected. "No way, I have my own job."

She did not want to come here to serve him.

She would be crazy to give up on the designing job she loved and become his secretary.

“Should I tell Mrs. William that she won’t be needing to have a branch?”

Lin Xinyan instantly admitted defeat.

“No.”

“No to what?”

“Don’t tell Mrs. William that.”

“Alright.”

“If you kiss me, I won’t.”

Once again, he had rendered her speechless.

Lin Xinyan was going to go mad from his despicable actions.

“Why are you being a despicable person?”

“I had always been one.”

Lin Xinyan closed her mouth.

Suddenly, he grabbed her by the waist. Before she could react, his hot breath had already reached her.

Soft lips pressed onto her forehead.

Soon, Zong Jinghao had let go of her. The entire process was short. It had been so quick that Lin Xinyan thought it had been a hallucination.

Yet she knew that it was not because she could still clearly feel the warmth on her forehead left by his breath.

He stood on a side with a smile on his face. He looked like a child who had gotten his favorite toy.

The elevator stopped and Zong Jinghao went off the elevator. He walked towards his office and said, "I'm thirsty."

Lin Xinyan looked left and right. There was no one around, was he talking to her?

Obviously, he was.

There was no one else around.

Was he really treating her like his secretary?

Lin Xinyan sighed. At least she had once been here so she knew where the pantry was.

Easily, she found the pantry and she poured a glass of water.

There were some changes here. The people she once saw were mostly not around. There used to be some women, but now there were only men.

She was a little emotional. Time did change many things.

Finance manager Han Zhiying was bringing the monthly report up for Zong Jinghao to sign.

And she crashed into Lin Xinyan in front of the CEO's office.

Lin Xinyan had been holding a glass of water, and some of the water had spilled on her.

The expression on her face instantly darkened.

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The clothes she was wearing were newly bought. She had spent more than forty thousand on it, and she wore it just to meet with Mr. Zong.

It was only the end of the month then could she see Mr. Zong.

Usually, he only appeared in big meetings. And in these meetings, there were hundreds of executives and she was not seated in the front, so she would not be able to see him clearly.

This was the only chance she would be able to meet with the CEO.

Now that he had broken off the engagement, he was single.

She had to take the given opportunity.

If he falls in love with her, she would be the CEO's wife.

Lin Xinyan had been busy with her thoughts and did not notice that there was someone by the door. It was her negligence, so she apologized, "Sorry, sorry. I didn't mean to do it."

"Are you trying to dismiss me with a simple 'I didn't mean to do it'? Do you know how much my clothes cost? Can you afford it?" Han Zhiying glared at her. Her beautiful clothes were stained with water, how could she meet with Mr. Zong?

She had not seen this face. "Are you new?"

Lin Xinyan was afraid that she would ask him which department she was from like that other employee, so she said, "No."

Han Zhiying's expression turned dark. Bai Zhuwei was no longer around Zong Jinghao, there was no other women around him.

This level was not supposed to have women either. Where did she come from?

Had she heard that Zong Jinghao had broken off the engagement and came to please him?

When she thought about it, Han Zhiying's expression turned even darker.

"Are you going in? I'll help you with the door." Lin Xinyan felt apologetic because she was the one who spilled the water on her. Just before she could push the door open, her wrist was grabbed.

And she was pushed away roughly.

Lin Xinyan's body leaned backwards and she took a few steps before stabilizing herself. The water that she had been holding had spilled all over her chest, even her neck was now damp.

Fortunately, the water was no longer hot so she did not burn herself. Only her clothes were wet.

She was wearing a silk dress. When it was soaked with water, the bra underneath became visible. She hurriedly covered her chest.

Although she had given birth, she had kept her figure well. The places where there should be meat were plump, and the places that should be lean was slim.

When Han Zhiying saw her chest, she was stunned for a second. Then, she sneered, "Embarrassing. Who are you trying to seduce wearing like that?"

Han Zhiying felt that she had also come to appease herself in front of Zong Jinghao.

Thinking of competing with her?

“Shameless!”

Lin Xinyan was also angry. She had already apologized. Did she have to be so mean?

“Forgiving is a virtue, have you not heard of that? You’re an employee of a large company yet you’re so petty?”

“Who— Who are you talking about?” Han Zhiying could not find words to refute her.

Lin Xinyan ignored her and turned around. She wanted to pour another glass back at the pantry.

However, she was pulled back by her arm. “No way you’re leaving.”

“Apologize to me!” Han Zhiying had an imposing manner. After all, she was the finance manager of Wanyue Group.

Lin Xinyan was just a new employee, what was she afraid of?

She was confident that she would not be on the losing side.

Lin Xinyan looked at her with surprise. “I’ve already apologized for spilling the water on you. It should be you apologizing to me now.”

“Hah! Why should I apologize to you? Who do you think you are?” Han Zhiying sneered, “I think you’re not interested to be staying in this company. A new employee likes you; how could you be so presumptuous? Are you that ready to run in front of the train? Do you think you can last long if I wanted to mess with you?”

Lin Xinyan just looked at her.

At this moment, the office door swung open, and a tall figure appeared by the door.

He looked around before his gaze finally landed on Lin Xinyan. The floor was wet with water.

And she was soaked in it.

“Mr. Zong, I was planning to hand in the monthly report to you. I wasn’t expecting this new employee to spill water on me and arrogantly refusing to apologize. We should not hire such people in the company.”

Han Zhiying complained.

After all, whoever complained first stood advantageous for these kinds of matters.

She had already arranged the roles for the two of them. The words that Lin Xinyan said would become excuses.

She curled her pretty hair and leaned towards Zong Jinghao as she spoke. She lowered her head and had an upset expression, as if she was wronged and someone needed to help me.

Zong Jinghao had heard the entire conversation from his room. Lin Xinyan had apologized instantly. It was the other woman who was being aggressive.

“What punishment do you think she should have?” Zong Jinghao asked as he looked at Lin Xinyan.

Before Lin Xinyan could say a word, Han Zhiying looked at this godly man in surprise. Was he asking her how would she want this woman to be punished?

It was a pleasant surprise.

Han Zhiying felt that her heart was about to burst out of her chest.

“Naturally, this kind of person could not be kept in the company. She doesn’t have a good personality.” Han Zhiying said with a righteous tone. As she spoke, her eyes were looking up and down at Zong Jinghao.

His ironed suit fitted his firm and tall body. He exuded an aura of superiority that no one could ignore.

The more she looked at him, the faster her heart skipped.

The room was silent for a second.

Lin Xinyan’s gaze landed on Han Zhiying. She took a deep breath and did not want to hold her accountable. She asked Zong Jinghao, “Are you still thirsty?”

“Yes.”

Lin Xinyan turned to walk to the pantry.

There was a brief moment that Han Zhiying could not react to what just happened. What did that mean?

As if she finally realized, she asked, “Mr. Zong, you want a drink? I’ll get it for you.”

She turned around and tried to run ahead of Lin Xinyan before she could pour hers.

Zong Jinghao did not bother with looking at her. “You won’t need to come for work starting from now.”

Han Zhiying's expression dropped. Was he talking about her?

It should not be.

"About that, Mr. Zong. It's not me, it's her that isn't suitable—" Han Zhiying tried to explain.

She was in a panic. Why did this matter end up this way?

Should it not be the other woman who should get lost?

Her gaze fell onto the documents in her hand, and Han Zhiying found her reason. She pulled on Zong Jinghao's suit and said, "Mr. Zong, this is the report for this month. That woman had come out of nowhere and started being ridiculous. I'm an old employee of the company, how could you say that I should just stop coming to work? Isn't she the one who's supposed to leave?"

Zong Jinghao looked at her hand that was grabbing onto his shirt with a grim look.

Guan Jing had just come back from working outside. He was about to report to Zong Jinghao when he saw Han Zhiying pulling on Zong Jinghao, and he froze.

What was going on?

Zong Jinghao hated people touching him.

What was happening here?

What had happened when he was not here?

What had he missed out on?

"Mr. Zong." Guan Jing walked over.

“I don’t want to see this person in the company anymore.” Zong Jinghao pulled Han Zhiying’s hand away and shook her hand off, as if he had touched something dirty.

Han Zhiying did not want to admit her defeat. Why was she the one who was being kicked out?

“Mr. Zong—”

She was about to explain and slander Lin Xinyan more when she was grabbed by Guan Jing. “Go. You should know Mr. Zong’s temper. When did he ever change what he said?” Guan Jing said with an indifferent tone.

“It’s not my fault.” Han Zhiying still did not think that she was wrong.

Lin Xinyan held the glass with one hand and covered her chest with the other as she walked over.

When Guan Jing saw her, he was stunned. Why was she here?

“Ms. Lin.” Guan Jing immediately had a smile on his face.

Lin Xinyan nodded her head slightly. “He’s thirsty. I’ll go in first.”

“Alright.”

Guan Jing looked at Lin Xinyan’s soaked clothes and realized what might have happened.

Han Zhiying was stunned.

She stared dumbfoundedly at Guan Jing. “You call her Ms. Lin. Do you know her?”

“Yes.” Guan Jing took the documents from her hand. “Give it to me. Pack your things and leave today.”

“Who is she?” Han Zhiying swallowed. She had already started to sense her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

She seemed to know Guan Jing well too, as if they were old friends.

“Who is she?”

Guan Jing looked at the closed office door, and thought, Perhaps it’s the person in Zong Jinghao’s heart.

In the office, Zong Jinghao took off his suit jacket to reveal his white shirt underneath.

He folded his sleeves, showing his muscular forearm.

Lin Xinyan placed the glass of water in front of him. “Here.”

Zong Jinghao looked up at her...

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13/05/2021 by [Novel Heart](#)

Zong Jinghao looked up at her and his gaze landed on the hand that she was covering her chest with. “Did you get burned?”

Lin Xinyan was quiet for a moment.

She turned her head, unable to take his gaze. “No.”

She walked towards the lounge and sat on the couch. She took a few tissues and started wiping the water on her neck.

The light in front of her was suddenly blocked. She did not know when Zong Jinghao had walked over. Lin Xinyan quietly coughed once. “I thought you have many matters to settle? Why did you come over?”

When she came in with the water, she saw a tall stack of documents on his office table, waiting to be signed.

As if he had not heard her, Zong Jinghao took the tissue from her. “I’ll wipe it for you.”

“No need.” Lin Xinyan tried to grab the tissue back from him. He raised his hand and she failed to take it back.

“Listen to me.” Zong Jinghao crouched down in front of her legs and gently pulled open her collar to wipe the water on her skin.

His eyes were lowered and there were shadows under his long eyelashes. He looked serious and gentle as if he was wiping expensive antique. Lin Xinyan fell into a trance for a moment.

She turned away slightly. She did not dare to look at him for too long.

She was afraid that this was just a beautiful dream.

That it was not real.

“Don’t be too nice to me.” She did not want to fall into his gentle trap.

She did not want to think about her past, but the fact was there.

After that night, she did not think that she could have romantic love for the rest of her life.

She had lost her rights to have what was beautiful.

She could not deny that in her life, the mark that Zong Jinghao had left in her became deeper and deeper, until it could no longer be erased and she could not ignore it. She seemed to have gotten used to his domineer, his flippant behavior, and his occasional tenderness. Bit by bit, it took over her heart that she had never revealed.

He gave a light laugh. “I want to be nice to you.”

Lin Xinyan’s eyes were red but she did not want Zong Jinghao to realize, so she said in a cold tone, “You’re blind.”

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

This was the first time he had heard someone mocked themselves.

The corner of his lips was turned upwards. “That’s true, I’m quite blind. You don’t look that pretty.”

Why was he only interested in her?

He carefully looked at the woman in front of her. Her eyebrows, her nose, her lips, her jaw, and her cheeks. None of those were the best, but when they were combined, she looked stunning.

Six years ago, the impression she gave to others was of a pure, naive girl.

Now she had experienced life, and her impression to others was of gentleness, intellect, and feminine.

Knock knock.

Someone knocked on the door of the office and Zong Jinghao paused his actions. They looked at each other for a second, then he stood up. He gave her the jacket that he had thrown on the couch. "Wear it."

Lin Xinyan lowered her head to look at herself, then she wore the jacket.

After she was done then did Zong Jinghao say in a low voice, "Come in."

Guan Jing brought Yu Doudou in.

This was the first time that Yu Doudou had been to this kind of place. Along the way, he had been looking everywhere. When he entered Zong Jinghao's office, he let out a sigh. The rich really knows how to enjoy, Yu Doudou thought.

His entire house was not even a quarter of his office.

"Sit down." Guan Jing reminded him.

Yu Doudou laughed apologetically. It seemed like he was a little rude just now.

He sat down facing Lin Xinyan. "I have what you want. Have you thought of what to do?"

Lin Xinyan looked at Zong Jinghao and nodded. "Yes, please hand it to me."

Yu Doudou did not take it out immediately. Instead, he asked, "What are you planning to do? You just came back so let me tell you, B city's Dacheng Law Firm is reputable in this country. The lawyers there were all elites. If we can hire one as our attorney, we have high chances of winning."

His expression darkened as he continued, "I had actually found one, but when he heard it was against the He family, he rejected."

Now, Lin Xinyan realized what Zong Jinghao meant.

They could not do anything to He Ruilin if they only had Yu Doudou's evidence.

The He family would pay for someone to cover up the case.

"Why are you not talking?" Yu Doudou stared at Lin Xinyan.

"Hand me the things and leave the case to me."

"What are you planning to do? I can help you." It was not that Yu Doudou did not believe in Lin Xinyan. He just thought that this was not a matter for only one person to work on. The two of them should be working hard instead of him leaving everything for her to do.

He knew that this case was complicated.

After all, it had been six years.

Lin Xinyan pulled on the suit jacket on her, and said gently, "You should have realized by now that this case won't be an easy case. The He family is reputable, so they wouldn't allow this case to surface. It's impossible for the two of us to do this."

“Then what should we do?” Yu Doudou could no longer stay seated as he jumped up from the couch.

“Don’t worry.” Lin Xinyan hurried to console him. “That’s why I asked you to bring it over. There’s someone who will be helping us for this.”

“Who...”

Soon, Yu Doudou realized.

He opened his mouth in shock but quickly shut it and pursed his lips.

He carefully pointed to the man who had been standing aside with an indifferent look. “He’s helping us?”

Lin Xinyan nodded.

He instantaneously withdrew his hand.

He placed the things he brought with him on the table.

“If there’s anything you need me for, just tell me.” Yu Doudou gave an awkward smile.

Lin Xinyan looked at it. It was indeed the things that he had shown her.

At the same time, Lin Xinyan’s house door was knocked.

Zhuang Zijin went to open the door.

He Ruize’s head was wrapped in bandages. He had treated the wound and changed his clothes.

Zhuang Zijin was stunned. “What happened to your head? Why are you hurt?”

He Ruize’s expression froze, then he gave a smile. “It was an accident.”

“Be careful.” Zhuang Zijin said, concerned.

After all, they had known each other for so long. Although she knew that it was impossible for her daughter to be with him, she was still polite.

“I will. Where’s Yan?” He looked into the house but he did not see Lin Xinyan.

“She did not come home last night. She came back this morning but left soon after. I don’t know what she’s busy with.” Zhuang Zijin said.

“Oh, I see. I’m here for her. Auntie, why aren’t you inviting me in?” He Ruize asked with a smile.

“Look at me, I forgot about that.” Zhuang Zijin hurriedly moved aside and let him in.

He Ruize looked into the bedroom. “Where are the two children?”

Zhuang Zijin wiped her hands on her apron and poured a glass of water for him. “Xichen is playing with Ruixi in the room.”

“Oh.” He Ruize sat on the couch and casually, asked, “Did Yan say anything when she came back?”

He took a sip from the glass to cover the panic in him.

“No, she came back to check the children. She didn’t even have breakfast at home.” Zhuang Zijin smiled.

“I was meeting with Yan yesterday and I mentioned about our relationship yesterday. She seemed to have gotten angry and went off. I’m afraid that she’s still angry so I came here to look for her.”

The smile on Zhuang Zijin’s face dropped a little. This did not seem like her daughter’s style.

Even if she rejected him, she would not have left immediately.

She treated people who were good or bad to her accordingly.

Although she did not like He Ruize, he had helped her much over the years. She would have been more thoughtful than to cut ties with him on the spot.

“Auntie, I’d like to invite your family to lunch and apologize to Yan.” He Ruize glanced away slightly; he did not dare to look at Zhuang Zijin in the eyes.

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He felt guilty.

Zhuang Zijin hesitated. In the past she would not hesitate and would have said yes instantly.

Now that she had promised Lin Xinyan that she was not going to pressure her nor try to matchmake He Ruize and her, Zhuang Zijin did not dare to say yes to him that easily.

“I need to ask Yan about this.” Zhuang Zijin reached out for the phone, but He Ruize covered the phone with his hand. “It’s just a lunch; you won’t need to ask her. My car is just downstairs.”

Zhuang Zijin still did not answer him. She was afraid that Lin Xinyan would not be happy if she decided for her.

Lin Xinyan was the one supporting the family. It was difficult for her, so she did not want her daughter to be unhappy.

“Let’s go. I’m not a predator. We’ve known each other for so long, are you not going to trust me?” He Ruize stood up.

Zhuang Zijin looked at the clock. It was just ten in the morning; it was not time for lunch yet. “Isn’t it a little early for lunch now?”

“The restaurant I booked is far. By the time we reach, it’ll be noon. It won’t be too early.” He Ruize tried his best to convince Zhuang Zijin.

It would not be too good if she were to reject He Ruize again. So, she nodded and said, “Sit on the couch and wait for a while. I’ll get the children ready.”

She undid her apron and went into the bedroom.

Lin Xichen was sitting by the bay window and his sister was in his arms. He was teaching her how to draw with the tablet.

Lin Xinyan had returned the tablet and smartwatch to him, so he could call his teacher and play games again.

Zhuang Zijin carried Lin Ruixi. She was still wearing house clothes, so she had to change.

Lin Xichen was leaning against a soft pillow. On his leg was the tablet and his fingers swiped across the screen. He asked lazily, “Grandma, are you changing for her because you’re going out?”

“Yes, you— Uncle said he’s bringing us out for lunch.” Zhuang Zijin had thought about her son when she said uncle.

Lin Xichen sat straight up, blinked, and looked at Zhuang Zijin. “Grandma, what did you just say?”

Zhuang Zijin patiently repeated her words.

Lin Xichen put down his tablet, slid down the bay window, and quietly opened the door to look out. He Ruize was there sitting on the couch; his head was wrapped in bandages.

He thought about the video he saw on Zong Jinghao’s phone. He thought about the look on his face as he chased after mommy.

He had never seen his mommy in so much panic and looking so helpless.

Lin Xichen clenched his small hands. “A wolf in sheep’s clothing. He’s worse than the heartless man.”

He looked like a good person on the outside, yet he had secretly hurt his mommy.

“What are you talking about?” Zhuang Zijin turned to look at Lin Xichen who was mumbling to himself by the door. “Do you want to change your clothes?”

“No.” Lin Xichen said coldly. What lunch?

Hah!

He would not want to go for lunch.

Who knew if this wolf in sheep’s clothing was going to kidnap them to threaten mommy.

Lin Xichen shivered at the thought.

“I want to pee.” Lin Xichen ran to the bathroom. He closed the door and locked it.

What should he do?

How could he stop Zhuang Zijin from going with He Ruize without He Ruize realizing something was going on?

Lin Xichen sat on the toilet bowl with a frustrated look on his face. Suddenly, he remembered that he had Zong Jinghao’s number. And so, he dialed the number.

Wanyue.

In Zong Jinghao’s office, there was a man with an unfamiliar face.

This man was Zong Jinghao’s friend.

He was the one who organized the gathering and invited Zong Jinghao at KS Private Club the last time.

However, Zong Jinghao had met with Lin Xinyan who was nearly raped. So Zong Jinghao had not gone for the gathering.

He remembered it.

The moment Su Zhan entered the room, he mocked, "Tsk tsk. As someone who go ditched, I'm surprised you have a need for me. What a rare sight."

When he had gotten the call, he thought he had misheard him.

Zong Jinghao did not bother with his words. "The things and people are there."

In the case of a lawsuit, the lawyer had to know the entire course of the incident.

He had to determine whether the evidence was useful.

Su Zhan's lips turned downwards. "That's too much of you. The best lawyers in the firm were lured away by you to work for your company's legal affairs. Now you want me, the boss, to work on your lawsuit?"

Hm?

It was now that Su Zhan realized that the person on the couch wearing a suit was not a man but a woman.

He leaned his body and walked towards the couch. He stared Lin Xinyan. "Is this your ex-wife?"

When Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan had married, he was studying abroad.

Later, Lin Xinyan had left.

So he had never seen her.

He had only heard from Guan Jing that Zong Jinghao's ex-wife of a month's marriage was back.

"I didn't have the chance last time, so I have to see how you look like this time." The one who made Zong Jinghao turned back for her.

One of the seven wonders of the world.

Su Zhan moved towards Lin Xinyan before he was suddenly dragged by his back collar. "Be serious."

"Hey, don't be like that. People cross the bridge when they come to it, but for you, you burn the bridge before you cross it. Do you still want my help?" Su Zhan took a few steps back from Zong Jinghao's pull.

Lin Xinyan touched her hair to cover her embarrassment from being watched.

On a side, Yu Doudou was watching with wide eyes. Oh my god, Wanyue Group's CEO was Lin Xinyan's ex-husband?

"Jinghao, you can't be like that. Let me tell you, a person can't be too—"

"I heard your grandma is looking for you. Why don't I tell her that you're with me right now? Zong Jinghao let go of his collar and said with an indifferent tone.

Su Zhan was speechless.

A threat.

Explicitly. An explicit threat.

"Hm?"

“I’ll go. I’ll go, okay?” Su Zhan wanted to smack himself. Why was he friends with this person?

Su Zhan shouted at Yu Doudou, “Hey, what’s your name?”

“Yu Doudou.” Yu Doudou gave a tensed smile.

“Ha—Hahaha...”

Su Zhan started laughing. “You’re a man, why is your name Doudou?”

It was Yu Doudou’s turn to be speechless.

What could he do about it? It was the name given to him by his parents.

“Come, come, tell me everything.” Su Zhan was an extrovert and he had a lively personality.

He was the polar opposite of Zong Jinghao.

How did these two become friends?

Yu Doudou furrowed his eyebrows slightly.

After Su Zhan had left, there was quietness in the office.

No one spoke.

“That was your friend?” Lin Xinyan broke the silence.

“Yes.”

“He’s a lawyer?” Lin Xinyan did not think that he looked like a lawyer.

The lawyers she had seen were rigorous and unsmiling. They were all serious people.

Su Zhan was even livelier than the average person.

A person like that was a lawyer?

“How did you two become friends?” Lin Xinyan was curious.

Zong Jinghao walked over and was just about to talk to her when his phone on the office table rang.

“Let me pick up a call.” He walked to the front of the table and picked the ringing phone. On the screen was the naughty boy’s name.

He had just seen this boy a total of three times. And yet he had given him two “surprises”.

He had a deep impression of him.

And he deliberately saved his name as such on his contacts list.

His pupils contracted to the center. He picked up his phone but his gaze was on Lin Xinyan.

“Hello?”

“It’s me. The bad guy is at my house. He’s saying that he wants to bring us out for lunch but I think he’s thinking of kidnapping us to threaten my mommy.”

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Zong Jinghao raised his hand and checked the time. About fourteen hours had passed since the incident happened. He was fast.

He knew that he was unable to achieve his goal by targeting Lin Xinyan, so he changed the target to the person she cared about the most.

He slowly withdrew his hand that was holding the phone.

Lin Xichen was a little anxious when he didn't hear Zong Jinghao's reply. After all, He Ruize was at his home now, and he also didn't dare to tell Zhuang Zijin for fear that she would act rashly and alert He Ruize in case she was unable to remain calm.

"Do I need to call the police?" Lin Xichen asked.

Zong Jinghao looked at Lin Xinyan and thought for a moment. "What will you tell the police?"

Lin Xichen was speechless.

Now that there was no evidence, so the video could not be released. Besides, the short video couldn't help much either.

"What should we do then?" Lin Xichen asked anxiously.

Zong Jinghao casually leaned against the desk, rubbed his fingers along the edge of the table, and asked after a moment of thought, "Do you want to avenge your mommy?"

“Yes,” Lin Xichen replied without any hesitation.

“Do you dare to risk your life?”

Lin Xichen was stunned for a moment, and quickly understood what Zong Jinghao meant. “You want me to follow He Ruize. When he really holds us hostage, we can obtain the evidence of his breaking the law without involving Mommy.”

Although He Ruize was shameless, but if such a thing is published, Lin Xinyan’s reputation will also be damaged.

Zong Jinghao’s gaze that were fixed on Lin Xinyan grew deeper. This kid has a really sharp mind.

He was able to understand what he meant so quickly.

“Yes,” Lin Xichen answered bravely. “But—”

Lin Xichen shut his mouth again after thinking for a moment.

If Mommy knows that Zong Jinghao uses us as bait, she will definitely be angry, right?

“But what?” Zong Jinghao asked.

“Nothing.” Lin Xichen decided not to tell him.

“You have to pretend that you don’t know anything, and act as usual. Don’t arouse his suspicion. Turn on the location service on your phone and leave the rest to me.”

“Okay.”

Lin Xichen knew what to do.

After hanging up the phone, Zong Jinghao called the internal line to ask Guan Jing to come.

Soon he knocked on the office door.

After Zong Jinghao said, “come in”, he opened the door and walked up to Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao said a few words to him in a low voice. After listening to Zong Jinghao’s words, Guan Jing glanced at Lin Xinyan. Will she be upset if she knows about this?

After all, they are risking her children.

“I got it.”

“Don’t make any mistakes. Do it personally.”

“Okay.”

Lin Xinyan took a financial magazine and casually flipped through it. She was not interested in reading it but was bored and wanted to kill time.

Zong Jinghao seemed to be dealing with things with Guan Jing, so it wasn’t good for her to disturb him.

When Guan Jing went out, Zong Jinghao asked, “Would you like to see if they have finished talking?”

He was referring to Su Zhan and Yu Doudou.

“Sure.” Standing up, Lin Xinyan took off the suit.

Her skirt was thin, and the air conditioner was turned on in the office, so it had become dry.

Zong Jinghao wanted to put his hand over her shoulder, but Lin Xinyan dodged him. "If you do this again, I'll get angry."

Lin Xinyan pulled a long face.

Their current relationship was nondescript and unclear.

People might speculate if they saw them like that.

Zong Jinghao didn't force it. He was not in a hurry, as there was plenty of time.

Su Zhan and Yu Doudou were in the reception room, which was not far from Zong Jinghao's office. They reached there after walking through the office area.

Pushing open the door of the reception room, Lin Xinyan was shocked at the spaciousness of the reception room. The decoration here was very different from Zong Jinghao's office. The dark office desk and chair made the place appear calm, while the right side was hollowed out and an entire glass wall was installed, making the lighting excellent. Every piece of the furnishings was very bold, and even the drinking cups were also very expensive.

Lin Xinyan could probably understand too. After all, the reception room was used to receive guests, and to discuss matters, so it represented the company.

Seeing Lin Xinyan, Yu Doudou quickly stood up. He had been somewhat restrained.

Lin Xinyan motioned to him not to be nervous.

"How's it going?" Zong Jinghao pulled out the chair and sat down.

Su Zhan ignored him and stared at Lin Xinyan with his chin propped.

He kept looking her up and down.

He smirked. "So, this is your type? Didn't you like woman like Zhuwei previously? Has your taste changed?"

Su Zhan knew Bai Zhuwei, her previous relationship with Zong Jinghao, and also her identity now as the daughter of the He family. He also knew that she had changed her name, but he did not like to change his way of addressing her, so he still stuck to her previous name.

"Quite a big difference there." Obviously, Lin Xinyan and Bai Zhuwei were not the same type.

Zong Jinghao remained calm, watching him talking to himself coldly.

Su Zhan also found it boring, so he put away the frivolous manner, and said solemnly, "I need your help in this matter."

If the other party was an ordinary person, it was naturally easy to do; but the other party was an important and powerful figure with a background, so it was not that simple.

Certain means were needed for ironclad evidence.

Zong Jinghao had already come up with a countermeasure.

He leaned back in the chair, rhythmically tapping his fingers gently on the table, as if he was thinking about something.

Su Zhan knew he was thinking, so he stopped talking. Turning his chair and standing up, he walked up to Lin Xinyan with a smile, and introduced himself,

“Let me introduce myself first. My name is Su Zhan, the owner of Dacheng Law Firm. You can call me Zhan, or Su.”

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

Yu Doudou widened his mouth in surprise.

“Y-You’re the boss of Dacheng Law Firm?” Yu Doudou had spoken to him for a long time, but he didn’t even know that he was from Dacheng Law Firm, and that he was the famous lawyer, Mr. Su, who had never lost in lawsuits.

He had only heard of him and never met him.

“I finally see the real one today,” Yu Doudou said excitedly.

He thought, I can avenge my brother now.

“You think I’m a monkey? What real one? Have you seen a fake one?” Su Zhan dissed him.

Yu Doudou waved his hand and explained, “I-I admire you.”

Straightening up, Su Zhan pinched his collar, which was not creased, and said proudly, “That’s more like it.”

Yu Doudou smiled.

Lin Xinyan quietly took a step back, trying to withdraw from the pointless conversation between the two of them.

Having good eyes, Su Zhan stepped to the left to stop her from leaving. “Umm, how do I address you? If you haven’t divorced Jinghao, I should address you as Mrs. Zong.”

He rubbed his chin with his fingers, glanced at Zong Jinghao, and said meaningfully, “Actually, it’s also okay to address you that way now—”

“Just call me Lin Xinyan,” Lin Xinyan interrupted him.

Su Zhan smiled, “Isn’t it inappropriate?”

“Nothing is inappropriate,” Lin Xinyan replied.

She didn’t want to be labelled with some strange identity.

“Should I call you Yan?”

The black pen on the table fell to the ground with a snap.

That pen belonged to Su Zhan. He used it to record what Yu Doudou said to him earlier.

Su Zhan was speechless.

Zong Jinghao walked over, with steady and unhurried steps. When he passed by Su Zhan, he said calmly, “I’m sorry for accidentally dropping your pen.”

Su Zhan was again rendered speechless.

That pen was given by his ex-girlfriend, and it was very ‘precious’.

Zong Jinghao took Lin Xinyan’s hand. “We should go now.”

“Where to?” Lin Xinyan was baffled.

“You will know when you get there.”

Su Zhan was stunned in place for several seconds.

After coming back to his senses, he shouted at Zong Jinghao as he left, "Are you a kid? Doing something so childish?"

Zong Jinghao completely ignored him.

Yan?

Even I had never called her like that before.

Su Zhan's mouth twitched.

"Are we going to see Mommy?" Lin Ruixi was sitting in Zhuang Zijin's arms, but her eyes kept looking out of the car window, feeling curious about the scenery passing quickly outside.

He Ruize, who drove the car, turned around and comforted her, "Yes, your mommy will come later too. I called her."

Lin Xichen glanced at He Ruize and snorted in his heart. Liar.

"Really?" Lin Ruixi was excited because she was about to see Mommy.

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Lin Ruixi grinned, revealing a row of white teeth.

“Sure.”

He Ruize glanced at Lin Xichen, who had been quiet, and asked, “Xichen, why don’t you talk?”

Lin Xichen looked distressed. “I feel blue.”

“You are a kid. Why do you feel blue?” Zhuang Zijin said. She added, “Didn’t your mom give you your smartwatch and tablet? What else makes you unhappy? Why are you tugging at my shirt?”

Lin Xichen wanted to stop Zhuang Zijin from talking, but he failed.

“S-Stop, you’re embarrassing me in front of uncle.” Lin Xichen quickly came up with his explanation, but when he said the word uncle, he felt extremely disgusted.

Such a hypocrite was not worthy of being called uncle by him.

“Xichen, show me your watch. I have forgotten how your smartwatch is like.”

Zhuang Zijin didn’t bring her phone as it was turned off after He Ruize deliberately knocked over his teacup wetting it.

He specifically glanced at Lin Xichen’s wrist and found that it was empty.

He did not allow Lin Xichen to be able to contact Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xichen's eyes were shifty. "Umm, I forgot to bring it."

He Ruize knew that this kid was smart, and his behavior earlier was a sign of guilt.

What is he guilty of?

He Ruize narrowed his eyes. Zhuang Zijin's reaction was normal, and wasn't wary of him, which meant Lin Xinyan didn't tell her about it.

Lin Xinyan didn't tell Zhuang Zijin, let alone telling the two five-year-old children about such a thing.

He took out the phone in his pocket and dialed Lin Xichen's number.

Soon a ringtone was heard ringing inside the car.

He Ruize recognized this ringtone clearly.

It was from Lin Xichen's smartwatch.

Panicked, Lin Xichen pocketed his smartwatch, but it was already too late.

"Xichen, why did you lie to me? You forgot that I bought this smartwatch for you. I have set my number, and your mom's number as special care, so even if you turn off the smartwatch, it will still remind you when we call."

Lin Xichen only remembered this after the smartwatch rang.

How could I forget such an important thing?

Lin Xichen hung his head, feeling upset. "I—I just don't want to show it to you."

He kept his head down, so He Ruize couldn't see his expression.

"I remember that this smartwatch also has GPS. At that time, I was afraid that you would go missing."

"It does have GPS." Lin Xichen felt wrong, so he tried to call Zong Jinghao.

Suddenly, He Ruize parked the car on the side of the road and turned to look at Lin Xichen. "Who are you calling?"

"I'm not." He panicked, and the smartwatch fell off, showing the words Heartless Man on it.

This was a name Lin Xichen gave to Zong Jinghao.

In his opinion, Zong Jinghao abandoned Mommy and them, so he was a heartless man.

Even if they were now working together, it did not mean that he forgave him.

He Ruize bent over and picked it up. Staring at the name on it, he asked, "Who is this?"

Lin Xichen was so nervous that a layer of sweat formed on his forehead. "My teacher, who likes to control me, so I gave him a nickname."

Lin Xichen was studying in AC before, and knew that he had a teacher, so he didn't doubt him.

"This smartwatch has been used for too long. It's time to change." Then, he removed the square electric plate inside.

The screen of the smartwatch went black.

“No, I don’t want to change it.” Lin Xichen reached out to grab it, but He Ruize easily dodged him.

Zhuang Zijin noticed that He Ruize’s behavior was very strange. “The smartwatch can still be used.”

He Ruize threw the watch into a small river not far away. He had already driven out of the city, and they were now on the way to the outskirts.

Zhuang Zijin asked him, “Why is it so remote?”

He Ruize said that the place he booked was a farm family resort, which was located in a remote area, hence alleviating Zhuang Zijin’s doubts.

“When we return to the city after the meal, I will buy you a new one. Many functions will not work after this has been used for a long time.”

“I think it’s still good, and it rang when you called just now, so it can still be used.” Zhuang Zijin vaguely felt that something was odd about He Ruize.

“I’ll get him a new one.” He Ruize started the car and drove back onto the highway.

Suddenly Lin Xichen tugged at He Ruize’s shirt hem. “I want to go home.”

“We’ll be there soon. Why go home?” He Ruize didn’t mean to stop.

“I-I—” Lin Xichen was racking his brain. He needed to find a reason. At that moment, a light bulb went off in his head. He had an idea and covered his stomach. “My stomach hurts. I want to go to the toilet.”

“There is no toilet here. Just hold it.”

“No, I can’t take it anymore.” Lin Xichen curled up on the back seat, looking like he was in great pain.

“Doctor He, you should stop. Xichen is unwell.” Putting Lin Ruixi on the seat, Zhuang Zijin held Lin Xichen in her arms, and touched his belly.

“Did you eat something bad and have diarrhea?”

Zhuang Zijin felt sorry for him.

“Maybe.” Lin Xichen trembled with pain and looked terribly in pain. “The pain is killing me. I need to go to the toilet.”

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan got into Zong Jinghao’s car, still feeling that his behavior was strange, so she asked, “Where are you taking me?”

“I just received a call from your son in the office...”

Buzzing...

Suddenly his phone vibrated and interrupted him. Glancing at the caller ID, he saw that it was Guan Jing, and picked it up.

Guan Jin’s voice was immediately heard saying, “The location information is suddenly cut off.”

Zong Jinghao’s heart skipped a beat. How could this be?

Has that kid been exposed?

“Where is the location when the signal was cut off?”

“Near Ding Bridge.”

“Where are you now?”

“Hurrying over there.”

Zong Jinghao thought calmly for two seconds and instructed Guan Jing to send a few men to investigate the surrounding environment.

Ding Bridge was already far away from the city, and that place was relatively remote. He speculated that the place He Ruize would go should not be very far from there, and that it might be nearby.

“Check if there is any place where he can hide.”

After hanging up, Lin Xinyan asked immediately, “Xichen called you?”

Zong Jinghao was going to tell her, but now that something went wrong, he didn’t say anything for fear that she would be worried, and just responded in agreement.

“Why does he have your phone number?” Lin Xinyan frowned. The kid hates him so much. Why would he contact him?

Is there anything I don’t know about?

She felt panicked inexplicably.

“I gave it to him when we ate last time. We are now friends and not enemies. His prejudice against me is gone,” Zong Jinghao patiently explained.

Lin Xinyan still felt uneasy.

“Really?”

“Yes.”

Meanwhile, Zhuang Zijin was anxious. "Hurry up and stop the car. Xichen is uncomfortable!"

He Ruize took a look at the GPS. They were not far from where he was heading, so it would not waste too much time for him to stop here. Besides, he had already destroyed Lin Xichen's means of communication, making him unable to contact anyone, so he stopped the car.

He pushed open the car door to get off and walked to the back seat, saying to Zhuang Zijin, "I'll take Xichen, and you'll take care of Ruixi in the car. It's a remote place. Don't run into bad guys."

"Okay," Zhuang Zijin replied.

"Uncle, hold me. My stomach hurts so much that I can't walk." Lin Xichen wrapped his arms around He Ruize's waist, looking weak.

He Ruize looked at him. "Does your stomach really hurt?"

"Sure. Why would I lie to you?" Lin Xichen lay in his arms, and held him tightly, as if he was someone very close to him.

Now that he was sick, he had become weak.

He Ruize watched this kid grow up, so there was a bond between them.

Seeing him in so much pain, He Ruize's heart softened. "I will take you in my arms."

When Lin Xichen was lying in his arms, he quietly reached into his pocket, while deliberately talking to him. "Uncle, am I going to die?"

"Nonsense. No, it's just a stomachache, not a terminal illness," He Ruize comforted.

“Then why am I in so much pain? It really hurts. The pain is killing me.” He deliberately moved around in his arms to disguise his movement of pulling out his phone.

“You won’t die so easily. If you die, your mommy will not be able to survive too...”

Speaking of Lin Xinyan, his eyes darkened.

Lin Xichen successfully got He Ruize’s phone, and then secretly put it in his pocket.

“This looks like a good spot.” He Ruize put him in the woods.

With his feet on the ground, Lin Xichen immediately took off his pants.

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With his feet on the ground, Lin Xichen immediately took off his pants.

He Ruize turned around instinctively.

Lin Xichen secretly took out He Ruize's phone and tried to dial Zong Jinghao's number while observing his movements.

He had a good memory, and was especially sensitive toward things like numbers, so he remembered Zong Jinghao's number after seeing it.

Just as he keyed in two numbers, He Ruize suddenly said, "Hurry up."

"Okay." Lin Xichen quickly keyed in the rest of the phone number.

Suddenly He Ruize turned around. Fortunately, Lin Xichen moved fast and put the phone away. He continued to cover his belly pretending to be in pain.

"Xichen."

"Yeah—" Lin Xichen groaned in pain while covering his stomach.

"Are you okay with me marrying your mommy?" He Ruize asked tentatively.

No way!

He didn't want him to marry Mommy. He would rather Mummy be together with the heartless man than with him.

But he couldn't say that, so he replied, blinking his eyes, "Y-Yeah I guess."

Lin Xichen felt sick when he said something against his will.

“Really?” He Ruize still hoped to be recognized by him and Lin Ruixi.

If it weren't for the fact that he was left with no choice, he didn't want to use such a despicable means.

He never thought of hurting them. He just wanted to hide them and threaten Lin Xinyan to marry him.

After they got married, he would take them back safely.

“Yes.” Lin Xichen felt nauseous, as he was put off by He Ruize, who even asked him whether it was true.

Not possible to be true!

“What's wrong?” He Ruize walked over, and Lin Xichen quickly waved his hand. “Don't come over. I just can't get it out and feel very uncomfortable.”

“Your stomach hurts probably not because you want to poop.” He Ruize still came over. “Let's go back. I'll find a place to examine you.”

“W-What place?” Lin Xichen swallowed hard.

Obviously, he was not going to let him go back.

Instead of saying go back to the city, he said 'find a place'?

Lin Xichen's heart began to race. He hadn't had a chance to call for help.

What should I do?

What should I do?

What should I do if grandma and Ruixi are really in danger?

He was so anxious that beads of sweat stood out on his forehead, looking a little like the cold sweat formed due to the pain.

“N-Nothing,” He Ruize explained stammeringly, “When we get back to the city, I will have you examined at the hospital.”

“Let’s go.” He Ruize reached out to hold him.

Lin Xichen quickly refused. “I-I will pull my pants up. Don’t look at me.”

He pretended to be shy.

He Ruize smiled. “I am also a man, and it’s not like I haven’t seen it before. When you were young, I even changed your diapers.”

“But I’m grown up now.” Lin Xichen wrapped his hands around his legs tightly, while the phone was still hidden in his arms. If He Ruize got too close, he would definitely find out.

“Well, hurry up.” He Ruize did not continue to approach him, as he turned around.

Lin Xichen took out the phone and was about to make a call, when suddenly, the phone rang. He wanted to hang up in a panic, and the phone fell to the ground. His heart was beating so fast that as if it would jump out of his chest.

It was too late for him to pick it up.

He Ruize turned and stared at the phone on the ground, his eyes narrowed. Why would he have my phone?

“I-I...” Lin Xichen wanted to explain but couldn’t find a reason. The fact that the phone fell out of his hand was irrefutable.

He couldn’t explain it.

“You have been lying to me. Your stomach doesn’t hurt at all. You hugged me, not because you have a good relationship with me, but because you deliberately wanted to steal my phone.” He Ruize slowly approached him.

Lin Xichen had never seen He Ruize looking so vicious before, so he could not help but back away while grabbing his pants with both hands.

“D-Don’t come over.”

He Ruize bent over to pick up the phone, whereas Lin Xichen took advantage of this and ran away.

There was no way to run in the woods here.

He didn’t run far before he was caught by He Ruize who held him by the waist. “I’m so good to you and your mommy. Why do you have to fail me? I trust you so much, and yet you lie to me?!”

His face was terrifying.

Lin Xichen struggled hard. “Let go of me. Hurry up and let go of me.”

At this moment, the phone in He Ruize’s pocket rang again.

He took out his phone and saw the word Ruilin flashing on the screen.

He answered the phone.

He Ruilin's voice was immediately heard, urging, "Why are you not here yet? It's getting late. Also, why didn't you answer my call just now?"

"Something happened on my side—Ah—"

Lin Xichen bit He Ruize's arm, causing him to groan in pain.

"Let's go!" He Ruize angrily scolded.

With strength born of desperation, Lin Xichen bit hard, wishing to bite the piece of meat off his arm.

He Ruize was in great pain, so he slapped Lin Xichen on the face, and his face turned red in an instant, with five obvious fingerprints on his small fair face, that looked like it was about to swell up.

He Ruize glared at Lin Xichen, clutching his collar. "How dare you bite me?"

"You bullied my mommy; I wish I can bite you to death!" Lin Xichen also glared at him.

He was obviously so weak and small in front of He Ruize, but he was extremely unyielding.

He Ruize's hand that was holding his collar made noise due to overexertion.

"Your mommy told you?"

"None of your business!" Lin Xi screamed at him while glaring at him.

"Okay, okay. Lin Xichen, I underestimated you." He Ruize grabbed his collar and dragged him on the ground to the side of the road.

Lin Xichen pursed his lips stubbornly, not wanting to utter a single sound, despite the fact that it hurt to have ankles being dragged along the ground.

Zhuang Zijin was sitting in the car when she saw this scene and felt her heart ache so much that as if it had been stabbed, making her unable to breathe.

She got out of the car with Lin Ruixi in her arms, and scolded, “What are you doing, Doctor He?”

He Ruize raised his head and saw Zhuang Zijin standing by the car, her eyes wide open and blazing with anger.

“Grandma, run with Ruixi. Don’t bother about me. He wants to kidnap us and threaten Mommy to marry him,” Lin Xichen shouted at Zhuang Zijin.

What?

It all happened too quickly, and Zhuang Zijin couldn’t react for a while. “W-What did you say?”

Lin Xichen had no time to explain to her. “Quick! Run!”

“Auntie, don’t listen to his nonsense. It is a misunderstanding—”

Misunderstanding?

With bloodshot eyes, Zhuang Zijin was shivering. “You abused Xichen. I saw it with my own eyes. How could it be a misunderstanding?”

Suddenly, her bloodshot eyes were popping out with terror and anger.

She found He Ruize strange, and sure enough, he had changed.

“Run!” Lin Xichen was extremely anxious.

With Lin Ruixi in her arms, Zhuang Zijin didn’t move. She couldn’t leave Lin Xichen behind.

“Doctor He, calm down.” Unable to stop her body from shaking, she was extremely panicked.

“There’s no turning back.” Since Lin Xinyan discovered his intention that night, he had no way out and could only go down this path.

For the happiness of his sister, the benefits of the family, and himself, he could only go on.

There was no way out!

“Don’t bother about me. Do you want him to catch us all to threaten Mommy?!”
Lin Xichen roared.

Zhuang Zijin’s tears rolled down her cheeks.

How could I leave a child behind?

Lin Ruixi didn’t know what was going on, as she blinked her eyes and asked,
“Grandma, what’s wrong with Xichen?”

Zhuang Zijin looked at Lin Ruixi in her arms, thinking that they couldn’t all be caught by him.

She must at least make sure one was safe, and then come to rescue the other.

Holding Lin Ruixi, she ran away.

He Ruize threw Lin Xichen into the car and wanted to chase Zhuang Zijin, but Lin Xichen held his arm.

“Let me go!”

Lin Xichen was determined not to let go.

After the darkest side of him was seen, He Ruize completely lost his usual geniality. He grabbed Lin Xichen's hair and said, "Even if they run away, I still have you, and your mommy will still be willing to give herself in exchange for you!"

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Lin Xichen's right face was swollen, as if puffing up with anger, forming a sharp contrast with the left side.

He couldn't think too much now, and just wanted his grandma to escape with his sister first.

It was better for him alone to be controlled than for the whole family to be controlled by him.

At this moment, Zhuang Zijin had already run far.

He Ruilin called again to rush him. "What's the matter with you? It's been too long. What happened just now?"

He Ruize couldn't explain clearly on the phone. After saying I'll be there soon, he hung up.

He didn't plan to chase after Zhuang Zijin, as it was too long a delay, and having one of them was enough to threaten Lin Xinyan.

He was worried that Lin Xichen might cause more trouble, so he grabbed his hair and hit his head on the car door. Lin Xichen felt very pain.

A warm liquid ran down his forehead.

Everything went black, while he gradually lost his consciousness, and passed out.

He Ruize threw him in the back seat, got into the driver's seat and started the car.

Not long after He Ruize left; another car drove over. Guan Jing gave Zong Jinghao the result of the investigation, which found that there was a village near Ding Bridge, so he targeted this village.

Apart from that, there was no place to hide.

Guan Jing led men to follow.

“Don't worry too much. Your son is so smart, so he'll be fine.”

When Guan Jing called, Lin Xinyan put him on speaker and learned that He Ruize was going to kidnap Zhuang Zijin and her two kids.

Since then, she had been in a tense state, and said nothing to Zong Jinghao.

“Smart?” Lin Xinyan's eyes were reddened. “He is just a five-year-old child. How can he deal with an adult?”

She knew she was taking out her anger on him, but she couldn't help it.

What if something happens?

“It's all my fault. I shouldn't be away from home. I shouldn't leave them at home and not care about them. That's why this happened.” She blamed herself.

She never thought that He Ruize would suddenly become like this.

She had known He Ruize for ten years.

How could he kidnap my children?

Can the human really be so fickle?

Her heart hurt so much that it was as if someone tore her heart with a saw.

Knowing that she was worried, Zong Jinghao reached out to squeeze her hand, clasping her hand in his palm tightly.

He did not use words to comfort her, as she might be deaf to comforting words now.

Zhuang Zijin didn't keep running. Instead, she hid with Lin Ruixi.

Seeing a car passing by, she ran out and flag down the car.

Guan Jing was driving the car when he saw someone from a distance. After getting close, he could see who was standing on the roadside. So, he accelerated and then stopped the car beside Zhuang Zijin.

"Please do me a favor. I've met a bad guy, can you—" Zhuang Zijin saw who he was before she finished speaking.

Although she only saw him a few times, Zhuang Zijin knew him. He was the guy around the young master of the Zong family.

Guan Jing got off the car and opened the rear car door. "Get in quickly."

"Thank you." Zhuang Zijin got into the car with Lin Ruixi in her arms.

She was as good as gold. Zhuang Zijin told her that there was a bad guy who wanted to catch them, and could not talk, so when they hid, she kept her mouth pursed and didn't say anything, very well behaved.

"Xichen was taken away, can you call the police for me?" Zhuang Zijin asked Guan Jing after she was sure that she was safe.

“Don’t worry. I’ve already brought the police with me.”

Guan Jing motioned her to look back. She was too nervous and didn’t pay attention to the back. At this moment, several cars and even police cars were parked behind the car.

Zhuang Zijin couldn’t bother to think about how Guan Jing knew they would be in danger, and just wanted him to save Lin Xichen quickly.

He was a five-year-old child, and still very young.

Although he was clever sometimes, he was still just a child in her eyes.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Zong and Ms. Lin are already there and will definitely rescue Xichen. I will send you to a safe place first.” Guan Jing turned the car around and drove to stop next to Chief Shen’s car. Winding down the window, Guan Jing said to Chief Shen who was sitting in the passenger seat of another car and was looking at the map, “You guys go ahead. I have something else to do.”

Chief Shen glanced at him. “Alright. I’ll take care of this.”

He had known the location.

“Okay.” Guan Jin continued driving and gave Zong Jinghao another call, with the purpose of telling Lin Xinyan that her mother and daughter were safe, so that she felt better and wouldn’t worry so much.

“What about Xichen?” They escaped, but what about Xichen?

“He’s been taken away by He Ruize. Your mother probably discovered He Ruize’s intentions, and might not be able to take the two kids with her at the time.” This was Guan Jin’s guess. After all, the two five-year-old children couldn’t run fast, while He Ruize was a young and strong man, so he could easily catch them.

He already found the fact that Zhuang Zijin was able to escape incredible.

Although Zhuang Zijin was not exactly elderly, her physical fitness was definitely not as good as He Ruize's, not to mention that she had to carry a kid in her arms.

It was not easy for her to escape.

"Please help me to take good care of them." Holding the phone, Lin Xinyan didn't feel relaxed at all.

"Send them to the villa," said Zong Jinghao.

The place where she lived was too unsafe.

No one dared to trespass in his villa.

Moreover, the security system and the anti-theft system were all top-notch, and he could arrange for people to protect them in the villa.

Lin Xinyan thought for a while. Now that she had had a falling out with He Ruize, and the He family was no ordinary people, she was worried if they went back to her place.

"Send them to the villa," Lin Xinyan said.

"Okay," Guan Jing answered.

At this time, their car had already entered the village. Lin Xinyan hung up the phone, but did not put it down, and just held it tightly in her hand.

It seemed that she would not feel so nervous if she was holding something in her hand.

Zong Jinghao drove the car through the village with road that was very uneven and bumpy.

Suddenly Lin Xinyan saw a familiar car, and she said excitedly, "That's He Ruize's car."

She urged, "Hurry up."

"Okay." Zong Jinghao was particularly patient.

Knowing that she was anxious, he responded in acknowledgement, despite already driving at full speed.

He Ruize's car was parked in a courtyard.

The black brick wall in front of the bungalow was very low and looked worn out because it hadn't been taken care of all year round.

In the courtyard.

He Ruize brought only one person, so He Ruilin was very angry. "Isn't your relationship with them very good? Why do you bring one only?"

"They found out."

"Why would they find out?" He Ruilin yelled, "I don't allow accidents, but you missed it again and again. If you succeeded last time, do we still need to do this?"

She was on the verge of breaking down. "Ruize, did you really make a mistake, or you just don't have the heart to do it?"

He Ruilin now seriously doubted that he was lacking in will.

“I did my best!” He Ruize raised his voice at his sister for the first time. “Because of this, I’m done with Yan entirely.”

Even if he used her child to threaten her to marry him, she wouldn’t treat him as before.

Although she didn’t love him previously, at least she was close to him and treated him like a family.

Yet now, they had become enemies.

“Don’t ever think that you’ve made sacrifices. You’re selfish underneath. Don’t forget, you concealed the truth you found from her before you found out that I am your sister!” He Ruilin could see through that, in fact, He Ruize was the same kind of person as she was.

He was just good at camouflaging.

Now, he just showed his true colors.

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“What nonsense are you talking about?” He Ruize didn’t like his cards being put on the table, even if she was right.

“Well, just treat it as nonsense then.” He Ruilin didn’t want to argue with him either, as it was not the time to argue about this now.

The most urgent task now was to think about how to deal with the current situation. Zhuang Zijin had escaped, so Lin Xinyan would find out soon.

“Where did Zhuang Zijin find out about this and escape?” asked He Ruilin.

“The river at the village’s entrance.”

That place was very near here. If she provided clues, Lin Xinyan should be able to find this place soon. It was not safe here anymore.

They couldn’t hide Lin Xichen here.

“We have to leave and find another place to hide this kid.” He Ruilin narrowed her eyes. “Now we can only send him as far away as possible. It’s best to make sure Lin Xinyan never find him.”

That’s her son. If she knows that her son is missing or dead, she will go crazy, won’t she?

“Our plan is just to kidnap him, and after Yan promises to marry me, we will release him—”

“Then what?” He Ruilin interrupted him. “Will Lin Xinyan resignedly spend the rest of her life with you? Stop dreaming. Only by keeping this little guy in your hands forever can she stay by your side, understand?”

With things as such, he had no choice.

He Ruize put Lin Xichen, who had passed out, into the back seat again.

“Look for another place later. Let’s get out of here first.” He Ruilin got into her car. Just as she was about to start her car, she saw the black cross-country that was driving over. The strong iron was wrapped in jet black paint with strong lines. This was Zong Jinghao’s car, Kuris.

She had seen it before.

He Ruilin’s face changed immediately, as she shouted at He Ruize, “Hurry up.”

But it was too late. Zong Jinghao slammed on the accelerator and turned the steering wheel, doing a 60-degree drifting amid the potholes and mud, before he stopped the car at the door steadily, blocking the doorway.

He Ruize’s car couldn’t get out.

Lin Xinyan quickly got off the car and went to He Ruize’s car to find her son.

He Ruize also recovered from this sudden change. Being close to Lin Xichen, he turned around and pulled Lin Xichen into his arms.

Lin Xinyan was too late.

“Give Xichen back to me!” She went to open the car door on the driver’s seat. He Ruize locked the car door, so Lin Xinyan couldn’t open it. She could only look at her son through the black glass. She couldn’t see if he was injured, but her face seemed to be swollen.

She thumped the car window frantically, causing the window to shake. “He Ruize, come out. Return Xichen to me!”

Not daring to face her, He Ruize turned his head away from her.

“He Ruize, come out. Let’s talk it over. Will you please return Xichen to me?” Lin Xinyan begged.

“If you want your son,” He Ruilin walked up to her, saying, “Give me a kowtow, and I’ll ask Ruize to return your son to you, how about it?”

Lin Xinyan was trembling all over.

“Oh ya, your son was not very obedient, so we had to do something to him—”

Smack.

Before she could finish her sentence, Lin Xinyan gave her a slap in the face.

The sophisticated makeup put on by He Ruilin was smudged by Lin Xinyan’s slap.

Her fake eyelashes were curled up, her hair messed up, while the powder on her face fell off.

Her initially beautiful look was gone.

“How dare you hit me?!” Wide-eyed, He Ruilin stared at her in disbelief.

Lin Xinyan was trembling with anger. She wished she could choke her to death, let alone slapping her in the face.

Since joining the He family, He Ruilin had a sense of superiority, so she could not stand being slapped in the face.

She raised her hand in retaliation, but her hand was immobilized as soon as it was raised in the air.

She looked up and saw Zong Jinghao standing beside her. As he stood against the light, the outline of his face was cast with a shadow, causing his facial features to appear clearer and more distinct.

He let go off her hand forcefully.

Being let go so forcefully, He Ruilin stumbled backward.

She raised her hand to touch her left cheek tremblingly. This slap was nothing compared to the pain Zong Jinghao had caused in letting go of her mercilessly.

This is the man I love deeply.

This is the man I want to get by all means.

He now shows nothing but indifference toward me.

“Hao—”

Zong Jinghao didn't look at her at all, not even a single glance.

He reached out to wrap his arm around the woman whose body was shaking because of being too angry.

Lin Xinyan seemed like she would fall to the ground at any time.

She looked at He Ruize in the car, begging, “Give me Xichen, please. I beg you. You know how important he is to me. You watched him grow up, how can you hurt him?”

Her heart ached very much.

Even when he tried to do that kind of thing to her, she only thought that he was acting on a sudden impulse.

He wasn't a bad guy.

Today, she realized that she might be wrong.

She didn't understand this man and his heart.

"Let me go first." He Ruize didn't cave in. He could only take Lin Xichen away first for now, while the other things could only be discussed later.

But He Ruilin couldn't wait. She couldn't see Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan together, especially the way he held Lin Xinyan tenderly.

She once received such tenderness from him.

It's snatched away by Lin Xinyan!

"If you want to save your son, marry Ruize." He Ruilin smiled with a terrifyingly ferocious look on her face. "It's best to consummate your marriage now and finish the unfinished business from last time."

Zong Jinghao's face sank. "Do you want to die?"

"Well, since I was disengaged by you, everyone in City B will know that I am an abandoned woman. I will live enough!" She looked at Zong Jinghao, deranged. "You are a heartless person!"

She turned to Lin Xinyan. "Don't be proud thinking that he will like you. He abandoned me, and similarly, he will abandon you as well!"

"He is a heartless person by nature. I have been with him for so many years—" she burst into tears afterward, crying loudly.

During their confrontation, suddenly, the passenger door of He Ruize's car was violently removed with a bang.

Before He Ruize could react, the child in his arms was taken away.

Everything happened quickly.

No one paid attention to the people who sneaked in and removed the car door by force.

"Xichen."

Lin Xinyan ran over quickly. Seeing her son with blood on his face, Lin Xinyan almost broke down. She hesitated for a moment, and then quickly rushed to hug her son.

"Xichen, Xichen." Lin Xinyan reached out to touch his hair, his cheeks, and held his head. "Look at Mommy, Xichen."

Chief Shen pitched in personally earlier, so it was a successful rescue.

Su Zhan, Zong Jinghao and him shared a dormitory during the college days.

He and Su Zhan were Zong Jinghao's only friends.

Now they all had their own career.

Their careers went smoothly; Su Zhan was a well-known lawyer, whereas Shen Peichuan became the city's criminal police chief.

The only thing in common was that their love relationships were not going well.

Su Zhan was a playboy and had many ex-girlfriends whom he wasn't very serious about, whereas Shen Peichuan had never been in a relationship.

Shen Peichuan walked up to Zong Jinghao. "Leave it to me. You should bring her back first."

Guan Jin explained the situation to him clearly.

He also made arrangements for what to do.

It was now time to deal with the damage.

"I'll leave it to you then." Zong Jinghao patted him on the shoulder.

"Don't worry. Arrangement has been made,"

When she opened her mouth, she realized that her voice was trembling.

She didn't need someone else to hold her son for her.

She could hold him herself.

"I will take you to the hospital."

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 116

When they arrived at the hospital, Lin Xichen was sent to the examination room.

Due to Lin Xinyan's unstable mood, the doctor did not let her in.

She was leaning against the wall of the corridor. Without the support of the wall, she might not be able to stand.

Whereas Zong Jinghao sat on a bench nearby and did not persuade or comfort her.

After she saw the blood on Lin Xichen's face, she was already on the verge of collapse, and now any trivial matter might make her completely collapse.

Suddenly the door of the examination room opened and the doctor walked out. He took off his mask and asked, "Who is his family member?"

"I am."

Lin Xinyan walked over quickly and asked anxiously, "Is he okay?"

"Minor injury. The bleeding was caused by the wound on his head. It has cleaned up now. Apply some ice on the face at home. I've prescribed some medicine, and you can take it when you go to the first floor. He is inside. You can take him now."

"Thank you. Thank you." Lin Xinyan repeatedly said thank you. Thank you, doctor, and thank God that Xichen is fine. She ran into the examination room, and saw that Lin Xichen was still lying on the bed in the room. The blood on his still-swollen face was cleaned, while fingerprints were visible on his face, and there was also gauze on his forehead. He was awake.

Seeing Lin Xinyan, he shouted, "Mommy."

"Xichen." Lin Xinyan rushed up to him and held his hand. Fortunately, he is fine.

With tears in her eyes, she reached out and gently stroked his face, and rubbed his cheek with her thumb, distressed. "Fortunately, you are fine."

"I will be fine." Lin Xichen reached out to wipe the tears on Lin Xinyan's face. "Mommy, don't cry. I'm fine."

Lin Xinyan lowered her head, and buried her face in his arms, her shoulders heaving lightly.

She cried in muffled sobs.

Zong Jinghao stood at the door of the examination room, looking at them.

He had never seen Lin Xinyan cry like this, where she could only choke back her tears, and dared not cry out loud, for fear of affecting Lin Xichen.

It suddenly struck a chord with him.

His eyes that were watching them darkened.

Smiling, Lin Xichen made an OK gesture at Zong Jinghao who was standing at the door.

Zong Jinghao also smiled and gave him an OK gesture.

He then walked in. "We can go back now."

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and wiped her face, before she picked up Lin Xichen. "I will take you home now."

Lin Xichen wrapped his arms around her neck. Mommy's embrace is so warm.

When they arrived on the first floor, Zong Jinghao went to fetch the medicine. Suddenly the phone in his pocket rang. It was a message from Shen Peichuan.

He clicked to view the text message; [Look at the news.]

Then there was a news link.

He tapped on the link.

The big eye-catching picture was a scene of rescuing Lin Xichen in that village, with a title on it that read, Siblings of the He family, jewelry tycoon in B City, bullied and ganged up on a five-year-old kid!

In the era of developed internet, any news that was posted on the Internet would soon be spread, especially news about the rich and powerful bullying the common people.

This kind of news would easily attract attention. Moreover, the one being bullied was a five-year-old child.

Coupled with those people arranged by Guan Jing, the public opinions were now one-sided.

The He family actually bullied a child. What a shame.

In the current society, the rich and powerful act like a boss.

They bullied a kid just because they're rich. Why don't they die? This kind of person should be hit by a car when they're out.

They must be severely punished. They cannot be dealt with lightly just because they have money. Two adults should be executed by shooting for bullying a child. There were many other comments that were intense.

Someone deliberately guided the public, causing them to ignore the reason why the He family would bully a child, and only saw them bullying the child.

Children were weak, and people were naturally biased towards the weak.

He raised the corners of his lips slightly. The He family must have seen it now.

He family.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Except for the sound of things being smashed, no other sound could be heard in the living room.

Everyone in the living room said nothing.

He Wenhui smashed everything in the living room, leaving the floor in a mess.

He Ruize and He Ruilin stood trembling at the door.

They had never seen He Wenhui so angry.

His whole body trembled in anger, while he pointed at the pair standing by the door with his finger. "Look at what the both of you did. Not only are you unable to help the family, but also cause us trouble!"

He Ruixing was preventing Xia Zhenyu from going up to He Wenhui, who was obviously furious now. Whoever talked to him first would be slanged at.

He was also disappointed with both He Ruize and He Ruilin.

They could not share any burden in the family and would only cause trouble.

They were ruining the reputation of the He family this time.

That was why He Wenhui was so angry.

“You two, get out of here! Our family doesn’t have people so incompetent like the two of you!” He Wenhui was so angry that his chest was heaving rapidly.

“We are also doing it for the sake of our fami—”

Bang!

He Wenhui grabbed the phone on the table and threw at He Ruilin who was talking.

“Shut up!”

“For the sake of the family?” He Wenhui trembled with anger. “Initially, we could form an alliance with the Zong family through marriage, but due to your incompetence, they called off the engagement. And now, because of the two of you, the He family is scolded by everyone. Yet, you actually have the audacity to say that you are doing it for the sake of our family?!”

He Ruilin did not dodge, so the phone hit her arm. She covered her right arm in pain. “We are indeed doing it for the sake of the family.”

“Yeah, yeah, yeah, tell me about it.”

He was tired after a big fire.

“We kidnapped that child because the child’s mother was a woman Zong Jinghao liked. If we hold that child hostage and threaten that woman to marry Ruize, then

I can still be with Zong Jinghao and we will get married. This is not for us but for our family?”

“Good?” He Ruixing said. His face was flushed, while his voice was like the weather in December, with a chilling mockery. “Who do you think Zong Jinghao is? Will he come back to marry you just because this woman is married to someone else?”

He really wanted to open up her brain to see what was in her mind.

“Can’t you see it? Even if all women in this world are dead, he won’t marry you. Didn’t you see his determination to withdraw from the engagement here that day? He actually stabbed his heart with a knife. If he does like you even just a little bit, he won’t be so resolute.”

“No, no—” He Ruilin refused to admit it. “As long as that woman marries someone else, Zong Jinghao will definitely be willing to be engaged to me.”

“Please wake up already. Stop dreaming. Can’t you see it? You angered him.” He Ruixing was in the business circle and was somewhat familiar with Zong Jinghao.

He wasn’t a man to be trifled with.

Hurting the people around him was like seeking for own demise!

“You mean this news is his doing?” He Ruize, who had not spoken, seemed to understand what He Ruixing meant.

Back in the village, Shen Peichuan released them easily.

It turned out that something was up his sleeve.

He Ruixing snorted coldly, "Of course. Otherwise, why would there be such an overwhelming amount of one-sided public opinion in just a few hours? Do you think that things will get to this point if there's no one behind this?"

He pointed at the headline of the news. "Look, every word here refers to the He family."

He Wenhui had calmed down at this moment. He had known that this was done by someone, otherwise, the news would not spread so quickly.

Now he had to visit the Zongs.

Seeing the reckless pair, he became angry. "I don't know why I have you as my kids. If you are as good as one-tenth of Ruixing, I won't have to spend time worrying. Now, you keep causing me trouble!"

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 117

“Dad, I will go with you.” He Ruixing stepped forward.

He Wenhui nodded. “It’s good too you can go with me.”

Among his three children, his favorite was this eldest son. Although he had no talent in doing business, he was steady and had not troubled the family. Now, he was also taking care of the family business.

As for the other two of his children, he got angry once he looked at them.

“You two are not allowed to go out until this matter is solved. Just reflect on your own mistakes at home!” He Wenhui said coldly.

“Dad

He Ruilin wanted to explain. Although she had selfish intentions, it was also true that she did it for the family. It didn’t work out in the end but they shouldn’t be treated like this.

As soon as she spoke, she was stopped by He Ruize beside her. “Stop talking.”

“Why can’t I talk?” He Ruilin refused to give in. “My original intention was to do something for the family. It’s just that I didn’t succeed. It isn’t something unforgivable. It is unfair to treat us like this!”

Feeling furious, He Wenhui covered his chest.

Now, not only does she not admit her mistakes, but she also refuses to listen to my words, huh?

“Okay, enough. Don’t you see that Dad is angry?” He Ruixing scolded.

“Don’t pretend to be a good person in front of Dad. You are afraid that Ruize and I will get the family asset and take away your position in the company, so you please Dad in every way—”

“Enough!” He Wenhui thumped the table, and started coughing, probably because he was too angry. He was coughing so hard that his face flushed, so He Ruixing smoothed his back for him.

“I’m just saying the truth. Ruixing often flatters others outside, and also flatters dad at home.”

The family business was in charged by He Ruixing alone. She had returned to the He family for so many years, yet every time she said that she wanted to work in the company, He Ruixing deliberately came up with various excuses to prevent her from joining the company.

He is afraid of me getting a share of the family asset, isn’t he?

“Okay, just go back in the house!” Xia Zhenyu couldn’t bear it. They were all her own children. She could side with neither one.

“Let her say it!” He Wenhui opened his mouth and gasped, as if he would faint at any time from being out of breath.

“Dad, is it fair to leave the company to my brother alone?” He Ruilin felt dissatisfied a long time ago. She only said it now because she just wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to vent it out.

He Ruixing looked at her without saying a word.

He Wenhui looked up. “So now you’re talking about being fair?”

He was not a dotard who only put his eldest son in an important position. It was because he saw it thoroughly.

He Ruize went to study some psychology and became a psychiatrist despite his disagreement. After he came back, he didn't understand anything about the business, which wasn't easy in this competitive era.

It was too late for him to learn now. Moreover, business wasn't something that could be learned.

It required ability, courage and vision.

He Ruize had none.

As for He Ruilin, she was a girl. She was able to stay with Zong Jinghao back then, not because of her ability, but because of what happened during the childhood. Out of compassion or pity, he kept her as his secretary, who only served drinks, and arranged his daily schedule.

The most important thing was that she was a girl and would be married in the future.

Hence, it was impossible for He Wenhui to give her company shares that she would later bring to the family of her husband.

Meanwhile, He Ruixing took up business studies and learned with him after graduation, before he took over the company.

Although he was not outstanding, he had been in the business for many years. He didn't have the ability to grow his family, but he had accumulated experiences and could maintain the status quo of the company.

Therefore, he turned a blind eye to any of He Ruixing's attempts to usurp power.

“Wenhui, calm down. They are all just children” Xia Zhenyu came to smooth his back for him and comforted him.

“Humph.” He Wenhui sneered. “They’re already in their 30s. What children?”

He Wenhui glanced at his wife. “They are not allowed to go out without my permission.”

“Okay.” Xia Zhenyu responded cautiously, fearing to provoke him again.

He Ruixing helped him up. “Dad, let’s get going. I’m afraid things will get out of control.”

The current situation was one-sided, but it had just happened and not many people knew it. If the news continued to spread for another one or two days, it would really be impossible to manage.

He Wenhui also knew the severity of the matter, so he stood up with his son’s help. “Ask the driver to start the car.”

“I’ll drive,” He Ruixing said.

“Okay.”

He Ruixing helped his father out.

He Ruilin looked at Xia Zhenyu. “Mom, look at how partial dad is. He only trusts Ruixing and leaves everything to him.”

Of course, she knew what her husband was thinking.

If Ruize was capable, he would not ignore him; whereas He Ruilin was a girl, and she went missing since she was a child, so their bond wasn’t strong.

Compared with He Ruixing's hard work and considerateness, he was naturally partial to him.

"You have caused such big trouble. Yet, you still fight with each other, instead of reflecting on it. How could your father be happy?" Xia Zhenyu looked at her daughter. "You are a girl, and you will get married in the future. It doesn't matter whether you join the company or not."

"Does the fact that I'm a girl mean that I'm not member of the He family?" He Ruilin didn't expect her to say such a thing.

How could she value sons over daughters?

"Why didn't you choke me to death when I was born since you're averse to the fact that I'm a girl? Why did you still reunite with me since you don't like me being a girl?!" He Ruilin cried and ran upstairs after finished talking.

Xia Zhenyu's body shook, as she almost lost her balance.

He Ruize came over to help her. "Mom, don't be angry. Ruilin didn't mean it."

Xia Zhenyu waved her hand. "I couldn't get any angrier. Help me back to the room."

"Your dad said that you are not allowed to go out. Don't go out these days, or else he gets angry again," she reminded her son.

"Okay." He Ruize pursed his lips and said, "Although we have caused trouble this time, we really wanted to do something for the family at first, but we didn't succeed. I know that it makes sense for Dad to put Ruixing in an important position. I am not jealous, and never thought about seizing power."

It wasn't that he didn't have any desire, but his desire was not about power.

If it was something that he really wanted, he would do whatever it took to get it.

For instance, Lin Xinyan, whom he deliberately deceived that the man that night was a man from Country A because of his selfishness.

As He Ruilin said, he was actually selfish, but he was just good at disguising it.

Zong family.

Zong Qifeng was practicing calligraphy in the study. After the company was handed over to his son, he stayed completely out of it. Calligraphy was his hobby.

Every afternoon, he would stay in the study for three hours, and Yuxiu would grind inkstick for him.

Although they got on in years, they still made a beautiful picture together.

“What are you thinking about?” Zong Qifeng looked at Yuxiu who was looking out the window in a daze.

She regained her senses and continued to grind the inkstick. “It’s nothing. I just miss Jinghao.”

Zong Qifeng held her shoulder. “Do you regret it?”

Just as Yuxiu wanted to talk, the door of the study was knocked, and Mr. Feng’s voice was heard saying, “Someone from the He family is here.”

“Isn’t the matter with the He family already settled?” Yuxiu stopped what she was doing, and said with a cold tone, “What is he doing here?”

Yuxiu thought they came because of the cancellation of the engagement again.

They didn’t watch the news today, so they didn’t know what happened.

After finished writing the last stroke, Zong Qifeng put the brush on its holder, and said, "Let's go out and have a look."

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The door of the study was opened, and Mr. Feng stood at the door. "I have made them wait in the living room."

Zong Qifeng nodded his head.

"Don't worry, the matter has been resolved. He can't say anything," Zong Qifeng comforted after noticing Yuxiu's worried look.

Yuxiu looked down. "I'm not worried."

"So stubborn." Zong Qifeng held her hand. "Let's go."

In the living room, He Wenhui was sitting on the mahogany sofa with the served tea placed in front of him, whereas He Ruixing was standing behind him.

Seeing Zong Qifeng coming over, He Wenhui stood up. "Zong, I have to beg you this time."

"Beg me?" Zong Qifeng laughed loudly. "Don't joke with me. Why would you beg me?"

He Wenhui heaved a sigh. "It's the trouble caused by my two useless kids."

"What is it?" Together with Yuxiu, Zong Qifeng sat on the sofa across from him.

The servant served two more glasses of water.

"You didn't watch the news today, did you?" He Wenhui asked.

“No.”

After Zong Qifeng stepped down, he didn't like to watch the news. He spent his days practicing calligraphy, going for a walk with Yuxiu and playing chess.

“You should take a look first.” He Wenhui motioned his son to show the news to Zong Qifeng.

He Ruixing handed the phone to him. “Uncle Zong.”

After taking a look, Zong Qifeng was a little surprised, not because how outrageous the news was, but because of the fact that they came to him after something like this happened to their family.

It shouldn't be difficult to cover this matter up with the connections the He family had.

“He, don't tell me.” Zong Qifeng raised his head and looked at He Wenhui across from him. “That this matter has something to do with me?”

Otherwise, why would he come to me?

He Wenhui again heaved a sigh. “I am not as lucky as you. You have a good son, so you get to retire early, and enjoy your life. I'm about to be irritated to death by those reckless kids of mine.”

“He, what makes you say so?”

“Well.” He Wenhui pointed at the child whose face was full of blood in the news. “I heard that this child was born by a woman Jinghao likes. Lin felt that that woman sabotaged the engagement between her and Jinghao, that's why she— alas, what an embarrassing thing to say. Ruize loves his sister, and so, he kidnapped her child on impulse, wanting to use the child to threaten that woman to leave Jinghao.”

He Wenhui evaded the serious matters.

He didn't say that He Ruilin wanted to marry into the Zong family, so that an alliance could be formed between the two families, nor that He Ruize wanted to marry that woman.

Those things hurt his pride.

Zong Qifeng and Yuxiu looked at each other.

Who is this woman?

What's the matter with the child?

Wasn't it because of Lin Xinyan that Zong Jinghao called off the engagement last time?

There was no picture of Lin Xinyan on the news, so they didn't know that this woman was Lin Xinyan.

Zong Jinghao ordered that Lin Xinyan was not allowed in the photo.

He didn't want to involve her in such news.

"This matter may have angered Jinghao, that's why I came to you." He Wenhui sighed again. Even at this age, he had to beg someone his age because of his children's doing, so he felt upset.

"We are all distinguished and well-known people with status in society. I'll be so humiliated once it's spread out. I don't need to come to you, but a conflict between our families will only hurt both sides, don't you think so?"

He Wenhui knew how to negotiate. He was not here to beg for mercy now. He just didn't want the two families to fight with each other and hurt their relationship.

“You also understand my son. If I can control him, the engagement will not be called off.” Zong Qifeng was not an idiot either. He couldn’t just listen to his words and simply agree or promise him something.

He Wenhui was about to lose his cool. Is he staying out of it?

“Zong, although we can’t become in-laws, but we have known each other for a long time, do you really want to watch the bond between our families get severed because of such a trivial incident?”

“Jinghao is not an unreasonable person. After all, someone provoked him first. Of course, we won’t stay out of it either. You know, the two of them have been at odds over the years, but we will try our best. We’ll ask him to come over tonight to ask him about this matter, and persuade him,” Yuxiu spoke, using both the hard and the soft way. She accused them of provoking Zong Jinghao first, so the fault was with them. The latter sentences also indicated that they wouldn’t stay out of it, but it was an entirely different matter whether they could change Zong Jinghao’s mind.

He Wenhui was rendered speechless by her words.

“It’s good then. It’s best if it doesn’t hurt our relationship.” He Wenhui rose to his feet.

“Of course, we don’t want to hurt our relationship too,” Yuxiu replied.

He Wenhui forced a smile. “I have to go now.”

“You should stay for dinner.” Yuxiu smiled modestly and decently.

“No, thanks. They’re waiting for us at home.” He Wenhui declined.

“Mr. Feng, see them out please.” Yuxiu didn’t see them out personally. Regardless of what happened afterward, they must now stand on Zong Jinghao’s side.

Obviously, they were at fault first.

She handled it well enough to let He Wenhui know that if Zong Jinghao didn't let this matter pass, it was also their fault, as they were the cause of it.

It also served them right if their relationship was damaged.

"Here will do," He Ruixing said to Mr. Feng when they reached the gate of the Zong family.

Smiling, Mr. Feng still opened the car door for He Wenhui. "Madam asked me to see you out. How dare I ignore it? Master He, please."

He Wenhui glanced at him and got into the car.

He Ruixing took the driving seat.

The car soon left.

He Wenhui looked at the villa that was getting smaller in the rearview mirror, and lamented, "There's a reason for Zong Jinghao's intelligence. His parents have high intelligence, so how could he be stupid?"

He had known Zong Qifeng's means and intelligence.

Yuxiu's earlier responses surprised him.

"Dad, what are you talking about? Zong Jinghao's biological mother is Zong Qifeng's ex-wife."

"Oh ya. Look at me. I am really getting on in years." He Wenhui touched his forehead.

“Dad, what if Zong Qifeng can’t persuade Zong Jinghao?” He Ruixing asked, feeling worried.

He Wenhui thought for a long time. After much considerations, and distinguishing the pros and cons, he still felt that he couldn’t have a falling-out with the Zong family.

After all, the Zong family was wealthy and powerful. So it was undeniably not a family to be trifled with.

If they really had to have a face-off, they were at the losing side.

“Whoever caused the trouble will be held responsible.” He Wenhui slowly closed his eyes.

It was not that he was ruthless. It was just that he couldn’t care too much about his family under this circumstance.

If Zong Jinghao wasn’t willing to let it slide, then this matter was bound to continue to develop.

Then, the reputation of He family went bad, and it would affect the company. They were running a jewelry business. If they were boycotted, he could not afford to bear the consequences.

In the living room of the Zong’s villa, Zong Qifeng was leaning against the cushion on the sofa, and holding Yuxiu’s hand in his hand, rubbing his thumb on the back of her hand, while half-squinting his eyes, as if thinking about something.

“Are you thinking about the identity of that woman? And what’s the matter with that child?” Yuxiu asked.

In fact, she found it strange as well. Previously, she thought Zong Jinghao liked Lin Xinyan, but now another woman with a child suddenly appeared.

This made her worried.

Zong Qifeng reached out to place a strand of hair behind her ear, and said softly, "Don't worry, I will go to the villa to see him."

And also talk to him about this incident.

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Meanwhile, Lin Xichen fell asleep in Lin Xinyan's arms while returning to the villa.

One side of his face was still red and swollen. Lin Xinyan felt very distressed and wanted to touch him but was afraid of hurting him.

She was very quiet and didn't say a word, as she silently wiped her tears.

It was the first time that Lin Xichen was injured.

As the Chinese saying went, the injury was on the son's body, but the pain was in the mother's heart.

Zong Jinghao looked at her in the rearview mirror, trying to comfort her so that she wouldn't be too upset. But after opening his mouth, he didn't know what to say.

He had never been a parent, and so he couldn't understand her feelings.

It didn't take long for him to reach the villa and park the car in front of the villa.

Zong Jinghao got off the car and opened the door for her. It was not convenient for her to get off the car while holding Lin Xichen, so he reached out and said, "I'll hold him for you."

"No, I can hold him myself." Since Lin Xichen was rescued, she was inseparable from him.

She had been holding him and wouldn't let anyone hold him.

Zong Jinghao looked at her for two seconds and couldn't stand her attitude. This was her child, whom she could spoil and love, but he couldn't accept that she kept blaming herself and thought that it was all her fault.

"It's not your fault. You don't have to punish yourself." He forcibly took Lin Xichen from her, but she was unwilling to let go. "What are you doing?"

"If you don't want your son to be woken up, just be quiet."

Lin Xinyan fell silent and whispered, "He has an injury on his head. Be careful while holding him."

She was afraid that Zong Jinghao would hurt Lin Xichen.

He had no experience in holding children.

Zong Jinghao responded in acknowledgement.

Having lived here previously, Lin Xinyan was not unfamiliar with the place, which had basically remained the same as before.

Inside the house, Lin Ruixi had fallen asleep when she was sent here by Guan Jing and had not woken up until now after experiencing the incident during the day, maybe because she was either scared or tired.

Aunt Yu met Zhuang Zijin and Lin Ruixi once, so when Guan Jing sent them here, she was surprised at first, and then quickly became acquainted with Zhuang Zijin.

Guan Jing didn't say why they were sent here, while Aunt Yu didn't ask either. Guan Jing was Zong Jinghao's man, so he must have been instructed by Zong Jinghao to do so.

After seeing the two children last time, she felt that they looked like Zong Jinghao when he was a child. In order to see them again, she often went to the supermarket, hoping to see them and inquire about the mother and father of the two children.

Unexpectedly, she couldn't see them even though she went there every day.

Yet, they found her themselves.

As the saying went, fancy finding by sheer luck what one had searched for far and wide.

Aunt Yu took this opportunity to inquire about the two children.

Zhuang Zijin could guess what this place was, but she didn't want to say much about her daughter, and only said that the two children were born by her daughter.

She said nothing about everything else.

Aunt Yu couldn't find out anything.

Excusing herself, Aunt Yu got up and wanted to show her the picture of Zong Jinghao, when the door of the villa was opened.

Zong Jinghao walked in with Lin Xichen in his arms, while Lin Xinyan followed behind. Like a subconscious habit, she opened the shoe cabinet and took out the slippers. She knew Zong Jinghao's, so she took it and put it in front of him.

Zong Jinghao lowered his eyes and glanced at her. "You still remember."

Lin Xinyan paused. She only stayed here for less than a month, and yet she actually still remembered his slippers.

She raised her head and said calmly, "I remember everything I have seen."

Zhuang Zijin rose to her feet and glanced at Zong Jinghao, before finally fixing her gaze on her daughter.

Aunt Yu saw them coming in, with Zong Jinghao holding Lin Xichen while Lin Xinyan was beside him. She opened her mouth wide and looked at Zhuang Zijin. "This is your daughter?"

Zhuang Zijin nodded her head.

Aunt Yu seemed to understand everything in an instant.

She had been wondering why Zhuang Zijin didn't want to talk about her daughter. It was because her daughter had divorced and gave birth to the twins, so she must be angry that the children's father divorced her daughter and didn't want to bring it up.

For Aunt Yu, Lin Xinyan's children were Zong Jinghao's.

She remembered that she got pregnant six years ago.

Although they lived separately back then, they slept in the same room the first night they got married.

Moreover, after some simple calculations, she found that the timing was right as the children were five years old six years later.

The room downstairs belonged to Zong Jinghao. After Lin Xinyan left, he still lived in it, but rarely returned to the villa.

"I'll take him to the room," Zong Jinghao said.

Lin Xinyan responded in agreement.

“Yan.” Zhuang Zijin had a lot of questions that she wanted to ask her, so she called out to her when she saw her.

Lin Xinyan stood in the hallway and did not enter the house. “Let’s go outside and talk.”

“Sounds good.” After all, there were other people in the house, and it wasn’t convenient for them as it wasn’t their own place.

She changed her shoes at the door and followed Lin Xinyan out.

The front yard of the villa was covered with a large area of green lawn, which was soft underfoot. A rockery was built nearby the green plants with water flowing continuously. Below was a pond with ornamental fish that looked a little special with their green bodies and long tails, seemingly an expensive and rare species.

There was a round table, four rattan chairs, and a parasol.

Lin Xinyan pulled the chair out for Zhuang Zijin.

Zhuang Zijin sat down.

“What the hell is going on? Why would Doctor He suddenly kidnap us? And why are you still with him? You two are divorced, so there’s no more relationship between you. Is it because Doctor He knows that you’re with him, and so he did such a thing out of jealousy?”

Zhuang Zijin asked a series of questions and expressed her thoughts.

Lin Xinyan shook her head. “No.”

She had told He Ruize before that she was willing to try with him. Later, because of his sister, she realized that it was impossible for her and He Ruize to be

together. Not only was there no love between them, but there was also his mother, and his sister who were the barriers between them.

“Why did he do such a thing then?” Zhuang Zijin suddenly thought of something. “You told him that his mother spoke to you?”

“No.” Lin Xinyan clasped her hands. She didn’t know how to tell Zhuang Zijin what He Ruize did to her.

It was too difficult for her to talk about it.

“Why then?” How can one person suddenly change so much?

She kept thinking about it since she came back.

But she still couldn’t figure out the reason why he became like that.

“Mom, you know that I don’t love him.” Lin Xinyan clasped her hands tightly, her palms wet and sticky with sweat. She could only tell the truth now.

She told Zhuang Zijin what He Ruize tried to do to her.

Zhuang Zijian jumped to her feet. “What?”

“How could he do something like that?”

Lin Xinyan didn’t want to believe it, but she could figure it out after thinking about it carefully.

He liked her, while He Ruilin liked Zong Jinghao.

If he destroyed her, He Ruilin would still have a chance to be with Zong Jinghao.

For the happiness of his sister, he was willing to do so.

Zhuang Zijin sat back down and didn't recover for a long time. "We really can't tell what's in a person's mind."

As the saying went, there is no knowing what is in a man's heart. This was true.

"Then, what's the matter with you and Zong Jinghao?" Zhuang Zijin asked again after feeling stable. She looked at her daughter. "Don't tell me that you like him."

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“I—”

She was feeling conflicted and complicated. She had to admit that she did have feelings toward Zong Jinghao, but she didn't dare to admit it, and didn't want to give it much thought.

She didn't want to break such vague emotions and go to the bottom of it to find out whether it was love or not. It pained her to think so much.

When asked by Zhuang Zijin, she didn't know how to answer, while she was having mixed feelings.

“Why don't you speak?” Zhuang Zijin's eyes turned red. “Perhaps, he treats you very well now, but have you thought about the future? Can he accept Xichen and Ruixi? Can he be okay with them for the rest of his life?”

“Mom, I don't want to think about it now. By the way, we may have to live here for a while. I'm afraid that our house is not safe.” She deliberately changed the subject.

Zhuang Zijin refused to move on to another topic. “Is it because of him when you decided to come back to China?”

If they didn't come back, maybe these things wouldn't happen.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and remained silent.

Apparently, she acquiesced in what Zhuang Zijin said.

Zhuang Zijin wanted to tell her not to be blinded by what seemed good now.

But, she swallowed back the words on the tip of her tongue, and instead, said, "You call the shots since it's your business."

She was an adult with her own thoughts and ideas.

Too much interference would bring her pressure.

Zhuang Zijin sighed. "Just live here. It's important to ensure the kids' safety."

Thinking of what He Ruize did, she still had lingering fears.

Lin Xinyan knew what she was worried about and said, "Don't worry, I will protect myself."

Back in the villa, Zong Jinghao put Lin Xichen who was sleeping in the room downstairs.

Aunt Yu was standing at the door, watching.

Since Zong Jinghao came in, she had been following him, as if she had a lot of things to say.

"Do you already know?" Aunt Yu asked, standing at the door.

Zong Jinghao put a quilt on Lin Xichen, straightened up and looked at her. "Know what?"

Aunt Yu was anxious. "That they are your children."

Zong Jinghao's eyes darkened. It seemed that Aunt Yu's topic had crossed the line.

Or rather, he was upset that someone suddenly asked something he deliberately ignored and forced him to face it.

Aunt Yu frowned, finding Zong Jinghao's attitude strange. Aren't they his kids?

Why is the atmosphere around him growing denser?

Sighing, Aunt Yu ran to take out the photo, walked to the bed, and placed it next to Lin Xichen's face to compare. "Look—"

Lin Xichen was injured and his face was swollen, looking completely different from what she saw last time.

Aunt Yu asked, "Why is he injured?"

Aunt Yu felt sorry for him. He was so smart and cute when she saw him last time.

Zong Jinghao didn't want to discuss this matter with others. "Don't mention his identity from now on."

"But—"

Not giving up, Aunt Yu was still trying to say something.

"She got pregnant before we got married. They're not my kids." Zong Jinghao interrupted her quickly.

Obviously, he would know if he had ever slept with her.

He didn't want to know about Lin Xinyan's past.

The thought of her being on the bed with another man made him feel so depressed that he couldn't breathe.

So no one should bring up the identity of these two children to him.

No one should tell him about Lin Xinyan's past.

He didn't want to know all these!

"W-W-What are you talking about?" Aunt Yu was so shocked that her hands trembled, and she could only utter the question after a long time.

She was pregnant before she was married to Zong Jinghao?

How could it be possible?

"I don't think she looks like that kind of unscrupulous and easy girl. How could it be possible?" Aunt Yu couldn't believe that Lin Xinyan was pregnant before marrying Zong Jinghao.

"I've seen it with my own eyes, but I don't want to hear other people talk about it." After speaking, Zong Jinghao walked out of the room.

He only said it because it was Aunt Yu. He wouldn't reveal so much if it were others.

Aunt Yu felt confused. She looked at the photo in her hands and then at Lin Xichen who was lying on the bed. Even though Lin Xichen's face was swollen, she still remembered how he looked when he was not injured.

How could Lin Xinyan had him before marriage?

How could this be?

He looked the same as Zong Jinghao when he was a child.

Aunt Yu was unable to recover from the shock of this information.

She didn't know how she walked back to her room, as she felt surreal.

Later, Lin Xinyan and Zhuang Zijin went into the house.

Zhuang Zijin went to the guest room to see if Lin Ruixi was awake; whereas Lin Xinyan went to the fridge in the kitchen to get some ice cubes, wrapped them in a towel, and applied on Lin Xichen's face.

The sky gradually darkened, while the sun set, leaving the sky red.

Aunt Yu had composed her emotions and went to the kitchen to make dinner.

When Lin Ruixi woke up, she clung to Zhuang Zijin due to the unfamiliar environment, so Zhuang Zijin held her in her arms.

Zhuang Zijin was unfamiliar with the place, so she held Lin Ruixi in the room and didn't come out.

In the study, Zong Jinghao hung up the call with Guan Jing and looked down at his watch. It was five o'clock, so he got up and walked out of the study. The living room was quiet, and occasionally, the sound of Aunt Yu chopping shrimp could be heard coming from the kitchen.

Along with this sound, Zong Jinghao opened the door of the room, and saw Lin Xinyan sitting on the chair by the bed with towel on the table.

Lin Xichen was still not awake yet.

It seemed that Lin Xinyan had been staying there by his side.

He walked in and looked at the little man lying on the bed with his eyes closed. He reached out to put his hand on Lin Xinyan's head, pressed her into his arms, and comforted, "Don't worry too much."

“Okay.”

Zong Jinghao was standing, while Lin Xinyan was sitting. He held Lin Xinyan’s head so that her face was pressed against his abdomen. Through the fabric, she could feel his strong, hard, and warm abdominal muscles.

“Thank you,” said Lin Xinyan sincerely while she wrapped her arms around his waist.

The incident happened suddenly. Without Zong Jinghao’s help, she didn’t know how the incident would develop.

Fortunately, her kids were fine now.

Zong Jinghao’s body froze, while his mind was in chaos for a few seconds.

Lin Xinyan rarely took the initiative to have physical contact with him. Does this mean that she is slowly opening up to me?

He rubbed the tip of his fingers against her ear, as he went from the skin behind her ear, to her soft earlobe.

It seemed that this part was relatively sensitive, as Lin Xinyan’s body trembled slightly.

Sensing her reaction, Zong Jinghao bent down and kissed her hair, forehead, corner of her eyes, cheek...

“Mmm...”

There was a soft moan, followed by Lin Xichen’s slightly hoarse voice. “Mommy.”

Lin Xinyan quickly regained her rationality. She pushed away Zong Jinghao who was kissing her, and quickly went to see her son. “Are you awake?”

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

“Yeah.” Lin Xichen cast his gaze on Zong Jinghao, while his hands under the quilt were grasping the bed sheet tightly. In fact, he woke up when Zong Jinghao came in.

He remained silent on purpose, wanting to see how he and Mommy got along usually.

Unexpectedly, he still wanted to kiss mommy even though they’ve divorced.

He’s so annoying!

Looking at Zong Jinghao, he grinned, and hissed in pain when it affected the wound at the corner of his lips. “Thank you so much this time.”

Zong Jinghao frowned. Looking at his smile, he sensed that he had something up his sleeves.

“Alright, stop talking. There is a wound on your mouth.” Lin Xinyan couldn’t stand seeing her son in pain. He even felt pain when he spoke just now.

“Don’t you know, Mommy?” Lin Xichen pretended to be surprised.

“Know what?” Lin Xinyan looked at her son blankly.

Whereas Zong Jinghao looked at him warningly.

Lin Xichen pretended he didn’t see it, and said to Lin Xinyan, “Mommy, my capture was actually intentional.”

“What?” Lin Xinyan could hardly sit still.

Is he out of his mind deliberately wanting to be caught?

Lin Xichen continued to pretend to be innocent. “Yes, he came up with the idea and asked me to let myself be caught by He Ruize.”

He pointed at Zong Jinghao.