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"Let go of me." Lin Xinyan's eyes widened. She stopped the body that held her down using her hands.

"Let go?" Zong Jinghao emphasized the two words and thought it was ridiculous.

He was irritated that she wanted to make a clean break with him when she first came. She also merely believed her own son to be innocent and doubted him.

He was furious.

Lin Xinyan looked away and was afraid to look at him. She could feel the heat of his brawny body that was stronger than hers, as well as his familiar and heavy breaths that were so close to her. She closed her eyes and said, "My son is just five years old..."

He won't be able to do something like this.

When she looked away, the blue veins on her long and slim neck could be clearly seen and were beating. Her rapid breathing due to nervousness sounded like some enticing musical notes. Zong Jinghao wanted to scare her at first, but the blood in his entire body seemed to be boiling after staring at her.

He lowered his head and put his lips close to her neck.

His lips were soft and slightly cold.

Panicked, Lin Xinyan pushed him with all her strength and said, "Let go of me, you shameless idiot!"

"Shameless? I'm embarrassed by your son. Why would I care anymore?" His head was still buried in her neck while he murmured.

He loved her smell which was familiar and addictive to him.

He almost couldn't resist merging his body with hers now.

"Are you a witch? If not, why am I not myself when I'm around you?

Lin Xinyan didn't utter a word. Tears streamed down her face slowly and dropped on her hair near her ears.

Felt that she was sobbing; Zong Jinghao looked up straight at her face and said, "Did you just feel aggrieved from my kiss?"

Her eyelashes twitched slightly and eyes opened slowly. Tears could still be seen in her eyes. She asked in a rough voice, "Do you think I'm a woman who will casually sleep with another man?"

Zong Jinghao was stunned and replied, "... No."

"Yes you do, and you've never respect me." She continued as tears that she was holding back streamed down her face, "You think that I slept with another man when I was eighteen and got pregnant, and so I'm a lascivious and unchaste woman. I'm not. I'm not the kind of woman you think I am, and I simply had no choice."

Zong Jinghao unknowingly panicked and quickly wiped her tears away. He admitted to himself that he did think of her that way.

Lin Xinyan turned away and didn't want him to touch her.

His hands stopped at her ears, gently tucked her hair behind her ears, and said, "I won't mention your past, and you'll forget it as well."

"What do you want?" Lin Xinyan was holding back her emotions.

"Like I said, You will be who you used to be again..."

"What about my kids? Are you prepared to be their stepfather?" Lin Xinyan interrupted him.

She knew that Zong Jinghao was a man of pride.

Accepting her even though she's not a virgin was already his limit.

He could never accept her kids.

"Can such a proud man like you accept that the kids of another person call you dad? Can you raise them for another person? You just can't..."

"Stop it!" He stood up suddenly.

Yes, Zong Jinghao just wished that Lin Xinyan could return to him, but never thought about any arrangement for her children.

Lin Xinyan was right. It was already his limit to accept Lin Xinyan who's not a virgin.

He never thought about becoming a stepfather to raise the children for another person. And he can't do it!

Lin Xinyan stood up and tidied up her messy clothes. She looked up at the man who turned his back on her and said, "We, shall divorce, and go back to where were. These are the right things that we should do."

"How do you know which is correct?" He said gloomily, clearly in a bad mood.

Lin Xinyan stood up and said, "I don't know. But I do know about my own feelings, that I don't love you. And since you can't accept my children, ending our relationship would be the best option."

Some of the words that she said just now were ringing in Zong Jinghao's ears. I do know about my own feelings, that I don't love you.

I don't love you. Ha. I don't love you.

He turned around, grabbed her by her collar and said, "Say it one more time?"

It hurts. Her neck hurts.

She was lifted by Zong Jinghao, yet didn't flinch at all when looking into his slightly puffy eyes. She struggled and said, "I don't love you. Do you want me to be dishonest and lie to you? You surely won't tolerate it, will you?"

Even though Lin Xinyan was not with this man for long, she really understood him very well.

How could such a proud man like him be made abject by some lies?

But still, he was unhappy and very disgruntled.

He almost went insane!

Lin Xinyan remained quiet and didn't resist nor provoke him.

She bore her pain even though her neck hurt very much.

Her face turned red as she held her breath. She couldn't breathe anymore as Zong Jinghao grabbed her by her collar too tightly.

Zong Jinghao let her go furiously and said, "Don't act smart."

After falling to the ground, she quickly took some deep breaths with her hands holding her chests. She stood up after quite some time when she felt better, and said, "When you've made up your mind, ask Mr. Guan to meet me anytime."

After finished speaking, she turned around and walked towards the main door. She then stopped, glanced at the piano next to the window, and said without even turning around, "I appreciate it that you didn't throw away the things which I had left here. I will move them away as soon as possible."

She strode away again once she finished speaking.

Once she was outside of the villa, the determination that she made up almost collapsed right away..

One of her hand propped herself against the wall, while the other held her chests.

She wasn't sure why it was heartbreaking to her.

"Ms. Lin, are you alright?" Guan Jing who was scrolling on his phone quickly came up to her once he saw Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan shook her head and said, "I'm fine."

"Okay. Get into the car, and I will drive you home." Guan Jing walked towards the car and opened the car door.

Lin Xinyan got into the car after thanking him.

Guan Jing looked in the rearview mirror, caught a glimpse of Lin Xinyan and said, "You don't look well. Did you have a quarrel with Mr. Zong."

Lin Xinyan looked at him and suddenly thought of the news that Zong Jinghao showed her. She took out her phone to search through the news from the

front-page news to local news and found it. She frowned, passed it to Guan Jing and asked, "Were you there at that time?"

Guan Jing sneaked a peek at the news and realized that he read it too when he was scrolling on his phone.

It was only until now that he knew why Zong Jinghao didn't want him to stop the personal assistant from taking photo at that time.

Even if he did take a photo, it won't appear in the news if Zong Jinghao didn't want to see it.

Now that the photo appeared, Zong Jinghao must have deliberately allowed it to be shown.

But the reason behind it might be related to Lin Xinyan?

Guan Jing nodded and replied, "When Mr. Zong was discussing with Mr. Li from Shengda Group, your son came in with that stuff and said Mr. Zong dropped it."

Lin Xinyan clasped her phone tightly and asked, "Does Zong Jinghao have such a habit?"

She found it odd to ask such a question herself. What kind of people would carry such kind of stuff regularly?

Even if he planned to use it, he wouldn't be carrying it with him all the time.

This doesn't look like what a normal human being would do.

And Zong Jinghao is obviously a normal person.

"Nope." Come to think of it, it isn't Zong Jinghao's style. His jaws dropped when Mr. Zong admitted it.

Lin Xinyan took her phone back. She must dig into it to know the truth.

Since Lin Xichen is only five years old, if he really...

She held her forehead and felt distressed.

Soon the car pulled over where she lived. As she couldn't wait to find out the truth, she didn't even thank Guan Jing when she pushed open the car door.

When she opened the door, Zhuang Zijin was tidying up the things that they brought along.

"Where is Xi?"

"In the bedroom." Zhuang Zijin felt that she didn't look well and asked, "Are you not feeling well?"

"No." Determined to find out the truth, she walked towards the door of the bedroom and pushed it open.

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With plain blue as the main color, the specially decorated room was kid-friendly and warm.

Lin Xichen was sitting at the bedside in front of the window. He lowered his head to watch something and was so engrossed that he didn't realize someone walked into the room.

Lin Xinyan treaded lightly to see what Lin Xichen was watching behind him. When Lin Xinyan realized what he was browsing through on the tablet, she almost collapsed.

"Lin Xichen, what are you watching?!"

Lin Xichen was startled to hear someone shouted at him. His instinct told him to close the webpage immediately, or he would be finished once his mother saw it.

As he was too nervous, the tablet wasn't held firmly and fell to the ground. Since the webpage that he browsed was still shown, Lin Xinyan tried to block Lin Xinyan's view by standing in front of her.

"Mom."

Lin Xinyan grabbed her son by his shoulder to pull him aside and bent down to pick up the tablet. The Baidu homepage was showing the keywords that were searched: What's the use of Durex.

The search results covered the entire screens with several unsightly images of men and women hugging each other.

He was just five years old!

Lin Xinyan was trembling with rage.

"Lin Xichen, tell me, why would you watch such things? Who taught you to do it?" Lin Xinyan was extremely furious.

Knew that he was at fault, Lin Xichen lowered his head and apologized to her immediately, "Mom, I'm sorry."

Sorry?

Just apologize and she will not dig into it anymore.

Lin Xinyan switched off the tablet and sat at the bedside. She will figure this out.

"Tell me, why would you watch such things. Also, who taught you to do it?"

Lin Xichen thought that he must not tell her about his teacher, or else his teacher would not help him anymore.

To take revenge on the heartless man, he would still need his teacher's assistance.

He replied while lowering his head and fiddling with his own fingers, "When I was playing some games, an advertisement called Durex suddenly popped up. So, I searched it on Baidu to find out what it is and its function."

"Is that so?" Lin Xinyan obviously didn't believe him.

"Then, tell me what this was all about." Lin Xinyan found the news, showed it to him and asked, "Tell me, why did you do that. Also, who taught you to do that."

Lin Xinyan didn't believe that he could do this all by himself.

Lin Xichen first denied that someone helped him and said, "Yes, it was me in the news. No one taught me to do anything, but instead I wanted to do it myself."

Lin Xinyan sneered, "Well then, tell me why you would want to do it?"

He said softly after a thought flashed through his mind, "When I was playing some games and watched this advertisement, I searched on Baidu and figured out what it is used for. When I saw that bastard at lunch, I went to buy it from the supermarket and purposely said that he dropped it to shame him."

Actually, he just found out what it was and its function on Baidu.

Lin Xichen explained it perfectly. He did it all by himself and no one taught him anything.

Lin Xinyan was even more furious. How could a five-year-old kid do such thing?

"Why do you hate him so much? You did it last time..."

"I just hate him!" Lin Xichen looked up her all of a sudden and said, "He bullied my mom, and so I want him to make a fool of himself and be shamed before everyone!"

Lin Xinyan frowned. He wasn't like this before. However, he now seems to have kept the whole thing about Zong Jinghao in mind. This isn't good to him.

"Don't do this ever again."

"No way. He is a bastard, why can't I take revenge on him?" Lin Xichen was recalcitrant. Since the heartless man abandoned them, why should he respect him? Impossible!

Lin Xinyan never expected him to react so strongly. She frowned and talked to him patiently, "Xi, what you did wasn't right."

"Who says it wasn't right!" Lin Xichen believed firmly that Zong Jinghao was the heartless man who abandoned his mother and him.

He returned now to take revenge on him, or else what's the point for him to come back if he just sits tight and do nothing?

Lin Xinyan was irritated and said, "Tell me that you're sorry."

"I didn't do anything wrong."

Infuriated, Lin Xinyan lifted her arm and was about to hit him, yet couldn't do it after looking at her son's cute face.

Lin Xinyan confiscated his tablet, smartwatch and all of his electronic products out of anger, and said to him, "No dinner today. You can have your dinner only after you've reflected on your own mistakes."

Lin Xichen didn't refute her since he would never listen to his mom and stop causing him trouble anyway.

Skipping a meal or two won't starve him to death anyway.

But since mom confiscated his smartwatch, he could not keep in touch with his teacher anymore.

"What's wrong? Why are you so angry?" Zhuang Zijin asked her daughter when she saw her came out of the room.

It was the first time that Lin Xichen raised her voice to him.

"Mom, take care of him at home from today onwards. Don't bring him out." Lin Xinyan locked away the things that she had confiscated in a drawer.

Then, she helped Zhuang Zijin cleaned the house.

Since the house was fully furnished, they only need to put and arrange their belongings properly.

"Since he's just a kid, why did you have to be so angry at him? Besides, Xi's very thoughtful now and more mature than his peers."

"He's now very stubborn precisely because he's too mature. A kid should behave like a kid." Lin Xinyan was infuriated as soon as she thought about the things that Lin Xichen watched.

She rarely saw Lin Xinyan getting so infuriated at someone. Perhaps Lin Xichen really made a huge mistake.

Zhuang Zijin deliberately changed the subject and said, "I'll go to the supermarket later to buy something, including some flowers to decorate the house."

After putting Lin Xinyan's trophies in place, she turned around, looked at her daughter and asked, "Do you need anything? I can buy it for you?"

Since they had just moved in and would need a lot of things, Lin Xinyan prepared a checklist for Zhuang Zijin and said, "I need these."

Zhuang Zijin took a glance, kept it well and said, "It's good to write it down so that I won't forget. I'm sure you're tired as you haven't really taken a rest since you got home. I'll bring them along later, and you can take a nap at home."

Zhuang Zijin took Lin Ruixi's trolley as it would be convenient for her to shop for groceries later.

Lin Xinyan was indeed tired, yet was worried that it would be inconvenient for Zhuang Zijin to bring the kids along. She said to her, "I can take care of them at home."

"This isn't the first time I bring the two kids out."

Zhuang Zijin took care of them when they were in Country A. Lin Xinyan nodded and said, "Don't bring Xi along. Let him reflect on his own mistakes at home."

Zhuang Zijin turned around and said, "I know. Now go and take a nap."

After cleaning the house, she put Lin Ruixi who was asleep in the trolley and went to check out Lin Xichen. Meanwhile, Lin Xichen was standing still next to the bed, and almost never moved since Lin Xinyan left the room.

Zhuang Zijin caressed his hair and asked, "Did you make your mom angry?"

Lin Xichen lowered his head and didn't answer her.

Zhuang Zijin heaved a sigh and said, "It'll be fine, she won't be really angry at you. I'll bring you out and check out whether the local supermarket is the same as the supermarket in Country A."

"My mom..."

"She's taking a nap. Also, how can she stop me from bringing my grandchildren out?" Zhuang Zijin said firmly, "She can give orders to you because she's your mom, but how can she refuse to listen to me who happens to be her mom?"

Lin Xichen smiled and nodded vigorously. He wanted to go around the city too.

They house was indeed located in a strategic place which was near the shops and megamall.

Lin Ruixi was awake when they were still on their way and was pretty excited, knowing that they were going around the city.

Their first stop was the first floor where groceries were found, as Zhuang Zijin planned to buy some vegetables and meat.

"I want to eat this." Lin Xichen pointed at the freshwater shrimps and said.

Aunt Yu who happened to be shopping here heard the loud and cute voice. She looked up and saw the boy in front of him. He was very handsome, and his eyes in particular looked like young master's when he was a boy.

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As Lin Xichen loved shrimps, Zhuang Zijin looked at him with a pampering smile and said, "Okay, I'll buy it."

"I want some too." Whatever her brother wanted, she wanted it too even though she might not really like it.

"Fine, I'll buy it." Zhuang Zijin had been used to it.

Aunt Yu looked with surprise at Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi who was talking. These two kids were so good-looking and even had a pair of bright eyes that looked exactly the same as Zong Jinghao's when he was young.

"I know which stall always sells fresh shrimps." Aunt Yu walked over while looking at the two kids, and said, "They are...."

Zhuang Zijin was used to having someone struck up a conversation with her. As long as she was with the two kids in the past, the people would look at them and even come up and talk to her.

She was used to deal with this kind of situation.

"My grandchildren."

"They are good-looking." Aunt Yu just couldn't take her eyes off these two kids as they were really adorable.

Zhuang Zijin smiled. Yes, they are the ones who motivated her to live. To take care of them for her daughter will be her responsibility for the rest of her life, and the happiest thing that she has ever done.

"Hello aunt." Lin Xichen was particularly sweet.

"Hello." Aunt Yu touched his head and asked, "What is your name?"

"My name is Lin Xichen."

"What a pleasant name." Aunt Yu thought that this boy didn't just look handsome, but the name given to him was pleasant too.

"Why didn't you ask me, aunt?" Lin Ruixi was a little unhappy as she looked at Aunt Yu while blinking her eyes.

Since she asked her brother but not her, was she not as good-looking as him?

"I'm definitely going to ask you." Aunt Yu smiled. This kid was too adorable as she would get jealous of her brother even though she was so young.

"What's your name?" Aunt Yu asked her smilingly.

"I'm Lin Ruixi. My brother and I took our mom's surname." Lun Ruixi said happily.

Aunt Yu was stunned. They were given mother's surname?

"Which stall did you say have fresh shrimps?" Zhuang Zijin interrupted her when she was pondering it. Since children normally bear their father's surname, those who heard that they took their mother's surname would try to dig into their family matters.

But she didn't like to have strangers delving into their family matters.

"Oh." Aunt Yu pointed at somewhere which was not far from here and said, "That stall. I can lead the way. Since I'm their regular customer, they surely won't cheat when I'm present."

Aunt Yu was very eager to help and immediately walked ahead to lead the way for them.

Zhuang Zijin pushed the trolley and followed her.

When they reached the stall, Aunt Yu greeted the boss and asked, "Are the shrimps fresh today?"

"Definitely fresh. Please take a look." The boss used his small fishing net to pick up some shrimps, which were all jumping vigorously.

"Since you are my regular customer and it's not the first time that you buy shrimps from me, I'm sure you know whether my shrimps are fresh enough." The boss said eloquently, "If you are buying shrimps from me, I'll give you the best offer. How about 48 per catty? I won't simply give anyone an offer lower than 60."

"Two catties for me, please." Aunt Yu readily said.

She had money.

She wasn't an extravagant person and would normally bargain before purchasing anything. But she knew the boss very well, and other stalls would really not sell their shrimps below 60 per catty.

She always purchased shrimps from his stall and knew that he would not lie to her.

"The price of two catties and three tails would be..."

"110.4." Lin Xichen had finished calculating and said it even before the boss could.

The boss was stunned for a while before he continued to press 'enter' on the calculator, and the number shown on it was exactly 110.4.

"How old are you? You are so smart." The boss laughed. It was his first time to see a good-looking kid who was very smart as well.

"I'm five years old." Even though Lin Xichen was praised by him, he didn't hold his head up as it was just a simple math question.

The boss handed the shrimps over to Aunt Yu and said, "Are they your relatives? How fortunate to have such an outstanding child."

Aunt Yu took the shrimps but was unknowingly upset after hearing it from the boss, because he and the beautiful girl were not her relatives.

Her face slightly clouded over as she handed the money to him and said, "Here's the money."

The boss was not upset at all and remained cheerful.

Aunt Yu handed the pack of shrimps over to Zhuang Zijin and said, "This is for you."

Zhuang Zijin immediately shook her hand and replied, "We can't have this. I can buy it myself."

"This isn't something precious anyway. I'm giving it to you because the children are adorable, and definitely won't give it to anyone else." She put it into their trolley and wouldn't take no for an answer.

"It's not necessary." When Zhuang Zijin was about to take the pack of shrimps and return it to Aunt Yu, Lin Ruixi suddenly said, "Thank you Aunt."

Zhuang Zijin was speechless. Oh, this kid.

"Oh, you're welcome." Lin Ruixi' sweet voice cheered Aunt Yu up.

Since Lin Ruixi said so, Zhuang Zijin found it hard to reject her kindness and said, "You shouldn't have! Thank you so much."

Aunt Yu immediately shook her hands and said, "You're welcome. Don't mention it."

"Sorry, we have to get going to shop for other groceries." Zhuang Zijin said.

"Sure." Aunt Yu stared at Lin Chenxi and really wished to have more time to talk to the two kids. But considering the fact that they were not her children and it was only the first time they met, she was already rather passionate. If she requested more from them, they would surely be annoyed by her and even thought that she was a human trafficker.

She heaved a sigh as she thought about the man whom she took care of since he was young. As a thirty-year-old man, he never remarried since he divorced his wife, and so didn't have a wife until today, not to mention a child.

Her face clouded over in disappointment. If they didn't get a divorce, he might already have a child since Lin Xinyan was pregnant at that time.

All this happened due to Zong Jinghao.

Everyone's gone, and now he was left with nothing.

Aunt Yu was now not in the mood for shopping anymore. Since there were some ingredients at home and Zong Jinghao might not even come home, she left the supermarket.

When the driver realized that Aunt Yu didn't buy anything, he looked back at her and asked, "Are you going back without buying anything?"

Aunt Yu looked disconsolate as she said, "I'm in no mood to eat now. Let's go."

The driver remained silent.

When Aunt Yu reached the villa, she felt that the huge villa was rather empty and not lively at all.

It didn't feel like a real home as it lacked the lady of the house and several children.

She carried her empty purse and put it on the table. She sighed repeatedly when she thought about Lin Xichen's face and took out a photo from the drawer of the table. The little kid in the photo was the young Zong Jinghao.

As he didn't really like to take photo, this was his one and only photo taken when he was a kid.

Aunt Yu looked at the photo closely as she recalled Lin Xichen's face and noticed that he looked like the kid in the photo.

They look exactly alike. Why is that so?

Zong Jinghao was the only descendant of the Zongs as the lady of the house only gave birth to him then. Later, Zong Qifeng remarried but didn't want to have any children.

Therefore, Zong Jinghao didn't have any sibling.

And surely he was not a child of one of his relatives.

Is it really possible that two persons without any blood relation can look so much alike in this world?

Aunt Yu was lost in thoughts and didn't even notice that someone knocked on the door.

Zong Jinghao put his jacket away and came up to Aunt Yu to check on her.

She was totally unaware that someone had entered the villa.

He raised his eyebrows when he realized that she was staring at his photo and asked, "What reminded you of the photo?"

Aunt Yu was shocked when she heard someone talking beside her. After recollecting herself, she looked at him and said, "I saw two kids today, and they looked exactly like you when you were young."

She stressed the words 'looked exactly like you'.

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She stressed the words 'looked exactly like you'.

"So, what are you trying to say?"

He squinted at her with a serious look on his face.

Aunt Yu didn't notice that she was holding the photo tightly.

"You, do you have a love child out there..."

"Nope." Zong Jinghao denied it even before Aunt Yu could finished her words.

He only slept with one woman in his life until today.

It's totally impossible for any other woman to bear him a child.

A love child? Out of the question.

"So Aunt Yu, we won't be having dinner tonight?" As he looked at the empty kitchen, the dining table looked like a mirror in which he could see his own reflection but nothing else.

Usually, Aunt Yu would be preparing dinner at this hour, or had finished preparing it. She didn't seem so right today.

Eat?

Aunt Yu's mouth twitched slightly as she said, "Are you still in the mood to eat?... Are you happy now that everyone gone?"

She put the photo back as she was speaking. She didn't intend to merely touch on it but wanted to dig into the entire matter.

Zong Jinghao frowned and thought to himself. What's wrong with her?

"Look at our home. Does it really look like a home? The house is huge, but is there anybody in here? What's the point of being wealthy when there is only an old mother who knows how to do house chores and a thirty-year-old bachelor in this house?" Aunt Yu closed the drawer. She was furious and really thought about not preparing any food for him.

But she just couldn't do it.

Soon, she went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Zong Jinghao glanced at Aunt Yu who was upset from behind and pulled out the drawer to get the photo. As he didn't like to take photo, he could hardly recognize this photo too. In fact, he had actually forgotten about it if it wasn't for Aunt Yu.

He held the photo and watched it closely. The eyes, the face...

Buzz...

The phone in his pocket rang. When an image of a face suddenly flashed through his mind and he wanted to compare it with the face in the photo, his thoughts were interrupted by his ringing phone.

He put down the photo, closed the drawer and picked up the phone. It was a call from Guan Jing about work.

As he was talking to Guan Jing over the phone, he unbuttoned his shirt and walked towards the bedroom.

At the Golden Harbor.

When Zhuang Zijin finished preparing dinner and wanted to tell Lin Xichen to come out and have dinner, Lin Xinyan stopped her and said, "Let him ponder over and admit to his mistakes, or else no dinner for him."

"He's just a kid. It's good enough to frighten him, but we shouldn't use no dinner as punishment." Zhuang Zijin didn't agree to it since he was growing up and shouldn't skip any meal.

"No dinner if he doesn't admit to his mistakes." Lin Xinyan didn't explain anything to her but was very determined about it.

She can overlook some of the things. But on this occasion, she mustn't simply let it go.

He's already watching the indecent contents even though he's merely a kid. What kind of a man would he become when he grows up?

"Yan..." Zhuang Zijin still wished to persuade her.

However, Lin Xinyan was determined and couldn't be moved at all. If she does not set the rules for him now, it would be even harder to discipline him in future.

Lin Ruixi carried Lin Ruixi and said, "Let's go and have dinner now."

Zhuang Zijin was standing still, as if pondering over Lin Xinyan's words to figure out if there was any alternative.

Lin Xinyan looked back at Zhuang Zijin and said to her with the answer, "I'm serious now. Pleading for him would be a waste of time."

Zhuang Zijin came up to her and asked gently, "What did Xi do that made you so angry?"

Zhuang Zijin didn't believe at all that Lin Xichen would commit a huge mistake since the kid was smart and thoughtful.

She was rather surprised that Lin Xinyan would be so infuriated now.

Lin Xinyan was lost for words when she recalled the stuff that her son watched and the things that he did. After a while, she replied, "Mom, don't ask about it anymore. Come and have dinner now."

Lin Xinyan was sitting at the dining table and feeding her daughter while holding her in her arms.

Lin Xinyan apparently didn't want to talk about it, and so Zhuang Zijin didn't continue to ask her.

After dinner, Zhuang Zijin did the dishes whereas Lin Xinyan brought her daughter out to walk around the neighborhood.

She had to familiarize herself with the environment since they just moved in.

When her daughter left, Zhuang Zijin quickly peeled some shrimps, put some rice in a bowl and took it to the bedroom for Lin Xichen.

He was extremely bored as both his tablet and phone were confiscated. As he couldn't play any games or call his teacher to talk, he cuddled himself up at the bedside and looked rather pathetic.

Zhuang Zijin put the bowl of rice on the table and said, "Come quickly and eat before you mom comes home."

Lin Xichen didn't move at all.

Zhuang Zijin dragged him out of bed and said, "You really don't want to eat? You'll be hungry at night. Well, your mom won't know anyway if I don't tell her about it."

Lin Xichen swallowed his saliva as he stood in front of the table and stared at the rice.

He was actually hungry.

"I've peeled the shrimps that you love the most. Eat now, and I'll bring you a cup of water." Zhuang Zijin left the room with the excuse as she thought he might be shy to eat.

Lin Xichen licked his lips. If he's starved to death, how can he take revenge against the heartless man? He has to eat.

He sat on the chair, held the bowl and immediately picked up the rice.

He was eating very fast as he was afraid that Lin Xinyan would realize it.

When Zhuang Zijin entered the room with a cup of water and saw Lin Xichen wolfing down his food, she almost laughed out loud. Those who don't know them might even think that he has been starved for many days.

"Eat slower and don't be choked by the food." Zhuang Zijin handed the cup of water over to him and let him drink.

Lin Xichen grinned and babbled with his mouth full of food, "Thank you grandma."

"Take your time. Your mom won't be back so soon." Zhuang Zijin stood at the door and said, "I'll keep an eye on her for you."

Lin Xichen was having his dinner like a thief.

The environment of the neighborhood was not bad as there was a huge green space even though it was located in the downtown area. The facilities were rather complete with kindergartens, elementary schools, shopping malls and subway stations.

When Lin Xinyan was walking around the neighborhood, Lin Ruixi fell asleep in her arms. As she got home with her daughter in her arms, Zhuang Zijin had done the dishes and was adding some hot water in the bathroom.

When she opened Lin Xichen's door, Lin Xichen was still sitting at the bedside and huddling himself up like a poor and abandoned orphan.

"Do you want to apologize?" Lin Xinyan looked at him and asked.

Lin Xichen held his legs in his arms, lowered his head and said, "I did nothing wrong."

"Fine. You did nothing wrong, didn't you? I'll just wait and see when you will apologize to me." Lin Xinyan closed the door furiously and carried her daughter to another room to sleep.

Lin Ruixi had a sleep habit. She had to held Lin Xinyan's breast, or else she couldn't sleep soundly.

Lin Xinyan was used to her daughter's sleep habit.

As they were twins, her breast milk was insufficient and could only feed one of them. Lin Ruixi was fed with breast milk as she was given birth later than her brother and looked rather skinny. When she was being fed, she would always hold her another breast.

Therefore, she eventually had this sleep habit.

Lin Xinyan was patting her daughter gently on her back, yet she couldn't sleep too because Lin Xichen would usually go to bed with her.

She never thought that this kid was so stubborn and had no idea that he learned it from whom.

The next day, Lin Xinyan left her house rather late. As the shop was still being renovated, she was rather free at the moment.

She planned to stay home and accompany her two children when she still had time but had to go out only after receiving a call from Qin Ya that someone wanted to meet her.

As she had familiarized herself with the environment and knew that she could take the subway to her shop, she went to the counter to buy a ticket.

"Ms. Lin." Yu Doudou wriggled his way through the crowd and rushed towards her as soon as he saw her.

He called her Ms. Lin as he heard that Guan Jing called her with this name as well.

He had been waiting for her here since early in the morning in the hope of talking to her but didn't expect that she only left her house now.

Even she's going out; she wanted to take the subway and not a cab.

Luckily he was fast enough, or else he would miss her.

Lin Xinyan turned around when she heard some noise. Realized that it was him, she frowned as she wasn't sure why did he follow her.

As Yu Doudou was running with all his might, he was extremely tired and panting when he stood in front of Lin Xinyan. He bent down with his arms akimbo and said, "Can I talk to you for a minute?"

"No." Lin Xinyan refused and clearly wasn't interested to look back.

Yu Doudou replied confidently, "Once you see this, you will be willing to talk to me."

He took out a stuff from his pocket and handed it over to Lin Xinyan.

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Lin Xinyan looked down and saw a memory card in his hand. She frowned and asked, "What is this?"

Yu Doudou's face looked more solemn as he said, "My brother didn't commit suicide, but was murdered instead."

Lin Xinyan was not interested in the same remarks repeated by him.

"Excuse me. I have some other matters to attend to and have to get going." After making the payment, she took her ticket and walked towards the entrance.

Yu Doudou grabbed her by her arm in desperation and said, "Six years ago, my brother received some money given by a woman. She instructed him to crash into a woman to kill her."

Bang!

It was a bolt from the blue to Lin Xinyan.

Someone wanted to harm her six years ago?

"You were the woman that my brother wanted to kill, but luckily you survived. Am I correct?" Yu Doudou told her what's on his mind.

Yu Doudou finally understood why Lin Xinyan would hate and detest him whenever she saw him only after obtaining the recording.

Lin Xinyan grabbed the memory card from his hand and looked at it closely. She thought that it should be a memory card for old-fashioned phones, since the smartphones nowadays were equipped with huge internal memory and wouldn't require such a device. She put the memory card back on his palm and asked, "Is the evidence stored in it?"

"We can talk about it when you have time." Yu Doudou was certain that Lin Xinyan would agree to it.

Lin Xinyan indeed agreed as she wanted to know who the culprit was who harmed her in the past.

The accident almost took away her child's life.

"I know that there's a cafe nearby. Why don't we talk about it in there?" Lin Xinyan walked ahead to lead the way.

Yu Doudou followed her.

The cafe, which was noticed by her last night, was near to her neighborhood.

Soon, they arrived at the cafe. Lin Xinyan looked for a quiet corner and took a seat.

"Would you like some drinks?" Although Lin Xinyan was eager to know the truth, she could see that Dou seemed to be very thirsty.

"I'd like to have some water." He was indeed thirsty.

Lin Xinyan handed over the order form to the waiter and said, "Can I have two glasses of water? We will ask you for help when we need something else."

"Sure."

After the waiter served them with two glasses of water and left, Yu Doudou immediately gulped down his drink. Lin Xinyan then asked him, "Tell me what this is all about."

"Listen to it first." Yu Doudou took out a phone in which a memory card could be inserted. After inserting the memory card, he switched on the phone and played the recording.

It was just a part of a conversation, presumably recorded when they were in the middle of their discussion.

"If I do as you said to crash into the woman and kill her, would I go to jail?"

"No worries. I would make sure that you wouldn't face any lawsuit, not to mention going to jail. We will tamper with your car's brake in advance to make it look like an accident caused by brake failure, so that you won't have to bear any responsibility. Since you are suffering from an illness, we will help you by giving you a large amount of money once you've completed the task. Since you won't be able to earn that much of money in all your life, I'm sure this is the best deal you can ever get."

"Rest assured. Even if you go to jail, I promise to get you out of it by any means necessary." The woman was desperate to convince him.

He Ruilin didn't only want Lin Xinyan to feel the pain caused by an accident, but also wanted her dead.

She wanted to ensure that Lin Xinyan would meet her death once and for all when Zong Jinghao divorced her. By doing so, no one could ever threaten her again, and Zong Jinghao would finally belong to her.

But she didn't expect that someone would save her.

That person even brought her to leave B City. Six years had passed since she left, and she even had children now.

"Based on the recording, I think this woman knew that my brother needed money. Since he was a van driver, she looked for him and plotted the accident." Yu Doudou said while keeping his phone.

Lin Xinyan propped herself on her elbow and recalled the woman's voice in the recording. It was very clear and familiar to her, so much so that she could almost immediately recognize who it was.

She was Bai Zhuwei, and now called He Ruilin.

Zhuang Zijin suffered from mental disorder because of her, and her illness was later controlled by He Ruize. Since she could live a normal life now, she didn't intend to hold her responsible for it.

And the reason behind it was that she was He Ruize's sister.

Now...

She always believed that the accident was merely due to brake failure, and never thought otherwise.

"Do you know who's the woman in the recording?" Yu Doudou tried to ask.

Fiddling with her cup, Lin Xinyan looked up but didn't answer him. Instead, she asked him, "I was wondering how you got the recording."

Yu Doudou's face darkened as he lowered his head.

"You don't wish to tell me?" Lin Xintan loosened her hands, stood up and said, "Thank you so much for telling me this."

Yu Doudou looked up at her immediately and asked surprisingly, "You don't want to hold her responsible for what she did? Someone wanted to harm you."

Lin Xinyan looked at him calmly as he got nervous, and replied, "To hold her responsible to her crime or not is solely my business."

"But, don't you think there's a better chance of success if both of us cooperate?" If they cooperate with each other, he could hold her responsible for murdering his brother, while she can take revenge against her too. Wouldn't it be killing two birds with one stone?

Why did she remain composed after hearing all this?

"You have doubts about me, am I correct?" She was indeed shocked by the revelation but wouldn't lose her mind just because of that. Also, there was something that he hadn't come clean about.

Yu Doudou lowered his head while clasping his hands tightly and rubbing them nervously.

"I'll consider cooperating with you only after you've come clean about it." Lin Xinyan looked out the window and said with disappointment, "That person won't be arrested so easily even you have the evidence."

The situation is different from that in the past. Now that she's a member of the He family, which is wealthy and powerful, holding her responsible for her crime is easier said than done.

"Wait..." When Lin Xinyan reached the door, Yu Doudou stood up, looked at her from behind and said, "Take a seat."

Turned around, Lin Xinyan looked at him and asked, "Have you made up your mind to talk?"

Yu Doudou pursed his lips tightly and nodded.

Lin Xinyan sat down on her seat again.

"If you want to cooperate with me, please tell me everything that you know."

After taking a deep breath, Yu Doudou looked at Lin Xinyan and said, "I've been investigating the cause of my brother's death; yet found no clue at all until I received a phone call."

"What was the phone call about?"

"My brother kept some of his stuff in Ping An Insurance but didn't retrieve it when it came due. So, their staff called me." Yu Doudou said honestly, "Since my number was given as an alternative number, they called me after failing to contact my brother."

Lin Xinyan didn't interrupt him but listened carefully to what he had to say.

"It appears that my brother kept it on purpose." Yu Doudou lowered his head as he said.

"Why would he do that?" Lin Xinyan asked while staring at him.

To respect the dead, he was reluctant to reveal his half-brother's disgraceful behavior when he was still alive.

He lowered his head and remained silent.

Lin Xinyan waited for a few minutes, yet he still didn't open his mouth.

"If you don't tell me the truth, I won't get to the bottom of the entire incident. In that case, how can we possibly cooperate? Since you don't trust me after all, what's the point of asking me to stay?"

"Not at all. I trust you." Yu Doudou immediately denied it.

"My brother might have purposely recorded it when they were having the conversation. After completing what she asked for and receiving the money, he might have blackmailed her to demand more money, and so was murdered."

To cut a long story short, greed led to his brother's death.

Lin Xinyan finally got to the bottom of the entire incident. His brother was the driver who was bribed by He Ruilin to crash into her and kills her. After the accident, she went overseas. On the other hand, as his brother was too greedy, he was murdered for blackmailing He Ruilin again after receiving his money.

"What do you have in mind? You won't just let the person who harmed you go easily, right?" Yu Doudou asked her impatiently.

"Even though we are clear about the incident, but to reinvestigate and hold the culprit responsible for it is not easy." Lin Xinyan stood up and said, "I have other matters to attend to."

"I can give you a lift." Yu Doudou stood up as well and said, "I've a car."

Lin Xinyan looked at him and nodded.

After getting into the car, Yu Doudou wrote down his contact number on a card and said, "This is my number, and you can call me anytime. Let me just introduce myself again. My name is Yu Doudou."

Lin Xinyan received the card and replied, "Got it. You can just call me Lin Xinyan." "Alright."

Yu Doudou was driving attentively. Soon, the car pulled over at the entrance of the shop that was being renovated.

Waiting anxiously at the entrance, Qin Ya saw Lin Xinyan running towards her and said, "What took you so long?"

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"Sorry, I was held up." Lin Xinyan explained to her.

"Stay in touch." Yu Doudou made a hand gesture for talking over the phone to Lin Xinyan and said, "You can also call me if you need a lift."

Perhaps due to the common enemy, their relationship unknowingly became closer.

Lin Xinyan nodded her head.

"Fine. I'll leave you to it. I've to get going." Yu Doudou waved his hand and drove away.

He would have no income if he stopped driving.

"Ms. Lin, who is he?" Qin Ya asked out of curiosity.

How did she make a friend so easily by just taking a cab?

As Lin Xinyan didn't want to talk about it, she just said calmly, "Why are you so anxious? Who wants to meet me?"

Qin Ya patted herself on her head and said, "I've almost forgotten the most important thing." Lin Xinyan pulled Lin Xinyan and continued, "I've invited her to wait in the office since it is the least messy place."

The office was Lin Xinyan's, and she cleaned it up earlier on.

If not, there would be no other places for them to stay.

Lin Xinyan was curious to know who wanted to meet her.

"Who is that? A man or a woman?" Apart from He Ruize, she had no friend in the country.

"It's a woman who calls herself Madam Zong. She's rather beautiful and elegant." Qin Ya peeked at Lin Xinyan to see her expression.

Her ex-husband is Zong Jinghao.

Is this Madam Zong her ex-mother-in-law?

Lin Xinyan frowned and thought to herself. Madam Zong?

There was no weeding nor ceremony when Zong Jinghao and her got married. She had not even seen any of Zong Jinghao's family members.

Madam Zong? But based on what she knew, Madam Zong passed away a long time ago. Would she be... Lin Xinyan seemed to know who she was.

Aunt Yu said before that Zong Jinghao's father remarried not long after his mother passed away.

Therefore, she could call herself Madam Zong.

But what does she want from her?

Lin Xinyan had lots of doubts.

"She's inside. Call me if you need anything." Qin Ya brought Lin Xinyan to the door of the office but didn't intend to enter the office.

Lin Xinyan nodded. She opened the door only after Qin Ya left.

The office was tidied up with an office desk, a couch and a coffee table. The floor was swept too. The entire office looked rather empty and not even drinks could be served.

An elegantly dressed woman was standing in front of the sliding windows. Although Lin Xinyan couldn't see her face, she had long hair with a bun and apparently kept her body in good shape.

As she turned around after hearing some noise, she saw Lin Xinyan standing near the door and asked, "Are you Lin Xinyan?"

Lin Xinyan could see her face clearly as soon as she turned around. She certainly withstood the test of time as she was still outstandingly beautiful.

She clasped her hand gently above her waist. She was wearing an Omega watch on her wrist, a plaid dress and a pair of black high heels and carrying a black shoulder bag on her right arm.

She might have dressed plainly as she was not wearing any superfluous jewelry, yet radiating her natural refinement.

"Yes, I am." Lin Xinyan walked into the room and asked, "Is there anything I can do for you? I don't really know you."

Yuxiu smiled softly and said, "We should have already met when you're married into the Zong family, yet..." Because the relationship between Zong Jinghao and them was not good, he didn't bring Lin Xinyan back to meet them.

After registering their marriage, Zong Qifeng did make a call to Zong Jinghao and asked him to bring Lin Xinyan to meet them, yet Zong Jinghao declined their invitation.

The divorce that happened afterwards was also decided merely by Zong Jinghao. They only received the news when everything was done and dusted.

Lin Xinyan gave her a knowing smile and replied, "I know."

Since the marriage with Zong Jinghao was merely a trade, it was nothing unusual that he didn't introduce her to his family.

"Please have a seat." Lin Xinyan gestured Yuxiu to sit down.

Yuxiu nodded lightly and sat on the couch.

Sitting in front of her, Lin Xinyan was silently waiting for her to open her mouth.

Since she wanted to see her, she must have something important to tell her.

Yuxiu sized up Lin Xinyan and thought that she was very young and beautiful. She finally said, "I heard that you're 18 when you're married to Jinghao."

Lin Xinyan nodded and replied, "Correct."

They fell silent for two seconds.

"Do you know that Jinghao was supposed to be engaged to someone else?" Yuxiu asked.

She was gazing at Lin Xinyan as she spoke.

She wanted to see the change of her facial expression.

Lin Xinyan answered honestly, "Yes, I do."

"And he broke off the engagement afterwards. Do you know that too?"

"I do." Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes and pondered over the reason that she wanted to meet her.

Judging from what she said, it could be related to Zong Jinghao.

"Well, do you also know the reason that he broke off the engagement?"

Lin Xinyan didn't know the reason behind it.

She looked up at Yuxiu and replied, "I don't know."

She pointed at the office and said, "As you can see, I've just come back from overseas. I'm not really sure about the things that happened here, particularly due to the fact that we were divorced."

Although it wasn't stated in black and white, Lin Xinyan had always believed that they were divorced.

She remembered what Zong Jinghao said at that time. Let's get a divorce.

Once he said that, their marriage was over.

Yuxiu surprisingly said, "You don't know that?" She obviously couldn't believe that Lin Xinyan wasn't aware of it, and continued to ask, "Don't you know that he broke off the engagement because of you?"

Lin Xinyan was now surprised instead.

He broke off the engagement because of her?

Isn't it nonsense?

"I think there might be some misunderstanding. As you are aware, how could it happen because of me as we were divorced for many years?"

Yuxiu shook her head and was confident that there was no misunderstanding about it. Based on Mr. Feng's investigation, Zong Jinghao broke his engagement with He Ruilin when he saw her in Country A

He might have really fallen for her after they were married. Hence, when Zong Jinghao saw her and felt that his love for her rekindled, he subsequently broke the engagement with He Ruilin.

"You must have heard of the Zong and He families, which are the prominent families in B City. If the two families can come together due to the marriage, it will indeed be a strong union of two families. This will be beneficial for both the He and Zong families." She looked at Lin Xinyan and said with a soft voice, "Before he went overseas and met you, he was willing to marry Ms. He. Since they knew each other for so long, both of the families valued the marriage very much."

"So, are you trying to persuade me to leave Zong Jinghao?" Lin Xinyan wanted to laugh it off and said, "I think you've misunderstood something. We had never been together. "

They had never been in a real relationship.

It appears that she got the wrong person.

Yuxiu slightly frowned as she said, "Both of you hadn't been together?"

Lin Xinyan nodded and said confidently, "No."

"To break off the engagement, he... hurt himself. I didn't witness it but heard it from Mr. Zong. He grabbed a fruit knife and plunged it into his chest... so that he could break off the engagement."

"What?" Lin Xinyan stood up suddenly.

How did he get the wound on his chest?

He harmed himself? Was he insane?

Yuxiu was observing Lin Xinyan's reaction and believed that she really wasn't aware of it.

"Why would he do that?" Lin Xinyan couldn't get it.

"His engagement to Ms. He was in the news. As there was a close business relationship between the two families, he certainly had to bear certain responsibilities if he was the one who broke the engagement. Also, since Ms. He saved him by accident in the past and worked for him for a long time, he would feel guilty towards her as ending the engagement would bring about huge impact on her." Therefore, when He Ruilin said she wanted him dead, he really complied and did it to himself.

He might hope that by doing so, he wouldn't be indebted to her.

Yuxiu heaved a sigh and said, "I heard that as Ms. He loved Jinghao deeply, she went to pieces when she got the news that their engagement was going to end."

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Lin Xinyan lowered her head and remained silent as she was stunned after hearing what Yuxiu said.

She didn't take it seriously when he said that he had ended his engagement. She never thought that he really did it.

"After he returned from Country A, his father was furious as he wanted to break off the engagement. They had bitter quarrels for a lot of time, and so their relationship went sour since then."

Yuxiu was dismayed too whenever she recalled her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan clasped her hands tightly and asked, "You...how did you know all this?"

How did she know that Zong Jinghao wanted to break off the engagement because of her?

"Since he wanted to break off his engagement all of a sudden, his infuriated father instructed Mr. Feng to investigate the matter. That's why I've come to see you." Yuxiu explained it frankly.

Holding back her emotions, Lin Xinyan asked calmly, "You're here today to..."

"I simply want to meet you. Initially, we instructed Mr. Feng to investigate the matter in the hope of stopping him from breaking the engagement. But since he went as far as harming himself to break it, we can hardly do anything about it. Considering that he was willing to abandon a woman who had been with him for so long, he must be very resolved in doing this. His father could do nothing about

it but just let it be." Yuxiu looked at Lin Xinyan and said, "I'm here to see you of my own free will. No one knows about it."

She felt Lin Xinyan must be the reason that Zong Jinghao was so determined to cancel the engagement.

As she knew that Zong Jinghao ended his engagement because of his ex-wife, she was curious to know what kind of woman would Zong Jinghao's ex-wife be.

As she didn't have the chance to meet her when they were married, she looked for her now as soon as Mr. Feng found out some information about her.

Lin Xinyan was lost. She initially thought that she was here in the hope of asking her to leave Zong Jinghao, so that his engagement with He Ruilin could stay intact.

It turned out to be an entirely different story.

Yuxiu could see that Lin Xinyan was confused, and smilingly said, "Since Jinghao and you were not married for long, you might have not fully understood him. No one can stop him from doing anything that he wants. Even if Mr. Zong didn't agree to the breaking of engagement, in the end, he still had to no choice but to compromise."

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes, and a thin smile could be seen on her face. Even though their marriage wasn't long and they didn't have much time to be together, she knew rather well about his style and behavior.

Why would she return to the country?

If it wasn't for the fact that Zong Jinghao did something, she surely won't return.

Obviously, he is determined to achieve what he wants to do by any means necessary.

"Sorry for taking up your time today." Yuxiu stood up and said, "I've been out for quite some time. It's time for me to go home."

Lin Xinyan stood up too and said, "I'll send you out."

Yuxiu smiled and didn't refuse.

"Watch your steps." As the finishing materials were all over the floor, Lin Xinyan reminded her of it when they were leaving the office to make sure that she wouldn't be tripped over the materials.

Yuxiu looked at Lin Xinyan and smiled gently. She apparently had a good first impression of her. She said to her, "I hope you won't tell anyone that we met."

Her relationship with Zong Jinghao wasn't good.

It might lead to some unnecessary misunderstanding between them if he found out that she met Lin Xinyan.

"Understood. I won't tell anyone." Lin Xinyan agreed.

The driver saw Madam Zong as soon as they stepped out of the room. He quickly opened the car door and said, "Ma'am."

After Yuxiu bent and got into the car, the driver closed the door. Then, she rolled down the window, looked at Lin Xinyan and said, "I've never seen Jinghao fell in love with a woman so deeply."

She was in a pickle.

After knowing that Zong Jinghao broke off the engagement because of her, she would be lying if she said that she had no feelings for him.

But she wasn't sure about her feelings for Zong Jinghao.

Yuxiu wanted to say something, but changed the subject and said, "Since his mother passed away early, his attitude towards me... Please take care of him, if you will."

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips and didn't want to simply agree to it.

Take care of him?

It is still impossible for them to be together even if he really broke off the engagement.

There were too much of obstacles between them.

"He has someone to take care of him. I won't do it." Lin Xinyan refused.

Yuxiu heaved a sigh. She understood that since they were divorced, it would take time for them to be back together. So, she changed the subject and said smilingly, "Alright. When will your shop open? Don't forget to send me an invitation."

"Sure." Lin Xinyan laughed too.

"Let's go." Yuxiu told driver gently.

"Yes, ma'am." The driver soon drove the car away.

Lin Xinyan stood at the roadside and watched as the car left. She felt that she couldn't really understand Yuxiu.

She knew from Aunt Yu that the relationship between Zong Jinghao and her wasn't good.

She thought that Zong Jinghao's stepmother would be like Shen Xiuqing, a woman who was good-looking but wicked.

But after talking to her, she felt that the woman was entirely different.

She was polite, elegant and totally different from those coquettish women.

She was entirely different.

She virtually upended her impression of a mistress.

"Ms. Lin." Qin Ya walked out from the shop. She stood beside her and asked her curiously, "Why did she want to meet you?"

If it wasn't for the fact that Zong Jinghao was so determined, the engagement would remain intact, and she would be here asking her to leave Zong Jinghao.

Pathetically, Zong Jinghao and she had never been together.

But in the eyes of others, she was the culprit who made Zong Jinghao break off his engagement.

It's so unjust for her, isn't it?

She mentioned that she merely wanted to meet her and hoped to keep it a secret.

"Nothing much actually." Lin Xinyan turned over to look at Qin Ya and said, "I'll treat you to lunch. Sounds good?"

"Of course." Qin Ya hugged Lin Xinyan and said, "I'm extremely tired now since I even have to supervise the renovation work. I don't want just an ordinary lunch but a slap-up meal to reward me for my hard work."

She might be complaining, but in fact looked joyous.

Why wouldn't she be happy when someone wanted to treat her to lunch?

"Fine. You pick the restaurant." Lin Xinyan agreed to it. Even though she was joking, Lin Xinyan knew that she was really tired.

She had to supervise almost everything in the shop.

"Really? I can pick any restaurant?" Qin Ya smilingly asked.

"Of course." Lin Xinyan laughed too and answered affirmatively, "Why would I lie to you when I say I'm going to treat you to lunch?"

"Alright." Qin Ya pointed at the Kangting Hotel and said, "I want to have lunch there."

"..." "Too expensive?"

Qin Ya held Lin Xinyan in her arms, rested her chin on her shoulder like a spoiled child, and said, "Ms. Lin, you can't be too stingy. You promised me."

"Hmm. I promised you and I will do it. Let's go." Although she earned quite a lot, she wasn't extravagant as she had two kids.

She would spend her money without hesitation only if it was meant for her children.

She was rather stingy to herself.

"Are you sure?" Qin Ya was just joking around. She knew that other than necessary expenses, she would save most of her money that she had earned.

"Of course. I promised you." Lin Xinyan held Qin Ya's hand to cross the road when the traffic light turned green.

"Ms. Lin, I was just joking with you. Since Xi and Rui are growing up, you will need to spend a lot of money. Don't waste your money on this." Qin Ya pulled Lin Xinyan to walk back.

"I won't become poor just because of one meal, right?" Lin Xinyan pulled Qin Ya closer to her and said, "Actually I haven't been to such a place alone to spend my money. Just pamper us once and let's find out whether the five-star hotel in our country is the same as overseas."

She went to five-star hotels for many times but didn't have to spend her own money. Since she was a well-known designer, she had to attend events or socialize with guests in such places.

"Can I order Australian lobsters then?" Qin Ya asked Lin Xinyan in a whiny voice like a child.

"Sure..." Lin Xinyan laughed. As she looked up, she noticed that a woman who folded her arms across her chest was giving her a cold-eyed stare at the entrance of the hotel.

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He Ruilin was wearing a greyish-pink dress and white high heels, with delicate makeup and wavy hair.

She was standing at the entrance and staring at her with her folded arms, as if she had noticed Lin Xinyan long ago.

Lin Xinyan didn't want to have any argument with her. Although she wasn't afraid of her, she dragged Qin Ya over and entered the hotel from the side to avoid confronting her.

But He Ruilin didn't want to let her go easily.

If it wasn't for her, why would Zong Jinghao break off his engagement with her?

She stood right in front of them wherever Lin Xinyan wanted to go.

"Is there something wrong with you?" Qin Ya was infuriated after they were being blocked several times.

"There's something wrong with you!" Staring at her, He Ruilin's gorgeous face was slightly contorted with anger.

"Why are you blocking our way if you are alright?" Qin Ya was staring at her too.

I'll stare at you too!

"It appears that Miss He and Ms. Lin are there." As Guang Jing passed by and saw a few people arguing at the entrance of the hotel, he pulled over and told the man who was sitting at the back.

Zong Jinghao was going through some documents, with those that hadn't been read on his legs. He wore a white suit that looked untucked, while his jacket was put aside on the seat. The top two buttons from his collar were undone, revealing his long and slim neck as well as partly visible collarbone. He seemed to be rather busy, or else he wouldn't read the documents even when he was in the car.

As he heard Guan Jing, he rolled down the window and looked over there.

It was indeed the two of them.

Zong Jinghao's slightly lowered his eyes as soon as he glanced at He Ruilin. After folding the documents, he neither got out of the car nor continued reading the document.

Guan Jing asked him cautiously, "Do you want to get out of the car and take a closer look?"

After Zong Jinghao gave him a cold-eyed stare, Guan Jing curled his lips and stopped talking unwillingly.

Lin Xinyan pulled Qin Ya over and said, "We'll go to another restaurant."

"You want to run off? No way!" He Ruilin spread her arms to block Lin Xinyan. She was still exasperated because Zong Jinghao broke off his engagement with her.

How could she let the culprit go so easily?

Lin Xinyan's face darkened completely as she said, "Make way!"

He Ruilin sneered several times and said, "Make way?" She suddenly turned ferocious and said, "No way, Lin Xinyan! How can I let you off the hook since you ruined my happiness and my future? I'm bursting to tear you apart and feed you to the dogs."

"I'm afraid even the dogs won't eat you if you're being fed to them." Qin Ya couldn't stand her arrogance.

Smack!

He Ruilin slapped Qin Ya on her face right away. Then, she pointed at her finger and said, "Who are you to talk to me?"

Qin Ya was stunned after being slapped on her face. It was extremely painful.

Infuriated, Lin Xinyan clenched her hand and slapped He Ruilin on the left side of her face using her right hand with all her might.

Smack!

It was louder than just now.

She didn't want to confront her, but that didn't mean that she was a pushover.

Assaulting Qin Ya equals to assaulting her!

Exasperated, He Ruilin couldn't believe that Lin Xinyan would dare slap her and said, "You dare to hit me?"

Lin Xinyan clenched her hand and realized that her hand and shoulder were numb as she used up all of her energy just now. Nevertheless, she remained composed and said, "Don't mess with me and I won't mess with you. But, it was you who provoked me in the first place. Do you think you're all-powerful just because you're the noble and rich girl from the He family? We are all equal human beings, and no one is nobler than the other. Since you assaulted someone, you reaped what you sowed."

I reaped what I sowed?

"You're exactly the one who will reap what you've sown!" He Ruilin sprang upon her frantically and screamed, "Lin Xinyan, I will kill you. I will kill you..."

He Ruilin's hatred that was buried deep in her heart was finally vented on Lin Xinyan unstoppably. She looked like a maniac.

"Are you sure you can defeat both of us?" Lin Xinyan was calmed and stood still.

Qin Ya was now holding a stick and staring ferociously at He Ruilin. As soon as she dares move an inch, she will hit her on her head.

He Ruilin stopped. Ever since she's part of the He family, who would dare mess with her?

She is always being feared and flattered in the past and has never been bullied like now.

She was completely pissed off.

Her body shivered due to extreme anger.

"Who are you staring at? Your eyes might just pop out of your head." Qin Ya swung the stick and pretended to hit her.

He Ruilin was frightened and shielded her head with her hands.

It was her natural reflex.

But she looked particularly ridiculous.

"Haha." Qin Ya laughed at her.

"Lin Xinyan, I won't let you go!" He Ruilin was exasperated and screamed hysterically.

Hah. Lin Xinyan sneered.

Let go?

When did she ever let her go?

"He Ruilin, my mother suffered from mental illness because of you. I met a car accident and was almost dead because of you. Did you ever have mercy on me and let me go?" She initially hesitated as He Ruilin was He Ruize's sister. If she really wanted to go after her, she would feel sorry for He Ruize.

He Ruize cared about his sister very much.

But it seemed that her hatred against her was entrenched, so much so that she wouldn't let go of her so easily. Since she harmed her once, she might do it again and again.

Plus, it was a different situation for her now as she had to ensure the safety of her two kids.

Who knows if He Ruilin could be ruthless enough to harm her kids?

At this moment, Lin Xinyan was resolved to cooperate with Yu Doudou to reveal the truth behind the accident and his brother's suicide.

Perhaps she could only live her life peacefully by holding He Ruilin responsible for what she did.

Stunned, He Ruilin squinted her eyes and asked, "You knew that I plotted the car accident?"

It happened many years ago, and no one knew about it.

"Truth will come to light." Lin Xinyan emphasized each and every word.

"Did my brother tell you this?" She only told He Ruize about this.

She felt betrayed by the whole world. After Zong Jinghao abandoned her, even her brother who loved her very much revealed her secret to this woman.

Lin Xinyan was shocked. He... He Ruize knew that she plotted the car accident?

But he did say that it was an accident.

Did he say it on purpose for his sister?

Lin Xinyan suddenly noticed that there was something unusual about what He Ruize said earlier that day. If one day you find out that I'm not as good as I was, will you hate me?

Would he be referring to this incident since he looked heavy-hearted that day?

Lin Xinyan's silence was seen as acquiescence to He Ruilin.

"Hehe. Hehehe..." He Ruilin laughed frantically to the extent that tears streamed down her face, and said, "Hypocrites. All of them are hypocrites."

She thought He Ruize sincerely cared about her.

She never thought that she was nothing compared to this woman.

Why her?

Why would everyone love her?

Qin Ya was frightened by He Ruilin's reaction and whispered, "Ms. Lin, is she mentally ill?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head.

"Lin Xinyan." He Ruilin suddenly stopped laughing, stared at Lin Xinyan with a vicious look, and said, "Lin Xinyan, just wait and see!"

Since she's now a member of the He family, she has plenty of chances to go after her.

She had many chances in the past.

Now she has even more.

"I'll wait." Lin Xinyan stood straight in an imposing manner that surpassed He Ruilin's.

He Ruilin knew that she couldn't do anything if she continued to find fault with her. So, she left and had to make other plans.

She was too careless and underestimated Lin Xinyan.

Therefore, she made herself look disheveled instead.

When she was walking down the stairs to her car, she saw a man walking towards her. She was lightened up right away and rushed towards him, "Hao..."

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 89

When He Ruilin saw Zong Jinghao, she virtually ran frantically towards him and wanted to hug him with her arms wide open.

Unexpectedly, Zong Jinghao turned his body and walked sideways all of a sudden. She failed to hug him and couldn't stop herself as she ran too fast. As a result, she stumbled and sprained her ankle.

"Ah..." She screamed as her legs gave way and fell down.

Guan Jing who was standing beside her could have held her by her arm, but he didn't reach out his hands.

Before she became a member of the He family, she used to flatter Guan Jing willingly since he was Zong Jinghao's most trusted person.

But ever since she's in the He family, she always put on airs and graces in front of Guan Jing.

Guan Jing felt uncomfortable because of that. His feelings towards her were not as strong as before.

Since she's now a noble and rich girl, an assistant like him was way out of her league.

He Ruilin fell and bruised her knees. She looked rather disheveled as her freshly trimmed hair was in a mess.

She looked up at Zong Jinghao and said, "Hao..."

She couldn't accept his indifference and ignorance towards her.

He loved her.

But his attitude towards her now completely devastated her.

She couldn't accept it.

Shivering, she looked at the man standing in front of him and said, "Hao..."

Her eyes misted over. She felt aggrieved and wanted to ingratiate herself with him.

Zong Jinghao came up to her, kneeled down and tidied up her disheveled hair that covered her face.

He looked at her face closely, as if trying to figure out whether she was evil-hearted by judging her facial features.

"Hao..." "Don't call my name." He interrupted He Ruilin when she called him.

He Ruilin was shocked and couldn't accept it.

"How much have you been hiding from me?" He spoke in a low voice, as if suppressing him from doing something.

He Ruilin racked her brains to recall her memories and ponder over Zong Jinghao's words.

Suddenly a thought flashed through her mind and she was shocked. Did he hear the conversation between Lin Xinyan and her just now?

"I hid nothing from you." She denied it immediately.

"Nothing?" Zong Jinghao sneered.

Since she rescued him in the past, he trusted her somewhat and didn't really bother even when he found out her nasty tricks. Also, he never held her responsible for almost anything.

That's because he was indebted to her.

But she could always upend his impression of her.

She was so good at lying. Even the accident that Lin Xinyan met in the past was plotted by her.

He underestimated her. He used to think that she would just occasionally play some nasty tricks but never imagined her to be so... wicked.

"I didn't... I didn't hurt Lin Xinyan. She was talking nonsense." Tears streamed down from He Ruilin's face as she grabbed Zong Jinghao by his arm and said, "Hao, you've to trust me."

His gaze fell upon her face fixedly for a few seconds. Face darkened, he didn't utter a word but loosened her hands.

He Ruilin didn't want to let go, yet she couldn't even struggle as Zong Jinghao was too strong.

"Hao." He Ruilin wrapped her arms around his legs and said, "I really didn't do it. Trust me. Even if I did something wrong, I did it because I love you. Is it wrong that I fell for you?"

Hehe.

Zong Jinghao sneered, as if mocking himself. He replied her softly, "You didn't do anything wrong. I did."

He shouldn't have treated his responsibility to her as love.

"No. No." He Ruilin shook her head non-stop and said, "You did nothing wrong, and neither did I. She's the one who's at fault."

Lin Xinyan turned over, pointed angrily at Lin Xinyan who was standing at the top of the stairs, and said, "It's her. She's the b****."

"You're the..."

Qin Ya wanted to talk back but was stopped by Lin Xinyan. It was unnecessary to argue now.

The thing that she was afraid of the most was her losing Zong Jinghao.

Hit a person where it hurts. Zong Jinghao is exactly the spot where she will be hurt the most.

Lin Xinyan walked down the stairs in high heels towards Zong Jinghao. She put her hair behind her ear, winked coquettishly, rested one of her arms on Zong Jinghao's shoulder and said gently, "Darling."

Lin Xinyan felt sick. It wasn't a pleasant way to call him.

But since they hadn't registered for divorce, it wasn't wrong for her to address him that.

She just wanted to piss He Ruilin off.

Look at that. He Ruilin's face turned red like cooked shrimps.

Zong Jinghao lowered his eyes slightly and looked at Lin Xinyan's arm that was rested on his shoulder. Her arm was slim, fair-skinned, and so close to him that he could even see the soft hair on her arms.

This was the first time that Lin Xinyan voluntarily came so close to him.

She even called him using the term of endearment.

He felt rather joyous and didn't stop her from calling him that.

He knew that she did it on purpose but didn't push her away.

He simply let her rest her arms on him.

"Don't you put a feather in your cap!" He Ruilin was completely pissed off by Lin Xinyan when she called him darling.

She stood up and said while attempting to slap her, "You are such a b****. Don't touch Hao."

When she was about to slap her on her face, Zong Jinghao grabbed her by her wrist.

As soon as their eyes met, He Ruilin was startled when she was given a cold-eyed stare by him.

She had never seen him to be so emotionless.

"]..."

"Guan Jing." Zong Jinghao let go of her arms.

Guan Jing understood what he wanted. He came up to her and held her back.

He Ruilin was unwilling to be held back by Guan Jing, not to mention looked at Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao who were so close to each other.

"Guan Jing, let me go!" He Ruilin only wanted to loosen Guan Jing's grip from her and pull Lin Xinyan away from him.

She can't touch him!

Zong Jinghao belongs to her.

No one can touch him!

"Ms. He, aren't you disgracing yourself?" Guan Jing said as he frowned.

"Guan Jing, you're just nobody. Who are you to teach me?" She bellowed.

As Zong Jinghao couldn't be bothered to deal with her, he simply told Guan Jing coldly, "You'll deal with it." Then, he walked away with Lin Xinyan.

"Hao..." He Ruilin was completely panicked when Zong Jinghao was leaving.

She punched and kicked Guan Jing and said, "Let me go. Let me go now."

Guan Jing was still holding her back and didn't even move an inch. He said to her, "Please calm down, Miss He. Your engagement with Mr. Zong was broken off."

"You know nothing about the love between Hao and me. Even after the engagement was broken off, he still loves me."

Guan Jing thought that she was ridiculous.

Love her?

Even an outsider like him could clearly see that Zong Jinghao never loved her in the past.

He just felt responsible for sleeping with her that night and indebted to her for rescuing him when they were young.

Love? Bullshit.

"A maniac."

"You are a maniac and a dog. You are just a guard dog beside Hao that can bark!"

Guan Jing's face darkened and sneered, "Of course. I'll never be as noble as you, Ms. He!"

Guan Jing emphasized the word noble strongly.

Why would a person change her personality just because her status is changed?

No. She has always been that type of person since the beginning. She just hid her true self very well in the past.

Now, she is just revealing her true nature.

As the saying goes, a leopard can't change its spots.

Zong Jinghao let go of He Ruilin after Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan got into the car.

He gave her a cold-eyed stare and said, "Mr. Zong would never fall for a woman like you."

He Ruilin shivered in anger. As Guan Jing was about to leave, she rushed towards him, grabbed him by his arm and bit him.

Humph! It hurts.

He lifted his leg to kick the mad woman and said, "Now you are a dog that bites."

Guan Jing looked at the back of his hand where she bit but didn't bleed. He spat in the face of the woman who was kicked by him.

He turned around and left.

He Ruilin was lying on the floor with her fists clenched. She swore to pay her back for the humiliation today.

"Let go of me." Lin Xinyan who was dragged away was nervous. She just wanted to deliberately irritate He Ruilin just now.

Zong Jinghao didn't reply but forcefully brought her into the car.

Lin Xinyan struggled.

Zong Jinghao clasped her hands and said, "Be quiet."

Lin Xinyan wriggled in an attempt to escape from him and said, "Where are you bringing me to?"

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 90

As Zong Jinghao came up close to her, she instinctively moved backward. But there was not much space for her to retreat as she was already leaning against the seat.

Soon, his sturdy chest muscle held down her body almost completely, and his heat could be clearly felt by her. Her body was stiff as she didn't dare move an inch.

Zong Jinghao put her hair behind her ear while moving his lips close to her cheek. He lowered his voice and said slowly, "You want to leave after using me just like that without repaying me?"

"..." At this moment, Lin Xinyan regretted to use him to take revenge against He Ruilin.

Zong Jinghao moved slightly away from her and buckled her up. Lin Xinyan didn't dare resist him throughout the process.

That's because she indeed used him.

Zong Jinghao moved away from him and started the car to leave this place.

She leaned against the window and contemplated for quite some time before she said, "I was rude to use you just now without your permission. How much do you want?"

"..." Zong Jing Hao thought of yelling at her. Does he look like he needs the money?

"I don't need money." Lin Xinyan was getting little nervous and asked, "Then, what do you want in return?"

He gave her a sidelong glance gently and rather flirtatiously, "How about... repays the debt of gratitude with your body?"

"..." Lin Xinyan had only one thing in mind: To escape from him.

Why didn't she notice that he is so... shameless?

Is he a hooligan?

Zong Jinghao laughed as he glanced at her and said, "Are you scolding me quietly?"

Lin Xinyan was startled. Did she speak her mind?

Did he hear it?

She stammered as she was trying to explain, "Nope. I didn't scold you."

Zong Jinghao quirked his lips and didn't reply.

Feeling guilty, Lin Xinyan tried to change the subject and said, "Where are we going?"

"I'm hungry." He didn't look at her at all.

"..." Lin Xinyan was frightened and didn't dare open her mouth.

She felt that he would distort whatever she said.

"What are you thinking about?" Zong Jinghao gave her a sidelong glance.

He felt that there was something wrong with her. But he softly, as if understood something, and said, "Not gonna eat you up. We'll have lunch."

"..." Lin Xinyan's face turned pink as she blushed. Why did she think about something else just now?

It's still fine to think about something else.

But her mind was read by someone else.

It was so embarrassing. She really put her foot in her mouth.

She lowered her head and wanted to hide herself.

Zong Jinghao's lips quirked as his gaze fell upon her soft pink lips.

Soon, he pulled over the car in front of a restaurant.

Lin Xinyan looked out the window and glanced at the Chinese restaurant.

She unbuckled the seat belt and opened the door to get out of the car. Zong Jinghao was waiting for her in front of the car and said, "The food served by this Chinese restaurant is good."

Lin Xinyan responded affirmatively but didn't dare to glance at him.

She suddenly looked up as if a thought flashed through her mind, and said, My treat this time."

Zong Jinghao came up to her, rested his arm on her shoulder like what she did just now, and said noncommittally, "You want to send me way with one lunch?"

She could feel his breath blowing her hair near her ear.

He seemed to be flirting her.

Lin Xinyan slightly looked away and regretted her decision earlier.

If she knew what would happen next, she would definitely not mess with him to take revenge against He Ruilin.

She felt that she had shot herself in the foot.

He Ruilin was indeed irritated.

But what about herself?

And now she was teased.

"I just used your name. A lunch is sufficient to repay your help." Lin Xinyan shrugged her shoulder, and Zong Jinghao had to put his arm down.

"Let's go." Lin Xinyan walked first into the restaurant.

She realized that she's always the passive one when she's with Zong Jinghao.

This shouldn't continue forever.

Once he dominates the whole thing, this will never end.

She must seize the control.

"..."Looking at her slim body from behind, Zong Jinghao touched the corner of his lips and smiled.

After entering the restaurant, Lin Xinyan picked a seat by the window and sat down.

Zong Jinghao entered unhurriedly and sat in front of Lin Xinyan.

A waiter came up to them and handed over the menu.

After receiving the menu, Lin Xinyan passed it to Zong Jinghao and said, "I haven't been here before and don't know what the specialties of the house are. You'll order."

Zong Jinghao glanced at her. He knew what she was up to but didn't expose it. After taking the menu and ordering several featured dishes, he folded the menu and said, "That will be all."

The waiter took the menu back and said, "Alright. Please be seated, and we will serve the food soon."

The waiter left their table.

While waiting for the food to be served, Zong Jinghao propped himself up on one of his elbow, while his gaze fell upon Lin Xinyan's face to scan her again and again.

Lin Xinyan was uncomfortable when he was staring at her. She touched her face and asked, "Is there something on my face?"

"Nope."

"Then, why are you staring at me?"

"Good-looking."

"..." Lin Xinyan averted his gaze and said, "Stupid."

Soon, the waiter served them with their dishes.

The dishes were indeed specialties which Lin Xinyan never tried before. She salivated at the food even though she wasn't sure if it tasted good.

Zong Jinghao filled a bowl of soup for her and said, "Try this."

She couldn't see any ingredient in the soup that looked white and thick as well as smelled pleasant.

She was supposed to have lunch with Qin Ya, yet they accidentally met He Ruilin. Since it took up a lot of their time, she was really famished now.

She salivated particularly after smelling the soup.

She tried a spoonful of soup and found that it tasted fresh and smooth.

"Is the soup nice?" Zong Jinghao was observing her facial expression.

Lin Xinyan nodded and replied, "Very nice."

The soup really tasted good.

"And this." Zong Jinghao picked up a piece of shrimp cake and put it in her plate.

She lowered her eyes to look at it while still eating her soup.

She wasn't used to Zong Jinghao's kindness and care.

She lost her appetite and was puzzled.

"Why did you break off your engagement?"

Were the things that Yuxiu said true? Was it because of her?

Zong Jinghao took a sip of his drink and asked, "Why are you asking about it all of a sudden?"

Lin Xinyan looked up at him and said, "I want to know."

Slowly put down his cup, Zong Jinghao glanced at her and said, "I broke it off because we were not a good match. It's as simple as that."

Whenever there is hope, disappointment might just follow.

Just as she thought.

How would it possibly happen because of her?

She gave herself a self-mocking laugh.

She laughed at herself for daydreaming.

She knew very well that it's impossible, yet she still looked forward to it.

"Ms. He was with Mr. Zong for a long time, yet you just abandoned her easily. What a heartless man."

Munching a piece of shrimp cake, Zong Jinghao put down his chopsticks, as if pondering over something.

After quite some time, he slowly opened his mouth and asked, "What did you call me just now?"

"Mr. Zong." Lin Xinyan answered him almost subconsciously.

He replied like he was evaluating something in a serious manner, "I don't like the way you called me."

"How about this, President Zong?" Lin Xinyan called him with another title.

"Not good either."

""

He picked up and ate another piece of shrimp cake that was as white as snow. As he was munching it slowly, his lips slightly moved when he said, "I think darling would be just nice."

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 91

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

After the meal, the two left the restaurant.

"Where are you going? I'll send you."

Lin Xinyan thought for a second before answering, "I'm going home."

The store was not done with its renovation yet. The work that she now had were still the ones from Country A.

She had arranged a time with the client to look at the designs.

Then make the attire based on the chosen style and the chosen fabric.

When Zong Jinghao heard Lin Xinyan mention about home, he looked at her and mocked, "Your children don't even have a father, can your home be called a home?"

Lin Xinyan wanted to refute that he himself did not have one yet, but she swallowed her words.

If she were to refute, she did not know what he was going to say again. She turned to glare at him and went into the car.

Zong Jinghao gave a faint smile.

It was silent inside the car. The atmosphere felt tense.

Lin Xinyan was leaning against the window. Her eyes were closed as she pretended to be asleep.

Her acting was not the best. Zong Jinghao had seen through her act with one look, but he did not say anything about it.

Almost twenty minutes later, Lin Xinyan slowly opened her eyes and pretended that she had just woken up. She had been counting the time; she knew the car was reaching the district.

She rubbed her eyes, opened the car door, and got down the car. "Thank you."

She was thanking him for sending her back.

Zong Jinghao leaned over, his hand was casually on the steering wheel. "Your thanks sound insincere."

Lin Xinyan paused in her motion of closing the door. "What do you mean?"

"If you really wanted to thank me, shouldn't you invite me to your house for a drink?" There was a teasing smile on his face.

And Lin Xinyan was his target.

Lin Xinyan slammed the door, and said coldly, "I've invited you for a meal. That was my display of sincerity."

Lin Xichen was hostile to him. If Zhuang Zijin saw him, she would not be happy either.

She would have gone crazy before she invited him to her house.

Lin Ruixi was chewing on her fingers as she widened her round eyes and looked at Lin Xinyan, who was at the roadside. "Is that mommy?"

Lin Xichen was just thinking about how he should get back his tablet and smartwatch from Lin Xinyan when he heard his sister's question. "Where's mommy?"

Lin Ruixi pointed to the district's entrance.

Lin Xichen looked over and saw Lin Xinyan talking to someone at the side of the road. That side profile—

Why did it look so familiar?

Soon, he recognized it. That man who was talking to Lin Xinyan, was he not that heartless man?

Why was mommy with him?

Lin Xichen stared with a gloomy look.

Lin Ruixi pulled his hand. "What's wrong, Xichen?"

Lin Xichen gave a cold snort. "Ruixi, do you see that man in the car?"

Lin Ruixi nodded honestly. "I see him."

"He's our dad." Lin Xichen clenched his hand.

He was mommy's ex-husband, so naturally, he was their dad.

Lin Ruixi blinked. Dad had never appeared in her life. She had only heard other children calling for their dads, but she had never done so herself.

When she heard Xichen telling her that she had a dad, she became excited and started running in that direction. "Dad—"

Lin Xichen was guick to hold her back and covered her mouth. "Hush!"

Lin Ruixi struggled. "I want to find my dad."

She did not have complicated thoughts like Lin Xichen did.

She only knew that someone was her dad, and she wanted to see how he looked like.

"He's not our dad." Lin Xichen said with a determined tone.

What?

Lin Ruixi was confused. He was for a moment, then not in the next. Was he their dad or not?

She looked at her brother with wide eyes.

She seemed to be questioning him.

"He's our dad, but he abandoned mommy and us, so we can't call him our dad anymore."

Lin Ruixi could not understand. She fluttered her long eyelashes and asked quietly. "Is it dad? I want a dad."

Lin Xichen hugged his sister. "I'll find us a good dad and find mommy a good man."

Lin Ruixi did not answer him.

She could not understand his words.

She stared at the man's side profile from afar, and thought, so that's dad?

What did he look like?

"Have Xichen ever seen dad?"

Lin Xichen nodded. "Yes."

"Does he look good?" Lin Ruixi asked, wanting to run over and see.

Lin Xichen did not want to admit it, but Zong Jinghao did look good. That was what he was frustrated with.

Where would he find a man who looked even more handsome than him?

"He looks good."

Lin Ruixi became more excited.

"I've got it." Zhuang Zijin walked over with the foldable umbrella. They were supposed to go to the aquarium today, but she only remembered that the forecast said it was going to rain at three after they went downstairs.

That was why she went back up to get the umbrella.

"Grandma." Lin Ruixi felt upset. Xichen had seen dad, but she had not.

Now there was a chance to see how dad looks like, but Xichen did not let her see.

Bad Xichen!

"What's wrong?" Zhuang Zijin carried her.

"Xichen..."

Lin Ruixi had just opened her mouth before she heard Lin Xichen shouted, "Mommy."

She interrupted her.

Lin Xinyan walked over and saw the bag on Zhuang Zijin's back. She asked, "Are you going out?"

"I'm thinking of bringing them to the aquarium. It's not good to stay cooped at home."

Lin Xinyan carried her daughter from Zhuang Zijin's arms. "How will you be going there? By subway?"

If it was by subway, it would be difficult bringing two children along.

"By cab. If it's by subway, it's quite inconvenient to have them and change trains." Zhuang Zijin replied.

Lin Xinyan walked to the side of the road. "I can't go with you; I still have some work to be done. When I'm free, I'll buy a car, so it'll be easier for us to go out."

"Go and do your work. I can take care of both of them." Zhuang Zijin reached out to carry Lin Ruixi back into her arms.

Lin Ruixi did not want Zhuang Zijin to carry her. She seemed to be upset and kept holding onto Lin Xinyan's neck. "Mommy." She said, her voice soft.

"What's wrong?" Lin Xinyan looked at her daughter and smoothed her hair. "Do you want mommy to go along with you?"

Lin Ruixi shook her head. "No, Xichen said—"

"Ruixi, didn't you want to see the dolphin performance? If we don't go now, we won't make it. I already promised to use my pocket money to buy you a dolphin pillow. Do you still want it?" Lin Xichen deliberately interrupted his sister.

He did not want Lin Xinyan to know that he knew who their father was.

Mommy had her reasons for not telling them about this.

Lin Ruixi looked at her brother. "Are you really buying it for me?"

Lin Ruixi was naive, and her attention was diverted by Lin Xichen in a second.

"I'll buy it." Lin Xichen said determinedly.

"Then I want a lollipop too." Lin Xichen had a happy smile on her face.

Lin Xichen looked at Lin Xinyan. "You need to ask mommy whether you are allowed to eat this."

Lin Ruixi pouted. Mommy had always told her that eating sweets would ruin her teeth; mommy definitely would not let her eat it.

The little girl became upset again.

Lin Xinyan kissed her daughter's cheeks. "I'll let you have one today."

Lin Ruixi's eyes shone bright with hope. "Really?"

"Really." Lin Xinyan affirmed.

"Mommy, can I have one too?" Lin Xichen looked up at her.

"Both of you can have one today." Lin Xinyan crouched down to hug her son.

The two children, who were allowed to have sweets, were obedient. Zhuang Zijin brought them to the aquarium, and Lin Xinyan went home to work.

He Ruilin went home with anger stewing in her.

He Ruize was no longer working at the hospital. Instead, he was learning from He Ruixing on how to manage the business.

If it was not for the success of the previous generations, the company would have collapsed long ago.

The two brothers of He Ruize's generation were no businessmen. He Ruize was only interested in psychiatry. He Ruixing was slightly better. He had, at the very least, some capability from working in the business for years. However, he still struggled to return the He family to the peak.

They were struggling to maintain it.

When he saw his sister's red eyes, He Ruize put down the documents given to him by his brother and stood up from the couch. "What happened?"

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He Ruilin's hatred burned when she thought about him betraying her.

Were all his love and care for her faked?

Why did he have to betray her?

He Ruilin stood by the door, swaying as she said, "Ruize—"

He Ruize walked over, then realized that she had injuries on her knees. He frowned. "Have you been fighting with others?"

How else would she end up like this?

He Ruilin shook her head and looked at He Ruize. "Ruize, are you faking your love for me?"

"How could it be?" He Ruize really did love her. It was partially his fault when she had gotten lost years back. All these years he had been living with guilt. It was not easy getting her back.

He felt apologetic and heartache towards her.

It had never been fake.

"Hah—" He Ruilin suddenly laughed. In the next second, her smile disappeared, and all that was left was her hysteric voice. "If you really loved me, how could you betray me for a woman?"

"What are you talking about?" He Ruize felt confused. "Let's go in."

He pulled his sister, who seemed to have lost her control. The atmosphere at home had been gloomy ever since his sister's engagement was broken off and He Wenhuai seemed unhappy about it.

If He Wenhuai were to hear her fuss again, he would be furious.

He Ruilin was almost dragged into the house by He Ruize.

"Sit here. I'll go and get the first aid kit. You'll need antiseptic for your knees, or else it would become infected.

He Ruilin did not seem to comprehend his words. She sat motionlessly and her eyes were staring into space without focus.

She had thought that by becoming the daughter of He family, she could be together with Zong Jinghao. She would have a high societal status, a lover that others would be jealous about, and a brother who loved her.

There would be no regrets in her life.

However, it did not happen.

Everything changed. She had a higher societal status, but she did not have Zong Jinghao. Even He Ruize's love for her had to be split and shared with that woman.

Her familial love and romantic love were ruined by Lin Xinyan.

Her hands sunk into the couch and tightened. The veins on the back of her hand were visible. It was obvious she was furious.

He Ruize walked over with the first aid kit and crouched in front of her to clean the wound on her knees. He was afraid that she would be in pain, so he did it as gently as possible. "Ruize." He Ruilin lowered her eyes. "Are you this gentle with Lin Xinyan too?"

He Ruilin was acting unusual today.

"What are you trying to say?" He Ruize put down the antiseptic on his hand. He had to talk to her today.

"Lin, Zong Jinghao isn't the only man in the world. There's no need to hang yourself on this one tree. You're good enough to look for better—"

"Lin Xinyan isn't the only woman in this world too. Why do you have to like her?" He Ruilin interrupted him before he could finish talking.

He Ruize could not find any way to refute her.

Yes, he had forgotten about his own stubbornness as he gave his advice to his sister.

"Ruize, you can betray your own sister for the woman you like. Your love is great."

He Ruize was alert when he heard He Ruilin mentioned about this. "Lin, you've seen her?"

"Yes." He Ruilin did not deny.

He Ruize frowned. "What did you mean by me betraying you?"

Was it related to Lin Xinyan?

"You're asking me?" He Ruilin laughed mockingly. "Don't you know what you have done?"

"I don't. I haven't done anything to harm you." His conscience was clear for his sister.

When he had found out that Zong Jinghao was the man from that night, he did not want Lin Xinyan to know about it out of selfishness. Then he realized that she was his sister, and she liked Zong Jinghao. This secret sunk even lower in his heart.

He said nothing even when he saw that Lin Xinyan's two children had no father.

Now, she criticized him and said that he betrayed her.

He Ruize felt disappointed and upset.

He Ruilin's words broke his heart.

"How could you not have? Tell me, how did Lin Xinyan know that the one who caused the accident six years ago was me?" He Ruilin did not believe in him.

"She— She knows that the accident from six years ago was because of you?" He Ruize was in disbelief. Lin Xinyan had found out about what he did not want her to know.

After all, the one who hurt her was his sister.

Her knowledge about it would affect her relationship with him.

He Ruilin sneered. "Stop pretending to be surprised. It's been six years since this accident. The one who knew about it, excluding the both of us, is dead. It can't be me who told her about this."

He Ruize stiffened, and mumbled, "I didn't tell her."

The fact that Lin Xinyan knew about it made him panic.

Would she be angry at him?

He fell onto the couch.

She was just about to accept him, yet she found out about the accident.

He did not dare to think any further.

He Ruilin looked at his miserable look and slightly furrowed her eyebrows. "Was it really not from you?"

He Ruize laughed bitterly. "Why would I lie to you?"

"Then how did she know about this?" He Ruilin could not understand. After all, not many knew about this. The only witness had died.

The only person who knew about it now was she and He Ruize. If not for He Ruize, and she had not said it out herself, how did Lin Xinyan know about the accident?

"Rest." He Ruize stood up. He needed some silence to clear his mind. What was he going to do when he saw Lin Xinyan?

How was he going to explain this?

"Ruize." He Ruilin hugged him from behind, her face leaning on his back. "Ruize, you're not that young anymore, nor am I a teenager. We're not young anymore. Help me, for us—"

She liked Zong Jinghao, and yet he liked Lin Xinyan. If he marries Lin Xinyan, she would be able to be together with Zong Jinghao.

"How can I help you?" He Ruize laughed bitterly. He could barely help himself. How could he be able to help her?

"What I said the last time. Think about it."

Afraid that he would reject her, He Ruilin said hurriedly, "Don't be in a rush to reject me. Think about it, it's impossible to make Lin Xinyan fall in love with you, I'm sure you know that too. The only way is to make love to her, so she'll have to be with you. Women are sensual beings, when her body belongs to you, her heart would feel something for you. And when you marry her, I'd be able to be with Zong Jinghao. My marriage with Zong Jinghao would connect the two families, and dad would be happy. A stone for two birds, why not?"

He Ruize did not say anything. He really loved Lin Xinyan.

It was not a mere two years that he had known her, but ten years. How could he use such dirty tricks to dirty her, to dirty the relationship they had?

"You've seen the situation of our family. You and Ruixing aren't good with business. Dad is old. Why dad had wanted me to marry Zong Jinghao was because he's thinking about He family's future. You really want to see the collapse of our family?" He Ruilin tried to convince him.

"Still a no." He remained stubborn on his rejection.

Although he was a little older than Lin Xinyan, Lin Xinyan was the first woman he ever loved.

He did not want to ruin the good memories.

He Ruilin let go of him and took a step back. She was disappointed with him.

"My happiness and the family's future aren't as important as that woman to you?" Her tone was heavy with questioning. "You enjoyed the benefits of being in this family, yet you have done nothing to contribute back. For so many years you've been abroad doing everything you wanted, and mom and dad have been supporting you. What have you done for them?"

He Ruize's body stiffened. What she said was right, he had done not	ոing.
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"Ruize—"

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"Stop it." He Ruize cut her off.

He felt conflicted. He Ruilin's words stabbed the weakest parts in him.

He had done nothing for the family business. It had all been He Ruixing's efforts.

He enjoyed the societal status of being a member of the He family, but he had done nothing to contribute back.

"Let me think about it." He Ruize's lowered his head.

"Alright. I shall wait for your good news." He Ruilin did not continue to push him.

He had already agreed to think about it, that was good.

After all, he had rejected her straight away the last time.

"Don't think about it too long. It's not good for either you or me."

He Ruize said nothing else and walked away.

Lin Xinyan logged off her chatting software. She had discussed with her client about their choice of style and fabric types and had arranged to start making the attire at Country A. The bespoke attires were always handmade.

The store here was not done with its renovations yet, so she could only arrange to make it in Country A.

She closed her laptop and rubbed the spot between her eyebrows. Thinking about Zhuang Zijin's inconvenience in bringing two children out, she took her phone out of her pocket, planning to buy a car.

She dialed Doudou's number, and the call quickly went through.

"Hello?"

Yu Doudou's voice came from the other end.

"Hello, I'm Lin Xinyan."

"Oh, I realized!"

"Are you free?"

"Yes."

"I'm thinking of getting a car, but I've been abroad for many years, so I'm not familiar with the models. If you're free, would you mind bringing me to look at cars?"

"Sure, I'll come in half an hour's time to your place."

"Alright, I'll be waiting."

After Lin Xinyan ended the call, she saved his phone number into her contacts list.

Half an hour. That meant she still had some time. She went to take a shower and changed the dress she was wearing into a T-shirt and pants. If she was going for test drives later, wearing a dress would be inconvenient.

Just as she finished her tasks, Yu Doudou arrived.

She locked her house door and went downstairs.

Yu Doudou was waiting at the entrance of the district. When he saw her coming, he pulled open the door to the backseat.

"Thank you." Lin Xinyan smiled. "You're too polite. I can open it myself."

"It's fine." Yu Doudou smiled and sat in the driver's seat. He looked back at Lin Xinyan and asked, "What's your budget for the car?"

Lin Xinyan thought about it. "A car with good safety features, between 300 thousand to 500 thousand."

Yu Doudou smacked his lips. "You're quite rich."

Lin Xinyan cleared her throat. "I'm still alright."

She had been saving up over these years. She had a house abroad, but she had sold her car.

Yu Doudou was about to ask more, but he did not. If her mind was made up, she would tell him. If he kept asking, she might find him bothersome.

Lin Xinyan could see that he wanted to ask her something.

Before meeting with He Ruilin, she had decided not to hold her accountable for the accident because of He Ruize. Yet after meeting with He Ruilin, she realized that even if she did not want to, He Ruilin would not let her off.

Their enmity was formed long ago.

It was impossible to resolve it.

"Doudou. Can I call you this?" Lin Xinyan asked.

"Sure." This was his name.

When others heard his name was called Doudou, they would give him a look, then say, "You're a man, why is your name Doudou?"

What could he do about it? His parents gave him this name.

"Have you found out about the background of the woman who killed your brother?"

Yu Doudou shook his head.

"Have you heard of He family in B City?"

Yu Doudou nodded. "Yes. They have a jewelry business, and it's at least a century-old. They're one of the rich households in B City."

"If I told you that the person who killed your brother was from the He family, would you still want to continue investigating?" It was already difficult to investigate a cold case for an average person, not to mention a cold case involving people with powerful connections.

It would be difficult to turn the table for this case.

If Lin Xinyan was going to work with him, she had to know how determined he was.

After all, this was not an easy path to walk.

Yu Doudou was stunned for a moment as if not expecting the woman to have powerful connections.

His hands gripped onto the steering wheel tightly. "I can't just back down because she's from a rich family. An eye for an eye, a life for a life."

His words were spoken with a determined tone.

His brother was guilty, but his life was up for the law to judge.

"Alright, let's work together." It was within her expectations.

If he could be stubborn about this case for so many years, he should have perseverance.

Yu Doudou gave a bitter laugh. "I'm not human if I didn't care about my family."

As they spoke, the car came to a stop at the car dealership store.

"This area is full of car dealers; you can take a look and see what models you're interested in."

Lin Xinyan got down from the car and pointed to the first dealership. "I'll look from here first."

"Sure. I can't afford cars but now I can finally look at cars." Yu Doudou said, jeering at himself.

Lin Xinyan took a look at him. "What you're driving isn't a car?"

"That's true, I drive every day." Although it was a cab, it was still a car.

The glass door had sensors. When someone came close to it, it automatically opened. The salesman walked out to greet her. "What cars would you like to see? We have a new coupe model. Do you want to take a look?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "I want to look at seven-seater cars."

Comfortable and spacious. She would be able to put other things in the car even if she had two children sitting in the car.

"What about this model?" The salesman brought Lin Xinyan towards a commercial seven-seater SUV. "This model has a spacious interior. There's a sales going on right now, and you can have a discount of by a few thousand. It's worth it."

Yu Doudou quietly moved closer to Lin Xinyan and whispered in her ear, "This car brand had quite a few petrol leakage incidents. Its reputation is questionable. Why don't we look at others?"

Lin Xinyan turned to look at him.

He nodded confidently.

Lin Xinyan understood his words and smiled at the salesman. 'I'm sorry, I don't quite like the style of this car."

When he heard Lin Xinyan's words of dissatisfaction, the salesperson's expression turned cold. "If you can't afford it then just say it honestly. Don't say words like I don't like the style. Aren't you just thinking it's too expensive?"

The salesman looked up and down at Lin Xinyan's clothes. T-shirt and jeans, how unfashionable.

"Do you know how to talk?" Yu Doudou was furious.

Why were there people like this everywhere?

Looking down on others.

Lin Xinyan pulled him and shook her head. There was no need to start a conflict over small matters like this.

They would just go to another store.

After exiting the store, Yu Doudou still felt angry. "There are lots of lousy people around this year."

Lin Xinyan looked at him. "Since you know that that's a lousy person, why should you be angry?"

Yu Doudou thought about it. "You're right."

"That one. That brand has a good reputation. Their safety features were also tested. It's just that they were more expensive." Yu Doudou pointed at the foreign brand store at the opposite.

Lin Xinyan thought about it. "It's okay if it's expensive, as long as I get something I like."

It was not strangers who sat in her car but the people she treasured. The safety feature was the most important part of her.

The two walked into the store. Unlike the previous store where someone greeted them, the salesman who wanted to stand up had sat back down after seeing her and Yu Doudou.

The salesman thought that Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou could not afford the car.

Lin Xinyan raised her eyebrows.

The corner of Yu Doudou's mouth twitched. "This is worse than the previous one."

Lin Xinyan smiled. "Perhaps their attitude is because they're not worried about the sales, as the car is good. It's alright."

"This brand does manufacture good cars, but the price is high." Yu Doudou admitted.

Every car was at least a million.

The office door opened, and Guan Jing came out in the front as the manager walked beside him. "I'll get someone to drive your car over."

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"Mmm." Guan Jing gave a quiet hum in response.

He had sent his car for maintenance. He had matters to settle here today, so he had driven his car over for maintenance.

Guan Jing was an old client. His off-road and coupe were bought from this dealership.

The manager was respectful towards old, rich clients.

Lin Xinyan was looking at a commercial seven-seater. The model, interior, and safety features fit her preferences perfectly.

"Excuse me, can I test drive this car?" Lin Xinyan asked.

There were a few salespeople seated on the couch. Some were playing with their phones and some were making calls. A saleswoman who had heard Lin Xinyan's question coldly answered, "No."

"It seems like we're not buying cars here. We're just buying attitudes." Yu Doudou said quietly.

Lin Xinyan could only laugh helplessly.

This was new. She could not spend her money even when she wanted to.

"Your car, sir." The manager handed him the keys. "The car is stopped by the entrance."

Guan Jing took the keys. When he walked to the door, he saw someone who looked like Lin Xinyan from the reflection of the glass door. He turned around and saw Lin Xinyan talking with Yu Doudou.

Was this not the man who harassed her the other day?

Why did they seem friendly today?

"Why don't we go to the other stores? They're not the only ones who sell cars." Yu Doudou said quietly beside her.

"I quite like this car." Lin Xinyan liked this model.

From Guan Jing's angle, Yu Doudou's actions seemed intimate.

He frowned.

He was about to move forward to pull Yu Doudou away, but he had second thoughts. Instead, he took out his phone to take a photo and sent it to Zong Jinghao.

If he did not realize what Zong Jinghao's thoughts were earlier, he now did after seeing Zong Jinghao break off the engagement with He Ruilin. It was obvious he cared about Lin Xinyan.

Would he be angry if he saw Lin Xinyan being intimate with other men?

The more Guan Jing thought about it, the more excited he became.

It was rare to see Zong Jinghao as a laughing stock.

This is an opportunity, he thought as he pressed on the send button.

Then, he added: I'm driving at 4S and saw Lin Xinyan and a man buying a car together. Their actions were intimate.

After that, Guan Jing spun the keys on his hand and walked out the door.

He turned to look at Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou and smiled as he wondered about the expression on Zong Jinghao's face when he saw the picture.

How exciting.

Guan Jing's mood was good. He hummed as he sat in his car. Just as he started his car and was about to leave, his phone rang.

He took his phone out and looked at the screen. It was Zong Jinghao's number.

"That's fast." That was quick of Zong Jinghao to call back.

Guan Jing cleared his throat before answering the call. "Mr. Zong."

"Where are you?" There was a hint of anger in his tone.

He felt an uncomfortable squeeze in his heart when he saw that she was being intimate with other men.

"BC4S." Guan Jing replied honestly.

"Watch her for me." And the call ended.

Guan Jing huffed and stared at his phone screen. "Is he angry?"

He kept his phone and was about to get down from his car when he saw Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou walking out of the store. He sat back into his car. It seemed like they were about to leave the store. Zong Jinghao had asked him to watch her, but what was he going to say when she leaves?

No, he could not let them just walk off.

After Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou walked out, he came down from his car and went in through the left door into the manager's office.

The manager immediately stood to greet him when he realized it was Guan Jing. "Is there something wrong with the car?"

"No."

Guan Jing waved at him. "Come over."

The manager hurried over.

"Do you see those two people out there?" Guan Jing pointed at Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou, who was across the window.

The manager nodded. "Yes."

"They were looking at cars in your store earlier. Now, you have to make them stay."

Huh?

The manager did not comprehend.

They were walking further now. Guan Jing's expression turned cold. "Why? Can't you do it?"

"Of course I can." The manager had climbed his way from a salesman to a sales manager.

Not only was Guan Jing rich, but he was also Zong Jinghao's man. That was why the manager was so respectful of him.

He could not offend a person like him.

The manager was smart. He went out of his office and ran towards Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou.

"Hold on." The manager called out at them.

When Lin Xinyan heard someone calling for them, she turned around. She saw a man near his forties wearing a black suit with a beer belly and a friendly smile.

"Were you looking at cars in our store earlier?"

Lin Xinyan nodded.

"Did you fancy any?"

"Yes." Lin Xinyan answered honestly.

The manager breathed a sigh of relief. If she was interested in a model, that meant he had an excuse to bring her back into the store. He smiled as he asked, "Did you buy it?"

"We were interested to buy, but you didn't seem interested to sell." Yu Doudou said, indignant.

"That can't be it. We sell cars. If you're going to buy, we can't possibly be not selling." There was a constant smile on the manager's face.

Although his body shape was fat, his words sounded good to the ears.

"Your salespeople were looking down on us." Yu Doudou pointed at himself and at Lin Xinyan. "It seemed like they thought we could not afford the cars, so they just ignored us. Even when we wanted to know more about the details, no one bothered. I used to think that customer was king, but I've learned today that this

was wrong. Not all customers were king, it depends on the person. We're not rich, so there's no need to do this."

Yu Doudou was frustrated, and he complained at the given opportunity.

"This is the first time I've met a car dealer who wouldn't sell when the customer wanted to buy. Isn't it interesting?"

"This actually happened?" The manager's expression turned grim, and he seemed dissatisfied. "I'll give them a talking later."

The manager had a smile on his face again when he talked to them. "If you're interested in that model, tell me, I'll serve you personally. I'm the manager of this store; it's my responsibility for not giving you a good service. If you were to buy a car from us today, I'll give you the best discount."

"Alright." Lin Xinyan thought about it. The manager seemed sincere.

Standing beside Lin Xinyan, the manager started introducing the cars. "Our cars have guaranteed quality, and we have a good reputation. You can check it online. Our sales are annually at the top."

Lin Xinyan smiled.

The manager opened the door and invited Lin Xinyan inwards. "Zhang, pour two cups of coffee."

The saleswoman, who was playing with her phone, looked up when she heard her manager's voice. She saw the two poor customers and frowned. "Manager, what are you doing?"

There were other salespeople who had also looked up. "Maybe the manager thinks they have the potential to afford our cars."

This salesman who spoke was just on the phone with a client. In comparison with the deal he was about to close, he was less enthusiastic to greet the new customers who did not seem rich.

"Hah! They don't look like people who can afford BC." The saleswoman had a lopsided grin on her face. "Maybe he saw that the woman looked pretty, that's why he's being so enthusiastic."

"Sit." The manager pulled the chair for her.

Zhang served the cups of coffee.

"Which model were you interested in?" The manager asked.

"That one." Yu Doudou pointed to the commercial seven-seater that was near to the door.

"You can test drive the car here. That car has the best safety features. There are airbags for every seat. Many models only have front airbags, but this model has airbags for both front and back. Furthermore, it has an auto-brake function. If the car malfunctions and skids, the car will automatically lock the wheels to force a stop to the car's motions."

Yu Doudou glared at him. "Hadn't you said there was no test drive?"

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The manager took a glance at the few salespeople who remained seated and frowned. They ignored the customers. Did they no longer care about their performance evaluation?

Were their brains full of shit?

The salespeople lowered their heads and pretended not to notice their manager's gaze.

"They might be engaged with other customers, that's why they couldn't come for you. It's my fault that I'm not stern enough with them, I hope you can forgive me. I'll try to make it up for you, is that alright?" The manager had an apologetic smile on his face.

Yu Doudou wanted to continue complaining but Lin Xinyan stopped him. The manager was already doing his best, they should let him off.

Yu Doudou coughed. He realized that he had been agitated and had said too much.

"I'll make a call to ask when the test drive car will be available. The sales of this car had always been good." The manager took out his phone and made his call.

She did not know what happened, but the manager was furious after listening to the call.

"Why don't you just drive it out of the country? Don't you know you can't let the person drive out too far? Are you going to pay for petrol?"

The customer had driven out to the countryside. It would take them at least an hour before they could come back.

Guan Jing had told him to keep them here, and he had tried his best, but without the test drive, how was he going to keep them here?

"How about this? I'll come back next time." Lin Xinyan stood up. It was already past four, Zhuang Zijin should be coming back with the children. They must be tired after playing all day. She had to go home and prepare dinner. She could not be wasting her time here.

There was cold sweat on the manager's forehead. What should he do? He looked at the office and saw Guan Jing crossing his legs on the chair while watching him.

The manager felt lost. First, it was terrible service, now he had no cars available for test drives, what was he going to say?

The manager handed her his name card. "Please call me the next time you come; I'll be serving you."

Lin Xinyan reached out and took the card. "Alright."

The manager sent them out the door.

At the parking, Yu Doudou opened the car door for Lin Xinyan. "I'm surprised that the manager was nice for this store."

In comparison with their salespeople, the manager had much better customer service.

There was no expression on Lin Xinyan's face. She just felt that the manager was too enthusiastic.

Just then, another car stopped by their car. Lin Xinyan gave a casual glance and saw the man who came down the car.

He was standing against the wind. In his black suit pants was a pair of slender legs. The shirt on him was loose, and it made him seem casual.

His expression was cold, and he was staring at her.

Lin Xinyan felt odd. Why would he appear here?

He was in no shortage of cars.

There were a few limited edition cars in his villa's garage though she barely saw him drive those. Perhaps all men liked cars, even if they did not drive them; they still like to have them.

Zong Jinghao gaze landed on Yu Doudou, who had opened the door for Lin Xinyan. His eyes then moved towards Lin Xinyan and stared at her. There were violent waves in his eyes, and the blood vessels were stretched from the corner of the eyes to the center.

Lin Xinyan shrunk back. She had never sensed him feeling so violent under this calmness.

"Why— Why are you here?" She had no idea why her words became incoherent.

"Come down." The corner of his mouth twitched.

Lin Xinyan sat motionlessly. "What is it?"

He was obviously angry. She did not want to interact with him right now.

Zong Jinghao narrowed his eyes. "Are you sure?"

Lin Xinyan did not reply him. The threat was explicit. He was threatening her. Lin Xinyan glared at him. What had she done? He looked at her as if she owed him money. Yu Doudou sensed Lin Xinyan's rejection, and he leaned over. "Do you need help?" Zong Jinghao moved forward, pulled Yu Doudou away, and punched him. How dare he came so close to her in front of him? Yu Doudou was stunned by his attack, and he took a few steps back. There was a metallic taste in his mouth and he wiped his lips. There was blood on the back of his hand. He looked up at the man who had just hit him. His mind was still blank. He did not remember meeting with this man before, but he did look familiar. Suddenly, Yu Doudou remembered where he had seen him. He was a frequent guest on economy news. The youngest millionaire.

Was he allowed to bully because he was rich?

When did he offend him?

Yu Doudou clenched his hands.

Lin Xinyan was not expecting him to hit others, and she hurried down to take a look at Yu Doudou. The skin at the corner of his mouth was torn, and it was bleeding.

"Are you alright?" Lin Xinyan asked, concerned.

Yu Doudou shook his head.

Lin Xinyan turned around to glare at Zong Jinghao. "Are you crazy? How can you just hit anyone?"

"We haven't had our divorce yet. You're still my wife, and yet you're being intimate with other men. Do you think I'm blind?"

"What are you talking about?" Lin Xinyan frowned. She was confused.

Who was she being intimate with?

"Clarify yourself." Lin Xinyan's expression also turned cold. So now she could not even have a friend?

He was too domineering.

Guan Jing, who was hiding at the side, walked over and took out his phone. He showed Lin Xinyan the photo that he took. "I sent my car here for maintenance while I was working nearby, but I saw you and..."

He pointed at Yu Doudou. "I just took a photo on the way."

Lin Xinyan stared at the photo with a grim look. She knew Yu Doudou was talking to her at that time, but from Guan Jing's perspective, it looked like Yu Doudou had kissed her cheeks.

She mocked, "That's a great angle."

Guan Jing huffed. What did she mean by that? This was what he had seen.

It seemed like they were having too loud of a commotion, as people had started crowding them. Zong Jinghao was well known, and to avoid any gossiping, Guan Jing suggested for them to first leave the place. "This place isn't suitable for talking."

Lin Xinyan also did not want to argue with him in front of a crowd.

"I know a place." Guan Jing said.

Lin Xinyan was about to enter Yu Doudou's car before her wrist was grabbed by Zong Jinghao and she was shoved into his car.

She wanted to struggle but saw the warning look that Zong Jinghao gave her. "Be obedient. Do you want to make a fuss here?"

Lin Xinyan's face was twitching. If it was not for the crowd, she would have argued with him here and now.

Who was the one fussing?

He was the one who had punched someone without reason, how could he say that she was the one fussing?

She suppressed the fire in her heart and sat motionlessly.

The location was one of Guan Jing's properties. It was furnished, but he did not stay here. Someone had been cleaning this place frequently, as the place was clean. It was quiet here, which was suitable for a talk.

The group entered the house, and Guan Jing made Yu Doudou sit on the couch. "Tell me, what's going on?"

Zong Jinghao grabbed onto Lin Xinyan's hand and leaned against a low cupboard. His head was lowered, and he was observing and playing with her hand.

As if her hand was some artifact, and he could find out something interesting from it.

Lin Xinyan was about to struggle away before he held on even tighter. "Don't move."

Yu Doudou blinked. What was he supposed to tell him?

He looked at Lin Xinyan, signaling for help.

"Tell them your relationship with me." Lin Xinyan could not struggle out of Zong Jinghao's grasp, so she could only let him be, but she was facing outside the window instead of him.

Yu Doudou said honestly, "I'm cooperating with Ms. Lin."

Guan Jing thought that was interesting, and asked, "What are you cooperating on?"

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Yu Doudou looked at Lin Xinyan, who stood by the window, and said, "We have a common enemy."

There was a moment of silence.

Guan Jing felt even more interested. He bent over and leaned towards Yu Doudou. "Tell me about it."

Zong Jinghao's head remained lowered as he continued playing with Lin Xinyan's hand. His eyelashes fluttered slightly when he heard Yu Doudou mentioned that he had a common enemy with Lin Xinyan.

His thumb repeatedly brushed on the back of her hand.

It was not a complicated matter, yet not an easy one too. It was difficult to explain the entire matter within a few sentences.

Yu Doudou thought about it. "Let me start from the beginning. I met Ms. Lin when I was trying to get a customer. She was extremely shocked when she saw me. She seemed to know me, but I did not know her back then..."

Yu Doudou explained how he had met Lin Xinyan. "My brother died six years ago. Before he died, he was paid to knock someone down, and to cover it up as a car accident—" He looked up at Lin Xinyan before he continued. "Ms. Lin was the one who was injured. She was lucky. Her cab driver died, and she was severely injured."

Lin Xinyan curled her fingers and her hands were wet. Yu Doudou's words were peeled her wounds from the past and exposed it to the air. It was painful.

There were pieces of the car stabbing into her flesh, and it was near the tailbone. If she did not have surgery, it would have pressed onto her nervous system and cause her to become paralyzed. She would definitely need anesthetic for the surgery, but she was pregnant back then and could not have anesthesia.

If she did, it would affect her baby.

She wanted her baby well, and also did not want to spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair.

She could not afford to be paralyzed. Who would take care of her children?

Who would take care of Zhuang Zijin when she grew old?

She could not be paralyzed.

She could not give up on her children. She could not bear to part with them, especially after she found out that they were a pair of twins.

The moment they started growing in her womb, they were connected to her in flesh and blood.

As long as she was here, they must be here.

She could not give up on them.

In the end, she chose to have the surgery without anesthesia.

Whenever she thought about the pain of her flesh tearing apart, she still trembled viciously, as if she was experiencing that indescribable pain once again.

She almost fainted from the pain, but pregnant women could not pass out. She had to stay conscious, or else her babies would be harmed.

The women who had caesarean delivery knew that the anesthesia only affected lower down of their bodies. Their heads were clear the entire time.

It was the same just like her needing to be conscious now.

She did not want to think about it. In fact, she wanted to forget about it. Yet the pain was immersed deep in her memory. She could not forget it.

And whenever someone mentioned about it, she would remember it in clear detail.

It was just like now. It had been six years since then, the indescribable pain still crashes into her like the violent waves in the sea.

She clenched her hands abruptly.

Zong Jinghao realized her unusual behavior and looked at her. He saw that the strands of hair by her ears were soaked with sweat. She was nervous, she was in fear.

Haunted by bad memories, she was being dragged into terror.

He reached out and hugged her. His large hands caressed her back, comforting her. "Don't be afraid."

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes and buried her face into his chest.

His breathing and his firm chest seemed to be soothing. Lin Xinyan slowly calmed down.

This was the first time she exposed her vulnerable side to him.

Zong Jinghao's heart skipped a beat and hugged her tighter. His lips touched the top of her head.

"The person who bribed and killed my brother and the person who crashed Ms. Lin was the same person. That was why we have a common enemy. We agreed on cooperating with each other today. I've only seen Ms. Lin about three times. This time, she needed to get a car, and she wasn't familiar with the cars here, so she had asked me for help. That's all."

Guan Jing rubbed his nose and took a secret glance at Zong Jinghao.

He was comforting Lin Xinyan and was not looking at him.

He let out a sigh of relief, and asked, "You know who that is?"

Yu Doudou nodded honestly. "Yes. It's a woman from the He family. She has some connections, so it'll be difficult to turn the tables for this case."

From He family?

Guan Jing licked his lips. "He family of Pioneer Group?"

Yu Doudou nodded. "He Ruilin."

Yu Doudou knew who it was when he had heard Lin Xinyan said she was from He family.

The He family had two sons. There was major news when they found their long-lost daughter a few years back.

The room was suddenly quiet.

There were only soft breathing sounds.

Yu Doudou secretly glanced at Guan Jing, and asked softly, "Why did he punch me?"

Guan Jing did not answer him.

This was actually his fault. If he did not want to see Zong Jinghao as a laughing stock and sent him the photo without finding out what was going on, Yu Doudou would not have been punched.

Was this Yu Doudou an idiot?

How could he not see it's because of jealousy?

He just could not bear seeing other men being close with Lin Xinyan.

Yu Doudou seemed to realize after seeing Guan Jing's expression.

He felt wronged. All he did was bringing Lin Xinyan to look at cars, and he got a punch in return.

Feeling upset, he mumbled, "So it's alright for the rich to bully?"

Zong Jinghao seemed laid back at a side, but he had heard Yu Doudou's words.

He Ruilin.

"What do you want as compensation?" Zong Jinghao asked calmly.

He was not a bully. He just did not like the idea of other men going too close to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan did not realize when she had started leaning into Zong Jinghao's embrace. Her face reddened slightly, and hurriedly left his embrace.

She pretended to be calm as she looked at her watch. "It's getting late, I should be going back."

Yu Doudou stood up. "Why don't you compensate me some money?"

After all, he had been punched. Some compensation would be normal.

Also, Zong Jinghao had more than enough to give.

He did not want to be punched just like that.

Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan's shoulders, and said, "I'll send you back."

Lin Xinyan wanted to reject, but Zong Jinghao held tighter. "I've lent you my chest. Are you planning to burn the bridge after crossing it?"

Lin Xinyan realized she will never win him in these. She sighed and decided to let him be.

When they walked past Yu Doudou, Zong Jinghao eyes were looking straight as he warned, "She's married, stay away from her. Tell Guan Jing how much you want."

After finishing his sentence, he held Lin Xinyan and left.

In the car, Zong Jinghao buckled her safety belt.

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes and watched him. "Don't you think you're interfering with my life?"

"No." He did not think he did anything wrong.

"I'm not your item. I have my own life and my own social circle. You shouldn't do this anymore." Lin Xinyan was not keen for this to happen again.

"We are husband and wife; don't you belong to me?"

"We are not husband and wife."

"We have a certificate."

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She lost her words upon hearing his.

She did not go through the divorce earlier, so it was now something he can hold against her and use it to disrupt her life.

"Tell Guan Jing to settle that—"

Before she could finish her sentence, the back of her head was grabbed and her lips were pressed upon—

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Before she could finish her sentence, the back of her head was grabbed and her lips were pressed upon forcefully. Under his force, her lip was squashed. His pliable and powerful tongue drove straight in without giving her any room to think. It hooked onto her retracting tongue, and inch by inch, swallowed all of her.

His desire flourished with some invasiveness.

It felt like he was going to swallow her whole.

"Mmm..."

Lin Xinyan heart was thumping against her ribcage, fluttering out of control. All because of this man.

Her remaining rationale told her what he was doing.

If It was impossible, why did he have to insist on it?

He was only using less than a quarter of his strength and was already restraining her from moving.

Lin Xinyan felt her mouth starting to hurt, and she bit onto his tongue hard.

Zong Jinghao paused. Thinking that she was playing with him, he bit onto her lower lip in return.

Lin Xinyan seized the opportunity and pushed him away forcibly.

She did not like it this way.

"If you know that the both of us being together is impossible, why can't you just cut it out now?" Lin Xinyan's had a shimmering layer of tears, her voice was choked when she said, "Don't do this. It's not good for either of us."

She turned to wipe the tears in the corner of her eyes.

Zong Jinghao remained still when she pushed him away. He quietly watched her a few more seconds before he sat back straight.

He lowered his car window, and the fresh air rushed in to blend out the scent of intimacy which was hanging in the air.

His arm was on the car window, and his gaze was focused on a parasol tree on the side of the road. The leaves on the tree swayed gently with the wind.

He lowered his eyes. He was a grown man. He knew why he cared so much about Lin Xinyan.

"I can't accept your children. I'm not that generous nor big-hearted to raise the children you have with another men. If I were to see them every day, I'd go crazy eventually" He took the bottle of water from the cup holder, and opened it for a drink. His head was tilted up and his neck showed off a long slender curve. Even his sexy Adam apple was obvious. The look of it was resolute and prideful.

"At the same time, I don't want to let go of you, and see you with other men."

Lin Xinyan rubbed her face hard. She felt that she was in despair.

Zong Jinghao pulled her over, cupped her face, and made her look at him. Two pairs of eyes looked at each other, and Lin Xinyan could see her disheveled self in his eyes.

The reflection that Zong Jinghao saw in her eyes was of a mad man. He never felt this way before.

He wanted this woman.

"Let's be real husband and wife. As for your children, I'll pay for someone else to take care of them."

"No way!" Lin Xinyan rejected instantly.

There was no room for discussion.

"We can have another child that belongs to us—"

"This is ridiculous!" Lin Xinyan broke away from him. "You've never been a parent; you don't know what a child means to the mother. For me, they are my life. You're asking me to give up on my life; don't you think it sounds like a joke?"

There were crashing waves in Zong Jinghao's eyes. "Are they that important to you?"

"Yes."

Lin Xinyan did not hesitate.

He pulled his collar, and the smile on his face was wild and arrogant. "You're right; I've never been a father. Give birth to a child for me and let me be a father. Let me know how that feels."

Lin Xinyan had no idea what to say. She unlocked the safety lock and went down the car.

There was no way to communicate with this person. Just a few steps away from the car, she was carried up onto someone's shoulder. She shouted in fright and hit his back. "What are you doing? Let go of me."

Zong Jinghao pulled open the door to the backseat and put her down. His body pressed down onto hers. He restrained her hand above her head with one hand, and he held her chin with the other. "You're unwilling, but have you thought about this? What would you do if I were to hide your children away from you? You know that I am capable of doing it."

"You shameless man!" Lin Xinyan glared at him.

Instead of being angry, Zong Jinghao smiled. "I don't mind becoming even more shameless."

As he spoke, the hand held onto her chin slid down along her chin, to her delicate collarbone, and into her collar—

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "No—"

Bit by bit, his fingers wrapped around her roundness and into his palm. It felt great.

How do you maintain its beauty?" He said softly. He lowered his head to her lips, and gently bit it.

The redness had spread from Lin Xinyan's face to her ears. She felt shameful.

She was trembling all over.

From anger.

"Have you thought about it?" He whispered by her ear. He leaned down and kissed her neck.

"He Ruilin was the one who caused your accident. If I don't want her to go to jail, you can't do anything about it." He bit her ear, and continued temptingly, "As long as you say yes, I'll help you. How about that?"

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes in despair. The tears flowed down from the corner of her eyes and disappeared in her hair.

"I can promise to be with you without mentioning about the divorce, but my children have to be with me. And regarding you wanting a child, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. I can no longer get pregnant. If you agree with this, I'll say yes. If you don't—"

"If not, what would you do?" There was a layer of red in his vision. She could no longer be pregnant?

He put more weight on his fingers.

Lin Xinyan frowned in pain, but she pursed her lips. She remained silent.

"The world is big. I won't believe that there won't be any place for me. If I really couldn't run away from you, I'll give up on my life. What about that?"

Zong Jinghao looked at her for a second, and finally agreed.

He did not dare to push her too much. What he wanted was this woman, if she died, where would he be able to look for another Lin Xinyan?

He adjusted her clothes. "You're not allowed to go close to other men from now on. If I want to see you, you have to appear in front me right away."

"Okay."

"I'll send you back." Zong Jinghao stood up and adjusted her messy shirt again.

Lin Xinyan remained still.

Zong Jinghao started the car and drove.

The scenery outside of the car went past in a flash.

"Will you really help me?" Lin Xinyan asked. Fearing he did not understand what she meant, she explained, "With the case."

After all, he once had a relationship with He Ruilin.

Lin Xinyan was not sure.

"Yes." A simple answer.

If he said he would, that meant he would.

Lin Xinyan leaned against the window. So be it.

This man was too domineering; she could not go against him.

It was good. At least he had agreed to help her, and she did not have to separate from her children.

She could benefit from having his protection in this country.

Zong Jinghao had a hand on the steering wheel, and the other holding her hand in his.

"Your hand is soft." The corner of his lips was up.

She had slender fingers and soft hands. They were as soft as her body. He felt the natural impulsiveness of a man when he held her in his embrace.

Lin Xinyan pretended not to hear it.

Not long after, they reached the district.

On the side of the road, Zhuang Zijin was with the two children. Her road was blocked by someone, and the man seemed to be talking to her.

Zhuang Zijin was unwilling to talk to him.

Although, he seemed adamant.

The man turned his face over, and Lin Xinyan saw his face.

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Lin Guoan?

Why was he here?

Lin Xinyan opened the door quickly. Seemingly remembering something, she turned around to look at Zong Jinghao. "Go back. I'm afraid that my mom won't be happy seeing you."

Zong Jinghao had also seen the people in the front. It was him who mentioned the divorce last time, it was normal for Zhuang Zijin to dislike him.

Furthermore, Lin Guoan was here. His appearance would be unsuitable.

He gave a quiet hum in response. His gaze landed on the little girl in Zhuang Zijin's arms. She had black hair tied into two braids and a fair face. Combined with her arched eyebrows and watery eyes, she looked like a delicate doll. She looked cute.

His gaze turned to Lin Xinyan. His hands unconsciously gripped tighter on the steering wheel.

He could not say anything else. Her children had good genes.

The son was smart, and the girl was this cute.

"You are not that unlucky after all." Although she was abandoned by her father, she still had her mother. And now, she had two cute children.

"What?" Lin Xinyan looked at him with confused eyes.

His words came too sudden, and she did not understand what he meant.

Zong Jinghao reached out to tuck a strand of her hair, which had been hanging in her face, behind her ear. "Nothing. Go."

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment, then nodded. "I'll get going."

She closed the car door and hurried towards Zhuang Zijin. She pulled away Lin Guoan and stood in front of her mother as she glared at Lin Guoan. "What are you doing here?"

"Yan—" Lin Guoan looked at her with his hands by his side. "Dad was wrong."

Six years ago, Lin Yuhan had escaped with the money. Shen Xiuqing was still locked up in jail because she had hurt someone.

When he had his difficult moments, it was this daughter that he had been ignoring that helped him.

Regardless of him being right or wrong, Lin Xinyan no longer wanted to hold him accountable. She had the peace of someone who had let go of the matter. "Don't bother us from now on."

She carried her son up, and Lin Ruixi was in Zhuang Zijin's arms.

Lin Guoan ran after them. "Yan."

"If you continue, I'll call the police." Lin Xinyan's expression turned cold.

Lin Guoan looked at Lin Xichen in his arms. His eyes were a little red as he asked, "Is this your child?"

"Yes." Lin Xinyan said impatiently.

"He had good looks, just like you." Lin Guoan shifted his feet. "I don't mean anything else. It's just that, I saw your mother today—"

He looked at Zhuang Zijin as he said, "Then I knew that you were back. You can look for me if there's anything you need."

He hurriedly took out a name card from his pocket and handed it to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan did not take it.

Lin Guoan seemed distressed. "Just. Just treat me like a friend. What if you need me someday?"

Lin Xinyan looked at him.

Over these years he looked much older. There were white hairs at the side of his head. She went in a hurry that year, and she did not know how he had gone through his difficult times.

Lin Xinyan reached out to take the card.

Lin Guoan smiled, and moved aside instantly to make way for her.

His careful actions seemed humble, as if he was a child who did something wrong, and he just wanted to try to repent.

It would be a lie to say that she felt nothing at all.

This was her father, her biological father.

The same blood as his was flowing in her veins.

"Fake." Zhuang Zijin pulled Lin Xinyan. "Let's go. Don't be fooled by him."

Zhuang Zijin hated Lin Guoan.

He was unforgivable.

Lin Xinyan turned away with a touch of melancholy and followed Zhuang Zijin home.

At the corridors, Lin Xinyan asked, "How did you meet him?"

"After leaving the aquarium, we were waiting for a cab at the side of the road. We met there, and he kept talking to me and asking whether the two children were yours. I didn't want to bother with him, but I wasn't expecting him to follow me back here." When Zhuang Zijin was talking about Lin Guoan, there was no smile on her face, just hatred.

Lin Xinyan knew how badly Lin Guoan had hurt Zhuang Zijin, so she kept quiet. It was uncomfortable for her too.

Throughout the years, her thoughts were mostly focused on the two children. She had let go of many things from her past.

Shen Xiuqing was jailed, and his beloved daughter had betrayed him.

Karma had come for him.

"You're not allowed to contact him in the future." Zhuang Zijin said. She was afraid that Lin Xinyan would not stand firm against Lin Guoan now.

"He abandoned us inhumanely, and made you marry—"

"Mom, that's enough." Lin Xinyan interrupted her. The two children were with them.

Zhuang Zijin realized with a shock, and quickly stopped. She soothed Lin Ruixi's hair. "Was Ruixi frightened by grandma?"

Lin Ruixi shook her head. She did not understand what her grandmother was talking about. She only knew that grandma did not seem to like that old man.

However, Lin Xichen understood perfectly what they said.

That was grandma's husband, and mother's dad. His grandfather.

However, he did something wrong, that was why grandma did not want to forgive him.

"It's late, are you hungry?" Lin Xinyan asked.

Lin Ruixi nodded vigorously. "I want to eat pizza."

This little girl was the happiest. She did not think about anything, she just wanted to stay happy by eating and playing.

"Alright, let's have pizza today." Lin Xinyan lovingly pinched her daughter's cheek. "In our house, Ruixi is the boss."

"What about me?" Lin Xichen asked.

"Xichen is the second." Lin Xinyan said with a serious look.

Lin Xichen was not happy. "Why? I'm the older brother."

"Then tell me, will you admit to your wrongs?"

Lin Xichen instantly stopped talking.

Why hadn't she forgotten about it, he thought.

There was regret in his heart. Why did he have to ask her?

Lin Xichen felt like he just dug his own grave.

Entering the house, Lin Xinyan changed the shoes for the children, and Zhuang Zijin retreated to her room with a bad mood.

Lin Xinyan looked at her back. She knew why Zhuang Zijin's mood was suddenly down. She might be missing Xinqi.

Ever since the two children came to this world, Zhuang Zijin had been busy helping her take care of them. When she was busy, she did not have that much time to think about the past. When she saw Lin Guoan today, she might have thought about things from the past.

Lin Xinyan held the children's hands and walked to the living room. She took out her phone and asked, "Which pizzas do you want?"

"Durian." Lin Ruixi grabbed onto Lin Xinyan's arm and asked in a cute tone, "I want to eat durian pizza."

"Alright." Lin Xinyan added it to her order and looked at Lin Xichen. "What about you, Xichen?"

"Cheese." Lin Xichen looked at Lin Xinyan. "Mommy likes it."

Lin Xinyan looked up at her son. "Why, are you trying to bribe me? Don't go about thinking that as long as you please me, I won't hold you accountable. If you don't admit that you're wrong, I won't give you back your things."

Lin Xichen sighed. That was hopeless; his plans were found out in a second.

After Lin Xinyan order the pizza, she put down her phone. "Xichen, play with your sister in the living room. I'm going to the room to look for your grandma."

"Okay."

Lin Xichen was exceptionally obedient.

He wondered when Lin Xinyan would return him his things.

"Mommy, can I have a cup of juice first?" He was thirsty.

"Hold on." Lin Xinyan poured two cups in the kitchen. The juices at home were freshly squeezed. There were no preservatives in it, so it was healthy.

After giving the children the juice, Lin Xinyan went to Zhuang Zijin's room.

She held onto the handle, turned, and lightly pushed open the door. She saw—

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She held onto the handle, turned, and pushed open the door lightly. She saw Zhuang Zijin sitting at the edge of the bed, crying softly.

Lin Xinyan closed the door before she walked over. When she heard the sound, Zhuang Zijin hurriedly wiped her face. "Why are you here? You should be watching the kids outside."

"I'm here to see you." Lin Xinyan reached out to hug her. "Mom, let's not think about the things from the past."

She buried her face in Zhuang Zijin's shoulder. "I'll take care of you when you're old. And when I'm old, Lin Xichen will take care of me..."

"What are you talking about?" Zhuang Zijin patted Lin Xinyan's back. "You're still young. Doctor He is quite a good man."

Lin Xinyan ran her fingers through her hair. She was afraid of Zhuang Zijin saying words like this.

"Yan..."

"Mom."

Lin Xinyan knew what Zhuang Zijin was about to say. She had wanted to accept He Ruize at the start, but now, it seemed quite unlikely.

If she was going to investigate about the accident, it was no longer possible to be with He Ruize.

"Mom, He Ruize's mother once looked for me."

"What?" Zhuang Zijin was surprised. She held her daughter's shoulder and looked at her. "What was the reason that she had looked for you."

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. She wanted her to give up on this idea, so she said honestly, "It was six years. She saw He Ruize and I together, and she thought we were in love. She came to look for me and told me that I wasn't suitable for him. Only someone with a similar background as his was suitable for him."

Zhuang Zijin opened her mouth, but no words came out.

Finally, her tears fell.

"Mom, why are you crying again?" Lin Xinyan reached out to wipe her tears away.

It took her a lot to divert her attention away.

Why did she started crying again?

"How can I not feel upset?" She felt upset when she thought about her daughter being framed in the past. "If it wasn't for me that time—"

"Mom, let's not talk about the past anymore, alright?" Lin Xinyan knew what she was worried about. She explained to her patiently, "I don't love He Ruize. Even if I were to be with him, I won't be happy, mom."

Lin Xinyan held her hand. "You want me to happy, right?"

"Of course." Even in her dreams, Zhuang Zijin wanted her daughter to be happy.

She was still young. She should have a good man to love her.

"Do you believe in me?"

"Of course." Zhuang Zijin looked at her daughter. "You're the best in my eyes."

Her daughter had walked her way here. Throughout her path, she had suffered, and now she had her own career.

In her eyes, her daughter was the best.

"If you believe in me, then you shouldn't worry about my marriage. We'll cross the bridge when we get to it." Lin Xinyan took the opportunity to persuade Zhuang Zijin.

She did not want Zhuang Zijin to worry about her marriage every day.

She would be stressed, and Zhuang Zijin would be stressed.

She felt that she was like that because of her.

"Mom, I'm just 24, I'm still young. I still have a long way to go. Maybe I'll meet a man who doesn't mind that I have children and is willing to take care of Xichen and Ruixi with me."

Zhuang Zijin was not sure. "Really?"

Who could really see the future?

"Maybe I will. Your constant saying will stress me out. I can't look for someone carelessly. That person has to be someone who can accept Xichen and Ruixi, or else I wouldn't want him." Lin Xinyan wanted to tell Zhuang Zijin today what her thoughts were too.

Zhuang Zijin knew how important these two children were to her. It was obvious since the time when she would had given up her life for the two children.

"Alright, I won't say about it anymore. It'll come when it's meant to come." Zhuang Zijin combed her daughter's hair with her fingers. "I won't pressure you."

After He Ruize's incident, she had finally come to a conclusion.

For someone like Lin Xinyan, even if the man loved her, his family will be a major obstacle.

Who wanted their son to marry a woman with two children?

She understood why He Ruize's mother did not agree on this. With her kind of family, they would want to look for someone with a similar status.

However, her daughter was caught up in it.

Lin Xinyan felt much more relieved now that Zhuang Zijin had promised her this. She had felt stressed out from Zhuang Zijin's constant nagging. She did not dare to talk to her in fear of her mentioning about it.

Now it was sorted out.

At this moment, the doorbell rang, and Lin Xinyan stood up. "It might be our pizza."

She opened the door, and it was a delivery boy who was dressed in yellow.

"Are you Lin Xinyan?"

"Yes."

"Please sign here."

Lin Xinyan signed her name on the receipt and took the two boxes of pizza. She placed it on the dinner table. "Xichen, Ruixi, go and call your grandma to come and eat. I'll pour milk for the both of you."

"Okay." Lin Xichen answered, and went to Zhuang Zijin's room with his sister's hand in his.

Lin Xinyan turned back to look at her son and smiled.

Zhuang Zijin was in a bad mood today. If she had gone to ask her out for food, Zhuang Zijin would not come. If the two children went, Zhuang Zijin would not have the heart to reject them.

Lin Xinyan poured the milk and put the cups on the table. She arranged their cutleries and plates.

She opened the pizza box.

Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi were each on one side of Zhuang Zijin, and they were holding their grandmother's hand.

Lin Xinyan pulled the chair for them. She knew that two children would be able to get Zhuang Zijin to come and join them for food.

"Ruixi wanted pizza today, so I didn't cook."

Zhuang Zijin looked at the table. The two large pizzas were enough for them. "Our Ruixi is a little glutton."

Zhuang Zijin did not know whether it was praise or a derogatory word. She blinked, and asked, "What's a glutton?"

"That means you can eat well. Other than eating, you don't know how to do anything else." Lin Xichen explained to her.

Lin Ruixi blinked. "Are you praising me?"

"Yes."

Lin Xichen looked at his sister and sighed internally.

This girl just wanted to be praised all day long.

"Wow." Lin Ruixi called out excitedly, "Then Xichen is a big glutton, he doesn't know anything else other than eating."

Lin Xichen was speechless.

Zhuang Zijin was amused by the two children, and her mood had lightened up by a bit.

"Grandma says you're a glutton." Lin Xichen placed a slice of durian pizza in his sister's plate.

"Yes, you're also a glutton. I'm praising you." Lin Ruixi took the pizza that her brother gave her, and bit it. She said happily, "Tasty."

Lin Xichen had a helpless look on his face as he looked at his sister, and asked Lin Xinyan, "Mommy, who did Ruixi take after?"

The room went quiet.

"Of course it's me. I gave birth to the both of you." Lin Xinyan pushed a cup of milk to her son. "No talking while eating."

The corner of Lin Xichen's lips went downwards.

After the meal, Lin Xinyan cleared the table. Lin Ruixi was pestering Zhuang Zijin to bring her for a walk. Lin Xichen quietly walked into the kitchen, and hugged Lin

Xinyan's legs. In a sweet tone, he asked, "Mommy, can you return me my tablet and smart watch?"

"Tell me, do you admit that you're wrong?" Lin Xinyan lowered her head to look at her son.

Lin Xichen felt discouraged. "Never mind."

He would not give up in taking revenge on that heartless man.

In comparison with him abandoning them, all he did to him was to make him embarrassed in public for a while.

They were still at the losing side.

Lin Xichen let go of Lin Xinyan and ran into his room.

She did not know who he had taken after for his temper.

Lin Xinyan sighed, and put down the cup in her hands. She washed her hands. She wanted to talk to Lin Xichen. He was too caught up with Zong Jinghao.

It made her feel anxious.

When she reached the door of her son's room, the phone in her pocket rang. She took out her phone. After seeing the name on the screen, she sucked in a deep breath.

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Then one accepted the cam
"It's me."
"Mmm."
Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes and walked back to the living room. She said nothing, and she waited for him to talk.
"I'm outside your place. Are you free now? I want to see you." He Ruize said afte a moment of silence.

Lin Xinyan hummed quietly in response and ended the call. She took off her apron and knocked on Lin Xichen's door. "Xichen, I have some matters to settle downstairs. Grandma is coming back soon, so don't leave the house."

Lin Xichen stood at the window and looked downwards where He Ruize and Zhuang Zijin were talking. When he heard Lin Xinyan's voice, he answered, "Okay."

Lin Xinyan changed her footwear before she went downstairs. In the park, He Ruize was talking with Zhuang Zijin. He Ruize wanted to carry Lin Ruixi, but Zhuang Zijin did not let him. "The girl is cheeky."

Zhuang Zijin had never rejected him.

Then she accepted the call

This time, He Ruize sensed her obvious distancing.

After she knew that He Ruize's mother had talked to Lin Xinyan, and that they were impossible to be together, she no longer felt close to He Ruize.

After all, she had treated He Ruize as a son-in-law previously.

Now, she could not be as enthusiastic.

Nor did she have the need for the children to be that close to him.

"Auntie, did I do something wrong?" He Ruize asked.

"No, no." Zhuang Zijin waved her hand and tried to explain, "This girl had been fussing lately. I'm afraid she'll start crying."

"I watched her grow up. She's familiar with me. She won't cry if I hug her."

"Ruize."

Lin Xinyan walked over quickly. "Mom, it's cold now. Bring Ruixi back home."

"Alright." After bidding He Ruize goodbye, Zhuang Zijin hurried away with Lin Ruixi in her arms.

"Have you eaten?" Lin Xinyan asked.

He Ruize gave a slight smile. "I haven't. Will you make me food?"

"Sure."

The two looked at each other and smiled.

"Let's take a walk."

"Okay."

It was obvious that something had changed in their relationship.

They were no longer as close as before.

"You know." He Ruize looked at the road ahead of him. "I'm about to say that I just found out. Would you believe my words?"

"I don't know." Lin Xinyan gave an ambiguous answer.

"You still don't believe in me." He Ruize smiled bitterly.

He knew it. When Lin Xinyan knew about the truth, she would change her attitude towards him.

"If He Ruilin and I were in danger, who would you save?" Lin Xinyan suddenly stopped in her tracks and looked at He Ruize. "It's a ridiculous question, right? You would think of He Ruilin first, then you'll think of me."

"Why are you so sure?" He Ruize looked at her.

"There are many types of relationships in this world. Blood is thicker than water. Family is the most important, and she is your sister. If you can ignore your sister's survival, how cold-blooded would you be? Who would dare to be in love with you?"

He Ruize did not say anything. He just looked at her quietly.

Her words were not wrong. Between He Ruilin and her, he would think of He Ruilin first.

It was not because of their familial ties, but it was because he felt guilty to her.

They had lost her that year because of his negligence.

"This doesn't mean that my love for you has lessened."

"However, I can't accept this you. I don't think your family can accept me either. Let's just turn back the time, back to when you treated me like a younger sister."

He Ruize frowned. He knew that with Lin Xinyan's personality, she would change her attitude after knowing, but he had not expected her to be that resolute.

Were his many years of company not worthy enough to be with her?

Even if he had been hiding some matters, his love for her was not fake.

Was that not in her consideration?

He Ruize's heart was in turmoil.

Suddenly, he started laughing.

He looked at Lin Xinyan. "Will you really not consider the times I had been nice to you?"

"No. I've been treating you like a brother." Lin Xinyan said sincerely.

When she found out that the person behind the accident was He Ruilin, she had not held her accountable because of He Ruize.

For their future, Lin Xinyan had to be firm with her stance now.

If she really managed to pin He Ruilin with her crime and she goes into jail, He Ruize would feel complicated when facing her.

"My life is such a failure." He Ruize laughed.

He Ruilin did not understand him.

Even Lin Xinyan did not believe in him.

Lin Xinyan continued on. She took light steps as she walked by the side of the road.

"Perhaps it's fate." She smiled too. "I was actually about to accept you. We've known each other for nearly ten years..."

It was because of Zhuang Zijin, and because he took good care of her.

Who knew that Bai Zhuwei would turn out to be his sister, He Ruilin?

He Ruize pulled her into a tight hug. "That's her, and this is me. You can't reject me because of her. This is unfair to me."

"She's your blood sister. Do you think that's alright?" He was only lying to himself.

"She hurt you, so you reject the kindness from me?" It was as if He Ruize was questioning her.

Lin Xinyan did not give him an explanation.

She never rejected it.

She just knew that she and He Ruize were not meant to be together.

He did not realize it.

"What if I don't want to be siblings with you, I just want to be a couple with you?" He Ruize looked at her shadow, which was merged into the tree's shadow. He could not differentiate whether he was looking at the tree or her.

His gaze deepened, as if he had made some decision. "I'll promise you what you want, but you have to have a drink with me. I'm having a bad mood."

"It's late." Lin Xinyan tried to refuse.

"Can't you accompany me just for one drink? Must you be so distant from me now?" He Ruize cupped her face.

He looked into her eyes and wanted her to look back at him.

If that would make him let go, she would say yes.

"Alright."

"I know a quiet place." He Ruize held onto her hand.

It was almost as if she was dragged along by him.

After they entered the car, He Ruize handed her a bottle of water. "Your lips look dry."

He started the car.

Lin Xinyan reached out to touch her lips. It seemed fine, and she was not thirsty. The bottle remained in her hands, untouched.

The car was driving smoothly on the road. He Ruize turned around to glance at her. "You're not drinking the water I gave you. Are you afraid that I poisoned it?"

"What are you talking about? I'm just not thirsty." Lin Xinyan opened the bottle and drank. It tasted like normal mineral water, and she placed the cap back on. "Is it alright now?"

He Ruize did not answer me; he looked focused on the road.

If you noticed carefully, his blue veins were seemed throbbing in his temple.

Soon, the car stopped outside a private club.

He Ruize came down, then opened the door for her.

"I can come down myself."

He Ruize held her hand. Lin Xinyan wanted to retract her hand, but he held on to it tighter. "Just this once, let me hold your hand one more time as your boyfriend. After tonight, it'll be great if you still want to treat me like your brother. If not—"

"What are you talking about? Why do you sound like you're going to cut ties with me?" Lin Xinyan realized that He Ruize was acting unusual today.

However, she could not think of the reason why he was acting unusual today.

He Ruize smiled.

He was really domineering her. With her personality, she would definitely cut ties with him after today.

Unlike what He Ruilin said, she would not feel anything for him even if he was her man.

If it was like that, then would she never forget the man who first had her forever?

His heart skipped a beat when he thought about Lin Xinyan's first man.

He grabbed her hand tightly. He was not to be blame.