Knowing that the man had been caught at the villa, Shen Peichuan was quick to rush over. The first thing he asked about was if any of them were injured.

Zhuang Jiawen said, "No."

He did not tell Shen Peichuan about what happened to Shen Xinyao. It was fortunate that he had reached in time before the worst could happen. Hence, he decided to not let the older man worry about it.

When Shen Peichuan heard Zhuang Jiawen telling him that everyone was unharmed, he heaved a silent sigh. He then instructed his subordinates to bring the body back.

More than an hour later, the body was taken away, and the blood on the master bedroom's floor was wiped clean.

"It's not auspicious for the newlyweds to live in a house where someone died. I'm thinking we should pick another house tomorrow and sell this one." Sang Yu stood beside Shen Peichuan with a grave look. Although Zhuang Jiawen said everyone was unharmed, it still felt wrong for them to live in a house where someone died.

Every time Zhuang Jiawen comes into this room, won't he think about the death of that man?

The more she thought about it, the more she felt it was inappropriate for them to move into this house.

"You'll stay in the hotel," Sang Yu uttered. "We'll pay for it."

With stern eyes, Zhuang Jiawen voiced, "I'll deal with this. It's late, so you should head back first. Leave the rest to me."

"All right. I'll take a look at Yao." With that said, Sang Yu walked toward the room. However, Zhuang Jiawen stopped her. "My sister's with her. It's late, so she should be sleeping now. She'll have to wake up early for the makeup session later. It's best if you let them rest now."

Hearing Zhuang Jiawen's words, Sang Yu decided not to insist. She nodded. "We'll leave then."

If she were honest with herself, it was likely she would not be sleeping for the night.

In the car, Sang Yu remained worried. Shen Peichuan asked, "What's wrong?"

Sang Yu kept quiet.

With a frown, Shen Peichuan continued, "We've caught the person. All we need to do now is to look for the mole, and everything will be over. Why aren't you happy?"

Sang Yu voiced her concerns. "Earlier in the villa, I said I wanted to take a look at Yao, but Jiawen told me not to. I feel as if he doesn't want me to."

"Are you overthinking?" Shen Peichuan raised a brow.

"I hope I am. When this thing ends, have an early retirement. You've worked for your entire life, but you didn't get many good things in return. Although they've let you make amends, they still intend to blame you. How many accomplishments have you achieved? How many cases have you solved? Does any of your higher-ups appreciate you?" This was the first time Sang Yu was not supportive of Shen Peichuan's work.

This time had been a great shock to her. There were so many people in and out of their house every day, and she was feeling anxious all the time. While it was true that he now had a high rank in his department, he had also crossed many.

Now that he was of this age, it was only wise for him to retire and enjoy the rest of his life peacefully.

"You can't say it in that way. I'm not hoping for the public to remember the good deeds I've done; I'm just doing the best I can for society. I have to be responsible for my position. The greater the power, the greater the responsibility."

"I've already heard this from you almost my whole life. I don't want to hear them anymore. I just want our family to be safe and sound." Sang Yu was starting to get impatient. He had always been like this.

Shen Peichuan immediately stopped and muttered, "I'll hand in my request for early retirement after this."

Turning to look at him, Sang Yu stated, "You've been working your whole life. It's time for you to keep the kids and me company. Look at Su Zhan and Qin Ya, and look at Jinghao and Xinyan. Then, look at me."

Shen Peichuan knew he had been focusing too much on work, and he rarely took care and accompanied Sang Yu and his family.

Wrapping his arm around Sang Yu's shoulder, he answered, "Stop complaining. I told you I'll hand in my early retirement. What else do you want from me?"

"How dare I want anything else from you?" Sang Yu pried his arm off. "Your daughter's getting married soon, but someone died in the new house. How unlucky of a sign is this? Fortunately, Jiawen is a capable boy. Otherwise, what will we do if something happens in the house? Only Yao and Yanxi are in there. What will you tell her parents? Do you know how I've lived my life throughout these years? My heart has always been in my throat, and it never came down."

Shen Peichuan sighed, "I understand."

Sang Yu did not enjoy telling him this either. When she married him, she knew he had dreams he wanted to pursue. She had always been his supporter. Although she was worried about him, she did nothing to stop him, and she never let him worry about any family issues. Sang Yu had let Shen Peichuan focus on his career.

However, after this, she realized it had to stop.

It was dangerous, and his work might endanger those around him.

"I'll send you back later. I have some things to attend to for the case," Shen Peichuan made known to her. He could not return immediately, so he had to let his men bring the culprit back instead; he had to wait until Shen Xinyao and Zhuang Jiawen had their wedding. "Of course," Sang Yu grunted.

"Are you angry?" Shen Peichuan looked at her.

When the car came to a stop, she stepped off the car. "No."

At that, she entered the house.

Meanwhile, the ones at the villa were not sleeping as well.

They had all heard about the incident. When they saw Sang Yu stepping into the house, they asked, "Is everything okay?"

"The kids are fine. I'm glad Jiawen thought of putting up security around the house. The man even broke into the house. If not for Jiawen... I dare not think of the consequences." Sang Yu felt relieved and glad. Qin Ya pulled her to a seat and consoled, "It's good to hear they're all fine. You can stop worrying now."

"This incident really scared me. I was just telling Peichuan to have an early retirement."

Lin Xinyan poured a glass of water for her. "Drink it. Calm your nerves."

Sang Yu took the glass but did not drink the water. Instead, she pulled Lin Xinyan toward her, feeling apologetic. After all, the wedding was tomorrow, but something like this had happened tonight.

"I feel bad about this," she apologized as she held Lin Xinyan's hands tightly.

The other woman patted the back of her hand and consoled, "It's okay. I'm glad to hear that everyone's fine."

Sang Yu nodded.

"It's almost morning soon. I'll make some food for everyone. We'll have things to work on later, and the two of you are the main characters of the day. You have to dress yourself up nicely later. Don't embarrass the bride and groom." Qin Ya put on an apron as she looked at Sang Yu. "When is Yanchen coming back? Will it affect the wedding?"

Qin Ya pressed her back down. "It's rare for you to be here. Talk to your daughter-in-law's mother. Leave the food preparation to me."

Sang Yu smiled. "Thank you for your hard work, then."

"No worries. I'm still young and sturdy."

At that, the three women laughed.

Her words were spoken truthfully. Qin Ya did not look old. Perhaps it was because she had never given birth, and her figure never really changed. Moreover, she ran a boutique and had her own career. The better the mood, the cheerier and younger the individual seemed.

At the villa.

Once everything was cleaned up and everyone had left, Zhuang Jiawen went into the room. The entire time, Shen Xinyao never said a single word. No matter how much Zong Yanxi consoled her, she refused to make a noise.

Her tears just kept falling.

When Zong Yanxi saw Zhuang Jiawen entering the room, she stood up and said to him, "I'm afraid you can't stay here. I'll book a hotel room for you."

Zhuang Jiawen nodded.

When Zong Yanxi walked past her brother on her way out, she whispered, "Talk to Yao. I think she's frightened."

Even she was horrified by the event, not to mention Shen Xinyao.

Zhuang Jiawen replied, "Okay."

Knowing that her brother understood the gravity of the situation, Zong Yanxi said nothing else and left.

When Zhuang Jiawen heard the sound of the door closing downstairs, he closed the room door behind him.

He then sat by the edge of the bed, where Shen Xinyao was. The red blanket was still wrapped around her body, and her face, the only visible part of her, was tear-stricken.

He took a few tissues to wipe her face, but Shen Xinyao turned away, avoiding his touch. Her avoidance was not because of him; she was the reason.

Cupping her face in his hands, Zhuang Jiawen ordered, "Look at me."

Shen Xinyao could not help but look into his eyes. However, her eyes were dim, and her usual mischievous and bright look was nowhere to be found.

"You're okay now," he reassured quietly.

Shen Xinyao's tears fell even more rapidly.

Zhuang Jiawen held her. Through the blanket, his hand slowly caressed her back in a form of solace. He kissed her face lightly, kissing away the tears from the corner of her eyes. With his lips pressing onto her face, he murmured, "Don't cry. You'll be a bride soon. Your eyes will swell if you keep crying, and you won't be pretty. Don't cry."

"Do you still want me?" asked Shen Xinyao in a hoarse voice.

"Of course," Zhuang Jiawen chuckled. "Why are you asking me such a silly question? Who will I want if not for you?"

"But I..."

Before she could finish her words, Zhuang Jiawen kissed her on her lips. "This isn't your fault. Also, you're all right now, aren't you?"

"But what if..."

"There isn't any 'what if'. Even if it happens, I'll marry you. To have something happen to you means that I'm not good enough of a boyfriend. I didn't protect you well."

"Why are you so nice to me?" Shen Xinyao looked at him, love brimming in her eyes. *I really, really love this man.* 

"Think about it. From the moment I'm aware of my surroundings, I've already known that you're my wife. This is fate. Of course I have to cherish it. What if someone takes you away from me? What will I do then? That's why I have to be nice to you. You'll be so in love with me you'll never leave me."

Shen Xinyao felt her heart melt at his statement. She leaned into his arms, feeling safe as she breathed in his scent.

"Do you know how scared I was earlier? I was prepared to die..."

Zhuang Jiawen covered her mouth. "It's in the past now. Don't think about it anymore, and don't talk about dying. Do you want me to be a widower?"

Shen Xinyao pursed her lips. "You can look for someone else."

"But the one I love is you." Looking at the time, Zhuang Jiawen realized it was almost time for the sun to rise; it was already five. He then reached out to wipe her face. "Let's not make our parents worry about us, okay?"

With reddened eyes, Shen Xinyao nodded. "Okay."

"I'll get you your clothes." Zhuang Jiawen stood up to get Shen Xinyao's clothes from her room. In the blanket, Shen Xinyao remained still as she watched him.

Zhuang Jiawen chuckled, "What's wrong? Do you want me to put on your clothes for you?"

She shook her head. "No. Leave the room first."

Zhuang Jiawen fell silent.

He dared not leave her alone in the room now.

Standing by the end of the bed, he uttered, "We're officially husband and wife today. Are you still concern about me seeing your body?"

Knowing that he was concerned about her, Shen Xinyao answered, "No."

She was not a woman who needed to be coddled all the time. Let the past stay in the past.

Zhuang Jiawen's words had long gotten rid of the humiliating feelings in her heart. She pursed her lips for a moment before she finally pulled the blanket away. Now, all that was left on her was her undergarments. Instead of avoiding his gaze, she stared at him. "Carry me to the bathroom."

She wanted to take a shower.

Zhuang Jiawen responded, "All right."

He then crouched down to carefully lift her up into his arms. He bore no other thoughts for her as he looked at her.

He knew her heart was fragile right now.

When a man had desires for a woman, it was adoration.

It was only when a man held back his desires for the woman, it could be called love.

Zhuang Jiawen turned on the faucet and helped her shower.

The entire time, Zhuang Jiawen could barely believe he did nothing inappropriate. After all, he wanted to sleep with her.

All he did was hold back his desires the entire time.

Now that they were about to get married, this had happened. For her, he became even more careful.

After showering, he helped Shen Xinyao put on clean clothes. They then went to the car with his arm around her waist. The two headed straight for the makeup session. By now, Zong Yanxi had already booked a room at the hotel.

Knowing that Zhuang Jiawen would be too busy, Zong Yanxi went to accompany Shen Xinyao while he went ahead to settle other matters.

"All right. Please take care of Yao for me," Zhuang Jiawen muttered.

"Don't worry. I'll take good care of her. Don't be so reluctant to leave. She'll be yours soon." Zong Yanxi's tone was intentionally casual, in hope to lighten the atmosphere.

Zhuang Jiawen laughed, "She has always been mine."

His sister pushed him out. "All right. Stop being cheesy and go. I'm getting goosebumps."

Zhuang Jiawen was walking out of the room when he thought of something. He turned to look at Zong Yanxi again and informed, "Right. Tawan will come for my wedding too."

Zong Yanxi froze. "What's he here for?"

Zhuang Jiawen shrugged. "Dad invited him. I think he's quite close to Dad."

Zong Yanxi lowered her eyes. "I understand."

After Zhuang Jiawen left, Zong Yanxi walked to Shen Xinyao. The stylist was putting on makeup for her. When she saw the box that Zong Yanxi placed on the table, she asked, "Ms. Zong, what is in the box?"

Zong Yanxi stared at the box on the table. She touched it and said, "This is also for someone."

Shen Xinyao was curious. She side-eyed the box and spoke slowly, "It's not for me, right? Haven't you already given me the gifts?"

"Yeah, indeed I have, but this isn't from me. It's from your mother-in-law." Zong Yanxi punched in the passcode on the keypad of the silver box on the table.

She picked up the box and showed its content to Shen Xinyao. "Do you like it?"

Shen Xinyao was stumped when she saw what was inside the box. Even the stylist behind her was also mesmerized. The stylist gasped, "Is this real?"

There was a crown with an enormous diamond sitting in the middle of the box. The craftsmanship of the jewelry seemed to be dated.

But more importantly, Shen Xinyao wondered if it was real diamond.

A real diamond this big would cost an insane amount of money.

Zong Yanxi took out the crown and replied, "It's a bridal gift from her mother-in-law. Do you think it can be fake?"

Then, Zong Yanxi placed the crown on Shen Xinyao's head. "You look dazzling in it."

The latter shook her head. "No, this is too expensive. I can't accept it."

"It's from your mother-in-law. Just accept it." Zong Yanxi had her hands on her shoulder as she looked at Shen Xinyao's reflection in the mirror. "You look so pretty, just like a princess. The crown fits your dress so much. I'm sure my little brother would be enchanted by you later."

Shen Xinyao blushed hard.

She lowered her head bashfully. "Stop flattering me."

"I'm only saying the truth." Zong Yanxi then called the stylist over and let her continue with Shen Xinyao's makeup. She didn't want her to be late for the wedding later.

Zong Yanxi's words knocked the despondence Shen Xinyao had earlier right out of her. Right now, she was only a shy girl who was looking forward to the moment she exchanged vows with her soon-to-be husband.

Zong Yanxi leaned against a table and stared at the bride.

She let out a heavy sigh in relief.

Zong Yanxi had gone all out just to make Shen Xinyao forget about the unpleasant event. Today was the most important day in Zhuang Jiawen and Shen Xinyao's life. She just hoped for everything to be perfect at the wedding.

Meanwhile, in a town close to both Country Z and Country F, a girl with a delicate face was tying up her hair into a ponytail. She then picked up the sack on the ground and continued her journey home.

The girl's home was on top of a mountain in the West. It was a building with two stories. However, the girl lived alone. Her parents passed away when she was young. Even her grandmother, who raised her into the fine maiden she was now, passed on the previous year.

Actually someone else stayed with her. Half a month ago, when the girl was out collecting herbs in the mountains, she came across an injured man. The guy had a camouflage uniform on and was covered in blood. As a doctor, the girl felt compelled to save the man's life. She carried him on her back all the way home by herself.

The girl descended from a line of doctors. According to her grandmother, her ancestors once served in the palace and were highly regarded by many. Yet, the glory days of her

family didn't last long. The size of her family clan dwindled with time and now the girl was the only descendant in her clan. Also, with the advent of western medicine, traditional Chinese medicine, which the girl practiced, slowly lost its popularity.

Earlier today, the girl traveled to a small town nearby to look for a rare herb for the injured man. But after visiting all of the parlors selling traditional Chinese medicine, she still couldn't find the particular herb she wanted.

She figured that she might have to travel a bit farther. *Hmm, the larger shops in the city might have it.* 

Upon reaching home, she unlocked the gates and strode into her front yard. Before entering her house, she locked the gates. As she lived alone, she always had to make sure that her house could not easily be trespassed by strangers.

She put down the sack in her hand on a table and went to the second floor. She opened the windows and saw a man standing next to the windows. She hurried over to him and closed the curtains. "Have you lost your mind?"

The man turned around, but his eyes wandered aimlessly across the room.

"You know who you are. Today, when I was in town, there were many people searching for an injured man, which I assume is you. Also, those men were here earlier, you remember? If I didn't stash you underneath the medical supplies in the store, you would have been caught. So don't you stand at the window and let the world know that you're in here!" The girl helped the guy to sit down.

"I couldn't find your medicine in town today. I'll head to the city tomorrow to look for it. Hopefully, they have it at the larger chain stores there."

There was no expression on the man's face, only the scar from the gash that had recovered. His eyes were beautiful but a tad dim. "Am I troubling you too much?"

The girl sat by the bed and replied, "Maybe. But you're too good looking I just cannot leave you alone."

Zong Yanchen was speechless.

"You seem quite downcast today. Care to share?" The girl turned to look at Zong Yanchen.

"Mhm. Today's my little brother's wedding but I can't make it home." There was a hint of regret in his voice.

The girl hurriedly changed the topic. "I bought a chicken today. I'll cook you some chicken soup. It's good for your body."

As soon as she was done talking, she headed downstairs.

"Yuan'er, are you really hideous?" Zong Yanchen couldn't believe that the girl had an unsightly face as her voice was as sweet as a canary's.

"Yes, I am ugly and many people have said so." Mu Yuan'er purposely tried to convince Zong Yanchen that she was hideous.

She hoped that she could surprise Zong Yanchen once his eyes were healed. She figured that he would have too high expectations if she told him that her looks were not bad.

Thus, Mu Yuan'er wanted to set the bar low. Then, when Zong Yanchen could finally see her, he would be pleasantly surprised.

"But your voice sounds so angelic."

Mu Yuan'er chuckled. "Will you only want to hear my voice and not see my face?"

Zong Yanchen kept a straight face when he replied, "I don't judge people by their looks."

Mu Yuan'er leaned against the door and asked mirthfully, "I live alone. What if I want you to marry me and live here with me to pay me back for saving your life?"

Zong Yanchen didn't say anything but only reached out his hand to her.

Mu Yuan'er hesitated for a second before placing her hand in his palm. "I thought you don't care about how people look. Why is it so hard for you to answer me then?"

Zong Yanchen still didn't give Mu Yuan'er an answer. However, he clasped his hand around hers tight and pulled her into his arms. His arm was now coiled around her waist. "Is my answer clear enough?"

Mu Yuan'er goggled at Zong Yanchen. From her point of view, his strong jawline was the first thing she noticed. She was so close to him that she could see each of the fine hairs on his stubble jutting out. Above his chin, Zong Yanchen's thin lips were pursed shut. Mu Yuan'er had to admit that his features were the most exquisite she had seen on a man.

Amidst his hardiness, Mu Yuan'er could sense that there was a gentle creature within.

He was of the perfect balance between water and fire.

Mu Yuan'er licked her lips. "Yes."

Zong Yanchen lowered his head. His lips grazed her hair. There was a faint aroma on her. "What is this smell on you?" Mu Yuan'er bent her neck to take a whiff of herself. "Oh, this is the smell of the eupatorium plant. They had this at the shop I went."

Eupatorium was a Chinese herb with a mild fragrance.

"Alright, I need to make lunch now." Mu Yuan'er helped Zong Yanchen onto the bed before going downstairs to prepare the chicken she bought just now.

An hour later, her chicken soup was done. While her chicken soup was brewing, she had also made a few other dishes.

Mu Yuan'er set up the table before heading upstairs to get Zong Yanchen down.

Once they reached the dining table, Mu Yuan'er pulled the chair away from the table before settling Zong Yanchen into his seat.

"Let me feed you." Mu Yuan'er poured some soup into a bowl and ladled a spoonful of soup. She blew on the soup to cool it down a little before sending it to Zong Yanchen's mouth.

"I have also stir-fried some lotus roots and green lettuce."

Before slurping down the soup, the herbal smell of the soup had made its way to Zong Yanchen's nose. "What herbs did you put in this?"

"It's something good for your eyes." Mu Yuan'er placed the spoon at his lips. "Hurry up and drink it, it's going to get cold soon."

Zong Yanchen didn't open his mouth. "Once my eyes get better, will you still treat me so well?"

"Yes, of course. Don't be silly." Mu Yuan'er stared at Zong Yanchen amusedly.

Hearing the girl's reply, Zong Yanchen finally took a sip of the soup. "What if I'm a broke-"

"It's fine. I will take care of you."

Before Zong Yanchen could finish his words, Mu Yuan'er interjected him. She then continued, "I only have eyes for you. I don't care who you are. I want to marry you."

"Hmm, shouldn't you be more reserved as a girl?" Zong Yanchen's lips curled up.

To be honest with himself, Zong Yanchen found Mu Yuan'er's frankness attractive.

Even though he couldn't see her face, he could tell that she was a kind-hearted and down-to-earth girl.

Zong Yanchen wrapped his arm around Mu Yuan'er's waist and got her to sit on his lap. "I just like the fact that you are swooning over me."

Mu Yuan'er laughed. "Who said I'm swooning over you? I just..."

Her face blushed a little. Initially, she thought she could verbalize her mind freely, but now it seemed like she was still a tad too shy and reticent.

"You just what?" Zong Yanchen leaned in closer to the direction of her voice. "If you're not swooning over my face, then you must be drooling for my body.

Mu Yuan'er was at a loss for words.

She couldn't deny that she indeed had a craving for the man's body.

"I saved you so you must repay me with your body." Mu Yuan'er uttered daringly. "Once your eyes are healed, you will marry me. If not, I am going to poison you to death."

"Then, you will be arrested for killing your husband." Zong Yanchen chuckled light-heartedly.

"But you're still not my husband yet."

"Then when will I finally be your husband?" Zong Yanchen asked.

Mu Yuan'er paused to think for a moment before responding, "I think we need to have a wedding and exchange vows before we can officially be deemed as husband and wife."

"I have another question. Can we consummate our love first?" Zong Yanchen had a mischievous grin on his face.

Mu Yuan'er hung her arms around his neck and whispered teasingly into his ear with a sultry voice, "What would you do if I say yes?"

Zong Yanchen merely smiled without saying anything.

A few beats later, Mu Yuan'er writhed her lips. "So you think I'm too ugly for you?"

"Let's eat first." Zong Yanchen patted Mu Yuan'er on her shoulder.

Suddenly, he inquired, "What time is it now?"

Mu Yuan'er glanced at the clock and replied, "It's already twelve o'clock."

Zong Yanchen nodded. The wedding should be at its peak at this time. Sigh.

At the moment, there was a grand yet romantic wedding at C City.

Originally, Shen Xinyao wanted to fly out of the country to have her wedding as she was a big fan of European architecture. However, because of her father, she chose to have her wedding at home. Thus, there were many people at the wedding, which included both her and Zhuang Jiawen's families as well as their business partners.

The wedding was held in a five-star hotel in C City. The place was set up by the most well-reputed event management company in the city. They rented a hall that could house two hundred guests.

The theme color of the wedding was violet. Under the lighting and with the ornamental flowers, the romance in the air was tangible.

Soon, it was time. The tall doors swung open ceremoniously.

Shen Xinyao appeared at the doorsteps. She was in a white wedding dress that was sophisticated yet demure. The makeup on her face was just enough to make her beauty stand out. With Shen Peichuan's arms around hers, Shen Xinyao strode down the aisle in the middle of the hall.