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Lin Xinyan subconsciously kept her hands behind her back.

This was important to her. She could not let others continue to threaten her.

It made her anxious when she realized that this could put her children in danger.

"Yes, it's important to me." She said determinedly, "You should go in first. I'll be back soon."

Lin Xinyan turned and walked out.

Zong Jinghao looked at her rushing figure and narrowed his eyes. It felt like there was something wrong with her today, like she was hiding something from him.

When Mr. Feng saw Lin Xinyan walking away, he ran over and asked, "Why is Young Mistress leaving? Master and Madam are waiting inside."

Zong Jinghao had a cold gaze that seemed like it could freeze anyone he looked at.

When Mr. Feng saw his gaze, he immediately stopped.

He knew that his relationship with his parents was still estranged and he was most likely unhappy with their sudden appearance.

He wanted Zong Jinghao to think better of his parents, so he explained to Zong Jinghao, "Master and Madam are here for your good."

However, Zong Jinghao was not in the mood to listen to his words.

For his good?

He scoffed in his heart and walked in. It felt like the air around him was frozen and no one could go near him.

Mr. Feng followed him in without daring to say anything else.

This was the first time the living room had this many people in it. The spacious living room finally felt lived in instead of its normal emptiness.

Zong Qifeng sat at the head of the table and beside him was Yuxiu.

Zhuang Zijin was with the two children sitting on the right. Aunt Yu was standing behind Yuxiu. When he came in, everyone looked over to him.

"Why are you alone?" Zong Qifeng was the first to talk and he could not conceal his agitation in his voice.

Lin Xinyan scoffed. "Who else are you planning to meet?"

They were father and son, but every time they met, they were like enemies.

Zong Qifeng's hands clenched and he gripped tight onto the armrest of the couch. He tried his best to suppress the anger in him. "I'm your father, right?"

"I don't have a choice in that." Zong Jinghao sat on the couch.

Lin Ruixi looked at Zong Jinghao. If it was not for Zhuang Zijin holding her back, she would have pounced on Zong Jinghao the moment he entered the house.

On the other hand, Lin Xichen was calm, as if he knew why these two came today.

And what was on the table.

"You—" Zong Qifeng did not want to get angry, but he could not stay calm in front of Zong Jinghao, who was sarcastic every time.

Yuxiu held onto his trembling hand and consoled him, "Be calm, you have more important things."

"If you're just here to show off the love between you two, don't do it here. I'm a busy person." He said impatiently. As he said, he glanced towards Lin Ruixi. He felt odd that the little girl had not come over to cling onto him.

It was as if he was used to a little "soft bun" running into his arms every time he came home.

"We have more important things." Yuxiu held onto his hand tightly, signaling him to not get angry because of Zong Jinghao's words.

Zong Qifeng took a few deep breaths before he could suppress the rising fire in him. He pointed the tile on the table. "Look at it for yourself. Give me an explanation after you see it. Don't argue with me. The evidence is right there so don't think about hiding it from me."

Zong Jinghao did not move.

The father and son looked at each other. It was a silent war with no violence.

No one spoke.

The atmosphere was heavy.

"Daddy."

It was Lin Ruixi's soft voice that broke the tense atmosphere.

"Be quiet." Zhuang Zijin patted her shoulders softly.

Yuxiu's eyes were red as she reached out for Lin Ruixi. "Come here."

Lin Ruixi widened her round eyes and looked at Zong Jinghao then back at Yuxiu. Finally, she slid down the couch to jump into Zong Jinghao's arms and mumbled, "Daddy, did mommy not come home with you?"

All the anger, dissatisfaction, and indifference that Zong Jinghao had were buried under Lin Ruixi's voice. He relaxed and gently patted her head. "Your mommy is coming home soon."

"You bastard!"

Zong Qifeng smacked the arm rest and stood up.

Aunt Yu had told him that Zong Jinghao did not know that the two children were his, and that was why he had not told him. It was nothing if Zong Jinghao had not known about it himself and therefore did not inform him. However, the children were calling him daddy. It was obvious that he knew about it.

He had no place in Zong Jinghao's heart.

Does his son still acknowledge him as his father?

Lin Ruixi shrunk herself into shock and leaned further into Zong Jinghao's arms.

Zong Jinghao's big hands caressed her back as he consoled her, "Don't be scared."

Lin Ruixi kept quiet and just blinked.

Aunt Yu knew that Zong Qifeng must be having a misunderstanding. Without anyone's prompting, she quickly walked in front to hand the documents to Zong Jinghao. "Young Master, take a look at it."

Zong Jinghao took it from her hands but had not planned to look at it. Just as he was about to throw it away, a few words on the documents caught his attention—DNA.

DNA?

Who's with who's?

"I collected Ruixi, Xichen, and your hair."

Zong Jinghao looked up at Aunt Yu.

What did she mean?

Lin Ruixi blinked with confused eyes as she asked, "Grandma Yu, why did you collect Xichen's and my hair?"

Aunt Yu smiled and reached out to pat her head. "Nothing much. I just wanted to help your daddy realize some things."

Zong Jinghao's gaze landed back on the document in his hands.

The black words were striking—DNA Test Report.

The upper part was filled with technical jargon. Zong Jinghao did not understand it as he had never studied medicine. His gaze gradually moved downwards. He felt like his heart was thumping so quickly that it seemed like it wanted to jump out of his chest but could not find the exit. He could not calm himself down. The overwhelming tension threatened to swallow him whole.

The results were 99.99 percent similarity.

His gaze could not move away from the last sentence.

Instantly, he stiffened and his fingers trembled. It was an agitation that he could not control; it was a wave in his heart that surged like never before.

Lin Ruixi and Lin Xichen were his children?

How could it be?

No one spoke for a few seconds. He threw the document aside, then stood up to look at Aunt Yu then at Zong Qifeng.

His tone was mocking. What are you trying to do?"

What was he trying to tell him by making this thing for him to see?

"Are you still trying to deny it?" Zong Qifeng trembled in anger.

"Even if I have let you and your late mother down, am I not your father?" He hit his chest. "Do you not have my blood flowing in your veins?"

Yuxiu did not try to console Zong Qifeng this time. She could not bring herself to.

Aunt Yu was panicking on the side. What was going on? The truth was right in front of him and yet he still did not believe it?

She ran to grab the photo and put it beside Lin Xichen's face for comparison. "Look at this face, look at these eyes, this forehead—"

Zong Jinghao gave it a glance before he looked away.

He had never slept with Lin Xinyan. He knew about this.

For the thirty and more years he had lived, he had only slept with one woman—that woman from six years ago.

If they were his children...

Then six years ago—

There was a surge of waves in his eyes.

In that split moment, he realized where He Ruilin's hostility towards Lin Xinyan came from...

It was because of six years ago.

It was not her that night.

It was Lin Xinyan. And that was why he felt an inexplicable familiarity towards her.

What had happened that night?

Why did Lin Xinyan appear in his room?

In Lin Xichen's eyes, his lack of response was a silent denial.

Did he not want to acknowledge them?

Did he want to remain a heartless man?

Fine!

Very well!

He did not need this daddy anyway!

This heartless man did not have the right to be his daddy!

Lin Xichen pushed Aunt Yu away and slid down the sofa. He picked up the report from the table and tore it into half. As if that alone was not enough, he continued tearing it until it could no longer be pieced back. "This must be a misunderstanding. How could I be his son?"

Lin Xichen pointed at Zong Jinghao.

"My mum was pregnant for nine months then she gave birth to me and my sister. I'm six years old now. I have never seen my daddy but I never dared to ask about it, because I know mommy would be sad. I had seen her waking up in shock from a nightmare and hiding to secretly cry alone. I don't know what she had dreamt about and I don't know who had appeared in her dreams. I don't know if her dreams had reminded her of sad things."

Lin Xichen sniffed. "She always guiltily tells me 'sorry, I can't give you a complete family' when she thinks that I'm asleep. I never was. She would never say this when I'm awake because she was afraid that I would ask why I didn't have a daddy."

He looked at Zong Jinghao with disappointment. "My mommy is so great, how could she ever want you?"

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Lin Xichen held his sister's hands. "Let's go and look for mommy. This is not our house and he's not our daddy."

Lin Ruixi was unwilling to go. She did not understand why her brother was suddenly angry. "This is daddy..."

"No!" Lin Xichen had never been as aggressive as now towards his sister. This time, he was really angry. Could she not see that he did not want to acknowledge them?

Why did they have to continue staying here?

Lin Ruixi started crying from her brother's harsh words. Her eyes were red and there was water. Her shoulders were shaking as she cried.

However, she did not dare to make a sound. Xichen seemed angry.

She carefully reached out to touch Lin Xichen's hand. "Xichen-"

"Don't call me. Go and call for your heartless daddy. Don't look for me and don't look for mommy!"

Lin Ruixi wailed.

Her tears fell as she sobbed. She rushed to hold her brother's hand, afraid that he would not want her anymore.

Although she wanted daddy, it was her brother that she was closer to.

After all, they came from the same womb and she had lived with him for six years. Their relationship went deeper than blood.

It was not comparable with the daddy that she had just met for a few days.

"Xichen, Ruixi knows she's wrong. Ruixi doesn't want daddy anymore, please don't leave Ruixi alone."

"What are you crying for? You still have a mommy that loves you!" Lin Xichen wiped his sister's tears away. His eyes were also red and watery. His tears remained stubbornly in his eyes and never fell.

He held onto his sister's hand. "Let's go. Let's look for mommy."

"Where are you two going at this time of the day?" Zhuang Zijin rushed over to stop them.

When Yuxiu and Zong Qifeng came here, they had spoken to her personally. She knew the reason for why they were here.

She was not clear on what had happened in between and why these two children were Zong Jinghao.

However, the results from the DNA test were not fake. Furthermore, Zong Qifeng was not a fool, he would not take in children that were not blood-related to him as his grandchildren.

The Zongs was a rich family with good status. They would not have taken these kinds of things as a joke.

For them, blood relation was important.

Lin Xichen looked up at Zhuang Zijin with wide eyes. "I want to look for mommy."

He widened his eyes and tried his best not to let his tears fall.

He did not want to cry in front of the heartless man.

He did not want him to see him as a weak boy.

Zhuang Zijin tried to console Lin Xichen. "I'll give a call to your mommy, okay? We won't know where she is without asking her. Wait for me here and I'll get my phone, okay?"

"No. I want to look for mommy now." Lin Xichen could not wait a second longer.

"Xichen—"

Aunt Yu had also tried to convince him.

When she saw the two children like that, she could not help but feel upset.

Yuxiu's head was turned away as she secretly wiped her tears away. The two children made her heart break.

No one could console Lin Xichen; he was determined to leave the house.

"There's no need to console me. And don't need to cry thinking that my sister and I are pitiful. We're not. We have a mommy and she loves us a lot. She bathes for us, she accompanies us to sleep, she reads stories to us, she teaches us to read. She teaches how to be good people. We only need mommy. We're not pitiful."

When he finished, Lin Xichen pulled his sister and started leaving.

"I'll go with you." Zhuang Zijin hurriedly followed them.

However, there was someone faster than her and a dark figure rushed beside her. Zong Jinghao, who had not said anything until now, stopped in front of Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi. His voice was low and rough as he said, "It's dark outside. Where are you two going?"

"Please move aside. We're going to look for our mommy." Lin Xichen kept his head tilted upwards. He was already crying, but he still tried to stay strong.

When he looked at Lin Xichen's stubborn expression, he felt his chest went numb and it felt like the air was thin. He bent his back, and only then he felt like he could take another breath.

He kneeled on one knee in front of them and looked at their faces. He looked at every spot on their faces. His hand trembled as he reached out, wanting to touch their faces. Yet midway, he stopped.

He did not dare to.

He had never been so flustered in his life.

This "truth" was too much of a shock for him.

He suddenly had a son and a daughter.

And it was the woman he loves that had given birth to them.

How could he not feel agitated?

He had never done his responsibility for these two children; how could he not feel guilty?

How could he feel relieved with the fact that they had been living with their mother for six years and he had never known about their existence?

"Please move aside. We're going to look for our mommy." Lin Xichen wanted to push away the mountain of a figure in front of him.

"I'll bring you to look for her, okay?" His voice was trembling.

And he said his words so carefully.

"No need." Lin Xichen rejected him.

"I'll call mommy and tell her to pick us up." He unlocked his smartwatch to dial Lin Xinyan's number.

However, he only could hear a female voice answering him, "I'm sorry, the number you have dialed is currently unavailable. Please call again later."

Lin Xichen did not give up and he dialed her number again. Once again, he had gotten the same reply. "I'm sorry, the number you have dialed is currently unavailable. Please call again later."

Lin Xichen frowned. Mommy would never let her number be unable to call through. She would not lose contact with grandma and him.

What was going on?

"I know where she is. I'll bring you there." Zong Jinghao had never tried to please anyone in his life. Today was the first time, and he did it willingly.

Lin Xichen still did not agree with him.

In his eyes, Zong Jinghao's silence was his denial to acknowledge him. He was upset and disappointed with him.

Lin Ruixi did not dare to say yes to him despite wanting to. She quietly pulled on her brother's hand. "Let daddy bring us to find mommy."

"He's not daddy!" Lin Xichen, who had calmed down, turned angry again.

Lin Ruixi shrunk from his volume. She did not dare to say anything else. She could only hold back her tears. "I… I'll stop calling him that. I won't…" She choked back a sob. "I won't make Xichen angry anymore."

Lin Xichen knew that he was being angry at the wrong person. He hugged his sister. "I'm sorry, Ruixi. I didn't mean to do that."

"It's okay, Xichen. I know Xichen and mommy love Ruixi." Lin Ruixi hugged her brother. "Xichen, I miss mommy."

Lin Xichen looked at Zong Jinghao and contemplated before finally asking, "Do you really know where my mommy is?"

Zong Jinghao nodded. "Yes, of course."

Lin Xichen thought for a little longer. "Okay, thank you."

It sounded polite, as if they were strangers.

It was as if their closeness were gone.

Zong Jinghao's expression froze but it returned to normal quickly. He knew that Lin Xichen was angry at him.

He reached out to carry Lin Ruixi. After all, the girl was clingy to him.

For the first time, Lin Ruixi took a step back and looked at her brother carefully. She wanted her daddy to hug her, but she was afraid of her brother getting angry.

Lin Xichen shook his sister's hand. "I'll hold your hand. We'll see mommy soon."

Zong Jinghao kept his hand that was hanging in midair. He suppressed the turmoil in him and forced his voice to sound calm. "Let's go."

His footsteps were slow as he waited for the two children to catch up.

Lin Xichen was good with taking care of his sister. He opened the car door and let her enter the car first. He climbed in after her and helped her buckle her safety belt then his. He did not need Zong Jinghao's help at all.

Zong Jinghao watched from through the rearview mirror. They had soft and cute faces. He had not thought about it before, but now he felt like they looked a lot like him.

He tightened his hand and gripped onto the steering wheel. The vein on his hand popped. The waves in his heart surged again and again along with the turmoil in his heart.

He managed to calm himself a while after and started his car. Lin Xinyan had said that she was returning to the shop to get her things, so he was driving towards LEO.

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At the villa.

Sigh.

There were sounds of sighing.

Yuxiu was whimpering and tried to cover her painful expression with her hand. Her weeping turned into sobbing. She closed her eyes tightly and bit onto her fist, trying to stop her crying.

Zong Qifeng was a man; he was focused and could hold back his upset. He helped Yuxiu up. "Let's go. It's not good for your health."

She raised her head and tried to hold back her tears. "I want to stay here—"

Before she could finish her sentence, she realized her own impulsiveness. Zong Jinghao would never let her stay here.

Zong Qifeng knew what she was thinking. "We can come here often to visit the two children.

Yuxiu could not help but worry. "How could he be like that? How could he not know what he had done?"

Zong Jinghao's reaction had shown them that he really had not known that the two children were his.

She had seen that Zong Jinghao was feeling worse than the rest of them just now.

"Tell me, how could I not worry?" Yuxiu sighed. "He's a clear-minded person. How could he have made such a mistake?"

Zong Qifeng patted her shoulder. "I think he will clear his mind by himself. Listen to me, let's go back first. If you want to see the two children tomorrow, we'll come back here."

Zong Qifeng continued to convince Yuxiu to go home together. "While Jinghao isn't here, we can bring them to our house for a stayover. We should feel happy now that we have a pair of cute grandchildren. Why are you crying? It's bad for your health."

Yuxiu knew that he was happy too. She wiped her eyes and said, "I just feel sad for the two children. Lin Xinyan also had a difficult life as a single mother and raising two children..."

"It'll be better from now on." Zong Qifeng sighed. "You're worrying too much. Listen to me, let's go home first."

Zong Qifeng supported her. Yuxiu knew that she would not be able to stay here overnight. Zong Qifeng was right. She could come or bring the children to her house while Zong Jinghao was not around.

Mr. Feng ran in front of them to open the door.

Aunt Yu sat on the couch and looked at Zhuang Zijin. "You should not have kept this secret. You should have been honest. No matter how unhappy you were about it, you should not have hidden this matter for the sake of the children." Aunt Yu complained.

Zhuang Zijin lowered her eyes. If she had known about it, she would not have kept it a secret.

She wanted the children to have a father.

However, Lin Xinyan had told her that it was a local that night. It had been many years since the incident and no one mentioned it after that time. She had never thought that it would have been Zong Jinghao.

However, she never explained it to Aunt Yu. That was her daughter's privacy.

It was not appropriate for her to tell her.

Let it stay as a misunderstanding.

Aunt Yu saw that Zhuang Zijin did not feel comfortable with the topic, and so she stopped.

On the outside, the wind was gentle and the moonlight was dim.

Lin Xichen quietly sat in the car and looked out the window. Once in a while, he pulled his sister's shirt and comforted her, "We'll see mommy soon."

Zong Jinghao watched Lin Xichen's actions through the rearview mirror. He swallowed and his throat felt tight.

No matter how smart the boy was, he was only five. He was sensible and he knew how to take care of his sister. He was so sensible that it made his heart break.

He still remembered that the boy had endangered himself to take revenge for Lin Xinyan. Until now, the wound on his head had not fully recovered.

This boy—

There were no words that he could find to describe the feeling he had right now.

He was mature and he was a stable man. Yet now, he could not compose himself.

Soon, the car reached LEO. The front door was shut and there were no lights on in the shop. Lin Xinyan was not in the store. He looked down at the time. It had been two hours since Lin Xinyan said that she was coming here. If she was not at the shop, where was she?

He took out his phone and dialed Lin Xinyan's number. "I'm sorry, the number you have dialed is currently unavailable. Please call again later."

He frowned and recalled Lin Xinyan's actions. She was acting differently than her usual self.

She had left the crowd to cry alone in a corner today.

What had happened?

The more he thought about it, the more anxious he got.

He looked for Guan Jing's number but stopped, then changed to Shen Peichuan's number. It seemed like his inability to contact Lin Xinyan and Shen Xiuqing's sudden appearance was connected.

Shen Peichuan was investigating Shen Xiuqing's case. It would be more convenient for him to investigate whether there was a connection between Shen Xiuqing's appearance and him not being able to contact Lin Xinyan.

Soon, the call went through. "Where are you?"

Shen Peichuan was stunned for a second. He could hear Zong Jinghao's anxiety through the call, and it was a surprise to him.

He felt unused to it.

He looked back at the medical examiner who was performing an autopsy, then told Zong Jinghao, "I'm at the morgue checking Shen Xiuqing's cause of death."

Zong Jinghao ended the call. He was about to leave before he remembered the children in the backseat.

He could not bring them to these dirty places.

"Where's my mommy?" Lin Xichen blinked. The front door was closed and there were no signs of mommy.

Zong Jinghao did not know how to explain it to him. "Let me send you two home first, then I'll look for your mommy, okay?"

Lin Xichen frowned, and it looked similar to the frown Zong Jinghao just had. He asked again, "Where's my mommy?"

She was an adult; she would not have lost her way. Has she gotten into trouble?

When he thought about it, Lin Xichen held his breath. "Is my mommy missing? You can't find her?"

This boy was too observant. He could not find anything from him.

Zong Jinghao looked at him with determined eyes. "I'll find her."

Lin Xichen clenched his small hands into fists as his eyes reddened. "Maybe you don't love my mommy but please find her safe and sound, she's the one who had given birth to us. I know you don't want to acknowledge me and my sister, but your blood is flowing in us. Please take that into consideration and find her safely."

Zong Jinghao looked away and his hand held onto his forehead. It covered his expression and his voice was rough as he said, "Why do you think that I don't love your mommy and I don't want to acknowledge you?"

"If you loved mommy, you would not have divorced her." Lin Xichen lowered his head and looked at his toes. "My mommy never had any men around her, but you didn't believe that we are your children when you saw the report just now. You hurt us, and you hurt mommy."

Lin Xichen finished, and the car fell into a silence.

Their soft breathing sounds could be heard clearly in the small space.

After a while, Zong Jinghao finally found his voice.

"No, it's not that I don't want to acknowledge you. As for the divorce—" His voice broke.

He had no explanations for them. It was true that he was the one who suggested it.

He had no excuses.

"I understand." Lin Xichen sounded like he was an adult as he said, "Men like new things. That's normal. I had wanted to find a more handsome and richer man for mommy, but I haven't found him yet. I'll try harder."

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

This was his son?

What a good son.

He turned around to look at Lin Xichen. "I'm your daddy."

"Biologically."

Zong Jinghao was speechless again.

"You're divorced with my mommy. My mommy has the right to look for someone else."

This boy.

He tried to keep a neutral look. "Did your mommy not tell you? We never went through the divorce. We're still legally husband and wife."

What?

Lin Xichen widened his eyes. Their divorce had not gone through?

Then how did they divorce in the first place?

"Don't you adults take anything seriously?" Lin Xichen was frustrated. If they were still legally married, how could he look for a better man for mommy?

"Xichen, where's mommy?" Lin Ruixi pulled on Lin Xichen's shirt as her eyes dropped. "I'm tired, I want mommy to accompany me to sleep."

Lin Xichen held his sister in his arms. "Sleep first. I'll accompany you to sleep."

"I'll send the two of you back first." Zong Jinghao started the car again and drove back.

Soon, they were at the villa. Lin Ruixi had fallen asleep in Lin Xichen's arms on the way back.

Zong Jinghao opened the door to the backseat and carried Lin Ruixi in his arms. This was not the first time he had carried her, but it felt different.

His heart was thumping fast and his fingers were trembling. This was his daughter, and it was his blood that was flowing in his veins.

Lin Xinyan had given birth to her.

Her small body was soft and his heart softened as he carried her.

Lin Xichen did not want Zong Jinghao to carry her, but he could not carry her himself, so he could only let him be.

He followed Zong Jinghao closely, as if afraid that he would take his sister away.

"Put her in my room." Lin Xichen said.

Zong Jinghao looked behind him at Lin Xichen. The small boy was looking up at him with fear in his eyes.

As he was about to go out and look for Lin Xinyan, he had not planned to let her sleep upstairs as it would be inconvenient.

He entered Lin Xichen's room and gently placed Lin Ruixi on the bed. Then he tucked her in.

Zong Jinghao looked at her face. Perhaps it was because the car had been stuffy, her cheeks were red. She had long and thick eyelashes and it fluttered like butterfly wings.

She was pouting as she slept.

He caressed her face. Her skin was smooth and he was about to lean down to kiss her forehead before he was pushed away by Lin Xichen. "My sister."

It was like Lin Xichen was warning him that Lin Ruixi was his, and Zong Jinghao could not kiss her.

"She's my daughter."

"You've never raised her."

Zong Jinghao lost again.

He thought about Lin Xinyan and he instructed the boy, "Take care of your sister."

"I will."

Zong Jinghao wanted to reach out and pat his head, but he did not. He looked at them another time before he turned and left the room.

No one had dinner, so Aunt Yu had prepared some food. When she saw Zong Jinghao walking out, she said, "Come and eat."

"They're in the room. Please take care of them." Zong Jinghao instructed. He had no mood for food now.

"Alright." Aunt Yu answered, "Don't worry. I'll take good care of them."

Zong Jinghao glanced at the closed door and walked out of the villa.

As he walked, he called Guan Jing. Soon, the call went through.

"Find a few bodyguards that you can trust and send them to the villa."

Lin Xinyan's sudden disappearance made him believe that this was not a simple matter. The two children were in the villa and he could not feel reassured unless there was someone to make sure of their safety here.

"Okay. When?"

"Tonight."

How quick. Guan Jing's mouth twitched. This was too quick.

"Why? Is it too difficult for you?" Zong Jinghao's tone was cold.

"I'll get them in an hour." Guan Jing pulled himself together.

Zong Jinghao ended the call and drove towards B City's police station.

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The night turned colorful under the illumination of colorful neon lights, while the scenery quickly passed through the car window, leaving no trace behind.

Soon Zong Jinghao stopped his car at the detention center.

Shen Peichuan knew that he was coming over, so he arranged for someone to wait for him at the door. When he got out of the car, someone greeted him immediately. "Chief Shen is in the morgue."

Zong Jinghao nodded his head, motioning him to show the way.

The morgue was generally located in a remote area. They walked through several corridors before reaching a door. When the door was pushed open, a cold breeze came rushing out. In order to prevent the corpse from rotting and emitting odor, a 24-hour air-circulating cooling system was installed in the morgue.

A drop in temperature could be clearly felt upon passing through the door.

Zong Jinghao's face was expressionless, as this place didn't cause him to have any emotional fluctuations.

When he came in, the medical examiner had just covered Shen Xiuqing's body, and there was a scalpel for the autopsy on a table next to him. Obviously, he was done with the autopsy.

Shen Peichuan walked over with the results of the autopsy. "It is certain that she committed suicide and that suicide was premeditated."

Shen Peichuan looked at the autopsy report and explained in detail, "She took one medication. After the incident in LEO, she took another medication when she was brought back to the detention center. The two medications interact with each other and could be fatal. Obviously, she knew it, so she took the two medications one after the other."

"You have only this information?" Zong Jinghao was not satisfied with this answer. It was not enough for him.

"Shen Xiuqing met someone before going out."

Zong Jinghao had a guess. "Who is it?"

"He Ruilin. From the surveillance, I saw that He Ruilin had met her two days ago and paid someone to release her." When speaking, Shen Peichuan looked at Zong Jinghao cautiously. After all, he knew his past relationship with He Ruilin. "I had the surveillance at the time, would you like to see it? Although she was wearing a mask at the time, it was her after we did some technical analysis."

It turned out to be what he expected.

In the past, he thought that He Ruilin targeted Lin Xinyan only because Lin Xinyan married him.

Only now did he understand that He Ruilin's hatred for Lin Xinyan was more than just the fact that she married him.

It was because of what happened six years ago.

Under the cold air, his face tensed up like a wax figure, looking gloomy and terrifying.

"Do you have any clues about her whereabouts?" He was now almost certain that Lin Xinyan's disappearance was directly related to her.

"I got someone to monitor her after I found out the results, but we haven't found her yet," Shen Peichuan said.

"Find her immediately!" He clenched his fists tightly. "I underestimated her character."

Shen Peichuan looked at his gloomy expression and gasped. "I will immediately send more of my men out."

Shen Peichuan called his subordinates and ramped up efforts to find out He Ruilin's whereabouts.

"Don't be too anxious. The He family lives in this city. We'll get her sooner or later," Shen Peichuan said.

Zong Jinghao's Adam's apple bobbed up and down. "Lin Xinyan is missing."

"What?" Shen Peichuan was confused. "Wasn't she still here during the day?"

"I can't reach her at night." His voice was erratic and light, as if it would disperse as soon as the wind blew.

Being attentive as he was as a detective, Shen Peichuan immediately thought of the crux of the matter. "Does it have something to do with He Ruilin?"

Isn't it obvious?

Zong Jinghao glanced at Shen Xiuqing, who was covered with white cloth. "What do you think she died for?"

Shen Peichuan thought for a moment. "Could it be a trick to buy time?"

Shen Xiuqing's death was used to befuddle their minds and buy time. By the time they figured out the situation, Lin Xinyan had already been taken away by them.

Their ultimate target was Lin Xinyan.

Shen Xiuqing was simply a dead piece.

Shen Xiuqing was sentenced to life imprisonment, so even if she did not die, she would have to live in it for the rest of her life, having her freedom being restricted.

She should be willing to do it if she was given enough benefits.

But she was dead. What is the use of the benefits?

Shen Peichuan couldn't figure this out.

"Let's talk outside." Having stayed there for a long time, Shen Peichuan felt cold now.

The lights in the detention center were all off, so it was dark and inexplicably gruesome.

Back in the building, Shen Peichuan opened the door of the office and asked, "Would you like something to drink?"

Ignoring him, Zong Jinghao slumped on the sofa, and said with a gloomy voice, "Hurry up and find her."

Shen Peichuan clearly noticed that he was in a very bad mood, as if he was suppressing something, and might explode at any time. Thus, he didn't dare to refute him at all, and took out his phone to call his subordinates again.

The person over there picked up his call, and quickly said, "I was about to call you. There is a lead. He Ruilin appeared at Soulmate Bar, and I am searching for her here."

"Got it." Shen Peichuan hung up the phone, looked at Zong Jinghao, and said, "There's a lead. She's at Soulmate Bar."

Zong Jinghao stood up instantly and walked out without a word.

Shen Peichuan followed. After taking two steps, he ran back to take the thermos cup on the table, and quickly followed Zong Jinghao, while taking two sips of tea.

Soulmate Bar was lively at this hour, as the evening show had just begun.

Because of the investigation, those who came to have fun were all called into the hall by the police officers, and made to line up, so that the officers could check and inquire with them one by one.

By the time they came, He Ruilin had already left, leaving almost no trace, as she only had a drink at a booth.

Then, she answered a call and went out. The lead was again exhausted at Soulmate Bar.

When Zong Jinghao and Shen Peichuan arrived, they were already done with the inspection.

"She just came here to drink, and then went out after answering a phone call. We have already checked the nearby surveillance to see if we could find her again."

Shen Peichuan looked carefully at the man standing in the dark.

There was a chill all over him, making others want to step back involuntarily.

Suddenly, Zong Jinghao turned around and walked quickly towards the door. Shen Peichuan quickly followed. "Where are you going?" Without saying a word, Zong Jinghao got in the car, while Shen Peichuan instructed his subordinates, "Continue to investigate and find her as quickly as possible."

Then, he also got into Zong Jinghao's car.

They were in the city, and yet Zong Jinghao drove at a speed of 110. Fortunately, there were not many cars on the road at this time. Otherwise, there would be a car accident.

Shen Peichuan grabbed his seat belt and watched Zong Jinghao secretly. He had never seen him in such a panicked and reckless state.

"You care a lot about Ms. Lin, don't you?" Shen Peichuan asked tentatively.

He knew he liked Lin Xinyan, but he didn't expect Lin Xinyan to have such a deep influence on him.

Zong Jinghao took over Wanyue when he was 20 years old. He had long developed the ability to take the rough with the smooth. In the past ten years, he had been through many storms without blinking an eye.

But today, Shen Peichuan saw anxiety and panic on Zong Jinghao's face.

Zong Jinghao looked straight ahead, as his face tensed up with blue veins standing out.

He cared about her very much.

Not only that, he liked that woman.

Soon he stopped the car. Shen Peichuan saw clearly where he was heading-

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He family.

Almost everyone in the He family had gone to bed at this time. The huge house was dimly lit and quiet, except for the occasional rustle of leaves.

Shen Peichuan came up to stop Zong Jinghao, afraid that he would act recklessly. "You may not be able to find her here now."

"Are you asking me to wait? The longer the time passes, the worse it will be for her!" His eyes were bloodshot.

He Ruilin once tried to kill Lin Xinyan in a car accident. If she was really caught by her this time, he did not dare to imagine the consequences, and now he could only force the He family to hand her over.

Shen Peichuan was stunned, and slowly let go of his hand. Zong Jinghao's eagerness was something he had never seen before. He whispered, "Leave this kind of rough work to me."

Immediately after, Shen Peichuan kicked the gate with a clank, awakening the surrounding creatures.

He Wenhuai was asleep and was awakened by the loud noise; while Xia Zhenyu got up and turned on the lamp beside the bed. "What was the sound just now?"

He Wenhuai didn't move, his eyes half-closed, seemingly very sleepy. He was displeased that he was awakened by the loud noise, and said vaguely, "Thunder I guess."

After speaking, he closed his eyes and continued to sleep.

Xia Zhenyu didn't think it was thunder. It was sunny during the day, so it was impossible there would be thunder at night.

"Don't dwell on it. Just sleep. No one will dare to kick the gate."

Xia Zhenyu gave it and thought and decided that he was right. No one would be here in the middle of the night, and no thieves would dare to break in.

With the advancement of technology, fire and theft prevention were well-developed.

Turning off the light, Xia Zhenyu lay down, tucked herself in, and fell asleep in He Wenhuai's arms.

"Are they all pigs?" Shen Peichuan kicked even harder this time.

Clang!

The loud noise made the birds fly away.

Shen Peichuan earned his skills through real hard work, so he was very strong.

"That is not thunder." This time Xia Zhenyu heard clearly, as she got up and turned on the bedside lamp. "It sounds like it was coming from the gate."

He Wenhuai also got up, the blanket slipping to his belly. "Why would there be people in the middle of the night?"

"I'll go and have a look." Xia Zhenyu got up and walked downstairs. He Ruixing was already up. Seeing Xia Zhenyu, he asked, "Did you also hear the noise from the gate?"

Xia Zhenyu nodded her head.

"Go to sleep. I'll go and see." He Ruixing walked towards the door while wearing his jacket. He opened the door and walked outside. Under the dim yellowish lights in the yard, he vaguely saw someone at the gate, and so he hurried over.

He walked to the gate, unlatched, and opened the gate. Before he had time to see who was at the gate, he was kicked. He was caught off guard by the kick and fell on his back to the ground after staggering backward.

Shen Peichuan was going to kick the door, but unexpectedly, the door was suddenly opened.

Therefore, the kick directly landed on He Ruixing's body.

Covering his abdomen angrily, He Ruixing was in a bad mood after being kicked so suddenly.

"Who are you? Do you want to die? Do you know where this is? How dare you come here to cause trouble?" He covered his belly and got up from the ground, staring at the two silhouettes standing against the light.

Shen Peichuan walked up to him.

After seeing his face clearly, He Ruixing frowned. "It's you?" He squinted his eyes, "Don't think that you can break into others' houses without permission and bully people just because you're a public official. This is an offence. You're breaking the law, do you want to lose your job?"

Shen Peichuan sneered. "I'm just enforcing the law impartially."

Knowing who Shen Peichuan was, He Ruixing became a little uneasy when he said that. What did he mean?

Shen Peichuan was not an ordinary man and was very resourceful. He took out his phone and played a video to him. "Is this your sister?"

He Ruixing glanced at it. The person in the video was wearing a mask, but her figure and eyes looked a bit like He Ruilin.

"Are you kidding me?" Naturally, He Ruixing would not admit it. "That person is wearing a mask. How would I know if it's my sister? I can even say it's your sister. Such an unfounded accusation can be made by anyone."

Shen Peichuan didn't expect him to admit so soon, and said in an official tone, "A woman named Shen Xiuqing whom your sister went to visit died. We now suspect that your sister did it. We're going to take her back to aid our investigation. Ask your sister to come out now."

"Shen Peichuan, don't fool me. How dare you try to frame her with just a video?" He Ruixing firmly refused to admit that the person in the video was He Ruilin.

"Since it's not her, just ask your sister to come out so that we can confront her about it." Shen Peichuan refused to give up.

"She is sleeping already. You are now causing a nuisance to the public." He Ruixing was calm on the surface, but deep down, he had been thrown into confusion by Shen Peichuan's words.

What did He Ruilin do again?

"What now? Do you want me to tell everyone that there is a murderer in the He family with great fanfare?"

It was a naked threat.

The He family valued pride and reputation. If news about a murderer in their family was exposed when He Ruize's issue had not yet subsided, it would be near to impossible for the He family to clear its name.

"I'll be back." He Ruixing turned and entered the house.

There was so much noise at the gate that He Wenhuai had already come down.

"What's going on?" He Wenhuai looked sullen.

"Go and get He Ruilin!" He Ruixing got angrier, as he shouted at the bewildered servant standing aside.

"Only good at causing us trouble!"

"What did she do again?" He Wenhuai squinted his eyes, while holding the baluster of the stairs with one hand.

"Shen Peichuan said she is involved in a murder."

"What?"

He Wenhuai wobbled and was even angrier than He Ruixing was. He thumped the baluster so hard that his palm went numb. "What a rebellious girl!"

Why did I acknowledge her as my daughter?!

Being woken up by the servant, He Ruilin was still wearing pajamas. Looking at her brother and father who were having a ghastly look on their faces in the living room, she asked, "What happened?"

"You still have the audacity to ask so?" He Ruixing sneered. "They are outside. You should explain to them yourself."

He Ruilin was very calm. "Fine. By the way, Ruixing, you lose your cool so easily. Do you simply get pissed off by something like this?"

"Enough!" He Wenhuai yelled, "You'd better have nothing to do with this matter. If you cause trouble again, I will break your leg!"

"You can't wait to beat me to death, can you?" With a sneer, He Ruilin turned and walked outside the door, seemingly not taking his words seriously.

"Dad, look at her attitude." He Ruixing's face flushed with anger.

"Do you think I'm not angry?" He Wenhuai gasped. "If I knew she could bring disaster, I would choke her to death when she was born, no, I would never allow her to be born!"

He Ruilin curled her lips while listening to He Wenhuai's grumpy voice in the house.

She was disappointed with them a long time ago, but still, she felt upset when she heard those words.

As expected, the wealthy families prioritize personal interests above all else.

Family love is nonsense!

The night was gloomy.

He Ruilin walked to the gate and looked at the two people standing there. Although they were against the light, He Ruilin still recognized Zong Jinghao who was standing in the dark.

She could not see his expression clearly and could only see a vague outline of his face.

Is he coming to question me after learning that Lin Xinyan is missing, without a care for his image and time?

Does he really like that woman so much?

Suddenly, He Ruilin laughed out loud.

Shen Peichuan frowned. "What are you laughing at?"

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He Ruilin seemed to know why they were here. She knew that this day would come sooner or later, but she didn't know it would come so soon.

"None of your business." She stopped laughing.

Shen Peichuan suddenly felt that this woman was like a lunatic.

"Where's Lin Xinyan?" A gloomy sound was heard coming from the dark.

"How would I know where she is?" He Ruilin smirked. "Why? Can't you find her? Could it be that she runs away with that man—"

Before she finished her words, she felt a strong wind brushing past, as a hand grabbed her by the throat like iron pliers, causing her unfinished words to be stuck in her throat.

She could barely breathe, as her face flushed.

"Say it, where is she?" His eyes were bloodshot, due to his heartache from his failure to notice Lin Xinyan's disappearance and protect her.

Seeing how Zong Jinghao got angry because of Lin Xinyan, He Ruilin wanted to laugh.

However, the laughter squeezed out of her throat was like broken bellows, as there was a harsh and unpleasant ho ho sound.

Zong Jinghao tightened his grip, almost restraining all the space where she breathed. He looked like he would choke her to death if she refused to tell him!

When Shen Peichuan saw it, he realized that he was really going to choke her to death.

So, he hurriedly persuaded, "It is important to find Ms. Lin now. He Ruilin is the key person. Where should we find her if she's dead?"

"If she dies, we really can't find her anymore!" Shen Peichuan continued to persuade him after seeing him refusing to let go of her.

Zong Jinghao was losing his mind, but he could also listen to Shen Peichuan's words at this moment. It was now important to find Lin Xinyan first.

He let go of He Ruilin forcefully, causing her to fall on the steps after being thrown through the air like a parabola. Her forehead hit the corner of the steps, and after a moment of stabbing pain, she felt something warm flowing down from her forehead.

As the oxygen returned, she opened her mouth, gasping for air.

Shen Peichuan did not allow her more time to relieve the pain of suffocation, as he reached out to lift her up and threw her into the car. "Let's see if your stubbornness or my skills will prevail."

Shen Peichuan had interrogated all kinds of criminals. He didn't believe that he couldn't make this woman talk.

This time, Shen Peichuan quickly got in the car. "I'll drive."

He dared not to sit in the car that Zong Jinghao drove. It was too terrifying.

Zong Jinghao's face was gloomy, as he said nothing. He just wanted to find Lin Xinyan's whereabouts as soon as possible now.

"Chief Shen." Just when Shen Peichuan was about to take her away, He Wenhuai walked out of the house. "Isn't it inappropriate for you to take my daughter away like this? What law did she break? Show me the evidence."

He was angry that He Ruilin always got into trouble but watching her being taken away like this was like a slap in the face of the He family.

He came not for the safety of He Ruilin, but because of the pride of the He family.

"Chairman He can rest assured that I will not arrest a good person by mistake, and of course I will not let a bad guy go. If she turns out to be innocent, I will come to your door to apologize."

Then, Shen Peichuan slammed on the gas pedal, while the car passed by him like a strong wind, and quickly disappeared from his sight.

He Ruixing stood beside He Wenhuai. "Will she be alright this time?"

He wasn't sure.

He Wenhuai was also uncertain about it. "Go and find out what is happening this time?"

He seemed to have no strength to be angry.

"Okay, I will find out as soon as possible." Then, He Ruixing went into the house to get changed.

Meanwhile, He Ruilin was brought into the interrogation room.

There was a light bulb glowing with a white fluorescent light on the ceiling, and a table inside the small room. He Ruilin was sitting on one side of the table.

Shen Peichuan showed her a video of her visiting Shen Xiuqing. "Tell me, why did you see her?"

"The person in the video is wearing a mask. Why do you say it's me?" He Ruilin was surprisingly calm.

Shen Peichuan sneered. "Our technician has done an analysis which shows that the person is indeed you."

"So, what if it's me?"

"Why did you go and see her?"

"Can't I visit my friend?" He Ruilin asked him instead.

Shen Peichuan narrowed his eyes. She seems to come prepared.

I'm afraid I can't get anything out from her if this continues.

He nodded his head. "Fine." He gave He Ruilin a thumbs up. "I didn't know you have such a sharp tongue."

She was with Zong Jinghao previously, so Shen Peichuan knew her as well. He used to think she was pretty good, but somehow, she had changed into a loathsome person.

Everything in the interrogation room was presented on a display screen in the monitoring room.

Zong Jinghao sat in front of the screen, so he clearly saw everything that happened in the interrogation room earlier.

Obviously, He Ruilin was well prepared, otherwise, she would not be so calm, and be able to answer Shen Peichuan's interrogation fluently.

"What should we do?" Shen Peichuan stood at the door of the monitoring room.

He was actually sounding out Zong Jinghao's attitude.

Since the gentle way wasn't working, he had to resort to force. It was just that He Ruilin used to be with Zong Jinghao, he wasn't sure if Zong Jinghao was fine with him doing it the hard way.

"Don't need to sound me out." Then, his voice was overflowed with a dangerous tone. "Don't tell me that you can't even get anything out of a woman's mouth."

Shen Peichuan was relieved. With Zong Jinghao's words, he would go to all lengths without scruples.

Shen Peichuan returned to the interrogation room. "Do you know what I was doing just now?"

Before He Ruilin could answer, he said, "I went to see Zong Jinghao. I asked him if he still cherishes his past relationship with you. If he does, I will show mercy to you; if he doesn't..."

Although he didn't finish his sentence, everyone knew it well.

He Ruilin knew that Zong Jinghao didn't like her and was only cruel to her.

But after hearing what Shen Peichuan said, she was still hopeful.

She clenched her hands unconsciously, while her voice trembled. "What did he say?"

Shen Peichuan smiled. "I just think you are very pathetic."

"Obviously you were with Jinghao first, why you ended up like this?"

Yes, I obviously knew Zong Jinghao first, so why would I come to this point?

"Have you ever heard a saying?" Shen Peichuan asked.

"What is it?"

"What is done by night appears by day. You could've kept him, but you keep getting up to little tricks. He can tolerate you once, twice, or three times, but there's a limit to his patience. When you've crossed the line, he will leave you without hesitation."

"What the hell are you trying to say?" He Ruilin's face changed.

"I want to tell you to be kind. No matter how beautiful you look, no one would appreciate your outer beauty if you're black-hearted."

He Ruilin laughed wildly. "Knock it off, Shen Peichuan. You're beating around the bushes just to get Lin Xinyan's whereabouts out of my mouth, aren't you?"

Then, she looked up at the CCTV installed on the wall. She knew that Zong Jinghao must be monitoring the room, and that he must be able to hear her.

She stared at the monitor and said clearly, "I don't know where she is. Even if I know, I won't say it. I hate her and can't wait for her to die. Maybe, she is dead now."

Shen Peichuan frowned. "Force me to get tough with you, huh?"

He Ruilin smiled. "You have no evidence. If you dare to hurt me, I will sue you!"

"He Ruilin, you don't know what I can do." Shen Peichuan's face clouded over.

Bang!

The door of the interrogation room was suddenly kicked open!

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Shen Peichuan and He Ruilin looked at the door almost at the same time.

Zong Jinghao stood at the door, the light shining on him and shadowing most of his expression. His bony fingers were picking the buttons on the cuffs, which were then rolled up to reveal half of his strong forearms.

The expression on his face was so calm that it sent a chill down He Ruilin's spine. She knew very well what Zong Jinghao would do.

Her heart was racing fiercely. "If you kill me, you will never know her whereabouts."

Zong Jinghao curled his lips. "Peichuan, you should excuse yourself."

Shen Peichuan didn't dare to move. If he killed her recklessly, it would be troublesome.

"Umm…"

"Get out!"

"I want to see my lawyer!" He Ruilin panicked.

She wanted to escape, but her hands were handcuffed, and she was fixed on the chair, unable to move.

"You have no proof that I've abducted Lin Xinyan. If you hit me, you're breaking the law!" He Ruilin yelled in panic, "Shen Peichuan, hurry up and take him away!"

Shen Peichuan threw his hands up. "I'm sorry. I can't do anything."

Then, he left the interrogation room. Obviously, it was hard to make her speak if they didn't use any means.

Shen Peichuan walked out of the interrogation room and closed the door behind.

"Jinghao, relax." He Ruilin was very flustered.

She was afraid that he would really kill her.

Standing condescendingly in front of her, Zong Jinghao reached out to lift her chin, and looked carefully at her face, the look in his eyes growing colder. "You said it was you that night."

He Ruilin panicked. "W-What are you talking about? I don't understand."

I-It is impossible for him to know the truth of that night. Everyone who knew was dead, while those alive would keep a secret for me.

He won't know it. He will never know it!

"Do you?" Zong Jinghao sneered. "Let me tell you, I never touched you."

Considering that she rescued him, he believed her at the time and did not investigate the incident that night.

But because of this, he missed Lin Xinyan.

He had missed her for six years.

Zong Jinghao's grip was so powerful that He Ruilin couldn't hold it, as her whole body trembled in pain.

He looked at her fiercely, while tightening his grip. He Ruilin shouted his name in a sobbing tone, and before she could finish, the force exerted by his fingertips forcibly shut her moving jaw in an instant.

"Who are you impersonating?"

He Ruilin's eyes widened in horror. Does he know?

How did he know?

Why would he know?

Tears rolled down from He Ruilin's eyes, as she laughed crazily. "Since you know, I won't hide it from you. You're right, it was not me that night, it was a woman I found."

She looked at Zong Jinghao resentfully. "I met you first and saved you when I was a kid. Later, you kept me by your side, but never gave me an official status. You know, I am a normal woman, and I need someone to love me, and spoil me, but you never showed me any affection."

"Later, when you were poisoned, I knew that my opportunity had come, but at that time, I had lost my virginity, so I spent a sum of money to find a local virgin woman and sent her to that room. When she came out, I went in, creating a false impression that it was me, and deliberately making you think that you took my virginity, so that you would be responsible for me."

She smiled. "It turns out that I was right. You felt guilty and took responsibility toward me. You were very good to me, and even promised to marry me."

She looked sad. "However, I didn't expect that the woman is not someone from Country A, but a Chinese woman. What was even more surprising to me was that she is actually the woman you had a marriage contract with. So I panicked. I was afraid that you would discover her identity. Therefore, I deliberately said that I was pregnant, and then faked a car accident, so that I had a miscarriage. The ultimate goal was to get you to divorce her."

She looked at the man and smiled obsessively. "You know what? In order to make her disappear from your world completely, I also arranged a car accident for her. She needed to have a taste of the pain I'd suffered. I wanted her to die in that car accident, but she was lucky to escape alive. However—"

She smiled viciously. "This time, she won't be so lucky."

Smack!

All of a sudden, a slap landed on her cheek at a lightning speed, causing her face to swell up almost instantly.

He Ruilin tilted her head, feeling the pain burning like an electric shock on her face. The surrounding sound was muted temporarily. Instead, there was a buzzing sound in the depths of her mind, while the smell of blood filled her mouth. Obviously, Zong Jinghao wasn't holding back at all.

Zong Jinghao grabbed her chin again, almost dislocating her jaw. "Say it, where is she?!"

"I don't know!" He Ruilin gritted her teeth. "She can never get what I can't get!"

She grinned; her teeth full of blood. "You could whistle for her too."

Then, she burst out laughing so crazily that others couldn't do anything about her.

At this time, the door of the interrogation room was pushed open, and Shen Peichuan walked in quickly. "We've got a lead."

"My subordinates tracked her near Soulmate Bar and found Ms. Lin's phone."

Zong Jinghao let go of He Ruilin. Shen Peichuan then handed him a piece of tissue as there was blood on his hand.

Zong Jinghao wiped his fingers, while staring at He Ruilin gloomily. "If something happens to her, you won't live long either."

Then, he turned to leave.

Shen Peichuan glanced at He Ruilin and sighed. "Why do you have to do all these?"

How can she be so twisted?

He Ruilin cried and swallowed a mouthful of blood. "He let me down first."

Shen Peichuan didn't know how to tell her clearly.

Zong Jinghao kept her by his side only because she saved him before, so he felt that he should give her a good job in return.

How could she see it as love?

Alas.

Shen Peichuan sighed and asked his subordinates to lock her up first. He then quickly followed Zong Jinghao outside and got in the car.

Seeing how insane He Ruilin was, Shen Peichuan planned for the worst in his heart. For several times, he wanted to speak, but lacked courage.

"We just found a lead, not her." Shen Peichuan prepared him better in advance.

The gaze that Zong Jinghao cast over was as sharp as a knife.

"Ms. Lin will definitely be fine. She is a lucky person. We will definitely find her in one piece.

Shen Peichuan immediately rephrased his sentence.

Obviously, Lin Xinyan was an untouchable taboo for him.

He dared not to say something ominous in front of him.

Shen Peichuan had seen his subordinates from afar. Having parked the car, he opened the door, and got off.

Seeing them walking over, the head of his subordinates scurried over. "Mr. Zong, Chief Shen, this is the phone we found in the corner."

As he said, he handed it over, and turned the computer screen in his hand to face them. "This is footage from a surveillance camera nearby. Only this camera captured the footage."

The man pointed at the surveillance camera in the corner. "It shows that she got in a van. It is a bit difficult to trace the van. The scope is too wide, and..."

"We need to trace it no matter what. Hurry up," Shen Peichuan interrupted his subordinates.

The man was helpless as well. "Okay, I will go look into that now, and continue to send more people to find her."

The day was breaking.

No trace of Lin Xinyan was found after a long night.

Leaning against the car, Zong Jinghao lowered his head, and looked at the phone in his hand. This was indeed Lin Xinyan's phone.

He swiped the screen lightly, and the screen lit up. She didn't set a password, so Zong Jinghao easily unlocked her phone.

He checked her WeChat, MIS, and QQ, finding nothing suspicious, until he viewed her text messages...

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The content was a string of texts between He Ruilin and Lin Xinyan.

There were also photos sent by He Ruilin to Lin Xinyan.

The first text was sent about the time of the LEO show, with content that read, Do you want to know who the man was that night six years ago?

Zong Jinghao's hand was shaking slightly. At that time, she went to the second floor to cry by herself. Was it because she received this text message?

The second text was sent at night.

It was about the time when he came to pick her up. He recalled that Lin Xinyan had received a text message while sitting in the car with a weird look on her face, and she even lied to him that Qin Ya had sent her the message.

He scrolled through the texts.

You sold your body for money and got pregnant by accident. You don't even know who your children's father is, do you?

Who are you? What is your purpose? How do you know this?

The person concerned.

Whenever you want to see me, feel free to contact me. I heard that it's the opening of your new store today. Congratulations.

Your children are very cute. They look like you and their father.

After reading the texts, he knew why Lin Xinyan would leave so suddenly.

He knew that she might have guessed it was a trap, but still, she walked straight into it.

He Ruilin knew her well and knew that she cared about her two children.

So when she mentioned her two children, she couldn't compose herself.

His hands kept shaking.

Shen Peichuan didn't dare to say anything and walked to the side to make a call. "Send more people to expand the search range and find the van as quickly as possible."

"Yes, sir."

Then, Shen Peichuan hung up the call, and turned around to look at Zong Jinghao.

The sky was getting brighter, while the neon lights no longer flickered. The busy street was shrouded in a gloomy atmosphere. Shen Peichuan walked over lightly.

"Do you want to go back first? I have already sent additional staff to find her. You haven't gone back for the whole night, I'm afraid people at your home will get worried."

Shen Peichuan found it inappropriate to say that they had been searching for her for the whole night and that he should go back first. So he had to tactfully say, "The two children are also at home, and haven't seen their mother all night. Will they act out?"

Thinking of Lin Ruixi and Lin Xichen, Zong Jinghao bent over. He felt like he couldn't breathe, as if there was a rock on his chest, leaving no room for him to breathe.

Shen Peichuan was worried. "Jinghao-"

Zong Jinghao raised his hand to signal him not to speak. Without looking up, he said in a low and deep voice, "I'm sorry to trouble you."

"No trouble. We're best friends. I will do my best to find her as soon as possible."

Zong Jinghao turned off the screen of the phone and put it in his pocket, before turning around to get in the car.

Lin Xichen was attentive and sensitive. He must be worried since Lin Xinyan didn't come back for the whole night, so he had to go back and make sure the two children were fine first.

At this time, it was still very quiet on the road, while the breakfast shops on the side of the street had only opened for business.

The morning air was thin with a hint of coldness.

When the car was about to reach the villa, he turned around to go to the hotel. After taking a shower, and changing into clean clothes, he made himself look refreshed before returning to the villa.

When the car was parked at the villa, he glanced at the time. It was four thirty in the morning.

Everyone should still be sleeping now. He walked into the yard lightly and pushed open the tall and heavy door.

The house was quiet and the light was dim. When he walked in and was about to push the door of the room to check on the two children, he noticed a tiny figure lying on the sofa.

He walked over and found that it was Lin Xichen. He was curling up on the sofa with nothing covering his body.

He bent over and tried to pick him up, but he woke up as soon as he touched him.

"Where's mommy?" Lin Xichen asked about Lin Xinyan as soon as he woke up.

He hadn't opened his eyes yet, while his voice was soft and hoarse.

Zong Jinghao's Adam's apple bobbed up and down in his throat, just like his heart at the moment. "... She accepted a design request, and the customer wanted it urgently. So she worked overtime in the store. I stayed with her for the whole night. She is now sleeping in the store and has asked me to come back to see you guys."

Lin Xichen rubbed his eyes. "Really?"

"Yes." Zong Jinghao picked him up. "I will take you to the room to sleep."

In order to wait for Lin Xinyan to come back, Lin Xichen hardly slept all night. He was indeed a little sleepy now, so he unknowingly snuggled in Zong Jinghao's arms, as this posture was more comfortable, and he mumbled, "My mommy will come back no matter how busy she is. She said that she is busy during the day, so she will definitely spare time at night to accompany Ruixi and me. It's an exception this time."

Zong Jinghao stopped walking as his body went stiff.

He lowered his head and looked at the delicate face in his arms. His eyes were shut tight, and he seemed to be speaking unconsciously, but his words hit home.

His voice was hoarse. "Is that so?"

"Yeah, she didn't say it, but I know that she thinks we don't have a father, so she gives Ruixi and me a lot of love. She tried to make up for that shortcoming."

Zong Jinghao tightened his arms suddenly—

"Ouch, it hurts."

Zong Jinghao hurriedly let go. He was a little out of control just now, so he accidentally hurt Lin Xichen in his arms. He said in a slightly trembling voice, "I'm sorry."

Lin Xichen didn't care, as it was a momentary pain, so he closed his eyes and continued to sleep.

He was sleepy.

Zong Jinghao put him on the bed, while Lin Ruixi, who was in the room, was gone.

The wide bed was empty.

Zong Jinghao placed him down properly and tucked him in. Lin Xichen twisted and found a comfortable position to sleep.

Zong Jinghao stood by the bed and looked at him. He seemed very sleepy. His small face was sunken in the pillow, showing only half of it. Accompanied by fair and tender cheeks, and a pretty nose, his pink lips parted slightly as he breathed lightly.

He seemed to be sleeping soundly.

He stretched out his hand to touch his face gently...

Squeak—

The door of the room was pushed open, and Zhuang Zijin was standing at the door. "Could I have a word with you?"

Nodding, Zong Jinghao put his hands away, turned and walked out of the room. He sat on the sofa in the living room with Zhuang Zijin.

"Yan didn't come back the whole night. Was she with you?" Zhuang Zijin asked.

"Yes." In order not to arouse her suspicion, he put up an extremely calm face, as if nothing had happened.

"I'm surprised." Until now, Zhuang Zijin hadn't figured out how Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi were Zong Jinghao's children.

"At the time, my son and I had a serious car accident. We had no money. Later, Yan got a sum of money and saved my life. My son was not treated in time and died in the car crash... Later, I only found out how she got the money. She said that she had investigated and found that the man that night was a local man. I don't wish to see any misunderstandings here. Do you want to reconfirm—"

"No," he interrupted Zhuang Zijin in a firm tone, "I don't need to reconfirm. They are indeed my children."

Now he knew why Lin Xinyan asked for money at the time. It turned out that—

He lowered his head. "I'm sorry for making her take care of the two children for so long."

With tears in her eyes, Zhuang Zijin said, "I have also persuaded her. She became pregnant before she got married, which is, for a woman, a very..."

Zhuang Zijin was at a loss and didn't know how to describe it. "I even forced her to abort it, but she wouldn't listen. I couldn't talk her out of it, so I could only agree. I failed as a mother for making her suffer with me..."

She covered her mouth and choked, while her shoulders heaved.

"What are you going to do about it?"

She didn't know how Zong Jinghao felt about her daughter.

She didn't know if he liked her or had other thoughts.

Although it was their children, she still hoped that her daughter would be happy, and that the man who wanted to live with her daughter liked her and was someone she liked as well.

Only then could she be happy.

If the two of them were together for the sake of their children, they might not be happy.

"Yan raised them, and they are also used to living with her..."

"What are you trying to say?" Zong Jinghao looked up.

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Zhuang Zijin didn't beat around the bushes, and said what was on her mind, "I don't know what your relationship with Yan is. I just thought, if you can't be together, I hope the children will be raised by me and Yan—"

Zhuang Zijin thought far into the future.

It would be good if Lin Xinyan could form a family with Zong Jinghao. If not, she hoped that Zong Jinghao would not fight for the custody of the children with them.

If he really fought for it, Lin Xinyan and she wouldn't be able to win custody.

Therefore, she showed her cards first.

"We didn't submit our divorce application." It was not an explanation, but it was better than one. "So legally, we are still husband and wife. I like your daughter, not because she gave birth to my children, but I like her as a person."

Zhuang Zijin was relieved to hear that.

She just didn't know how to respond to his bluntness.

"I'm going on a business trip to Country A. She will be going with me, so she may not be back in two days. We will have to trouble you and Aunt Yu to take care of Xichen and Ruixi. For your safety, I have arranged someone to guard outside the villa. Bring them along when you go out," Zong Jinghao told her.

"Okay, I will."

After the talk, Zhuang Zijin felt lighter.

"Ruixi…"

"She's in my room." Zhuang Zijin seemed to know what he wanted to ask, and quickly replied, "She woke up last night, and insisted on seeing Yan. I had no choice but to bring her into my room and coaxed her for a long time. She should still be asleep now."

Immediately after she finished speaking, a soft voice was heard saying, "Mommy—Daddy."

She was wearing pajamas with duck prints, her skin fair and tender. With messy hair over a fair face, she threw herself at Zong Jinghao, sweetly calling, "Daddy..."

Zong Jinghao took her into his arms.

Wrapping her arms around his neck, the little one kept kissing him, as if trying to make up for yesterday when Lin Xichen did not allow her to be close to daddy yesterday. "I miss you."

In fact, she was afraid that her father would be angry and didn't want her.

So, her voice was filled with flattery.

Zong Jinghao brushed the hair blocking her forehead, revealing her entire face. Her full forehead, big bright eyes, and delicate face made her look very pretty.

He rubbed her cheek lightly with his thumb. "Which part of you misses me?"

Lin Ruixi thought for a moment and placed her palm on her chest. "My heart."

"Didn't mommy come back with you?"

Lin Ruixi looked around, searching for Lin Xinyan.

Zong Jinghao's neck tensed up slightly, while his face remained calm. "Mommy has something to do, so she didn't come back..."

Buzzing—

At this time, the phone in Zong Jinghao's pocket rang.

He took out his phone and glanced at it. It was a call from Shen Peichuan. He did not answer it immediately. Instead, he put down Lin Ruixi, who was in his arms, and touched her hair. "I'll answer the call first."

Lin Ruixi was very obedient, while Zhuang Zijin came over and said, "I will take her to wash up and get changed."

"That's good." Zong Jinghao nodded his head.

Seeing Zhuang Zijin leading Lin Ruixi into the room, Zong Jinghao walked to the floor-to-ceiling window to answer the phone.

The call went through. "We found her."

An electric current flowed through his heart, stimulating every cell in his body.

Did Shen Peichuan say that they found her?

His eyes darkened, while he pretended to be calm, and said, "Where are you now?"

"Outskirts. I will send you the location."

After the phone was hung up, Zong Jinghao received the location sent by Shen Peichuan.

He turned on the navigation as he walked. At this moment, Lin Ruixi poked her head out from the room. "Are you going out, daddy?"

Zong Jinghao stopped walking and looked back at her. "Yes, I'm going out."

"When will you come back?" Lin Ruixi asked.

"I'll be back when I'm done."

Zong Jinghao didn't tell her a specific time, so as not to disappoint her, as he didn't know what was going on now.

"Together with mommy?" Lin Ruixi asked again.

"Yes." The reply seemed to be a sound coming from his chest—dull, yet exceptionally firm.

Lin Ruixi grinned, revealing a row of white teeth with her eyes curved into bright and clear crescents. "Then I will wait for Daddy and Mommy to come back together."

Zong Jinghao pondered for two seconds and said, "Okay."

He walked over and squatted in front of her. Then, he looked at her, and rubbed her hair lovingly.

Tilting her head, Lin Ruixi blinked her eyes. "Do you think I'm pretty?"

He responded in agreement. "My daughter is so pretty."

"Do I look more like Mommy or more like Daddy?" Tugging at his arm, Lin Ruixi made conversation so that he could spend more time with her.

Studying her face carefully, he found that her face, nose and mouth looked like his, whereas her eyes looked like Lin Xinyan's, particularly her curved eyes when she smiled.

"You look like mommy, and also me."

"Alright." Knowing what the little one was thinking, Zhuang Zijin picked her up and said, "Your daddy has something to do. So come with me and change your clothes."

The little girl's smiling face vanished instantly as she pouted. "I just want to stay with Daddy for a little longer."

"It's not like he's not coming back," Zhuang Zijin comforted her.

Zong Jinghao glanced at the house, turned around, and walked out of the villa. After getting in the car, he turned on the Bluetooth of his phone and connected the phone navigation to the navigation in the car.

He started the car quickly and drove toward the destination.

The sky was getting brighter, and when he got there, the sun was already rising, with fiery red clouds in the east. The morning mist had dispersed, and all living things seemed to have come back to life.

When the car was approaching the destination, he saw a burnt-out van parked in a wasteland in the suburbs while the area was cordoned off.

Somehow, the closer he got, the more flustered he felt.

Did He Ruilin hurt her? Is she hurt?

He knew nothing.

His usually calm pace was a little messy. Shen Peichuan raised the cordon and got out from below. "You are here."

"Where's she?"

"Inside my car." Shen Peichuan walked towards his car, opened the door, and a thin woman was seen curling up in the rear seat. Her hair was messy, with dust on her face. Seeing that there wasn't any visible injury, Zong Jinghao breathed a sigh of relief.

"Fortunately, she's okay." Shen Peichuan felt relieved. "Maybe she's tired and fell asleep."

He closed the door, as if he was afraid of waking up the woman who was sleeping in the car. "You can drive my car. Later, I will drive your car."

Shen Peichuan handed him the car key.

Zong Jinghao did not take it, and asked instead, "What's going on now?"

"When we got here, the car was on fire. She sprained her ankle and fell down not far from the car. She was awake and said that someone wanted to burn her to death by tying her in the car. She fled, so..."

Zong Jinghao suddenly clenched his fists, and said in a deep tone, "Was there no one here at the time?"

"No, the people might have left after they set the van ablaze. I sent my men to search and see if anyone could be found nearby." Shen Peichuan knew that it was impossible to find anyone as they didn't know when they left. "Fortunately, she's fine. And we also have He Ruilin. At least, nothing major has happened."

Zong Jinghao frowned slightly, as if having some doubt in his heart.

"Why don't you take her to the hospital to check the injury on her foot?" Shen Peichuan handed him the car key again. "At the time she said she was fine, so I didn't call an ambulance."

This time Zong Jinghao took the key. Then, he pulled the car door open, and got in the car, taking 'Lin Xinyan' to the hospital for a check-up.

At this moment, Zong Jinghao was very excited and nervous. Lin Xinyan is finally found.

'Lin Xinyan', who was lying in the back seat, quietly opened her eyes. She looked at the man driving in front of her with a sneer slowly forming at the corner of her mouth.

Zong Jinghao will belong to me from now on.

As for Lin Xinyan, I'll just let her die and disappear forever from this world!

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At the hospital, 'Lin Xinyan' was sent to the examination room. Sitting on a bench in the corridor, Zong Jinghao glanced at the door of the examination room from time to time.

Soon, the door of the examination room opened, and 'Lin Xinyan' walked out with the help of a nurse. Zong Jinghao rose to his feet and walked over. As he reached out to support her, he looked at the doctor who followed out, and asked, "How is she?"

The doctor took off the mask from his face. "Nothing serious. She's a little out of spirits, maybe because she was in shock. There is only a minor sprain on her ankle, and neither tendons nor bones are hurt. She'll be fine after recuperating for a few days.

'Lin Xinyan' took the opportunity to lean on Zong Jinghao's arms and said shyly, "I'm fine. Don't worry."

Suddenly, Zong Jinghao frowned and looked down at her. Her voice-

"Oh, when the van was on fire, I got choked, so my voice became hoarse," 'Lin Xinyan' quickly explained, as she grabbed Zong Jinghao's arm, "Come on. Let's go home. I miss Xichen and Ruixi."

Zong Jinghao didn't move, as he felt something was wrong. Since the moment Shen Peichuan found 'Lin Xinyan' successfully, he felt that something was wrong.

As for what was wrong, he couldn't tell. In short, he felt that something about 'Lin Xinyan' had changed.

"You got choked by the smoke?" the doctor asked.

'Lin Xinyan's' hand shook slightly. The doctor was not someone she was able to bribe, so she was afraid that the doctor would say something that was not good for her and didn't know how to answer him.

"If you are choked by heavy smoke, it may cause your voice to change. You will recover after some time." The doctor didn't notice anything odd about her.

Whereas Zong Jinghao, who was very near to her, noticed her momentary nervousness.

What is she nervous about?

Why is she nervous?

What is there to hide about hurting her throat?

"Thank you, doctor." 'Lin Xinyan' breathed a sigh of relief. Phew, I believe that Zong Jinghao won't doubt my voice anymore after hearing what the doctor said.

After all, she could change her appearance through plastic surgery, but it was difficult for her to change her voice.

"No worries. This is what I should do. We should do our best to treat the patient brought by Mr. Zong." Many of the advanced medical equipment in this hospital was funded by Wanyue, so he held Zong Jinghao in awe.

There were many rich people, but not many were willing to contribute to society without asking for returns.

Wanyue's funding helped them save a lot of money in the purchase of medical equipment. Therefore, they reduced a lot of fees in the treatment of patients and helped many poor families who couldn't afford to consult doctors when they were sick.

'Lin Xinyan' could see the doctor's respect for Zong Jinghao. Therefore, she was being taken seriously, and that made her feel very good. She took the initiative to hold Zong Jinghao's hand. "Jinghao, let's go home."

Zong Jinghao was lost in thought, and only came back to his senses when he heard the voice of 'Lin Xinyan'. He looked down at her feet. "Can you walk?"

"Still hurts a little." 'Lin Xinyan' took the opportunity to act coquettishly in his arms. "Can you hold me? I'm so thin, and not heavy."

Zong Jinghao didn't feel anything towards her sudden coquetry. Previously, whenever he was close to Lin Xinyan, or when they had any physical contact, he would be turned on. Yet, she was so proactive now, and he had no feeling at all. He looked at 'Lin Xinyan' trying to search for something, but the face told him that it was clearly 'Lin Xinyan', with the same nose, the same mouth, and the same eyes...

"What's wrong? Is there something on my face?" 'Lin Xinyan' stretched out her hand to touch her face, and asked cautiously, "What's wrong with you?"

Zong Jinghao shook his head. "Nothing."

Then, he bent over and held her up. She wrapped her arms around his neck and looked at his cold and strong face. His thick eyebrows were manly; his straight nose looked like a noble statue; his tightly pursed thin lips spoke of reticence and determination—everything about him was incredibly perfect.

'Lin Xinyan' was lost in his perfection.

When Zong Jinghao put her in the car, 'Lin Xinyan' was still looking at him. Frowning, Zong Jinghao somehow did not like being looked at by her like this.

So, he put her down on the car seat with slightly more force. Returning to her senses, 'Lin Xinyan' said coquettishly to him, "You hurt me."

It was obviously very ambiguous and intimate coquetry, but Zong Jinghao felt nothing.

This feels so strange.

He took a deep look at 'Lin Xinyan' with words of comfort hovering on the tip of his tongue, but he didn't say a word, as he got into the car in silence and drove away.

"Are we going home?" asked 'Lin Xinyan'.

Home?

Zong Jinghao turned to look at her.

She smiled at him. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing."

After saying this, Zong Jinghao didn't say anything again.

'Lin Xinyan' noticed that Zong Jinghao seemed unwilling to speak, so in order to avoid his suspicion, she stopped trying to make conversation.

When the car stopped at the hotel, 'Lin Xinyan' felt that something was wrong. Shouldn't we go back to the villa?

"What are we doing here..." But she shut up immediately as if thinking of something, while blush appeared on her cheeks.

Could it be that Zong Jinghao wants to...

The more she thought about it, the more excited she got. How can I not be excited that Zong Jinghao wants to get intimate with me on the first day?

Zong Jinghao got out of the car, opened the door on her side, and found her cheeks flushed.

"Why is your face so red?"

'Lin Xinyan' lowered her head and said shyly, "Why do you ask me when you already bring me to the hotel? So bad."

We don't just check in a hotel to sleep, do we?

What can a man and a woman do in a hotel room?

Zong Jinghao knew what she meant. Since when does Lin Xinyan become so open-minded?

Besides, she has been here, but why would she think so this time?

He didn't feel happy but found it rather filthy.

This feeling of disgust caught him off guard.

He used to long for her to rely on him, but now he actually disliked it.

He frowned.

'Lin Xinyan' noticed the change in Zong Jinghao's expression and asked hurriedly, "Did I say something wrong?"

He regained his composure and said drily, "No. This is where I live."

Where he lives?

'Lin Xinyan' panicked. How could this be the place he lives?

Isn't he living in a villa?

Did he just say that Lin Xinyan had been here?

'Lin Xinyan' was breaking out in a cold sweat. She suppressed the panic and calmed herself down. "Oh, right. Maybe my brain is not working well, and I forgot."

Smiling, Zong Jinghao did not respond, and helped her get out of the car. "Let's go."

'Lin Xinyan' asked, "Why do we live here instead of going home?"

"I told your mother that we were on a business trip when you disappeared, so we'll stay here for two days before going back."

"Oh."

When they arrived at his place, Zong Jinghao opened the door, and helped her walk in. Then, he opened the bedroom door. "You should rest early."

"Aren't you staying with me?" 'Lin Xinyan' was disappointed.

Doesn't he love Lin Xinyan very much? Shouldn't he stay with Lin Xinyan since she's sick?

"I have something to do." His tone and expression were extremely indifferent, without any hint of impulse and enthusiasm that he usually had when he was with Lin Xinyan.

'Lin Xinyan' didn't dare to be too clingy, for fear that he would notice something was wrong, so she said, "Come back early, okay?"

"Well, rest early." After speaking, Zong Jinghao turned around and went out.

He was so indifferent that it made 'Lin Xinyan' feel that he did not love Lin Xinyan.

When Zong Jinghao was downstairs, he glanced back to make sure that there was nothing unusual before he took out his phone and called Shen Peichuan.

Soon the call got through. "Where are you?"

"I'm at home." After working all night, he took the time to go back to take a bath and change his clothes.

After hanging up the phone, Zong Jinghao got in the car, and drove towards Shen Peichuan's place.