# **Stealing Your Heart Chapter 171**

"You'll know when you enter." Guan Jing ignored the panic in her eyes and went down the car.

However, "Lin Xinyan" did not move. Who would go to the police station casually?

"Guan Jing, stop messing with me. What's your aim?"

"What would I dare to do to you? You're Mr. Zong's precious person. I still have a long life to live, I wouldn't do anything dumb." Guan Jing walked in front of her and looked at her. It was obvious that she was anxious but she was trying to hide it. He scoffed, "Didn't you want to meet with Mr. Zong? Mr. Zong is inside. Why aren't you going in? Did you do something guilty?"

"You— You're the one who feels guilty." "Lin Xinyan" said in a guilty tone.

"If you aren't, then please enter." To show her his "respect", he politely gestured to her to enter.

"Lin Xinyan" stared at him for a few seconds then held her head high. "It's best that you're not lying to me or else I'll be coming for you!" She raised her foot and started walking. "Where to?"

Guan Jing walked in front of her and guided her.

"Lin Xinyan" looked around. She had been here before. Shen Xiuqing had once been in here and she had come to visit her.

It had been Shen Xiuqing's idea for her to escape with the money. She had told her, "Han, your dad is a heartless man. If he could abandon his child and wife

back then, he can abandon us now.. I'm trapped here but you can go. If you continue to stay here, you'll end up like Lin Xinyan. I'll tell you the passcode to your dad's safe. Take the money and go."

Although Shen Xiuqing was living with Lin Guoan, she still kept a wary eye on him.

She had known that the man was heartless when he had sent Lin Xinyan and Zhuang Zijin away without hesitation back then. To the man, anything that benefited him was the most important thing.

He had married Zhuang Zijin for her dowries. When she was no longer useful, he had abandoned her without consideration of their time spent together.

She had been young back then and she could help attract the customers. Now, she was old and Lin Yuhan was not that successful. Lin Xinyan had married Zong Jinghao. If Lin Guoan wanted to turn to his first daughter, it would be disadvantageous for Lin Yuhan.

And that was why she came up with a plan for her daughter to escape.

"Lin Xinyan" tightened her hands. She felt upset when she thought about Shen Xiuqing. After all, she was her mother. She had loved her and wanted the best for her.

When she thought about it, she felt more determined to stay by Zong Jinghao. It was her mother's effort for her to be here today. She could not let her mother down.

She could not fail!

At this moment, she had followed Guan Jing to the interrogation department. It was not the same room as the previous time. This room was much larger and there was a tempered glass in the middle, splitting the room into two. The inside was for interrogation, and the outside was for seating.

Guan Jing pushed open the door.

"Lin Xinyan" did not immediately walk in. Instead, she looked in to make sure that Zong Jinghao was inside before she stepped foot into the room.

Su Zhan pulled the chair for her, as if he had no idea she was not Lin Xinyan. He was enthusiastic and respectful. "Ms. Lin?"

He knew that she was a fake. Shen Peichuan had told him.

He was surprised when he found out. The techniques for plastic surgery were advanced, but it was unlikely to imitate another person completely. However, now that he looked at her, it was almost like he was looking at Lin Xinyan.

She must have done a full body surgery. Her figure must be an imitation of Lin Xinyan, or else she would not have been so slim. He could not look for any faults in the face either.

"What are you looking at?" "Lin Xinyan" frowned. "Did a flower grow on my face?"

Su Zhan laughed wildly. "Yes, and it looks better than a flower."

"Lin Xinyan"'s heart skipped a beat. Why did she feel like he meant something else?

She leaned towards Zong Jinghao. "Why did you want me here? This is such a creepy place."

Before Zong Jinghao could say anything, Su Zhan opened his mouth again. "Let you watch something."

He pulled a chair over and sat beside her.

"Watch what?" "Lin Xinyan" turned around to look at him.

Su Zhan acted mysterious and said, "You'll find out soon."

Zong Jinghao had been silent the entire time. The ceiling light that shone from above covered his expression. She could not see him clearly, as if he was hiding behind a cloud of fog.

Soon, the room door opened again and three men entered. There were two tall men wearing black who followed Shen Peichuan in. The two men were holding a person with a black cover on their head. The person's feet were hovering above the ground.

"Lin Xinyan" stared at the person being brought in. This figure looked a lot like He Ruilin's.

She became nervous.

Soon, her guess was proven right. Shen Peichuan pulled off the cover on He Ruilin's head and revealed her face.

She had changed clothes and she could no longer see her injuries, but He Ruilin's face looked terrible.

"Do you know her?" Su Zhan leaned over.

"Lin Xinyan" shook her head then nodded it. "Yes, she's the one who kidnapped me."

"You might not know this, but our Jinghao hates something with a vengeance."

"What does he hate?" Unconsciously, "Lin Xinyan"'s voice tremored.

Su Zhan had an eerie smile on his face. "He hates being lied to."

"Lin Xinyan" trembled. "Really?"

"Yes. Look at He Ruilin. The last time she had lied to Jinghao that she lost her baby in the accident. The truth was that she had never been pregnant. The He family had to come out to beg on her behalf or else she would have been dead. This time, he would not let her go even if God himself came to earth to speak on her behalf."

"Lin Xinyan" grabbed onto Zong Jinghao's arm. "Jinghao, let's go. I don't want to see this. I'm scared."

Zong Jinghao frowned. Although he seemed absent-minded, there was a barely detectable hint of cruelty when he said, "I remember you were more fearless before this. Don't you want to see the punishment for the person who hurt you?"

"I don't. Nothing had happened to me." "Lin Xinyan" grabbed onto his arm and it wrinkled his suit.

Zong Jinghao's gaze looked down at her hand that was grabbing onto his arm. There was a coldness in his eyes that seemed to push everyone away.

Even "Lin Xinyan" had detected that coldness. She shrunk her hand away instinctively and clasped them, as if that was the only way she could protect herself.

#### Ah!

It was a wail that rang across the room.

"Lin Xinyan" turned to see that Shen Peichuan had pulled out one of He Ruilin's fingernails. Fingernails were attached to flesh; it was tremendously painful to have it pulled out.

He Ruilin was thrown on the floor and her body twitched every once in a while. The bright red blood flowed from her fingertips onto the floor. The stream forming into a cruel but beautiful pattern. She looked up slowly and stared at "Lin Xinyan".

"Lin Xinyan" turned away. She did not dare to look at her bloodshot eyes. There was a panic rising in her, she was afraid that He Ruilin would not be able to withstand the torture and would reveal that she was not the real Lin Xinyan.

She did not want to look, but Shen Peichuan thought differently. He took the detached fingernail and placed it in front of her. "Ms. Lin, do you think it's beautiful?"

The lone nail laid on the white metallic tray, covered in fresh blood.

It looked disgusting.

"Take it away." "Lin Xinyan" shrunk into herself. She was afraid.

"It's such a pretty thing. Why is Ms. Lin afraid of it?" Su Zhan agreed with him and reached out to turn her head towards the nail on the tray.

"I don't want to look at it, I don't want to look at it." This place was terrifying. She wanted to leave.

It was obvious that "Lin Xinyan" was in shock.

Su Zhan deliberately leaned to her ear. "This is just the appetizer. There's still some time before the main course. You should know it. Punishment always comes after doing bad deeds. Especially for those arrogant people who're pretending that they're someone else. The punishment for that is much worse than what He Ruilin is having right now."

"That's right. This is nothing. I can peel all the skin off without any tears."

Shen Peichuan and Su Zhan played off each other's words. Their words scared "Lin Xinyan" until her back was clammy and her legs were trembling. Her body was tense and her voice was rough as she said, "You— You—"

You're inhumane.

She did not finish her sentence.

Su Zhan frowned. She could not even take this?

The main show of deterrence had not even started.

Zong Jinghao had wanted to hit two birds with one stone. He wanted "Lin Xinyan" to see the consequences of lying to him, and he wanted He Ruilin to see that Lin Yuhan was sitting safe and sound while she suffered.

Mental torture always worked better than physical torture.

Of course, his main aim was to find out where Lin Xinyan was from them.

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"You have to get used to it." Su Zhan smiled and winked at Shen Peichuan. "Hurry and start your performance. Show Ms. Lin the wonders of the world."

"Ms. Lin, if you really want to see the wonders of the world, you should come closer. It's more exciting when you see it up close."

"I don't want to." "Lin Xinyan" waved her hands in a panic while rejecting their touch.

It was not up for her to decide.

Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan looked at each other and pulled her up from the chair, disregarding her struggle. She had to go.

"Do you know who I am? How dare you do this to me?" "Lin Xinyan" struggled to break free. "Let go of me."

"Of course we know who you are. And it's because we know that's why we're doing this. We have to train your courage. Jinghao doesn't need a cowardly woman to stand beside him."

"Lin Xinyan" could not find any words to refute Su Zhan's words.

She was dragged into the interrogation room. Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan deliberately threw her in front of He Ruilin. Her shoes were soaked with blood and when she wanted to retract her foot, He Ruilin grabbed onto her ankle. Although she looked weak, her grip was exceptionally strong.

"Let go of me, let go of me!" "Lin Xinyan" kicked her feet in panic. And her foot accidentally kicked into He Ruilin's head.

He Ruilin blacked out for a second.

"How dare you kick me?" She bared her teeth, which was stained with blood. Her face was pale and she looked like a demon that climbed out of hell.

"I didn't, I didn't. I didn't mean to do it. You were the one who grabbed onto me." "Lin Xinyan" words were incoherent.

He Ruilin looked terrifying, as if she was no longer a live person.

On a side, Shen Peichuan kicked He Ruilin. "What's wrong with Ms. Lin kicking you?"

"That's right. Don't you know who she is? Do you think that because you're part of the He family, so we wouldn't dare to do anything to you? Are you so sick of your life that you dared to touch Ms. Lin?" Su Zhan put on an arrogant look. "Did you think that if you had the He family as your support, we wouldn't dare to do anything to you? I'm not exaggerating. If the He family dared to come and speak on your behalf, we'd annihilate your entire family."

As he spoke, his gaze turned towards "Lin Xinyan". "Am I right, Ms. Lin?"

"Lin Xinyan" did not dare to make a sound.

He Ruilin was part of the He family and here she was. She was not part of any powerful family. If they found out that she was not Lin Xinyan, then...

She did not dare to think further than this.

He Ruilin was silent as she sprawled on the floor from the kick.

Her entire body was in pain. That kick from Shen Peichuan almost ended her life.

She was disheveled and shamed. On the other hand, Lin Yuhan, a fraud, was gaining the trust and respect of Zong Jinghao's most trusted friends.

She was furious, she was frustrated. Why did she get everything good?

She refused to accept this!

She retched.

The anger burned in her and she vomited a mouthful of blood on "Lin Xinyan"'s leg.

The warm liquid was like a warm hand that caressed her skin. It felt numb and ticklish. She screamed in shock.

"Go to hell! Go to hell!" "Lin Xinyan" deliberately kicked He Ruilin's head, hoping to kill her.

The dead spilled no secrets.

She could not let He Ruilin live.

Never!

Shen Peichuan and Su Zhan watched as she kicked He Ruilin's head several times. Only when He Ruilin was about to pass out did they pull "Lin Xinyan" away.

"Let go of me! Let me hit her! She hurt me! She has to die! Quick, kill her! Quick—"

He Ruilin had been tortured for days here; even if she was not dead, she was on her way there. She could not defend herself. If Shen Peichuan and Su Zhan had been a few minutes late in pulling Lin Yuhan away, she could have died. This woman wanted to kill her?

Perhaps it was her survival instincts that made her struggle before death. He Ruilin burst out, "You're not Lin Xinyan!"

"Lin Xinyan" froze for a second, then said coldly, "You're a dying woman and you're still talking nonsense. Die!"

"Lin Xinyan" pounced onto her but Su Zhan managed to stop her. "Why are you agitated? It's her mouth, she can say anything she wants. Furthermore, isn't it interesting? She's saying that you're not Lin Xinyan." Su Zhan leaned into her face and looked closely. He mocked, "Maybe this face was artificially made?"

"Lin Xinyan" had a chill run down her spine. "What are you talking about?"

"I'm just joking. Don't take my words seriously." Su Zhan smiled.

He Ruilin clenched her hands. She was afraid that Su Zhan would believe in Lin Yuhan's words. "She really isn't Lin Xinyan..."

And her voice trailed off.

She raised her head up with difficulty to look at the man sitting outside the glass wall quietly. It was as if he had everything in control.

And it was this moment that she realized his goal.

She had been in pain when Shen Peichuan pulled off her fingernails. And in the pain, she had forgotten how to think. How could she not know that Zong Jinghao had already realized that Lin Xinyan was a fake.

He just wanted the two to bite each other's head off by letting her come.

And Lin Yuhan's intention for her to die was true and honest.

She laughed, a bitter sound. "I've been with you for so long. How could I forget how you did things?"

Her tears flowed out of the corner of her eyes and blended into the puddle of blood on the floor.

"I'll tell you where Lin Xinyan is but there's a condition."

Zong Jinghao finally stood up from the chair and walked slowly over. It looked casual, but he was feeling agitated.

"Lin Xinyan" stood at the side, stunned. What— What— What was she talking about?

Su Zhan glanced at her pale face and scoffed.

"Lin Xinyan" was trembling in fright. Did He Ruilin sell her out from the start?

How else did Zong Jinghao find out that she was not Lin Xinyan?

After all, He Ruilin was the only one besides her who knew about it.

The anger made her clenched her fists and punched onto He Ruilin on the floor. She rode on her body and her hands crushed her neck. "Bitch, go to hell! Go to hell!"

Shen Peichuan kicked "Lin Xinyan" aside. "Are you planning to die now?"

He looked at the two men at the corner of the room. "Hold her back."

He could not let her mess around here. They had to find out where Lin Xinyan was.

He Ruilin looked dazed. Even her coughs were silent; only her body jerked.

Zong Jinghao frowned.

Shen Peichuan crouched down to pat her back lightly. "She won't die."

Although it had been torturous, she would not die. He knew how to control himself.

Zong Jinghao breathed a sigh of relief and forcefully opened her mouth. If she died, it would be disadvantageous to him.

"Tell me where Lin Xinyan is." Shen Peichuan supported her into a sitting position.

After a while, she collected herself and slowly looked up at "Lin Xinyan", who was being held back. She opened her mouth and her dry lips cracked. Her voice was weak as she said, "I can tell you, but I have a condition."

"Tell me what it is."

A bloodthirsty smile appeared on her face. "I want her to die!"

"Bitch, you're the one dying! Die now!" "Lin Xinyan" looked at Zong Jinghao and explained in a hurry, "Don't listen to her. I'm really Lin Xinyan, I really am. If you listened to her, you're stepping into her trap! Don't trust her words!"

"Seal her mouth!" Shen Peichuan reprimanded. Were they idiots?

The two men looked at each other. What were they there for them to seal her mouth with?

There was nothing around them. Finally, one of them sighed and sealed "Lin Xinyan"'s mouth with his own hand.

He Ruilin laughed, but her smile did not look pretty on her face. Instead, it looked creepy. She looked at Lin Yuhan. "Look at you. You only have a face similar to Lin Xinyan but without it, you're completely useless. Hao wouldn't keep you around."

Lin Yuhan widened her bloodshot eyes, and she looked like she wished she could pounce on He Ruilin and kill her on the spot.

He Ruilin ignored her gaze. Her words were spoken as she looked at Lin Yuhan, but she had meant for someone else to listen. "You don't know where my brother took Lin Xinyan, right? I have what Hao needs, but what do you have?"

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Lin Yuhan opened her eyes wide as she glared at He Ruilin. She looked as if she would rush forward to stab her if she had a knife in her hands.

"Let go of her." Zong Jinghao would not believe that Lin Yuhan did not know about Lin Xinyan's whereabouts just because He Ruilin had said so.

They were only cooperating for their own benefits. The trust between them was weak and it was easy to make them go against each other.

It was also not difficult for him to get information from them.

"Bitch! How would you know if I don't know?" Lin Yuhan roared. If it was not for someone holding her back, she would have swallowed He Ruilin whole.

It was just like what Zong Jinghao had thought. Their cooperation was formed purely for their benefits. Now that they were going against each other, they would not think for each other. If anything, they would want each other to die.

"Your brother had taken her away and I had followed him secretly. You're dumb to think that I don't know where she is. Did you think you're the only one who has a backup plan? I do too!" Shen Xiuqing had died in this plan. Her only family had left her and now she was alone in this big world. How could she not become more cunning and prepare a backup plan for herself?"

Shen Peichuan and Su Zhan exchanged a look.

These two women had their own secret plans. Zong Jinghao's plan to make them go against each other worked perfectly here.

Zong Jinghao bent his fingers but did not clench his hands tight. He said, "The one who tells me Lin Xinyan's whereabouts will be the one who lives."

"Me!"

"I'll tell you!"

The two said at the same time then looked at each other, hoping that the other person would be the one to die.

"He Ruize brought Lin Xinyan to Shunbei Village. It's not far from B City..."

Lin Yuhan's words came out immediately as she tried to be faster than He Ruilin.

They had no trust in the face of danger. The relationship between them that was built on individual benefits collapsed instantly.

Zong Jinghao was already walking out when Lin Yuhan had yet to finish her sentence.

Su Zhan hurried to follow him. Shen Peichuan looked at the two men at the corner and instructed them, "Let go of her."

"Won't they fight?" It was obvious that the two could not be in the same space right now.

Shen Peichuan's lips turned upwards. "It's not up to me to decide who will live and who will die. Get some men and follow me."

The two men understood Shen Peichuan's words and let go of Lin Yuhan. They followed Shen Peichuan out of the interrogation room and locked the door behind them.

The moment Lin Yuhan had gotten free, she pounced on He Ruilin. "Bitch! Go to hell! Go to hell! How dare you betray me!"

He Ruilin was even more furious than her. "You idiot! Zong Jinghao was intentionally doing these to us! If you and I kept our mouth shut, we could have had a chance to survive! Do you think that you can live after you said it?"

Lin Yuhan was stunned for a moment but anger overtook her senses. She clamped her hands around He Ruilin's neck. "If you had not betrayed me, I could have still been by his side! It was because you, traitor! You're the one who betrayed me first, how dare you call me one?"

When a person was enraged, they had unlimited potential. The present was a good example. He Ruilin was severely injured and she could barely take a breath, yet she managed to overpower and pushed Lin Yuhan, who had been riding on her, off. While Lin Yuhan was down, He Ruilin sat on top of her, grabbed her hair, and shouted in her face, "I never betrayed you! He had always known that you were never Lin Xinyan!"

Lin Yuhan felt like her scalp was going to be torn off and she bared her teeth in pain. She shouted back, "Do you think I'll believe what you said? If you didn't tell him, how could he have known? It's not like he's a telepath that reads my mind!"

He Ruilin was stunned for a second. That's right, she could not even differentiate this face from Lin Xinyan's. How did Zong Jinghao realize it so quickly?

How much did he know about Lin Xinyan?

While she was spacing out, Lin Yuhan managed to gain the upper hand again. "Even if you didn't tell him earlier, but you had betrayed me just now and I heard it with my own ears."

Lin Yuhan grabbed onto her hair and smashed her head towards the floor. "Grab my hair again! Grab it! Hope you die from this, bitch!"

He Ruilin felt herself getting dazed from the knocking. The intense pain had turned and she felt like her brain was going to flow out of her head. She knocked hard on the floor to try to get someone to save her.

Unfortunately, there would be no one entering this place nor saving her today.

She wanted to defend herself, but she did not have the strength to.

"Bitch, go to hell!" Lin Yuhan was caught up in her anger; she did not care about whether He Ruilin would actually die or not. She only wanted revenge for her betrayal.

"Lin... Yuhan. If I die, don't think you can live..."

"Didn't you want to kill me? Didn't you want my life? If anyone's going to die, it'll be you!" Lin Yuhan smiled ferociously.

He Ruilin's vision was spinning and the figure in front of her was getting blurrier every second. She did not know if she was dying; she was barely holding on. Suddenly, she grabbed onto Lin Yuhan's hair and pulled her downwards with all her remaining strength. Lin Yuhan screamed in pain and He Ruilin took the opportunity to pull out her dress strap and wrap it around her neck. She pulled it tight.

This face was the same as Lin Xinyan, and so she placed all her hatred of Lin Xinyan on her.

Her eyes were bloodshot as she continued to tighten the pull.

"Aah—"

Lin Yuhan's eyes rolled up and her tongue was extended out of her mouth. She opened her mouth to try to get help, but she could only force out some choking noises.

"You're still a long way from killing me!"

He Ruilin was like a mad woman. "Go to hell! Lin Xinyan, Lin Yuhan, you should all just die! You can't defeat me like this! Haha..."

Gradually, Lin Yuhan stopped struggling.

He Ruilin's remaining willpower and strength left her body and she collapsed.

On the other side, Zong Jinghao had reached Shunbei Village, and following him were Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan with their men.

When they reached the village, Shen Peichuan instructed the men to surround the village. Shunbei Village was not a large place; there were only two rows of houses. Furthermore, the village was located in a remote area. Many villagers had left the place to seek a better life in the city. The village seemed empty, and there was barely anyone around.

"Search every house. There are so little houses around, I won't believe that He Ruize could hide from us." Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan were furious. They felt disgusted at He Ruilin and He Ruize's actions.

Zong Jinghao did not bother with instructing the men. Instead, he walked on the muddy path as he searched each house personally. He only wanted to find and see her soon.

He wanted to be the one who found her.

He wanted her to see him first.

They searched for half the village, but there were no signs of her.

They stepped into a house made of bricks. Zong Jinghao and his men were making a commotion in the village. The owner of the house seemed to know that

they were here to look for someone; the neighbors had told them why they were here.

The head of the village rushed over.

"Are you looking for a woman?" The one who spoke was a middle-aged woman. Her husband had gone out for work and she stayed in the village to take care of the elderly and the young. Her daily routine was farming, so her skin was tanned dark. Villagers tend to not take care of the appearances, so it was obvious that this woman was a villager. "I saw a beautiful woman at Aunt Hua's balcony, but I've never seen her coming out into the village."

"Where?" Zong Jinghao was certain that the beautiful woman this villager was talking about was Lin Xinyan.

"Bring me over. I'll give you a hundred thousand if it's the right person." Su Zhan was tempted.

The woman swallowed as she looked at the men. They were wearing suits and she had only seen the cars that they drove on television. It looked expensive and they just offered her a hundred thousand."

She was tempted.

Her husband was the only breadwinner of the family and she only did some farming at home. The expenses at home were dependent on this meager pay. Furthermore, her family was the poorest in the village. Even Aunt Hua, a widow, was richer than her.

The woman became enthusiastic about the money. "Follow me, it's just right there. It's not far."

Shen Peichuan instructed the men to guard the exit then followed the woman to the end of the village.

A white double-story house soon appeared. Zong Jinghao looked up at the second floor balcony that the woman had mentioned. The wind was gently blowing at the curtains, but he did not see the figure that he missed.

The closer he got to the house, the more anxious he became.

Knock knock.

"Aunt Hua." The woman was hitting on the steel gate. "Aunt Hua, are you home? If you're home, open the door..."

Before the woman could finish her sentence, Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan had kicked the door open.

The woman was stunned. Were they gangsters?

They were violent.

"If you knock and shout like that, it'll scare the people inside away." Su Zhan glanced at the woman, seemingly dissatisfied with her knocking.

"She can't, she can't. This house has anti-theft windows. They can't run away if they're at home." The woman hurriedly explained. She did not want to cross them.

They seemed like trouble people.

Zong Jinghao was the first to step into the house. The house was not big, and the place was clean. Like what the woman had said, the place was sealed off well. Other than the balcony at the second floor and the windows on the first floor, there were no other entrances. And if there were no entrances, there were no exits. Someone on the inside would have to exit through the door.

His fingers were slightly trembling. Was Lin Xinyan kept here?

The living room was simplistic and neat. The entire house was quiet. It was as if no one was there, or someone was hiding so well that they could hide their breathing sounds.

Shen Peichuan saw bloodstains on the couch and he frowned. Instead of telling anyone, he tried to block Zong Jinghao's line of vision.

Su Zhan pushed him. "What are you trying to block?"

Shen Peichuan glared at him. "Who's blocking?"

Internally, he was cursing at Su Zhan. This idiot had no idea how to read a situation. Why was he watching him instead of looking for her?

The commotion between the two managed to get Zong Jinghao's attention. He glanced over and saw the dried bloodstains on the couch. His gaze darkened and it seemed like his eyes were now just a void.

Shen Peichuan was afraid that he would overthink. "This might be He Ruize's, or Aunt Hua's. It shouldn't be Ms. Lin's."

Zong Jinghao did not have the patience to listen to his nonsense. He went straight up to the second floor. On his way up, he had seen another bloodstain on the stairs. It was just a small dot, yet he felt like his heart had fallen into the abyss. His footsteps turned quicker. There were only two rooms on the second floor. One was closed and the other was opened.

He Ruize had left in a hurry and did not close the door. The inside was still messy, he did not have the time to tidy up, he carried Lin Xinyan and left.

The bedsheet was torn and the bed was messy. The interior was simple and he realized that there were faint bloodstains on the wall. The dress on the chair was the one she was wearing before she went missing.

She had lived here.

Whose bloodstains were these?

What had happened here?

He did not dare to think any further.

Knock knock.

Su Zhan had ran up. "We caught that Aunt Hua..."

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Lin Xinyan's head was heavy. It seemed bumpy and she felt like she was lying in a car.

She gradually opened her eyes and her vision turned from blurry to clear. She saw where she was.

She was in a seven-seater car. The back seats had been placed down and it had become a large space, much like a bed that she was lying on top of. The windows had a layer of black film, so she could not see whether it was day or night. However, she felt that it should be the day because there were no flickering street lights.

She wanted to move but realized that her head was pounding and her hands could not move. She looked down to find out that her hands and legs were tied up.

He Ruize, who was driving, saw that she had woken up through the rearview mirror. "You woke up. Are you hungry?"

Lin Xinyan recalled what had happened and she did not want to talk to him. She closed her eyes again.

"Do you hate me?" He Ruize could see her expressions clearly through the rearview mirror.

Did she no longer want to talk to him?

"Yan, we're lovers. We'll eventually make love to each other. Why should you be like that? I feel upset that you're hurt." He did feel upset, but his want for her was stronger.

"Are you hungry?" He Ruize repeated his question.

Whatever He Ruize said, Lin Xinyan pretended that she could not hear him and did not answer him. She hated this man with a vengeance. She now knew what he was made of.

He Ruize knew that she was angry so he did not continue to say anything else. He only said, "Tell me when you're hungry."

He focused back on his driving.

Lin Xinyan's head was throbbing, as if there was someone drilling in her head. She did not know where He Ruize was driving to, but the road was bumpy and the wound on her head kept pounding along with each bump. Yet she never cried; she just suffered quietly.

To distract herself from the pain, she forced herself to space out and fall asleep. That way, she would not feel the pain.

The sun set and the sky darkened.

When she woke again, she did not know what time it was. She was no longer in the car. She was at a motel. The place was not spacious and the furnishing was simple. It looked like the kind of motel that did not need any identification, because Lin Xinyan realized the motel should be originally a house. The room was originally a part of the living room.

There was a mocking smile on her pale face.

He Ruize must have had it hard. To avoid detection, he was now living in these kinds of places.

As a member of the He family, he was born with a golden spoon. He had never experienced difficulties like this.

Her throat was dry and she wanted to drink some water. However, her hands and legs were still tied up. He Ruize was not around; he must have been afraid that she would escape.

Kacha. The door was pushed open and He Ruize walked in with things in his hands.

When he saw her awake, he asked, "You're awake. Are you hungry yet?"

He closed the door behind it and locked it. As if he was worried that the lock would not work properly, he turned the handle to make sure that the door was locked before he turned to place the things on the table.

"I'm thirsty." Her voice broke.

She did not know how long she had not spoken or how long she had not drunk anything. Right now, she was thirsty.

He Ruize untied the rope around her hands. He touched her thin, fair wrists that had been scratched red by the rope. "Is it painful?"

Lin Xinyan did not answer him. She just felt that he was a hypocrite. If he really did feel upset for her, he would not have treated her like this.

He Ruize untied the rope on her legs and supported her into a sitting position. "I'll get some water for you."

Lin Xinyan moved her sore wrist and looked at the bottle of water that He Ruize brought over. He was about to twist the cap open when Lin Xinyan said, "I'll open it myself."

He Ruize replied, "Doesn't your hand hurt?"

"No. I saw that you've bought food. Are you hungry? You should eat first."

He Ruize looked at her for a second before handing her the unopened bottle. When Lin Xinyan took the bottle, she made sure that the bottle had not been opened before she twisted the cap. She was fearful of He Ruize; she was afraid that he would try to drug her.

And so, she had to be extremely careful.

He Ruize stuffed two mouthfuls of food then handed Lin Xinyan hers. "Eat something."

Lin Xinyan was indeed hungry, but she did not reach out to take it.

He Ruize thought that she did not like the food, so he said, "This place is too remote, and there are no proper restaurants around. One more day, and we'll look for a better restaurant for better food. We'll rest for another night."

Lin Xinyan did not answer him. She reached out for the food and ate a few mouths to stop her hunger. She did not eat much. It was not because the food was terrible. Back when she was living with her mother and they were scraping by in life, she had tasted all kinds of food and went through all kinds of difficulties.

She did not dare to each more, because this was given to her by He Ruize.

He had traumatized her. She was constantly afraid of him trying to hurt her.

She was afraid that he would drug him through the food.

"When you're done, lie down. I'll apply some medication for your wound."

Lin Xinyan placed down the food container and drank a sip of water. "I want to go to the bathroom."

She stood up after she had gotten He Ruize's permission. Only when she stood up, she realized that her legs were numb and her ankle was sore.

She bent down to massage her numb legs. He Ruize reached out, wanting to help her massage, but she instinctively moved backwards. Her leg knocked onto the side of the bed and she sat on it. She said hurriedly, "It's okay. It's not numb anymore."

Now that her legs had a little feeling, she stood up and went into the bathroom. She closed the door and locked it from her side. She breathed a sigh of relief after making sure that it was locked. She did not actually want to use the bathroom; she wanted to avoid He Ruize applying medication for her. After applying medication, He Ruize would definitely tie her up again and it was uncomfortable.

She sat on the toilet bowl and rested while she massaged her numb and sore legs.

Only after when she felt more rested then did she stand up to flush the toilet bowl. It was to make sure that He Ruize thought she was actually using the bathroom. She washed her hands and walked out.

He Ruize was looking down at his phone. Lin Xinyan glanced at it; he was looking at the roads. When he heard her, he locked the screen and looked up at her. "Lie down."

Lin Xinyan sat at the side with fearful eyes.

"I won't do anything to you before you have recovered." He Ruize could sense her worries.

However, Lin Xinyan felt a chill run up her spine. That meant that when she recovered, he was going to treat her like how he did the last time.

She trembled and she wished that she could escape from him.

She slowly laid down and He Ruize pulled off the bandage on her head. There was a small wound on her forehead and she had been treated in the hospital for it. The doctor had said that head wounds bleed a lot, but her injury was minor.

However, it was still a head wound, so the doctor had advised her to rest more.

Lin Xinyan kept quiet despite that it was painful when He Ruize was applying medication on the wound. The only sign of her pain was the beads of sweat on her forehead.

"You can make sounds if it's painful."

"It's not."

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes.

A few minutes later, He Ruize had finished applying the medication for her. "I drive in the day, so I'd need to rest well at night..."

"Tie then." Lin Xinyan knew what he was going to say next.

He Ruize bent down to tie her legs first. "I'll tie it loose, so you'll be more comfortable."

How comfortable could it be to be tied up?

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes without saying anything as he tied her hands. She could only convince him to be less wary of her now, then she could get an opportunity to escape.

Knock knock.

There was a sudden knocking on the door.

He Ruize's expression changed as he stared at the door.

The door was knocked again and a man's voice accompanied it. "Hurry and open the door."

### **Stealing Your Heart Chapter 175**

"Who are you?" It was obvious that He Ruize was not planning to open the door because he did not know who was behind the door.

Lin Xinyan stared at the door as her heart beat faster and faster. Could it be that Zong Jinghao had found his way here?

She was filled with hope.

The man was determined. He loudly smacked onto the door a few more times. "Open the door or we'll break it."

He Ruize seemed to know who the men outside were. He cursed under his breath, "Why are they checking the rooms now?"

He turned around to cover Lin Xinyan with a blanket and instructed her. "Wait for me. No matter who it is, don't make a sound."

Lin Xinyan had heard the quiet curse that He Ruize made. She also knew that the man outside was not Zong Jinghao.

To be honest, she did not know if Zong Jinghao was looking for her.

She had too many uncertainties towards him.

After all, there were many walls between them.

All she could do was to hope for him.

She would not reveal her thoughts of escape in front of him before she could ensure her escape. She nodded obediently. "I will."

"Good girl." He Ruize patted her head then turned to open the door. The moment the door opened, the men outside stormed in, and behind them was a serious looking man in simple clothes. "You two..."

"Sir, don't be mistaken. We're from B City and the one on the bed is my mute girlfriend. She's not feeling well." As he spoke, He Ruize took out his identification card and under it was a stack of money around two thousand. He handed it to the police. "Please take a look."

The police held onto He Ruize's identification card and rubbed the stack with his fingers. He knew how much it was. Quietly, he placed it in his pocket and took a quick glance at the identification card. He told the men on the outside, "Alright, they're not."

The few men walked out of the small room. The leading police reminded him before he left the room, "Don't stay in these kinds of motels. It's not safe, you'll be mistaken here."

He Ruize sent him out and nodded. "Of course, of course."

The man lowered his voice and told He Ruize, "I know your relationship with her isn't of a prostitute and a client, because I know all the prostitutes in this area."

He Ruize was unhappy with his straightforward words but he still had a smiling face on. After all, this was not his territory and he did not want to get into trouble. "I understand."

He Ruize sent him off and closed the door. "The anti-pornography checks here..."

Before he finished his words, he realized that the person on the bed was missing and the window beside the bed was opened. His smile dropped from his face and he quickly walked over to look down the window. Under the window was a short ledge. It did not seem like it was an original design, it looked like it was furnished on.

Like what the policeman had said, these kinds of motel were places of prostitution and the police often checked in these places. For quick escapes, the windows for this motel had short ledges under them.

Although there was a short ledge for her to climb down, it was still a long way down. Lin Xinyan had twisted her ankle when she jumped down, she could not run very quickly.

He Ruize saw her running figure and he shouted in anger, "Lin Xinyan!"

His shout was like a fuel for Lin Xinyan as she ran faster when she heard it. She ignored the pain of her ankle. She just wanted to run faster so that He Ruize could not catch her.

She had escaped and He Ruize would definitely know that she had never lost her memories.

He already had no trust for her. She could not imagine what would happen to her if she was caught.

He Ruize rushed down the stairs and ran after her.

He could not let Lin Xinyan escape!

The place was small and it was dim as there were no streetlights on some roads. The paths were narrow and there were smells of burnt meat in the air.

Lin Xinyan ran into an alley. The alley had no lights in it and she could not see anything but she did not dare to stop. Her hands shoved away anything that blocked her way and she ran faster and faster. "Lin Xinyan, you can't escape." A light flashed past her as she heard He Ruize's voice.

He was nearby.

Lin Xinyan squashed down the panic and fear in her and kept running. She did not know what she had stepped on. She had been tied up by He Ruize so she had not been wearing any shoes. Being barefoot had its advantages, she could run silently. However, that also meant that she could step on something sharp.

She did not know what she had stepped on. She only knew it sent a shoot of pain up her leg.

She held onto the wall on the side for support, but she kept up her speed.

At the end of the alley she saw a bright light. She ran over, trying to stop it, but the light went past her quickly.

Her hope was blown out like the fire of a candle. He Ruize's footsteps were getting closer every second. She looked around in panic, hoping to find somewhere she could hide.

"Yan." His voice was getting closer. She could even see the light that He Ruize was shining with.

Unfortunately, she knew that she could only rely on herself to escape He Ruize's grasp.

She pulled herself together and kept running despite the pain.

Out of the alley was a muddy road. Not too far away was a streetlight and it was bright there.

"Lin Xinyan, you lied to me!" She did not know when He Ruize had caught up.

Lin Xinyan turned her head and found He Ruize standing at the exit of the alley. The torchlight on his phone was turned on and it was shining onto her face. He had a terrifying look on him. "You think you can run from me?"

Lin Xinyan stood at the opposite side of the road and shouted back at him. "Don't make me hate you!"

"Don't you already hate me? You've already hated me, so I have nothing else left to do. Do you want to come to me like a good girl or should I catch you over?"

Lin Xinyan smiled as her dried lips cracked. "I'll die before I go over by myself!"

She ran towards the light. She had realized that there was water there as the light had reflected off it.

When she neared it, she realized that her guess was right. It was a river.

"Lin Xinyan, are you crazy? You can't swim!" He Ruize finally realized what her plan was.

Lin Xinyan looked back at him and her lips turned upwards. "And I know you can't too."

She jumped in without hesitation. Splash! The water went everywhere.

She would rather die than to be caught by He Ruize.

He Ruize could not swim either. If she was lucky, she might be able to escape.

"Crazy woman!" He Ruize ran to the side of the river. The current was strong and it looked deep. The sides of the river were filled with weeds. He wanted to jump, but he was traumatized by the drowning in his childhood, so he did not dare to make a move.

He Ruize clenched his hands. "No one can stop you from wanting to die!"

The water was deep and the river current was strong. Lin Xinyan could not swim and she had drunk a lot of water. She had seen once on the television that she should not breathe in the water. She would choke and die if her lungs were filled with water.

However, if she drank it, she might still be able to live. Even if the hope was slim, she could not give up.

Her children were waiting for her. She could not give up-
# **Stealing Your Heart Chapter 176**

"First time?"

A masculine voice lingered near the ears. It sounded casual, yet urgent.

The man paused for a moment. The warm chest on her back seemed like it was going to overheat. His cool lips kissed on her skin in quick moves. It was obvious that he wanted this woman now, but he was holding himself back. "You can still stop now before you regret this."

"I'm not going to."

The moment she finished her words, the man behind her held onto her waist and pressed onto her on the bed. In the dark, she could not see his face. She only knew that the man was impatient and his body was boiling hot. It was there that magic was on his hands. Every spot of her skin that he touched felt like it was on fire.

She was afraid and she was nervous. She wanted to push him away but when she thought about her mother and brother in the hospital, she grabbed onto the bedsheet under her instead.

Suddenly, it was as if her body was torn apart. It was painful, physically and mentally. To stop herself from moaning shamefully under the man, she bit her lips and kept quiet.

The man was strong and there were a few times that she could not take it and wanted to push him away.

"No—"

Suddenly, Lin Xinyan woke up from her nightmare. Her eyes were widened and her eyes looked around the room before landing on a man's eyes.

She was shocked.

She jerked into a sitting position and she sounded incoherent as she said, "Who— Who— Who are you?"

"Shouldn't I be the one asking this?" The man's voice was low. He had neat short hair, a pair of brown eyes and a beautiful smile. He stared at the tear tracks on Lin Xinyan's face. "Did you have a nightmare?"

Lin Xinyan grabbed onto the blanket. It was an understatement to say that it was a nightmare.

She had not dreamt about that night for many years. The dream had been so realistic. It was everything she never wanted to recall. To have dreamt about it felt like someone had roughly tore away the blood clot on her old wound.

"You saved me?" She remembered suffocating in the water and losing her consciousness. She had no idea what happened afterwards.

"Yes. To be more accurate, I asked someone to save you." The man held a faint smile on his face.

Yet it did not seem like a joyous smile.

It was only now then did Lin Xinyan realize that the man was in a wheelchair. He was wearing simple clothes and there was a blanket covering his legs.

The man's gaze on Lin Xinyan deepened. He did not see disgust in her eyes, only shock, and that made him feel relaxed.

"I was coming home last night and saw a person jumping into the river. So I asked someone to save you." The man's voice was gentle. "Is someone trying to hurt you?"

If he had seen her jump into the river, he had also seen someone chasing after her.

Lin Xinyan did not reply to him. She shrunk into herself and frowned when she realized her foot was in pain.

The man sensed that Lin Xinyan was wary of him. He understood her wariness; after all, they were strangers. He did not insist on the question. "Don't worry, you won't be found by him here. The injury on your leg has been seen by a doctor. You'll be needing a long rest."

Lin Xinyan knew that her leg was injured. She was surprised that he had gotten someone to take a look at it. "Thank you."

"No need to thank me. It's normal for someone to help a person in need. Even if it was someone else that night, I'm sure they would do the same... After all, they'll be saving a beauty."

The man deliberately paused before teasing her.

Lin Xinyan knew that he was teasing her, but he was her savior, so she said nothing even if she had not liked his words.

"What is this place? Can I borrow your phone?" Now that she had escaped from He Ruize's grasps, she wanted to call Lin Xichen to tell him that she was safe. She did not know how Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi were in the few days that she was missing.

The man's gaze landed on Lin Xinyan's wrist. On her thin wrist was a jade bangle. This bangle... He looked away and rejected her. "No. She'll be taking care of you from now on. If you need anything you can tell her."

He started to wheel out of the room. When he reached the door, he paused and turned to her. "What's your name?"

Lin Xinyan widened her eyes and said untruthfully, "Lin Yan."

She sensed that this man was not a simple man.

The man laughed. "Lin Yan? Yan? It sounds good. I'm Bai Yinning."

There were soft sounds from the wheelchair as he wheeled out of the room. Gradually, the sounds faded away. A girl who had been standing by the door walked in and greeted Lin Xinyan. "Hi, I'm Liu. You can tell me if you need anything."

Lin Xinyan shook her head. She needed nothing as of now. She did not trust this man. She felt as if she had escaped from one trap just to fall into another.

"What is this place? Who was that man?"

"This place is Baicheng. That was the young master." Liu answered.

Lin Xinyan frowned. This reply gave her no answers. Just Baicheng?

Where was this place? She had never heard of this place.

"Don't worry, our young master is a good person." As if Liu had seen Lin Xinyan's worries, she explained, "He just can't walk, he's not a bad person."

The girl looked young and there was a look of admiration and shyness when she was talking about the young master.

Lin Xinyan guessed that she adored Young Master Bai.

"I want to sleep." She had not had a good sleep ever since she was taken by He Ruize. She was exhausted. At the very least, the man did not seem like he was going to do anything to her yet.

She was too wary right now and everyone could guess what she was thinking about. She wanted to rest and clear her mind, then she could think of how to get contact with the outside world.

"Okay, call me if there's anything." Liu went out of the room and closed the door.

Lin Xinyan laid down. There were birds chirping outside, but it could not stop her sleepiness.

Her eyelashes fluttered then stopped. Soon, there were even breathing sounds.

After Liu had closed the door, she had not left immediately. She stood by the door and listened to the sounds inside the room. After making sure that Lin Xinyan had really fallen asleep, she turned to walk to the living room. In the living room, Bai Yinning was leaning against the window and his eyes were closed.

When he heard her footsteps, he asked, "What is she doing?"

"Sleeping." Liu stood behind him.

She secretly glanced at the man who sat straight in the wheelchair. She felt that fate had been cruel to him. He was so kind. Why did fate have to take away his ability to walk?

"Give her everything she asks for." Bai Yinning gently said.

Liu could not understand why, so she asked, "Young Master, do you know her? Why are you so nice to her after saving her?"

Bai Yinning looked out of the window. There was a tit on the branch that kept chirping. There were leaves that swayed in the wind. Eventually they would all fall to the ground.

Just like fate.

"It's fate." He answered quietly.

Fate? Liu did not think that it was a good explanation. Would it not also be fate that she had met with Young Master?

She had been sold to the Bai family at a young age and had taken care of him when she was mature enough. Was this also like the fate that he spoke of?

"Then is it fate between me and you?" Liu asked with a hopeful tone.

Bai Yinning turned his wheelchair to face the girl standing in the light. He had a faint smile as he said, "What is fate?"

Liu shook her head.

Bai Yinning waved his hand. "Go and do your things."

Liu wanted to ask him to clarify what he meant by fate, but she did not dare to go against his words. She went away obediently.

Bai Yinning glanced at Lin Xinyan's room. His gaze darkened and when he thought about the jade bangle on her wrist, his grip tightened.

## Stealing Your Heart Chapter 177

Aunt Hua had just returned from the hospital when she was caught by Shen Peichuan's men and brought to her house.

"This is your house?" Su Zhan asked despite knowing that it was indeed her house. He just wanted to see if she was an honest person.

Aunt Hua looked at the people in the house and answered honestly, "Yes."

Aunt Hua was a smart woman. He Ruize, who used to live here, did not look like an average person. This group looked even less like average people.

"Who had been living here?" Su Zhan asked.

"I don't know him. He gave me some money to live here. There was also a woman with him." Aunt Hua did not dare to lie to him.

When Zong Jinghao, who was sitting on the couch, heard her words, he closed his eyes and his expression turned dark.

Su Zhan looked at Zong Jinghao for a second before asking again, "Where are they now?"

"They left. That woman was injured. They went to check her injury in the hospital and they left after checking that they were fine."

One of Su Zhan's eyes twitched.

So Lin Xinyan really did get hurt.

He carefully looked at Zong Jinghao again. Shen Peichuan stood at a side and did not dare to make a sound.

The atmosphere became heavier and heavier and everyone in the living room felt like they were suffocating.

Zong Jinghao stood up and walked in front of Aunt Hua. He looked at her from above. "How did she get hurt?"

Aunt Hua could easily sense the anger from the man in front of her. She did not dare to reply to him. She only lowered her head as she trembled.

"Tell me!"

The volcano in him erupted and everyone had jumped in shock. Aunt Hua had kneeled down in fright and there was a loud sound as her knees came into contact with the floor. She gritted her teeth in pain and she stumbled with her words. "I— I don't know. I was downstairs at that time. Mr. He usually doesn't let me go upstairs."

As if realizing that Zong Jinghao was here for the woman, she said, "You're here for Ms. Lin, right? She was locked up on the second floor. She was injured on that day because Mr. He wanted to... wanted to..."

"What did he want to do?" Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan were impatient. Why could this woman not just tell them all at one?

"I don't know. I only know that Ms. Lin's clothes were torn and her head was bleeding. Mr. He was naked and I heard them arguing upstairs. Ms. Lin should be unwilling about it, that's why— that's why she did it."

Her words were vague, but everyone could understand what had happened.

No one dared to make a sound in the house as they secretly stared at Zong Jinghao.

His expression was gloomy and his face was twitching. He looked terrifying.

His voice was low and deep and there was a fire burning in his eyes. It looked as if he would kill her on the spot if Aunt Hua dared to lie to him. "Tell me, where is she now?"

"I don't know. I really don't know. He had taken her away after the hospital trip. I saw that he was checking the road on his phone, and it looked like he was going to Chuan Province. I'm really telling the truth; I wouldn't dare to lie to you. I know that Mr. He was lying to me. He said that Ms. Lin was his girlfriend but I realized that Ms. Lin did not love him at all. She would rather hurt herself to go against him. It's the truth. I only know as far as this."

Aunt Hua continued, "I only rented the house out for money. I've never done anything and I've told you everything. Please let me go."

"If it was like what she had said that they had gone to Chuan Province, then the men we had arranged by the borders would have found them out. If He Ruize was determined not to be found, he would not take the highway nor the plane. Nowadays, you had to show your identification card to take the train. The only way they could go there was by driving the old roads." Shen Peichuan analyzed.

"I think Peichuan's right. Maybe we can make it if we go now." Su Zhan followed up on Shen Peichuan's words.

Zong Jinghao's hands were clenched into fists and the veins on the back of his hands were visible. If it was not for his remaining rationality telling him that he should remain calm, he would have lost his composure and would not be able to arrange what to do next.

Su Zhan, stay here with Guan Jing. Shen Peichuan, follow me."

Su Zhan knew what his intention was. He had to settle with He Ruilin and Lin Yuhan, but he could not delay in finding Lin Xinyan. By asking him to stay here, he could do both things at once. Furthermore, Shen Peichuan was calmer and quieter than Su Zhan. Zong Jinghao did not want to hear constant chattering by his ears right now.

When they left the house, the woman who had brought them here followed after them. She looked as if she wanted to say something.

Su Zhan looked at her and signed a cheque for her. Although they had not found her, she had been enthusiastic to help them and he could see that she was not living a wealthy life.

The woman rarely went into the city. She had never seen this. She hesitated before asking, "This is money?"

It was obviously just a piece of paper. Were they trying to cheat her because she was uneducated?

"You can change it in the bank for a hundred thousand."

A hundred thousand.

The woman swallowed. Even if she sold everything at home and took out all their savings, they would only have eight thousand. A hundred thousand was a lot to her. She could not believe that the money had come so easily.

"You don't want it?" Su Zhan frowned. This was the first time he was trying to be nice, but the receiving party was suspicious of his kindness.

"Of course I want it." The woman hurriedly took it from his hands. She carefully held it in her hands, afraid that she would tear it and it would be useless in the bank.

Su Zhan drove away in his car. He did not go the same direction as Zong Jinghao did. He went to the police station to settle He Ruilin and Lin Yuhan's matter.

Shen Peichuan went to arrange for the men and vehicles they needed while Zong Jinghao went back to the villa.

The car stopped in front of the villa. Instead of going down, he sat in the car and looked at the lights in the villa. Once in a while, he would hear Lin Ruixi's soft, clear voice. It sounded like music to his ears.

His fear was like a large blanket that slowly wrapped around him until he could no longer breathe.

He was afraid that his carelessness, his lack of observance, his mistake, had let Lin Xinyan fall into a trap.

He let her become hurt, he let her...

He did not know how to face the two children.

He blamed himself for Lin Xinyan's disappearance.

In the villa, the spacious living room was so quiet that every sound made an echo. Lin Ruixi was restless. She stepped onto the chair and wanted to climb onto the piano. Her leg pressed down on one of the keys and it made a loud sound. Lin Xichen frowned and walked over to her. "Ruixi, why are you being so mischievous?"

She was ungraceful climbing around.

Lin Ruixi pouted and pointed out the window. "If I stand here, I can see the outside. I want to see if Daddy's back."

Lin Xichen tensed. Daddy had gone to look for Mommy. He wondered how they were, and did Daddy manage to find her?

He was anxious.

He was worried that something had happened to Mommy.

"Wow, Xichen. Isn't that Daddy's car?" Lin Xichen shouted.

Lin Xichen followed his sister's gaze to see a car on the porch. He held onto his sister. "Come down quickly."

Lin Ruixi blinked her eyes. "Why?"

"What why? If you're not coming down then I'll be going by myself. Then you'll fall off." Lin Xichen had a hint of impatience in his tone.

Zhuang Zijin walked over. "Xichen, why are you being so impatient?"

"No, I'm not. I'm just worried that she'll fall. You're here now, so watch over her." After telling his grandma that, Lin Xichen rushed out of the door towards Zong Jinghao. He stood in front of the car window and his first question was, "Have you found my mommy?"

There was a moment of silence.

The heavy atmosphere slowly crept in between them.

"I've been too impatient. If you've found her, she would be with you now." Lin Xichen tried his best to hide his disappointment, but he was still a child. His body trembled. "What do I do if I miss her?"

Zong Jinghao came out of the car to hug him tightly. His voice was rough as he said, "I'm sorry, it's my fault that I couldn't protect her... I miss her too."

## **Stealing Your Heart Chapter 178**

Lin Xichen was sprawled in his arms and he could feel his trembling chest.

He reached out to hug him. Regardless if he loved Mommy, the anxiety and guilt he was feeling now were real.

"Let's go look for her." Zong Jinghao made the boy look at him. "Are you going?"

"I'm going." Lin Xichen answered without hesitation

"What about Ruixi? If Mommy and I aren't here, she'll make a fuss." Lin Xichen worriedly said.

"Daddy."

Not sure when Lin Ruixi had seen Zong Jinghao, she ran out from the house towards him. She extended her plump fair arms and wrapped them around Zong Jinghao's leg. "Daddy." She looked up and pouted her pink lips. "Daddy, can you let go of Xichen and hug me instead?"

She blinked as she said, "Xichen is a big boy. He doesn't need hugs. Hug me."

Lin Xichen was speechless.

Zong Jinghao crouched down and pulled her into his arms. The little girl was wearing a pink dress today and she had her hair tied into a ponytail. There were loose strands of hair around her ears and on her forehead but her forehead was still visible. Her eyes were wide and innocent as she grabbed onto Zong Jinghao's neck and rubbed his face with hers. "Daddy, you're back. Why isn't Mommy with you? I haven't seen her for days. We've never been separated. I miss her." Zong Jinghao looked far away as he pressed the two little heads against his chest. He tried his best to say in a calm tone, "I'll bring you two to look for her."

"Really?" Lin Ruixi was excited. "Is Mommy playing hide and seek with us? Is that why we need to look for her?"

"Yes."

"Wow, I'm so excited." Lin Ruixi excitedly fidgeted in his arms but Lin Xichen was not as optimistic as her. "Being a child is nice."

When Lin Ruixi heard his words, she turned around to glare at him. "You're just older than me by a few minutes. You're not much older. Even grandma said you were an extra."

Lin Xichen frowned and his face scrunched up. "Grandma said you're the one who was the extra."

At this moment, Zhuang Zijin had walked out of the house wearing an apron. She placed her hands in front of her. "Come in, it's time to eat."

"Grandma, Xichen is the extra one, right?" To prove that she was the right one, Lin Ruixi hurried to ask her grandmother before Lin Xichen did.

As if she would be right if she was faster than him.

It was easy to see what this little girl was thinking about. She was much simpler than her brother, and she rarely overthought. Zhuang Zijin laughed and teased her, "You're the extra one."

Lin Ruixi became unhappy. She pouted. "Why isn't Xichen the extra one? He's so mean."

He stole her hugs from Daddy.

He was mean!

Zhuang Zijin looked at Zhuang Zijin before saying, "It was because Mommy only had one baby at the start, then found out that there was another. Wouldn't the one after be the extra one?"

Lin Ruixi did not want to admit defeat. "That should be Xichen. Xichen is the extra one."

"But Xichen was the first to come out..."

"I don't care, Xichen is the extra one!" Lin Ruixi insisted as she held tightly onto Zong Jinghao's neck. "Daddy, is Xichen the extra one?"

Zong Jinghao carried her up and patted her head. "The both of you are equally important."

"Let's go in and eat." Zhuang Zijin held Lin Xichen's hand.

"I was planning to bring them out. Lin Xinyan must miss them." Zong Jinghao took the opportunity to tell Zhuang Zijin that he was bringing the children out.

Zhuang Zijin answered, "Okay."

She sensed that there was something wrong in his words but thought that she was overthinking.

It seemed like the two children, especially Lin Ruixi, liked Zong Jinghao. Zhuang Zijin was glad if Zong Jinghao was willing to become a family with Lin Xinyan.

"When are you coming back?" Zhuang Zijin asked.

Zong Jinghao did not know when he could find her, so he said, "I don't have a specific time frame. I want to bring them around. We won't be contacted so we can enjoy ourselves better."

Zhuang Zijin nodded. "Alright, when are you leaving?"

"Tonight."

"That's quick."

"Yes." He gave no further explanations. He did not want to delay his time even more.

"Then you and the children should go and eat first. I'll pack their clothes." Zhuang Zijin took off her apron and went into the room.

Zong Jinghao brought the children to wash their hands. Lin Ruixi was clingier and she did not want to leave his arms. So Zong Jinghao carried her while she washed her hands and then brought her to the dining room. She sat on his lap.

Aunt Yu served the food and asked, "Young Mistress isn't home yet?"

Aunt Yu's title for her had changed again.

She felt that Lin Xinyan had given birth to Zong Jinghao's two children, so she was now the Young Mistress of the Zong family.

Zong Jinghao was picking some vegetables for Lin Xichen as he quietly hummed in response.

He did not want to talk more about Lin Xinyan. The more he talked, the more likely others would suspect him.

Aunt Yu was the one who took care of him, so she was familiar with his personality. The way he had answered her meant that he did not want to talk about the matter, so she stopped talking.

"Daddy, eat." Lin Ruixi scooped a piece of broccoli for Zong Jinghao.

The little girl blinked with hopeful eyes.

Zong Jinghao opened his mouth and ate the broccoli. Even if he had no appetite for food right now, he still chewed because Lin Ruixi was the one who gave him that.

"It's tasty, right?" Lin Ruixi smiled happily. "My mommy cooks it better."

Zong Jinghao's expression froze. These two children are often mentioned about Lin Xinyan. It was obvious that they were very close to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xichen looked at his sister and pursed his lips. He lowered his eyes as he ate a few mouthfuls before putting down the chopsticks. He also had no appetite for food while his mommy was still missing.

"I'm done. I'll see if grandma is done packing." He slid down the chair and walked towards the room.

"Xichen, you're just eating a little?" Lin Ruixi looked at her brother. Although the two argued and fought sometimes, they still cared for each other.

"Xichen is full." Lin Xichen smiled at his sister.

"Xichen, you're not the extra one." Lin Ruixi suddenly said to Lin Xichen.

Lin Xichen laughed.

Soon after dinner, Shen Peichuan had brought the men and cars over. He knew that Zong Jinghao was bringing the two children, so he had prepared a recreational vehicle so the children could rest in it. Other than the recreational vehicle, there were three off-road vehicles and seven men. They were all good with physical work and they were trusted men.

When Shen Peichuan saw Lin Xichen, he sighed, "He really looks like you. Look at those eyes and nose."

"Then do I look like Daddy?" Lin Ruixi looked up at him and asked.

Shen Peichuan crouched to take a good look at the little girl. She was fair with bright eyes. When she blinked, her eyes were like twinkling stars. He reached out to pinch her cheeks, but before his fingers touched her face, his wrist was grabbed. He looked up and saw Zong Jinghao's cold expression.

Shen Peichuan was stunned. "I just want to pinch her cheeks. You have a daughter, but you can't be that stingy, right?"

Did playing with children not consist of pinching their cheeks, kissing, and hugging them?

He had not even started with the kissing and hugging yet.

Zong Jinghao swung his hand away. "You can't touch her with your hands."

Lin Ruixi was a girl and she kept being touched by others, especially men. He did not like it.

He carried his daughter and held onto his son's hand. "If you're done packing everything in the car, then let's go."

He walked towards the car.

Shen Peichuan remained crouched on the same spot with a stunned look. He lowered his head to look at his hand. His hand was not dirty, why was Zong Jinghao being so stingy?

He hurried to follow him. "Zong Jinghao, I need to talk to you."

He was not a predator, why was he wary of him?

"You love your children, I understand. After all, you only had them when you're old, but you can't be this stingy..."

Zong Jinghao turned his head around. "What did you say? I only have them when I'm old?"

Was he old?

Shen Peichuan smacked his lips. "Not old."

Internally, he dissed him. He was already in his thirties nearing his forties, was that not old?

He walked over. "Why don't I have a son? Then let's engage our children?"

If you're not going to let me touch her, then I'm going to have a son that'll marry your daughter. Then she'll be his daughter-in-law. Shen Peichuan thought.

Haha.

Zong Jinghao's expression darkened.

Shen Peichuan reacted quickly. Before Zong Jinghao could do anything to him, he ran into the car.

Lin Ruixi blinked. "Daddy, what is engagement?"

Zong Jinghao did not know how to explain to her.

He patted his daughter's head and carried her into the car. "He's just talking nonsense."

## **Stealing Your Heart Chapter 179**

"Ms. Lin? Ms. Lin?"

In a daze, Lin Xinyan heard someone call her. She slowly opened her eyes and saw Liu standing at the side of her bed. When Liu saw her open her eyes, she smiled. "You're awake?"

Lin Xinyan moved to sit on the bed. She rubbed her eyes until she felt more awake, then asked, "What time is it?"

"It's twelve in the noon. You've slept the entire morning. Eat some food." Liu was respectful to her. She was someone that Young Master had asked her to take care of, naturally, she would do her job well.

"Could you pour a cup of water for me?" She was not hungry, but her throat was dry from sleeping so long.

"Okay." Liu left the room to get a cup of water.

Lin Xinyan watched her disappearing figure and pushed away the blankets to move down the bed. The injured leg was wrapped in bandages and the ankle was still red and swollen. She reached out to press on it lightly. It was painful. She frowned as she realized that it would not be getting better in these few days.

She placed her weight on the uninjured leg and tried to stand up.

"Do you want to become a handicapped?" A low male voice came from the doorway.

Lin Xinyan raised her head to see the man in the wheelchair.

He wheeled himself into the room. "Your periosteum on your ankle has been hurt. If you keep stressing it out, it would not be able to heal in a few months. If it's serious... Then you'll end up like me."

He deliberately raised his voice for the last sentence and mocked at himself, "It's not fun to be in a wheelchair."

Lin Xinyan sat back on the bed, "I'm just trying it."

"Ms. Lin, your water." Liu had brought the water in.

Lin Xinyan reached out for it and said, "Thank you."

"You're Young Master's guest, I'd have to take care of you well." Liu smiled as she looked at Bai Yinning.

There was someone else present, so she only dared to glance at him before looking away.

Lin Xinyan pretended that she did not see it. She raised her cup and drank a few sips to relieve her dry mouth.

"Ms. Lin, you should be hungry, right?" Liu placed a foldable table on the bed. "Your leg is injured, and you can't walk, so Young Master told me to serve the food in the room."

Lin Xinyan looked at Bai Yinning and said, "Thank you."

Bai Yinning raised his eyebrow. "No need to thank me. It's a fate that we have met in this big world. Just relax and get better. When you've recovered, I'll send you back. Where is Ms. Lin from?"

"B City." Lin Xinyan answered honestly.

At the same time, she felt odd. He did not allow her to make phone calls, yet he was telling her that he would send her back.

What was he planning?

"B City?" Bai Yinning rummaged on these two words. His gaze landed on Lin Xinyan's jade bangle again. It was as if he had thought of something as he spaced out.

"Mr. Bai, what's wrong?"

Bai Yinning returned to his senses, shook his head, and smiled. "Nothing, I just thought of something." His gaze landed on Lin Xinyan's face. "Am I old?"

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She was stunned.

What did that mean?

"I'm just twenty-six, and you're calling me Mister. It makes me sound like I'm in my thirties." Before Lin Xinyan could reply to him, he continued, "You should call me Yinning."

Lin Xinyan did not reply to him.

It did not seem appropriate to call him by his name. Were names not only for people who were close?

"I saved you and you don't even want to call me by my name? Do you only want to call me as if I'm old?" His voice was stern, but there was no hint of reprimanding in his eyes. Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes. "I just think that calling you by name is too intimate."

"Why is it intimate? I'm not going to let you call me Mr. Bai. Are you planning to call me 'hey' or 'you there'?"

Lin Xinyan laughed.

"Let me hear you call me." Bai Yinning smiles.

His face was lively, and he looked expectant.

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. He had saved her; it was just repaying his help by calling him by his name. She said, "Bai Yinning?"

"Take away the last name, Bai."

Lin Xinyan could not help but complain in her head. He has a lot of requests, doesn't he?

"Yinning."

"Sounds good."

He smiled happily.

Lin Xinyan wanted to diss him. How did this sound good?

However, he was her savior so she did not do it.

Liu heard Bai Yinning's laughter when she was bringing the food in. She could not help but look at Lin Xinyan. It was one thing that the Young Master was treating her exceptionally well, but now he was smiling so happily because of this woman. Who was this woman? Who was she to her Young Master?

With questions swirling in her head, she placed the food on the table.

"I don't know what your preferences are. Tell me if you like something specific, and I'll request them for you." Bai Yinning said.

However, Lin Xinyan did not want to bother him that often. She had to return the favor, and she did not want to owe him too much. She was not a picky eater, so she did not hate any food in particular.

"I'm not picky. Anything is fine." Lin Xinyan smiled.

It was obvious that she was trying to keep a distance from him. Instead of getting angry, Bai Yinning said, "Alright, tell me if you need anything."

"Okay."

After eating, Lin Xinyan laid on the bed, bored. She looked out of the window as she wondered how she could contact Lin Xichen.

Why did Bai Yinning not lend her a phone?

What was he aiming for?

"This room." Liu's voice sounded outside the room. Soon, she walked in with two workers that were carrying a fish tank.

Liu instructed the workers to place it in front of the bed. "Put it here."

After the workers installed the fish tank and left, Lin Xinyan asked, "What is this for?"

"Young Master said you can't leave the bed, so you must be bored. He found some rare fish for you to look at so the time would go by quicker." Liu stood at the side of the bed as she said with an envious tone, "Young Master is treating you so well."

She had never seen Bai Yinning treating anyone that well, especially a woman.

Lin Xinyan looked at the fishes in the tank. There were three, and each of them looked unique with bright colors. She had never seen them in the aquarium. They looked rare and expensive.

However, she did not feel joyous. There was no such thing as a free lunch. His efforts in taking care of her made her feel uncomfortable.

"Ms. Lin, aren't you happy?" Liu asked when she saw that there was no look of joy on Lin Xinyan's face.

"No." Lin Xinyan forced a smile.

"Ms. Lin, do you know Young Master?" Liu asked the question that she had been wondering.

Her time in the Bai family was not short, but she had never seen her nor heard about her. It did not seem right that he was treating her so nicely on their first meeting.

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "Why?"

"I just thought that the Young Master is treating you very well. If he wasn't familiar with you, why was he being so nice to you after saving you?"

Lin Xinyan was confused about this as well.

She reached out to play with the fish's tail and the fish swam away.

Although Lin Xinyan was also curious about Bai Yinning, she did not show it on her face. She just said with an indifferent tone, "Didn't you say that the Young Master was a good person? He's just helping out until the end."

Liu still did not think that it was just because the Young Master was a good person. There should be another reason for him to be this nice.

"What do you think is the reason?" Lin Xinyan slowly looked up.

Liu could not find her words.

"Never mind." Liu did not feel very happy with the lack of answer, so she turned and left.

Lin Xinyan took a piece of tissue to wipe the water from her hands. She pulled away the blankets and moved down the bed. She supported herself with the bedside table and put her weight onto her uninjured leg. She moved slowly towards the door.

The place was spacious. She was living on the first floor. Bai Yinning's room was likely downstairs for convenience. She did not know where Liu had gone as the spacious living room was empty with no signs of anyone.

Lin Xinyan saw the phone on the side table beside the couch.

Her eyes were bright with hope. This was her only chance to contact the outside world. She looked around to make sure that no one was around before she made her way over holding onto the wall.

She managed to reach the living room and she used one hand to hold onto the couch while the other hand reached for the phone.

## Stealing Your Heart Chapter 180

"Tired." Lin Ruixi's hands were gripped tight onto Zong Jinghao's shirt. She wanted to sleep but could not because the place was unfamiliar.

Her little body kept fidgeting in his arms.

Zong Jinghao pulled her closer and his large hands struck her back. He patiently coaxed her, "Good girl, Daddy will hold you while you sleep."

Lin Ruixi buried her face into his chest. Daddy's arms were so warm. She could feel him and his warmth through the fabric. "Daddy, will you still abandon Mommy and us? I don't want to leave you. I want Daddy, Mommy, and Xichen to live together, like what the other kids have. There's Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, Grandpa…"

The little girl's voice trailed off until he could not hear it.

Zong Jinghao lowered his head. The little girl had buried her face in his arms, and the corners of her eyes were damp.

"I saw other kids' being carried by their daddies, and their daddies pushed their swings for them. I'm envious..."

Since birth, she only had Mommy, Xichen, and Grandma. There was never a Daddy.

She was clingy to Zong Jinghao when she met him, because she was afraid that he would not want her again.

Then she would become a fatherless child again.

Zong Jinghao moved his body and held her head in his hands. He did not know if it was because it was stuffy or was it because of suffering she had for many years. Her eyes were red and there were beads of tears on her long eyelashes. He bent down to kiss the beads of tears away from her eyes. He said in a low voice, "No, I'll never leave you from now on."

His lips were warm and soft and the little girl closed her eyes instinctively. Daddy's breath was so close to her. He was hugging her and he was kissing her. She felt like she was the luckiest girl in the world.

She was easily satisfied. A simple kiss had melted her heart.

However, she did not know that her words had made this man agitate.

When Lin Xinyan was pregnant, he knew that it was him who had pushed her away and missed out all these years.

How could he compensate for the years he had missed?

"Boy, why aren't you at the back?" The recreational vehicle was spacious. Behind the driver's seat was a couch. Shen Peichuan was half lying on it while looking at the maps. Lin Xichen was sitting beside him and looking out the window. When he heard Shen Peichuan's words, he answered without turning his head, "I'm not sleepy, I don't want to go."

His sister was clinging onto Zong Jinghao. He did not want to see it; he did not feel comfortable to see it.

If Zong Jinghao really loves them, why did he abandon Mommy in the first place?

Now he was acting as if he was guilty. What did that mean?

"Mr. Shen, what kind of person is he?" Lin Xichen felt conflicted with his feelings towards Zong Jinghao. He wanted to be close to him, but he could not let go of the fact that he had abandoned Lin Xinyan back then.

Shen Peichuan was stunned by his question. He sat up and asked, "Who?"

Lin Xichen pointed to the back of the car and Shen Peichuan understood who he was talking about. He reached out to wrap his arm around his neck and pulled him into his arms. "Boy, that's your daddy, you're calling him 'he'?"

"Why should I call the person who abandoned me as Daddy?" Lin Xichen tilted his head up and he looked like an arrogant boy. However, he was envious of Lin Ruixi, who could easily call him Daddy.

He could not say it out easily.

He could not help but think about the abandonment. Not only did he abandon them, he abandoned his mommy. He could not forgive him that easily although he seemed good to them now.

Shen Peichuan looked at the little boy. It was obvious that he could not get over Zong Jinghao.

He reached out to ruffle his hair roughly. "Your dad must have not known that your mommy was pregnant back then. It was not his style to know about her children and still insisting on a divorce even if he didn't like her."

Lin Xichen's focus was not on Zong Jinghao being responsible, but that he had not liked her. Did he not like Mommy when they were married?

If he did not, why did they get married?

Were their brains not working?

"Does that mean that he had wasted Mommy's time?" Lin Xichen asked as he frowned.

If it was not for him, did that mean that Mommy could find someone that actually loved her?

Shen Peichuan reached out to flick his small nose. "What are you thinking about, boy? Don't worry that much about adult's things. You'll grow old quickly.

Lin Xichen pouted. "Mr. Shen, you're the one who'll get older first." He put up his fingers. "In another twenty years, you'll be entering old age while I'm at the peak of my youth."

After finishing his words, Lin Xichen ran off.

"Hey, you!" Shen Peichuan felt helpless. "Run slower, I won't chase after you. Your dad is an overprotective person."

Shen Peichuan still could not let go of the fact that Zong Jinghao had not let him touch Lin Ruixi.

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

What a selfish man!

It was just a daughter!

He could get children of his own.

Thinking of children, Lin Xinyan was good at having children. She had given birth to a pair of twins, a girl and a boy. They had taken after their parent's best points. The boy was smart and the girl was cute and soft. He would love to have these kinds of children.

All he could blame was that he did not have Zong Jinghao's luck.

Shen Peichuan sighed as he leaned back on the couch. He was about to look on the map again when Zong Jinghao walked out from the back of the car. He jerked up in surprise. "Where's your daughter?"

What he wanted to ask was "How could you leave her willingly? Didn't you want to accompany your daughter?"

"She's asleep." He took Shen Peichuan's phone and looked at the routes that he had planned out. He asked, "There's only one way?"

"No, but I was thinking that he would be choosing the most remote route to avoid our men. There isn't surveillance for remote roads, but the roads are not well-maintained, so he'll be driving slower."

"Send two men over to check out that route to see if they could find anything." He could not go personally, as his children were still here.

"Yes." Shen Peichuan said, "I've already sent someone." As he said, he looked at the back of the car then leaned towards Zong Jinghao. "I think the boy has something against you."

Did Zong Jinghao not know that Lin Xichen was feeling conflicted about him?

Of course he did.

"He blames me for divorcing Lin Xinyan." Zong Jinghao's eyes lowered. He was staring at the phone, but his thoughts were elsewhere.

Shen Peichuan looked at him with suggestive eyes. "Didn't you dislike her at that time? How did you..." Get her pregnant?

He was not happy with the marriage at that time. Su Zhan and him had known about it. If the marriage was not arranged by his late mother, he would have never gone through it. If he had not loved nor like her, and he had He Ruilin beside him, how did Lin Xinyan get pregnant?

Zong Jinghao looked at him. "Stop gossiping about my matters."

He did not want to talk in detail about this matter. No one else needed to know about it other than him.

He was not going to announce it publicly and let everyone know that Lin Xinyan had his children before marriage.

Shen Peichuan was familiar with him. No one forced the words out of him if he did not want to willingly tell them.

He looked back at the phone and continued looking at the map. He wanted to see if there were better and more convenient routes that could get them there faster.

At the back, Lin Xichen was lying on the bed and turning around. He did not feel sleepy at all. He supported his head with one hand and reached out to squeeze his sleeping sister's nose with another. "Heartless girl. You called him daddy so quickly."

Lin Ruixi felt her nose ticklish. She turned her body and continued sleeping.

Lin Xichen felt bored. He turned to look at the ceiling light and mumbled, "When can we find Mommy?"

Suddenly, the smartwatch on his wrist rang. He raised his hand and there was an unfamiliar number on the screen. Could it be Mommy?

The moment he thought about it, he accepted the call.

He raised the smartwatch near his mouth and could not help but call out, "Mommy."

There was a woman's voice that came from the other end...