

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 181

“What are you doing?” Liu was holding a cup of water and standing in front of the kitchen when she asked Lin Xinyan who was about to make a call.

Lin Xichen frowned when he noticed that it wasn't mommy's voice, but he still thought that that person over the phone was mommy. He tried to remain calm but failed to do so, and could only ask with a shivering voice, “Mommy, is that you?”

Stunned for a while, Lin Xinyan wanted to ignore Liu and answer her son. She wished to tell him that he didn't have to worry about her as she's fine, yet the phone was seized by Liu. She ended the call immediately and said, “Didn't young master forbid you from making any phone calls? Did you forget?”

Lin Xinyan looked at Liu and said, “It's true that your young master saved me, but don't you think it's a bit too much for him to forbid me to contact my family?”

This indeed seemed to be unreasonable, yet she believed Bai Yinning did it with a reason. She then said, “Young master must be doing it for a reason, and you just have to obey whatever he says.”

“Do you know that my family will be worried about me if they can't get in touch with me?” Lin Xinyan tried to persuade her.

Liu held the telephone close to her chests, as if she was afraid that Lin Xinyan would snatch it from her. She admitted that what Lin Xinyan said made sense, yet she couldn't disobey her young master.

“Liu...”

“Don't talk about it anymore. Let me help you walk and get into the house.” Liu put the telephone on the dining table to ensure that Lin Xinyan couldn't reach it.

She then ran towards her to help her up and said, "Let's go. Please don't make things difficult for me. If you really need to contact your family, you may talk to our young master about it. I definitely won't stop you if he agrees."

Lin Xinyan knew nothing about Bai Yinning and was even unaware about the motive that he forbade her from making phone calls.

"Liu, have you been here for long?" Lin Xinyan was secretly sounding her out in an attempt to get more information about Bai Yinning.

"Yes, I've always been taking care of young master." Lin was rather innocent and answered it right away when Lin Xinyan asked her the question.

"Why is there only him here? Where're his parents?" As Lin Xinyan was afraid that she might suspect her intention, she added, "Since the house is so big, it would be quite lonely for him to live here alone."

"I've never seen his mother and had only seen his father before. But since his father passed away, he's the only one left in this house."

"Oh. What's his job?" Lin Xinyan pretended to be inexperienced when she looked around the house and said, "It seems that he is very wealthy."

"You might not know him since this is your first time being in Baicheng, yet everyone in Baicheng knows him." Liu was rather proud of the Bai family when she said, "Even though young master couldn't stand, he is still an extraordinary man. More than 70 percent of the residents in Baicheng work for the corporation of the Bai family. He has single-handedly provided jobs to numerous people."

Her eyes sparkled in pride when she talked about Bai Yinning.

70 percent? That's a great deal indeed.

"How many residents are in Baicheng?" Lin Xinyan asked again.

“Probably fifty to sixty thousand, but I’m not really sure.” Liu helped her sit and said, “Put down your legs slowly.”

Lin Xinyan put her legs on the bed with her help, looked at her and asked, “Have you been to other places? For instance, do you know how far B City is from here?”

“I don’t know. I have never been there before, but it shouldn’t be very far? Our city is slightly remote from other places.”

Lin Xinyan lay on the bed. She could basically confirm that Bai Yinning wasn’t lying since this girl was very innocent and didn’t know how to disguise herself. Her admiration and fondness towards Bai Yinning were visible to anyone.

“Take some rest, Ms. Lin. Should I get a book for you so that you won’t feel bored?” Liu tried to ask.

As Lin Xinyan slept earlier, she really didn’t feel sleepy now.

“Would you like to have biographies, romance novels or other types of books?”

“Can you just give me a black pencil and a piece of 4K paper?” Since the purpose of reading is to spend her spare time anyway, why not grab the chance to do something that she’s passionate about?

“Why do you need these?” Liu seemed to have realized something all of a sudden, and said, “You like to draw?”

Lin Xinyan shook her head and said, “I’m a fashion designer, and I need these stuff to draw.”

Liu stared at her with admiration and said, “You are a fashion designer? That’s amazing!”

Lin Xinyan was a little embarrassed by her passionate gaze. She's just a fashion designer who has made some achievements in her own field that aren't worth mentioning.

"Wait for me. I'll get those things for you." Liu was very excited, as if a fashion designer was a remarkable figure.

Soon, Liu brought the pencil and paper and handed them over to Lin Xinyan. She was thoughtful enough to put the small dining table on the bed. Suddenly, she said something odd, "I've seen the real one."

Ah? Lin Xinyan looked at her doubtfully.

What's the real one?

A little embarrassed, Liu rubbed her hands and said softly, "I wanted to be a fashion designer when I was young, yet I didn't have the chance to learn nor meet a fashion designer at all. I mean I did see them in the TV shows but have never seen one in real life."

"If you are really passionate about it, I can teach you." Lin Xinyan was generous enough to teach what she knew to others.

Although she could teach the techniques of a fashion design, inspirations depend on one's own effort and luck.

"Really?" Liu's eyes were sparkling, yet when she recalled what Bai Yinning said, she replied with an even softer voice, "It's okay."

"Why?" Lin Xinyan didn't understand her. She seems to like it very much, but why would she refuse to learn when she has the chance?

"Young master wants me to take care of you and make sure that you won't be tired. He will certainly be mad at me if he knows that you teach me something."

“Well, it’ll be fine as long as we don’t tell them, right?” Lin Xinyan suggested.

“No. No.” Liu shook her hands and said, “I can’t lie to young master.”

Lin Xinyan was baffled.

She didn’t even know how she could best describe Liu’s ‘obedience’ towards Bai Yinning.

It was too low. Is this the way to love a person?

“Liu, to grab a person’s attention, you have to make sure that you have something that is eye-catching.” Lin Xinyan couldn’t help to give this girl some advice.

She could tell that Liu was very kind.

Since Bai Yinning chose the girl to take care of her, he must know that she was loyal to him.

Lin Xinyan knew what Lin Xinyan wanted to say, yet she was also aware about her status. Even if her fondness and admiration towards Bai Yinning aren’t a secret to anyone, she can never confess her feelings to him. How can such a lowly girl like her deserve to be with young master?

She didn’t desire much, but merely wished to be at young master’s side to take care of her. She was already satisfied and didn’t expect more.

“Ms. Lin, you can just proceed. I’ll leave the room now. Call me if you need anything.” She soon left the room after finishing speaking.

She seemed to be avoiding something.

Lin Xinyan heaved a sigh and thought to herself. If she doesn't strive to stand before others, how would Bai Yinning ever notice her?

Status is important, yet personality is even more crucial.

After all, social status has nothing to do with the feelings for each other.

Will a rich guy only have feelings for another rich guy?

Isn't it nonsense?

Lin Xinyan sighed when she thought about her silliness. Since she likes her, she must strive for it. Her humble and silent devotion might not be appreciated by Bai Yinning after all.

Lin Xinyan grabbed the pencil and took a deep breath to calm herself down.

When Lin Xinyan gradually felt calm after taking several deep breaths, Zong Jinghao's face suddenly flashed through her mind.

She suddenly felt anxious.

Will that man be nervous because she's missing?

She wouldn't know.

As soon as the tip of the pencil touched the paper, she seemed to have known instantly what she should draw, and immediately started drawing smoothly and confidently.

There was some noise outside the door.

"Young master." It was Bai Yinning who just came back from outside. Liu immediately took Bai Yinning's jacket that he had just taken off from the driver.

Bai Yinning glanced at Lin Xinyan's room and said, "What did she do at home today?"

Ms. Lin hesitated for a while, yet didn't lie to him and said, "Ms. Lin came out to make a phone call today."

Bai Yinning raised his eyebrows and looked at her.

Liu immediately explained, "I just went to the kitchen to fill up a glass of water and didn't purposely give her the chance to reach the phone."

"Did she manage to make the call?" Bai Yining interrupted her when she was still explaining to him nervously.

Liu thought for a while, shook her head and said, "No. I hung up the phone."

"Okay." Then, he pushed his wheelchair towards Lin Xinyan's room.

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The door of Lin Xinyan's room wasn't closed. After drawing for a long time, she felt tired and lay on the table to take a rest, yet unknowingly fell asleep.

Bai Yinning pushed his wheelchair gently towards Lin Xinyan, and only found out that she's asleep when he reached the bed. He grabbed some of her drawing papers on the table to take a look and noticed that the drawings were smooth and meticulous in detail. Even though he could recognize that these were merely sketches, yet her designs were able to demonstrate her ideas clearly to everyone.

It showed that she was very good at it.

He looked at her and thought to himself. Is she a fashion designer?

"Young master, she's a fashion designer." Liu came in to take a look when she saw him holding Lin Xinyan's drawings. She was indeed telling the truth when she said she's a fashion designer. If she isn't, she won't be able to casually come up with these impressive sketches.

Bai Yinning's face darkened, probably because she was too loud when she spoke.

Liu immediately lowered her head and pursed her lips reluctantly. She didn't want to wake Lin Xinyan up on purpose, but merely explained it to him instinctively when she saw him holding the drawing papers.

"Liu, don't be so impetuous next time."

Liu lowered her head and said, "I understand."

“Hum...” As Lin Xinyan heard someone talking when she was sleeping, she frowned for quite some time before slowly opening her eyes.

“Sorry for disturbing your sleep.” Bai Yinning was looking at the woman with tired eyes who had just woken up.

As soon as Lin Xinyan wanted to rub her eyes, she realized that one of her arms was numb after sleeping on her arm for quite some time and hissed in pain.

“What’s wrong? Is your arm numb?” Bai Yinning reached out his hand and said, “Is it this arm? Let me rub it for you.”

Lin Xinyan immediately pulled back her hand that was touched by him, shook her hand non-stop and said, “It’s fine. It’s fine. I can do it myself.”

She rubbed her numb arm vigorously when she was talking so that the numbness can subside soon.

Calmly withdrew his hand, Bai Yinning wasn’t angry because Lin Xinyan resisted him, and asked, “Do you like it?”

Ah?

Lin Xinyan soon understood that he was referring to the aquarium. She nodded perfunctorily and said, “It’s a rare aquarium.”

Bai Yinning put down the drawings when he was withdrawing his hands, and said, “If it can make you smile, that’ll be the making of it.”

Lowering her head, Lin Xinyan pretended that she didn’t hear it, tidied up her drawings and said, “Please excuse my poor drawings.”

“Not at all. You draw very well. You should be a famous fashion designer, am I right?” He sounded confident even though he was asking a question.

“No.” Lin Xinyan didn’t want to reveal too much about herself to him as she knew nothing about this mild-mannered man.

He can’t be an ordinary man after all since he is an overlord of this place.

“I trust my own feelings.” Bai Yinning was confident.

Lin Xinyan inverted her drawings and put them on the table, and apparently didn’t want to talk about this further.

Bai Yinning was very observant and didn’t continue to ask her. He changed the subject and said, “Are you bored because of staying at home all the time?”

Lin Xinyan nodded his head and said, “Not really.”

“Do you want me to bring you out to tour around?” Bai Yinning said smilingly.

He was always smiling.

Lin Xinyan wanted to refuse at first, but she agreed to it when she thought that she could also go out and be familiar with the surroundings.

“But my legs...” It was difficult for Lin Xinyan to make a decision. Since she could hardly walk now because her legs were injured, she didn’t want to be a cripple and wished to recover soon and go home.

“I’ll help you walk.” Bai Yinning reached out his arm.

“Let me help.” Liu immediately came up to Lin Xinyan to help her as she was afraid that Lin Xinyan would really grab him by his arm, and explained, “Since I can walk, it would be more convenient for Ms. Lin.”

Lin Xinyan surely understood Liu’s intent whereby she didn’t hope to see her having physical contact with Bai Yinning.

As she was willing to do her the favor, she grabbed Liu's arm and said, "Just let Liu help me."

Glanced at Liu, Bai Yinning didn't say anything and pushed his wheelchair towards the door.

He then turned around to glance at Lin Xinyan and said, "You can visit my study first."

Since his bedroom and study were on the ground floor and only a couple of steps from Lin Xinyan's room, he pushed the door and went into the room first.

When Liu helped Lin Xinyan walk into the room, Bai Yinning instructed her, "Help her sit on the chair, and you may leave."

Liu wished to stay, yet Bai Yinning apparently wanted to send her away. She didn't dare disobey Bai Yinning even though she was reluctant to do so.

She had no choice but to help Lin Xinyan sit and leave the room. Before closing the door, she glanced at Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan wished to tell her that she didn't have to worry about anything as she did not have any feelings for Bai Yinning.

She hoped that she could put her at ease.

But since Bai Yinning was in front of her, she couldn't say it out loud and had to bite her tongue.

Once the door of the study was closed, Bai Yinning pushed his wheelchair to the front of the writing desk and asked casually, "Did you study drawing?"

"Not really. I went to a fashion design college and drawing was a must, and so it is my basic skill." Lin Xinyan answered fluently.

But deep in her heart, she was even more on the alert for him. He was smart to break the ice between them easily.

Bai Yinning laughed and said, "Do you like to read?"

"Sometimes." She rarely has spare time to read, and even the books that she occasionally read were related to fashion designing.

"I love reading." Bai Yinning said earnestly, "Since I couldn't walk and don't have many friends, the books are the ones who can accompany me."

Even though he buried his feelings well, Lin Xinyan could still sense the air of disappointment and melancholy around him.

No one can be completely unconcerned about the fact that he or she couldn't walk.

Lin Xinyan's gaze fell upon the bookshelf behind the writing desk. It was made of Narra wood and had the same height and width as the front wall. There were many rows of books on the shelf, and most of which Lin Xinyan hadn't even heard of the titles.

"I love this book the most." Bai Yinning took out a book from the bottom of the shelf. It was a very thick book with a blue cover. When he was handing the book over to Lin Xinyan, he accidentally knocked down a photo frame on the writing desk.

Lin Xinyan didn't purposely want to look at the person in the photo, yet she couldn't take her eyes off it as soon as she glanced at it unintentionally.

It was Yuxiu.

She was Zong Jinghao's stepmother.

Why would her photo appear on his writing desk?

What's the relationship between them?

Her mind was in a whirl.

Bai Yinning was quietly observing Lin Xinyan's reaction. Her facial expression was obviously changed after looking at the person in the photo.

Then, his gaze fell upon her wrist again. He put the photo frame back and looked at the woman in the photo and confirmed that the woman was also wearing the same jade bracelet on her wrist.

He could confirm his thoughts based on Lin Xinyan's reaction.

"Who is she?" Lin Xinyan blurted out.

This is too strange.

Why would Yuxiu's photo appear here?

Bai Yinning continued to hand over his book to her and said, "You can read it when you have time. It's an interesting book."

He deliberately changed the subject.

Although he tried to feel Lin Xinyan out on purpose to confirm his thoughts by using the photo, he didn't wish to tell her everything.

Lin Xinyan looked at him, as if realized that he treated her well because of Yuxiu.

"What's wrong? You don't like my recommendation?" Bai Yinning didn't take back the book in his hand and still wanted to hand it over to her.

Lin Xinyan took the book over out of courtesy and said, "Thank you. I'll read it."

When she was talking, her gaze fell upon the photo frame that was put back, She then looked at Bai Yinning and said, "I heard Liu said that you're the only one left in the house."

Bai Yinning's facial expression changed slightly before he looked normal again. He smiled and said, "Yes."

He said it concisely and without superfluous words.

Lin Xinyan knew that he avoided talking about it.

Bang, bang...

Liu knocked on the door when she was standing outside, and said, "Young master, Ms. Lin, dinner is ready."

"Let's go." Bai Yinning pushed his wheelchair to come up to her, reached out his hand and said, "I'll help you walk."

Lin Xinyan didn't hold out her hand immediately. She hesitated for a while and said, "I'll let Liu help me walk..."

"Are you refusing me? Don't you think it's not very appropriate to embarrass your savior?" Bai Yinning looked up at her with his smile. But as he was insistent on it, Lin Xinyan found it difficult to refuse.

Lin Xinyan reached out her hand to hold his arm. Although he was sitting in a wheelchair, Lin Xinyan could feel that he had a sturdy physique and thought that he should have worked out a lot. Contended, he pushed his wheelchair towards the door. After Lin Xinyan turned the knob to open the door, Liu who was still standing in front of the door immediately held out her arm when she saw Bai Yinning helping Lin Xinyan walk...

But before she could say anything, Bai Yinning glared at her warningly, and she had no choice but to withdraw her arm, turn around and leave.

When they reached the dining room, Bai Yinning pulled the chair for Lin Xinyan and said, "This is the first time that we have our meal together."

Even though Lin Xinyan smiled, she was thinking to herself. We don't really know each other and haven't met for a long time anyway.

Liu placed the dishes and occasionally looked at Lin Xinyan. Since she's really good-looking, it is no wonder that young master treats her well.

"Liu, did you prepare bone broth as I asked?" Bai Yining was putting his napkin slowly on his laps.

"Yes, I'm going to get the broth now." Liu said respectfully.

"I heard that it's good for our body parts for the corresponding cuts of meat that we eat. I'm not sure if it's true, but you should drink more." Bai Yinning said.

"You are very thoughtful." Lin Xinyan responded moderately.

It somehow showed that Bai Yinning was overly hospitable.

He laughed and evaluated heartily as he said, "A woman who is too smart is not likeable."

When Lin Xinyan saw Liu coming over them, she said smilingly, "I'm really worried that someone will have feelings for me now, as my two children might be reluctant to accept him."

Bai Yinning was stunned. She already has children?

But she looks rather young.

Liu was even more shocked than Bai Yinning. She... She has children.

In that case, it's impossible for her to be with young master.

Feeling excited, she walked faster and accidentally spilled some of the soup. As she didn't notice and slipped over it, she spilled the whole bowl of hot soup towards Lin Xinyan.

"Watch out." Just before the hot soup was spilled on Lin Xinyan, Bai Yinning pushed the wheelchair and moved swiftly towards Lin Xinyan. He took her in his arms to ward off the hot soup, and so it was all spilled on his back.

He bellowed, perhaps because it was too hot.

"Young master." Liu screamed and she was shocked.

Lin Xinyan recollected herself when Liu screamed. She looked at Bai Yinning and asked, "Are you alright?"

Bai Yinning looked up, smiled to her and said, "I'm fine."

But Lin Xinyan could feel that he wasn't fine as his voice was a lot softer than before. He just pretended to be calm.

"Liu, go get a doctor."

"Alright. I'll make a phone call now."

"Are you caring for me?" Bai Yinning was still holding her in his arms, and his eyes were sparkling at the moment.

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“I’m sure that the one who called me was my mommy.” Lin Xinyan said confidently.

When Shen Peichuan looked at Zong Jinghao, their eyes met. Zong Jinghao asked, “Can you identify the location?”

“As the phone call was too short, we can’t get the exact location. But we can still find out the area of the number.” Shen Peichuan said.

“If I call her again using the number, will we be able to identify the exact location?” Lin Xichen couldn’t conceal her excitement as he wished to find his mommy as soon as possible.

Zong Jinghao pulled his little hand and took him in his arms. He wanted to move, yet Zong Jinghao held him by his shoulders and said, “If your mommy is not held captive, she will surely contact you.

Considering that when you managed to get through, she didn’t say a word and you even heard a stranger talking, that indicates that she’s held captive. If you call her now rashly, the bad guy might even transfer her to another place.”

Lin Xichen agreed to it. If mommy is not held captive, she will definitely contact him. She must be put under surveillance since she hasn’t contacted him now.

“What should we do now?” Lin Xichen asked nervously.

“As long as I’m here, we will be able to find her. Don’t worry.” Zong Jinghao successfully shifted Lin Xichen’s focus away. He was too focused on finding mommy and forgot that he was in Zong Jinghao’s arms.

Shen Peichuan looked at them silently, and then said, "I will tell the driver where we should be heading to."

Based on Lin Xinyan's phone number, he found out the area of which the number belonged. Even though the area was huge, they would be closer to where Lin Xinyan was hidden, and it would be very helpful for them to locate her.

"Hum."

Zong Jinghao said calmly.

"Will we be able to find mommy?" Lin Xichen asked.

"We will." Zong Jinghao answered affirmatively.

He firmly believed so.

He will find her and get her back!

Shen Peichuan came in and said, "We'll be entering a rest area soon to fill up the car. You can bring Xichen and Ruixi out to get some fresh air."

It's boring to keep staying in the car. Even though the car had everything that they had in the house, it was still a vehicle that lacked space.

Lin Xichen stood up and said, "I'll get out of the car with you first."

"Alright." Shen Peichuan held out his hand and said, "Let me hold your hand."

Lin Xichen was obedient and held out his hand.

"Look after him." Zong Jinghao instructed him.

The rest area was very crowded with all walks of life.

“Understood.” Shen Peichuan looked at him. Why is he so wordy now ever since he became a father?

Can't an adult like him look after a child?

But he didn't say anything, as he knew that Zong Jinghao said it because he loved his son.

“Let's see if there's a place for us to rest.”

Shen Peichuan brought Lin Xichen out of the car, whereas Zong Jinghao went to the back of the car to carry his daughter.

The little girl was still sleeping soundly, and her face looked red. When he bends over to carry her daughter, she is awake at the moment when she's touched. Opened her sleepy big eyes, she realized that it was Zong Jinghao, and said softly, “Daddy.”

Zong Jinghao's heart melted when she called her daddy. He kissed her on her forehead and said, “Let's get out of the car and have some fresh air.”

The girl felt refreshed as soon as she heard that they could get out of the car, and said, “Is there something to buy?”

Zong Jinghao poked his daughter's nose and said fondly, “Yes.”

Hehe.

The little girl grinned cheerfully.

Since Lin Ruixi's hair was a bit messy, Zong Jinghao wanted to help her comb her hair. However, as soon as he started combing, the little girl's facial expression changed as she said, "It hurts."

Zong Jinghao hadn't done such a thing before.

He immediately withdrew his hand, put down the comb and said, "Daddy never combed hair for others before."

Lin Ruixi looked into the mirror. Even though her hair was a little messy, she didn't want his father to comb her hair for her. She said with her pouting lips, "Daddy, did you comb my hair for me because you think that I'm ugly?"

Zong Jinghao was stunned for a while before he said, "No. My daughter is the most beautiful girl, and no one can match her."

Zong Jinghao picked his daughter up and said, "I won't comb your hair."

The little girl lay on his shoulder and said, "I want to buy some delicious food."

Zong Jinghao looked at his daughter and recalled something. Lin Xichen once said that she's an avid foodie, and now it seems to be true.

But he likes her.

Since he had seen too many intrigues and hypocrites in the past, he felt that his life wasn't boring anymore after such an innocent and lively girl came into his life.

"Daddy, over there, over there." Lin Xichen pointed at the supermarket that wasn't far from them with her index finger.

Zong Jinghao said patiently, "I saw it."

He felt compelled to do it but liked it very much at the same time. After entering the supermarket, Lin Ruixi asked him to put her down so that she could pick her favorite food by herself.

Perhaps due to the fact that groceries in the rest area were more expensive, there weren't many people inside. Once Zong Jinghao put her down, she ran happily.

Frowned slightly, Zong Jinghao followed her quickly and said, "Slow down."

"I want this." Lin Ruixi took a box of chocolates from the shelf, held it in her arms and said, "I want potato chips too, and this, this..." Soon, she grabbed too many things and couldn't carry them. She yelled at Zong Jinghao and said, "Dad, I can't take that."

There's a snack that she wanted on the shelf, yet she couldn't reach it because the shelf was too high for her.

Zong Jinghao who was standing behind her reached out his arm, grabbed the snack that she wanted effortlessly and said, "I'll hold it for you."

"No." Lin Ruixi shook her head. She would feel secure only if she's the one holding the snacks.

"You can't have this. This is too expensive." A mother in front of them said to her son.

The little boy was staring at that bottle of fruit juice. He seemed to be salivating at it, yet didn't ask for it anymore. His mother took a bottle of mineral water and said, "Drink this if you're thirsty."

The mother handed the bottle of mineral water to her son and went to the cashier to pay for her goods.

Lin Ruixi looked at the things in her arms and looked at the little boy and his mother again. Then, she looked up at Zong Jinghao and said, "Daddy, did I take too much? Is this very expensive? Do we have to spend a lot of money?"

Zong Jinghao kneeled down before his daughter, caressed her hair that covered her forehead, and put them behind her ears. He then said gently, "No. Daddy will work harder to earn more money, so that my daughter can buy whatever she wants."

"Daddy, I love you." Lin Ruixi leaned closer to Zong Jinghao, kissed on his face and said, "Can I get that bottle of fruit juice?"

Zong Jinghao hadn't recollected himself after being kissed by his daughter. There was still some of her saliva when he touched his face.

He didn't think that it was dirty, but rather felt that it was proof that his daughter loved him. Felt cheerful, he stood up and handed the bottle of fruit juice over to her.

After taking the bottle of fruit juice from him, Lin Ruixi ran towards the cashier, handed it over to the little boy and said, "Take this as a present."

"We didn't buy this." The mother of the little boy said awkwardly.

"My daddy will pay for it," said Lin Ruixi as she reached out her hand determinedly and looked at the little boy with her big sparkling eyes. He was slightly skinny and was wearing a black and white striped sweater. The sweater wasn't branded nor new but looked rather clean.

The little boy looked at her but didn't reach out his hands. Even though she looked a little 'disheveled', he could still tell that this little girl probably came from a wealthy family.

Considering that she seemed to be innocent and knew nothing about how the world worked, she could be a child who was loved and cared for ever since she was born.

Only those who had never experienced any suffering in life won't know how difficult life is and how wicked a human can be, and perhaps that's the reason that she still has the pair of eyes that was as clear as crystal.

He said courteously, "Thank you, but it's fine."

"Don't you want it very much?" Lin Ruixi blinked her eyes when she asked.

"I want it, but I will strive by myself to get it." After finished speaking, the little boy held his mother's hand and said, "Mommy, let's go."

The mother paid for the bottle of mineral water and left with her son.

Lin Ruixi was standing still and felt lost when she looked at the boy.

Did she do something wrong?

Was she wrong?

Since Lin Ruixi was being rejected, she started to question herself whether she really did something wrong.

She asked herself again and again.

Zong Jinghao picked his daughter up, caressed her hair and said comfortingly, "Ruixi, are you upset?"

Lin Ruixi nodded and replied, "I wanted to give it to him as a present because I thought he really wanted it, but why would he refuse?"

Zong Jinghao squinted when he looked out the window and saw the pair of mother and son standing in front of the bus. He could sense that the boy was rather proud and had the strength of character to be a capable man when he grew up.

“Ruixi, sincerity is not always reciprocal, and so does our kindness.” He knew that his daughter was kind and sympathized with the little boy who wanted something but couldn’t get it.

But in the eyes of the little boy, her kindness was seen as pity towards him.

Therefore, he didn’t want to accept her pity.

He caressed his daughter’s head and said, “Your mommy protected you very well.”

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Zong Jinghao held a plastic bag with one hand while carrying his daughter with the other. When they left the supermarket, the bus was about to pull away too. The mother and son who were buying something in the supermarket just now were in the bus.

When the little boy got into the bus, he looked back at the little girl who was carried by someone in his arms. He felt that she was an innocent yet very adorable child.

“Let’s go.” His mother urged him.

The little boy had to get into the bus.

“Where’s brother?” Lin Ruixi looked around and saw a lot of cars and the crowd. She didn’t notice that a boy with a pair of black and sparkling eyes was looking at her behind the window of the bus.

The bus soon pulled away, and she slowly disappeared from his sight.

“Daddy, what’s that about?” Lin Ruixi pointed at the stall that was selling tanghulu (sugar candy) not far from them and surrounded by a bunch of people.

She fell on Zong Jinghao’s neck and said, “Daddy, I want tanghulu.” Zong Jinghao looked up at the sky for a while and then looked at the bag of snacks that he was carrying.

Hmm, since my daughter wants it, I have only one option: Buy it!

“Daddy’s so nice.” Lin Ruixi kissed and brushed him when she fell upon Zong Jinghao’s neck. Zong Jinghao’s heart melted.

Tanghulus in the old days contained only Chinese hawberries covered in hard candy, but now many different types of fruits could be strung together with a stick. Lin Ruixi wanted one original hawberry tanghulu that was coated in glittering sugar and looked rather appetizing.

She said approvingly, "This must be very delicious."

Zong Jinghao paid for it and said, "We should go."

The little girl nodded repeatedly. She was very satisfied now since she got everything that she wanted.

When they returned, the car was already filled up. Shen Peichuan had also brought Lin Xichen back, and he was also holding a tanghulu.

"Why are you guys so late? We've been here for quite some time." Lin Xichen looked at the stuff that Zong Jinghao put into the car. He then looked at his sister and slightly heaved a sigh as he roughly knew what happened.

Shen Peichuan patted him on his head gently and said, "You're still very young. What are you sighing about?"

Lin Xichen pouted his lips and sat on his seat to eat his tanghulu.

Shen Peichuan followed Zong Jinghao to the back and said, "Su Zhan solved the matter about He Ruilin..."

"We'll talk about it later." Zong Jinghao interrupted him as he didn't want his daughter to hear such nasty things.

Shen Peicuan immediately shut his mouth and said, "I'll wait for you downstairs."

“Ok.” Zong Jinghao put her daughter down, placed the food on the desk and said, “You’ll stay in the car with your brother. Daddy and Mr. Shen has something to discuss.”

“I got it.” Lin Ruixi was very thoughtful and lovely.

Zong Jinghao caressed her hair.

The little girl turned away and said, “My hair was messy enough, and it became messier after you touched me. When we find mommy, mommy might not recognize me anymore because I’m too ugly.”

Zong Jinghao laughed softly, pinched her face and said, “Who dares to say that my daughter is ugly?”

Felt joyous, Lin Ruixi grinned broadly, revealing her clean and white teeth.

Shen Peichuan was in front of the car when Zong Jinghao got out of it. He slightly moved backwards to give him the space.

They walked a few steps to the front, but still not far from the car.

“Lin Yuhan’s dead.”

Zong Jinghao startled. Why is she the one who died?

Back then, Lin Yuhan wasn’t injured at all whereas He Ruilin was tortured rather badly. They were purposely being placed in the same place to ‘slaughter each other’, and he had never expected that Lin Yuhan would die.

He thought that He Ruilin’s the one who would die. Nevertheless, neither of their deaths concerned him since the one who survived was found guilty of murder and would surely go to jail. If her crime was found to be severe, she could be sentenced to death.

“I never expected it before He Ruilin...” Shen Peichuan shared the same thought as Zong Jinghao. He used to think that He Ruilin would die, yet it turned out that Lin Yuhan who wasn't injured was dead.

It tells them how tough He Ruilin is.

She could still kill Lin Yuhan even though she was injured.

“The evidence in the murder of Lin Yuhan by her was inclusive and indisputable. Also, she had been given the death sentence with one-year reprieve due to the old case of contract killing that involved Yu Doudou's brother. The ones who are watching over her now are my men, and so something like He Ruize's escape in the past won't happen again.”

They deliberately kept He Ruilin and Lin Yuhan in the interrogation room with security cameras. Since they recorded the way He Ruilin killed Lin Yuhan crystal clear, it was literally impossible for her to reopen the case. Considering that she was also convicted of contract killing in the past, she had zero chance to survive.

Zong Jinghao looked very calm, as if the woman who was given the death sentence had nothing to do with him.

She brought this on herself and couldn't blame anyone.

He used to tolerate her and ignore the dirty tricks that she played because she saved him before. Because of that, he missed the chance to be with Lin Xinyan for so many years.

Didn't he know that He Ruilin was rather ill hearted?

He knew it but tolerated her all the while due to his indebtedness to her. Instead, she's the one who eroded his patience and gratitude towards her.

“Let's go.” He strode towards the car.

Shen Peichuan followed him and said, "Su Zhan's on his way too, and would soon catch up with us."

Zong Jinghao looked back at him.

Shen Peichuan spread out his hands and said, "He's already on his way when he informed me that he's coming. Also, I can't really stop him since he's determined to come."

At this moment, Zong Jinghao's phone in his pocket rang. He took out his phone and noticed that it was Guan Jing's call.

He didn't want to pursue the matter about Su Zhan but take the call instead. When Guan Jing was about to report to him on He Ruilin, Zong Jinghao who was standing in front of the car window said calmly, "I knew it."

After Guan Jing informed him about some matters related to the company, he turned on his laptop to check the documents that Guan Jing sent to him. Then, he signed on the documents after confirming that they were fine and gave him some instructions before ending the call.

When the night was closing in, they reached Baicheng.

Shen Peichuan said, "Since we had been in the car for the past few days and didn't really take a good rest, I think we should stay overnight in a hotel. The two kids can also rest well and get refreshed."

Zong Jinghao didn't seem to hear him as he was still browsing through some websites. Frowned, Shen Peichuan came closer to him and asked, "What are you reading..."

Before finished speaking, he could see what was on the screen and realized that Zong Jinghao was looking for some information about Baicheng.

The first piece of information was about the origin of Baicheng.

This place wasn't named Baicheng in the old days, and its original name was County of Mengcheng.

There was an entrepreneur named Bai Hongfei who solved the unemployment issues of the locals. To commemorate him, the city Baicheng was therefore renamed after his surname.

Although Baicheng wasn't a populous city, it was rather prosperous, and most of the locals here worked in Bai Group.

Zong Jinghao continued to scroll down the screen but couldn't find much information about Bai Hongfei. Most of them were about the ups and downs throughout his journey to become a successful entrepreneur, and none was about his relationships and family.

"Daddy." Lin Ruixi was calling Zong Jinghao in the car.

"Are we staying overnight in a hotel? If we are, I'll make the arrangements right away." Shen Peichuan asked again.

Zong Jinghao sat straight to stretch his body, looked back at him and said, "Yes."

Even though there was everything in the car, the space was still limited and they couldn't really get a good rest in it.

"The button fell off." Lin Ruixi was sitting on the bed with her legs crossed, while Lin Xichen was leaning on his side and fell asleep.

"Let me take a look."

Lin Ruixi handed the button over to him, pointed at the collar and said, "It fell off from here."

“I’ll get you another one.” Since Zhuang Zijin packed her clothes for her and put them in the cupboard, he opened the cupboard, found a dress and asked, “This?”

Lin Ruixi shook her head and said, “This is a pajamas.”

“Zong Jinghao continued to search and said, “This?”

“I’ll look for it myself.” As Lin Ruixi lost her faith in him, she slid down from the bed and searched through the cupboard. Finally, she grabbed a blue dress and said, “This is the one. Mommy bought it for me during my last birthday.”

Speaking of birthdays, Zong Jinghao didn’t even know when they were born.

Zong Jinghao helped her take off her dress of which the button fell off and put on the blue dress that she liked very much. She looked adorable in the dress that was adorned with a small sweater. Apparently, Lin Xinyan knew very well how to dress her daughter nicely and match clothes for her.

Zong Jinghao was a little excited when she looked at his daughter and asked, “Ruixi, when’s your birthday?”

“May.” She said with her pouting lips, “My birthday’s passed for a long time, and I can only wait for next year.”

Zong Jinghao held out his hand to caress her head.

When the car pulled over, Shen Peichuan came in and said, “I’ve found the best hotel in Baicheng.”

He spread his arms and said, “It belongs to Bai Group.”

Since most of the companies were under Bai Group, they didn’t have much choice.

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“Can I see mommy now?” When Lin Ruixi was picked up by Zong Jinghao and brought to the hotel, she asked that question because she thought that they had arrived at the destination and could meet Lin Xinyan right away.

Zong Jinghao was a little nervous, but soon recollected himself and said, “She’s playing hide-and-seek with us and wants us to find her. We haven’t found her yet for now.”

Lin Ruixi said with her pouting lips, “Alright.”

Baicheng wasn’t a large city. Even though it’s a county town, it looked more like a town that belonged to a prominent family, namely the Bai family.

Although the hotel wasn’t five-star, its environment, cleanliness and services were pretty good.

Shen Peichuan was carrying Lin Xichen who wasn’t awake yet, while a few people were carrying their luggage behind.

“This is already the best hotel in Baicheng. Would you be uncomfortable with it because it’s too small?”

When did Zong Jinghao ever stay in such a hotel before?

“Isn’t this a nice place?” Lin Ruixi blinked her eyes and asked as she didn’t understand why Mr. Shen said so.

Zong Jinghao took her firmly into his arms so that she couldn’t listen to their conversation. After Lin Ruixi opened her eyes widely to look at Zong Jinghao’s face, her eyes slowly squinted and seemed like a pair of crescent moon.

“Daddy, you’re so handsome.” She immediately buried her face into his chest after finishing speaking.

Zong Jinghao was inexplicably pleased by his daughter’s sweet compliment. He had never smiled ever since Lin Xinyan was missing, yet his lips quirked because of his daughter.

“Then, do you love daddy?”

The little girl answered without hesitation, “I do.”

Zong Jinghao kissed his daughter on her hair. Even though the fragrance of shampoo had worn off because she hadn’t taken a bath for two days, he still felt that his daughter smelled nice.

Once they reached their room, Shen Peichuan put Lin Xichen down on the bed and checked the surroundings. He had reserved all rooms on this floor as he knew that Zong Jinghao would need a serene environment.

Lin Ruixi was jumping up and down when she asked, “Daddy, are you going to help me take a bath?”

Zong Jinghao nodded and said, “Yes.”

She ran towards him to wrap his legs with her arms, looked up at him and said, “Daddy really is like mommy.”

Zong Jinghao held out his hand to lift her chin up and asked, “How is it that we are alike?”

“Because whatever I want, mommy will agree to it.” Once she finished speaking, the little girl let go of him and bounced up and down again.

On the other hand, Bai Yinning's back was scalded and had several blisters. It wasn't severe, and the doctor had come and provided some treatments for him.

Liu was standing beside the door like a child who was lowering her head because she knew she did something wrong. She seemed to have cried a lot as her eyes looked red.

Lin Xinyan sat on a chair next to the bed and said, "Thank you."

If he didn't ward her off in the nick of time, she would be the one lying on the bed instead.

"You really want to thank me?" Bai Yinning was lying on his side on the bed.

Since the doctor had applied some dressings on his back, he couldn't sleep on his back, or else he might tear the wounds where the blisters had just been removed.

"Of course." As Lin Xinyan was afraid that he would give some unreasonable requests, she immediately added, "It should be something that I'm able to do."

Bai Yinning smiled lightly and said, "No worries. I won't ask you to marry me."

Lin Xinyan's lips quirked slightly.

He looked at her and said, "Can you get a glass of water for me?"

When Lin Xinyan was about to reach out her hands to take the jug on the desk, Liu who had been standing by the door rushed towards her and said, "I'll do it."

She wanted to make amends.

Bai Yinning looked at her calmly and said, "Liu, why do you still appear bumbling?"

When Liu wanted to explain for herself, he stopped her from speaking when he said, "Go to shut yourself away and ponder over your mistakes. Don't appear in my house without my permission."

"But..."

"But what?" His voice was slightly cold.

"Who's going to take care of you?" Liu wished to stay and immediately said, "Young master, I'm so sorry and it's all my fault. Please let me take care of you."

"Liu, I'm injured now and can't be angry. Do you really want to infuriate me?" He said with an even deeper voice.

Since he usually looked mild-mannered, Liu was somehow shocked by his coldness now. She didn't dare refute him and chose to obey his order and leave the room.

"You frightened her. She didn't do it on purpose." Lin Xinyan wanted to speak for Liu when she added, "She cares a lot for you."

As Bai Yinning didn't want to continue this conversation, he deliberately changed the subject by saying, "Do you want me to die from dehydration?"

Lin Xinyan had no choice but to stop talking and take the jug to fill a glass with water for him.

Suddenly, Bai Yinning's phone on the table rang. Since Lin Xinyan knew that it's inconvenient for him to move, she handed the phone over to him and said, "Your phone."

Bai Yinning looked at the screen and noticed that it was the hotel manager's call. He answered the phone call and put it near his ear.

“Young master, there’s a group of people who seem to be from the upper crust and have reserved all rooms on a floor.”

Bai Yinning instructed him before that whenever he saw non-locals in these few days, he had to report to him.

That’s why he immediately called Bai Yinning to inform him about the arrival of several non-locals.

He looked up at Lin Xinyan who was filling the glass with water but said to the person over the phone, “Do you know where they are from?”

“From B City. They brought along two kids, bar anyone from entering the entire floor, and don’t require any service from us. Whenever they need something, they will just send some men to come downstairs to pick it up, and so we can’t have any contact with them at all. Are they the ones you are looking for?”

Since Lin Xinyan was missing, someone would definitely be looking for her. He therefore instructed the hotel management to pay attention to any non-locals so that he could identify the ones who looked for her as early as possible.

“I understand.” He couldn’t be sure yet if they were here to look for Lin Xinyan.

After hanging up the phone, Lin Xinyan handed the glass over to him.

He put down the phone, took the glass of water and said casually, “Some non-locals came to the hotel, and the manager reported it to me.”

Lin Xinyan wasn’t doubtful at all, and merely thought that he was trying to start a conversation with her.

If he really had some useful information, he probably wouldn’t tell her anyway.

After Bai Yinning finished up the glass of water, Lin Xinyan wanted to take it from him. However, as Bai Yinning didn't withdraw his hand when Lin Xinyan held the glass, she accidentally touched his hand with her fingertip, and immediately withdrew her hand.

Bai Yinning's gaze fell upon the part of his hand where she touched. It was as if her warmth lingered for a while, yet it was too light, short-lived, and didn't really make a deep impression on him.

"I suppose I'm not poisonous, but why are you so afraid of me?"

Lin Xinyan clasped her hands as her face turned solemn, and said, "I'm not afraid of you. To be honest with you, I'm already married. So, whether it's you or any other men, I'll always keep a distance."

Lin Xinyan used her marriage contract with Zong Jinghao now as the pretext.

If she says that she has children, Bai Yinning might either be surprised or don't believe her at all. But this time...

He relaxed himself, buried half of his head in the pillow and said, "How old are you? And you're already married and have children? Did you actually say it on purpose because you're worried that I might drool over you?"

"An 18-year-old person is considered an adult. Since I'm already 24 and about to be 25, is it really strange that I'm married and have children?" Lin Xinyan held back her uneasiness.

She doesn't really want to talk about it.

It wasn't a wonderful past for her.

What's wonderful was that she now has two adorable kids.

Bai Yinning could feel that Lin Xinyan's voice was slightly shaky, faster and more solemn, unlike her usual voice that always remained calm and steady.

His gaze fell upon Lin Xinyan hands that were clasped as he laughed softly and said, "What kind of a person are you married to? He didn't even buy you a wedding ring. Why don't you divorce him, and I can buy one for you."

Lin Xinyan lowered her head when she heard it. Her hands looked empty and only had a jade bracelet on her wrist which was given by Yuxiu to her.

"I didn't wear it". She pretended to be calm.

The marriage between Zong Jinghao and her was carried out to achieve their respective purposes and lasted for merely a month. Why would they have the time to get wedding rings?

Bai Yinning just didn't believe that she's married and had children.

But he was still in some doubt about it since the non-locals came to the hotel today.

He looked at Lin Xinyan and was lost in thought.

As Lin Xinyan didn't want to be alone with him, she said, "Take some rest. I will go back to my room."

Lin Xinyan stood up once she finished speaking and walked towards the door slowly by placing one hand on the wall for support.

"Lin Xinyan." Bai Yinning suddenly stopped her.

Lin Xinyan looked back and asked, "What is it?"

"I find the jade bracelet on your arm very beautiful. Where did you buy it from?"

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Lin Xinyan looked down at the bracelet on her wrist and said laughingly, “Why are you asking this? Do you have some kind of special liking for women’s ornaments?”

Bai Yinning was speechless for a while and replied, “No...”

“Then, what is it that you really want to know from me?” Lin Xinyan asked straightforwardly.

She wouldn’t be so cautious if she hadn’t noticed Yuxiu’s photo in his study.

Since the jade bracelet was given to her by Yuxiu and he wanted to know where it came from, she had to be more vigilant.

She clenched her fists quietly and thought: What’s the relationship between Yuxiu and him?

No one would put a stranger’s photo in his or her own study, right?

Since the photos were even put on the table, apparently he always looked at it.

Bai Yinning touched his forehead and said laughingly, “Would you ever feel tired because of thinking too much?”

He could apparently sense that Lin Xinyan was suspicious of him.

“I don’t know her, but merely saw her photo.” Bai Yinning admitted that he put the photo on the table just to sound Lin Xinyan out.

It wasn't always being put there.

He looked at the bracelet on her hand and said, "I'm keeping you here because your bracelet is the same as the one that the woman was wearing. I thought... you might be her daughter."

Lin Xinyan didn't utter a word.

But Bai Yinning didn't continue either and merely said, "You should take some rest."

Frowned, Lin Xinyan didn't really believe what he said and asked, "You said you don't know her, yet aren't you keeping me here for her sake because you thought I'm her daughter? Who will do such a thing for a woman who's a stranger? Do you really think I will believe your story?"

Lin Xinyan didn't hide it anymore since she was curious about his identity, and asked, "Who is she to you? Relative..."

Lin Xinyan actually wanted to say mother and son?

She can't think of an alternative explanation other than Yuxiu bore another man a child before she remarried Zong Qifeng.

But she doesn't think that Yuxiu is such a woman.

She feels that something just doesn't add up, and thus wants to ask Bai Yinning everything here.

"Let's make a deal." Bai Yinning suddenly suggested.

Lin Xinyan thought about it for a while and asked, "What deal is that?"

She didn't dare to simply agree to a deal with him.

“If you want to know who I am, I can tell you now. But you’ll have to answer a question from me honestly.” Bai Yinning said.

Lin Xinyan thought about the deal for a while and responded, “Sure.”

She felt that Bai Yinning’s secrets were a lot more compared to herself.

“Ladies first. You may ask a question.” Bai Yinning had prepared himself when he proposed the deal.

Lin Xinyan pondered for a while and said, “What are your parents’ names? Where were they from? Where are they now?”

Bai Yinning frowned when he said, “Is that really one question?”

“Yes.” Lin Xinya didn’t feel guilty at all when she answered, “I asked only one question about your parents, am I right?”

Bai Yinning laughed out loud. Lin Xinyan was indeed witty, as he could not refute her explanation at all.

His face turned solemn as he said, “I don’t know who my mother was as I’m an orphan. My foster father was Bai Hongfei from Baicheng, who was the heir of Bai Group. Before he passed away, he handed Bai Group over to me with a request...”

He stopped here, looked at Lin Xinyan emotionally and said, “He hoped that I could marry Yuxiu’s daughter, and I thought you were her.”

So, is this the reason that he saved her and kept her here?

But who was his foster father Bai Hongfei? What’s his relationship with Yuxiu?

“Since I’ve answered your question, now is my turn to ask.” Bai Yinning looks serious when he said, “Are you ready?”

Lin Xinyan was lost in her thoughts as she was trying to guess what he would ask and prepare answers in her mind in advance.

“Are you ready?” Bai Yinning urged her.

“Yes.” Lin Xinyan looked at him.

Bai Yinning raised his eyebrows when he said, “I’ve to attend an event this Saturday, and you’ll be my partner.”

Lin Xinyan frowned. Did she just experience some kind of hallucinations?

What... What did he say?

To attend an event with him?

“Shouldn’t you be asking me a question?”

“I think I could hardly understand you by just asking one question, and so I decided to use it wisely.”

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

“It’s too late for you to regret now. We must never renege on our promises, right?” Bai Yinning grinned, as if he had his way.

“I won’t harm you, and might even give you a surprise.” Bai Yinning blinked at her.

Lin Xinyan was thinking to herself. I just hope that I won’t be shocked. Surprise? Forget it.

“You didn’t really follow the rule by putting forward this condition. I can still agree to it, yet you must also agree to my condition.”

“I’ve already answered you.” Bai Yinning blinked his eyes. This woman really didn’t want to be shortchanged at all.

“Ask me another question then.” Lin Xinyan looked up and apparently didn’t want to cooperate with him. If he didn’t agree to her request, she wouldn’t agree to his as well.

Bai Yinning looked at her in silence for a while and finally said, “Alright, I’ll agree to it. Just tell me.”

“Allow me to make phone calls.”

Bai Yinning knew since the beginning that she would make this request.

“Sure, but you can contact your family only after accompanying me to the event.”

Lin Xinyan made a calculation and knew that there were just three to four days left until Saturday. She was willing to be patient for a few more days as long as she could contact her family.

“You shouldn’t stay up too late.” Bai Yinning grinned at her.

Time fled, and three to four days soon passed. After being massaged by the doctor carefully, Lin Xinyan’s ankle recovered a lot. She could now walk by herself, yet couldn’t walk for a long time as she hadn’t fully recovered from the injury.

“Ms. Lin, young master asked me to give you this.” Liu came in with a delicate box in her hands.

When Lin Xinyan was sitting on the side of the bed to move her feet, she heard Liu's voice, looked up and asked, "What's inside the box?"

Liu shook her head, yet she envied her very much as she could receive a gift from young master.

"Ms. Lin, would you want to open it and take a look?" Liu was standing next to the bed while holding the box in her hands. She looked at Lin Xinyan who was rather calm and said, "Young master rarely gives a gift to anyone."

She really isn't excited about it.

At least she has never seen young master giving a gift to anyone.

"Open it." Lin Xinyan said calmly.

Liu opened her eyes widely in disbelief and asked, "You want me to open it for you?"

Lin Xinyan thought about it again and felt that it was disrespectful to ask others to open her own gift. Even though she didn't look forward to Bai Yinning's gift, she said, "I'll open it."

She took the box from her and opened it.

It was an evening dress.

"Oh my god!" Liu couldn't help but said shockingly, "Isn't it the dress that you designed earlier? Young master asked someone to make it."

Lin Xinyan saw it too. She held the dress up and spread it out like a piece of smooth silk.

“It looks beautiful.” Staring at it, Liu held out her hands to touch it and asked, “What’s the dress made of? Why is it so soft and smooth?”

“The real tea silks.” Lin Xinyan never thought that Bai Yinning would ask someone to make this dress by using tea silk.

Many imitations in the market are sold at a high price, yet none of them are real tea silk.

In terms of noodles, tea silk is considered the noble noodle and is given prominent titles such as “soft gold” and “slim queen”.

In terms of fabric, it is regarded as the highest quality silk.

Due to the complexity to produce tea silk, the craftsmen who are good at manufacturing this type of fabric are very few, and so the craftsmanship is about to be lost.

She knew it through books and the internet, and only saw a real dress made of tea silk once at Mrs. William’s house.

It was very difficult to buy tea silk even if the person had money.

She wasn’t sure where Bai Yinning got the material from. Also, the long dress that she designed would require large-size tea silk.

Liu didn’t know about all this but only felt that the design was beautiful. As the fabric was soft, smooth, and glowing, the pure black dress wasn’t dull and looked elegant, graceful as well as sexy.

“You must look very beautiful in the dress.” Liu buried her envy deep in her heart.

“Do you like it?” When Lin Xinyan looked up, she saw Bai Yinning in a dark blue grid suit with a light-colored necktie. Even though he was sitting on a wheelchair, he still looked extraordinarily stunning.

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Lin Xinyan was really surprised—not that he instructed his men to make this dress but managed to make it from tea silk.

Lin Xinyan put the dress in the box and asked, “I was wondering where you obtained such fabric from.”

“Do you like it?” Bai Yinning asked deliberately.

Actually, he purposely showed this fabric in front of Lin Xinyan, since every fashion designer loved quality fabric.

He believed Lin Xinyan was no exception.

Lin Xinyan was indeed interested in it, yet didn’t express herself and continued to rub her ankle.

Bai Yinning’s gaze slowly fell upon her, and he could see that she was fair-skinned, including her legs. Her ankles looked rather dainty, whereas her heels were pinkish-white. As the good-looking legs of women were called slim and delicate legs in ancient times, such a thought flashed through Bai Yinning’s mind.

Once Lin Xinyan felt that someone was staring at her pair of legs, she quickly pulled the quilt to cover her legs.

Bai Yinning slightly averted his gaze, yet he had made a real gaffe and looked rather embarrassed.

“I know the craftsman who can make such fabric...”

“Really?” Lin Xinyan opened her eyes widely and interrupted Bai Yinning before he could finish his words, “Where’s the craftsman? I would like to know him.”

Bai Yinning laughed. She is indeed interested in it.

“Put on the dress. After the event, I can introduce you to the craftsman.” Then, Bai Yinning pushed his wheelchair while gave his instruction to a person whom he brought along and said, “I’ll leave her to you.”

“You can rest assured.” The makeup artist who was holding a cosmetic case had already sized up Lin Xinyan. Since she was a good-looking woman, it’s very simple to apply makeup for her to look stunning, and the makeup artist already planned several versions of makeups in her mind.

Lin Xinyan wasn’t used to heavy makeup, and in fact she rarely applied any makeup on herself other than attending events. So, she said, “Actually, Liu can just help apply makeup for me. There’s no need to hire a makeup artist .”

Bai Yinning said smilingly, “It’s very important to me. I wish that my partner will be the most stunning woman in the hall.”

Lin Xinyan wished to tell him that he should actually get an artist instead if he’s looking for a good-looking woman. Even though she was rather unwilling to go with him, she had promised him in advance. Also, he would introduce the craftsman who can make tea silk to her.

She stood up from the bed and sat in front of the dressing table, waiting for the makeup artist to start.

“I don’t really like heavy makeup.” Even though she was determined to ‘hand herself over’ to the makeup artist , she was still afraid that she would be made like a ‘ghost’ by her.

The makeup artist wasn't irritated by Lin Xinyan's reminder and smilingly said, "Don't worry. Not everyone looks good with heavy makeup. Heavy-makeup is good, yet it depends on the poise of that particular person."

Since the makeup artist was rather easygoing, Lin Xinyan was much relieved.

"I've designed quite a lot of makeups, and some of them made deep impressions on others. But none of them triggered me to have so many thoughts in my mind when I met them." She then looked at Lin Xinyan and said, "You're the first one."

Lin Xinyan wasn't joyous because of her compliment but felt a little melancholy instead.

She missed her son and daughter.

She had never been separated with them for so long ever since she gave birth to them.

"I can see that you're unhappy. Is it because of Mr. Bai's legs..."

Lin Xinyan looked up.

"Even though Mr. Bai has to be in a wheelchair, he is handsome and very capable, and numerous women have always been dreaming of being noticed by him."

"Indeed, indeed." Liu interrupted the makeup artist before she could finish speaking, and added, "Too many women would dream of marrying him since young master is an outstanding man."

Lin Xinyan looked up at her, and even the makeup artist could feel her feelings.

It was simply too obvious for everyone.

Liu realized suddenly that she was too emotional and immediately explained, "There was a time when the daughter of the county mayor was pursuing him relentlessly, yet young master rejected her too. Young master treats you very well now, yet I feel that you seem unhappy."

Lin Xinyan didn't want to explain to Liu anymore. Even though she knew that Liu was not black-hearted, she was too wide-eyed and would not believe her explanation.

She just felt that her young master was the best.

Perhaps in her mind, there would only be women who are out of his young master's league, and definitely not the other way round.

The makeup artist smiled but didn't say anything. Since this little girl didn't know how to hide her thoughts at all, she would be fine to be a maid here. If she were to work in companies with intertwined office politics, she would be fired many times.

She didn't know how to adapt to the different situations.

When the makeup artist was combing Lin Xinyan's hair, she looked at her face closely in the mirror. Although she wasn't a stunning beauty at first sight, she was the type of beauty that seemed to look better the more others looked at her. Also, she had very good-looking facial features.

The makeup artist used a curling iron to curl Lin Xinyan's black hair, braided two small pieces of hair above her ears and put the hair behind the ears, while leaving some bangs to casually cover her forehead. Lin Xinyan was very fair-skinned and almost didn't need any powder, yet the makeup artist still applied some powder on her face for the sake of the entire makeup.

Before applying makeup, she looked too innocent to wear the black evening dress.

As for the eye makeup, the makeup artist applied brown and pink glitter so that her pair of eyes would stand out. She then used an eyeliner to draw upward at the upper corners of her eyes so that her crystal clear eyes would appear more enchanting.

As for lip makeup, the makeup artist chose dusty rose to make sure that her lips wouldn't look too red and gaily-colored nor plain, which matched her makeup perfectly.

"Your lip shape is very good-looking." The makeup artist couldn't help but complimented her when she was applying lipsticks for her.

The final step would be to put on the evening dress and high heels.

The pair of silver high heels was inlaid with numerous diamond chips and looked glittering.

Liu said in admiration, "It looks like a pair of crystal high heels, and young master is the prince."

The makeup artist initially wanted to say whether she had really seen a prince in a wheelchair, but she eventually bit her tongue. If she said something bad about Bai Yinning, this girl would surely be pissed off.

Lin Xinyan looked at Liu and heaved a sigh. She has to change for herself if she really wants it, yet she was too self-abased and didn't want to make any changes. In that case, it is destined that she will never be able to grab Bai Yinning's attention. She took her clothes to the restroom.

The design of the evening dress was simple and basically had no ornament. It had a v shaped neck design and two ribbons above her waist, one of which rounded the waist and stretched to the left to be tied with another ribbon. The ribbons were rather long and fell to her knees, while the hemline of the dress reached her ankle.

Two straps near her neckline crossed and formed a deep v neckline, revealing the curve and cleavage that would mesmerize everyone.

With the personalized makeup applied by the makeup artist, she looked rather charming while preserving her sense of innocence. Her grace and elegance would impress anyone just by a quick look, while the pride reflected by her black evening dress made her look mesmerizing.

Even the makeup artist and Liu who were all women fixed their eyes on her.

Since Lin Xinyan attended cocktail parties and banquets before, she didn't feel uncomfortable and acted decently.

She stood near the door of the restroom and said smilingly, "Is there something on my face? Why are you guys staring at me?"

"Shoes." Liu recollected herself and bent down to put her high heels near her legs.

When Lin Xinyan put on the high heels, she felt that they fitted her legs perfectly, and didn't feel uncomfortable at all as the height was just nice.

"Let's go. Young master was waiting outside." Liu held out her arm to help her walk.

Since Lin Xinyan's leg hadn't fully recovered, she didn't push herself to walk and held Liu's arm.

Bai Yinning was answering a phone call in the living room when he heard the sound of high heels. He turned around and saw Lin Xinyan who had dressed up nicely.

His hand that was holding the phone suddenly tightened. He held back his astonishment and told the person over the phone, "I'll be there soon."

Then, he hung up the phone and said to Lin Xinyan, "Let's go."

Lin Xinyan let go of Liu to walk towards him, held the handles of the wheelchair and said, "I'll help you."

"I couldn't ask for more." Bai Yining gave her a sideways glance and wanted to say that she looked gorgeous, yet he bit his tongue.

When they were outside, the driver pushed Bai Yinning into the car which was specially retrofitted. It is equipped with an automatic slide ramp that could be extended to the ground, making it convenient to push his wheelchair into the car.

After fixing the wheelchair in the car, he came down to help Lin Xinyan get into the car.

"What kind of event am I accompanying you to? Where are we going?" Lin Xinyan asked after she sat down.

Since she didn't have any idea about it at all, she wanted to make sure that she wouldn't make any mistake.

"Annual banquet of Bai Group, organized in one of the hotels of Bai Group." He turned around to look at her when he spoke, and added, "The manager told me that there are a few people from B City, and I'm not sure if you know them."

Lin Xinyan's hands clasped unknowingly, yet she acted calm and said, "Although I was born in B City, I didn't grow up there. I don't believe in coincidence, particularly because I don't really know a lot of people."

Even though she said so, she was looking forward to it.

Would one of them be Zong Jinghao who's looking for her?

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 188

The annual banquet of Bai Group was busily astir. Since Bai Yinning was an entrepreneur who drove the economy in the area and contributed a lot to the city, even the city mayor attended the event in person.

When the car pulled over, Lin Xinyan saw a huge banner at the entrance of the hotel. Many cars were parked beside the hotel, most of which belonged to the employees of Bai Group.

Gao Yuan, the assistant of Bai Yinning ran towards them to open the door and push him out of the car with the help of the driver. Then, he said to him, “The city mayor is here.”

Bai Yinning gave an affirmative reply to him calmly. When he looked back at the car, Lin Xinyan walked towards him while Gao Yuan thoughtfully moved aside to save the position for Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan held the handlers of the wheelchair and pushed him into the hotel.

The chandelier on the ceiling in the lobby was crystal clear and illuminated the entire lobby.

The other leaders of the group who were chatting with the city mayor made way for Bai Yinning when they saw him entering. Even before he came up to them, he forced himself—usually happened in such events—to say politely, “My apologies. I’m late.”

When a waiter passed by, Bai Yinning stopped him, took a glass of wine from his serving tray and said, “I’ll drink three glasses of wine as punishment.”

After gulping down the first glass of wine, he filled his glass and finished up the second glass. When he was about to drink the third glass, the city mayor finally said, “Even though you should drink three glasses of wine as punishment for being late, all of us can accept your lateness.”

He glanced at Bai Yinning’s legs and seemed to hint at something.

Bai Yinning remained composed and said smilingly, “When the tortoise races with the hare, why would the tortoise always win? I think I might be the diligent tortoise. Since I’m late, I should drink three glasses of wine as punishment.”

It was a double-edged remark. Even though he couldn’t walk, he is a successful person.

Regardless of social status, the diligent person wins as long as he or she is successful.

On the other hand, if a ‘hare’ is born to be superior but refuses to work hard due to its arrogance, what would happen to it in the end?

He gulped down the third glass and didn’t even frown a little.

The city mayor in a black tunic suit had some wrinkles on his face. He laughed and swept away his unhappiness due to Bai Yinning’s lateness.

He admired Bai Yinning’s wisdom.

When his gaze casually fell upon Lin Xinyan behind him, he was a little shocked. He looked at Bai Yinning again and asked, “Is she... your girlfriend?”

Everybody knows that Bai Yinning’s a bachelor and has never had a girlfriend. If Bai Yinning isn’t a disabled person, even he would want his daughter to marry him.

To be honest, apart from the fact that he's disabled, he actually recognizes his look and capabilities.

Since there's beauty by his side, he instinctively thought that she's his 'lady'.

Considering that it's the annual banquet of Bai Group and he shows himself with her in front of all employees in the company, he must value her very much.

Furthermore, even though Bai Yinning's disabled, he doesn't have other physiological disorders. He is a normal man and needs a woman too.

Bai Yinning looked back at her and said smilingly, "My..."

"Friend." Lin Xinyan interrupted him before he could finish his words.

She didn't want to develop a complicated relationship with him.

As she didn't want to embarrass Bai Yinning in front of everyone, she patted Bai Yinning on his shoulder to pretend that they were close friends, and said, "Since he said he didn't have a partner and kept persuading me to come with him. As a good friend, I couldn't refuse."

The city mayor laughed again and said, "I thought Chairman Bai who has always been single finally has a girlfriend. It's my mistake."

Bai Yinning laughed and stole a glance at Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan pretended that she didn't notice his glance. Although she agreed to come with him, she would never let him control everything, and the power must be firmly in her hands.

After greeting each other and chatting for a while, the city mayor asked his secretary to hand over a document to Bai Yinning.

Bai Yinning took it from her and realized that it was a letter of approval for his land application. Since he wanted to set up a factory outside of Baicheng, he chose the directly administered city of Baicheng and submitted his application.

The city mayor surely wished that he could build factories in his administered area to drive the economy of the city and retain immigrants. A factory surely needs to hire workers, and thus the economic development of a city depends a lot on the local companies.

As a city mayor, he had heavy responsibilities to make sure that the future of the city looked bright and wouldn't want to lose any talent.

Outside of the hotel.

When two black SUVs pulled over in front of the hotel, Shen Peichuan got out of one of the SUVs and noticed a car with the registration number of five zeros that was parked in the garden. He glanced at the lobby and said, "This Bai Group is rather powerful."

Anyone who had a vehicle registration number like this surely wasn't an ordinary figure and had to be a mayor at least.

Zong Jinghao was wearing a black suit that looked slightly wrinkled as he had sat in the car for quite some time. He went out with Shen Peichuan to look for more information, yet no one saw Lin Xinyan before.

They were already in Baicheng for a few days, but their efforts were in vain thus far.

Dark circles could be seen underneath his eyes as he was constantly worried that He Ruize might have transferred her to another location.

"Let's take the stairs." Shen Peichuan suggested it because they wouldn't have to enter the lobby to use the lift if they take the stairs.

They could just enter the hotel from outside if they took the stairs.

Since Zong Jinghao was in a very bad mood these past few days because he didn't receive any news about Lin Xinyan, Shen Peichuan was being extra careful when he was with him.

Why did Su Zhan say he's going to arrive soon but isn't here until now? How many days have passed?

Is he lost and couldn't find this place?

But he did send him the location.

An extra man can help shoulder some of the burdens for him.

A few days have passed, yet there's no news about Lin Xinyan at all. Zong Jinghao isn't the only person who is anxious because he's rather worried about the situation too.

Zong Jinghao only looked slightly better in front of the two kids these past few days. If the two kids weren't around, his face looked cold and hard like an ice sculpture.

Shen Peichuan was 'trembling' whenever he had to face him.

If it wasn't because there's no better hotel, Zong Jinghao could never stay here any longer as it was too noisy.

Shen Peichuan followed him to take the stairs and said, "I asked the person in charge of the hotel. The annual banquet of Bai Group is held only today, and the venue that they chose would naturally be their own hotel."

When Zong Jinghao took the stairs, he walked for a while and suddenly stopped.

Shen Peichuan didn't notice that Zong Jinghao stopped suddenly and almost bumped into him. Shocked, he immediately took a few steps back and asked, "What... what's wrong?"

Please don't scare him. To be by his side these few days was already a torment to him.

Zong Jinghao clenched his hand that was holding the handle and said, "She... is it possible that she's already left here?"

He isn't sure about it. Even though he thinks that Lin Xinyan might not be here, he still feels that he might miss something if he leaves now.

Shen Peichuan didn't dare to answer him.

Despite very little clues, they came all the way here merely because of the phone number and received no news about her at all these past few days. What more can he do about it?

She should call Lin Xichen again so that he could keep his hope alive.

Ring, ring...

The phone in Zong Jinghao's pocket rang. After taking out his phone and pressing the button to answer the call, a child said with a cute and crystal clear voice, "Daddy, when will you be back?"

"Soon."

"How soon would it be?" Zong Jinghao talked to her daughter over the phone while walking up the stairs, "It means I'll be right in front of you in the blink of an eye."

The little girl really blinked her eyes. Why isn't daddy in front of her yet?

“Daddy...”

“Look here.” The photographer was holding a camera and facing the center of the lobby. Since this was Bai Group’s annual banquet, a number of outstanding managers and workers had been selected, and Bai Yinning had to take a group photo with them.

Lin Xinyan was reluctant to join in the fun, yet Bai Yinning looked at her and said, “You promised that you will accompany me, yet don’t want to be by my side now. Does it really count as accompanying me?”

Since Lin Xinyan couldn’t get a good justification to refute him, she had no choice but to stand beside him.

Click...

Following the sound of the camera shutter, the beam of light was refracted through the chandelier to Zong Jinghao’s eyes. He instinctively squinted his eyes and continued to say to his daughter, “On the count of three, I’ll be right there...”

He glanced randomly at the crowd downstairs when he was talking...

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He glanced randomly at the crowd downstairs when he was talking but frowned and averted his gaze from them soon as all he could see was a large group of people.

“President Zong.”

Zong Jinghao looked back and saw the city mayor walking towards him. He said smilingly, “I thought my eyes are deceiving me, but it really is you. Are you here to attend Bai Group’s annual banquet too?”

He felt that something didn’t add up as he had never heard that Wanyue was going to cooperate with Bai Group.

If Bai Yinning was a young and successful man, Zong Jinghao would be the best among that group of young men.

Zong Jinghao told his daughter that he would come back later and hang up the phone.

He then kept his phone.

“No.” His gentleness when he was talking over the phone faded away. This was how he usually looked when he was attending an event.

The city mayor held out his hand and said, “What a coincidence to meet you here.”

Zong Jinghao held out his right hand to shake hands with him and withdrew it in just a few seconds.

Zong Jinghao didn't wish to waste his time for him, but he still had to give him some respect since an ordinary citizen would not pick a fight with a government official.

This applies even more to a businessman.

“Chairman Bai will soon be building a factory in my area, and so we're going to discuss the details.” Since Bai Yinning still had some matters to attend to, he came up first to wait for him.

They planned to talk about it over dinner.

“How about joining us for dinner to get to know each other?” The city mayor wished to be the middleman, yet seemed to have thought of something very soon and laughed embarrassedly as he said, “Have the two of you known each other long ago?”

Considering Zong Jinghao's status, how is it possible for him to be here if his company doesn't have any ties with Bai Group?

“I don't know him.” Zong Jinghao's answer was straightforward and concise.

“He's the chairman of the Bai Group. Even though he's in a wheelchair, I rather admire his capabilities. Anyway, Bai Group is certainly no match for Wanyue. I heard that you've invested in some projects overseas and established an investment bank with your business partners. President Zong is indeed bold and resolute.”

Zong Jinghao really wasn't interested to know about Bai Yinning, yet was slightly curious when the city mayor said that he's in a wheelchair.

A leader who's a disabled person must have his strengths, or else his employees could hardly be convinced under his leadership.

His gaze fell upon the crowd downstairs.

Several leaders of the group were surrounding Bai Yinning and Lin Xinyan to tease them.

There's never been a woman by Bai Yinning's side in the past, but today he suddenly brought along a beautiful lady with him in front of every employee. So, all of them were very curious to know what kind of relationship they were in.

"Chairman Bai, you hid it so well. Even the old men like us who 'went through fire and water' with you didn't know about it at all. You made a huge mistake."

"No..."

"No? Do you still want to deny it? Will you bring her along if there isn't anything going on between the two of you?" Someone didn't want to listen to Bai Yinning's explanation and interrupted him immediately.

Bai Yinning laughed and said, "I actually hope that it could really happen, but the main problem is..."

"What's the main problem?" A few of them said in one voice. When they appeared to have understood something soon enough, they looked at Lin Xinyan together and asked, "Did you turn up your nose at our Chairman Bai?"

At this moment, Lin Xinyan felt that she had been 'cheated' by Bai Yinning as traps were everywhere now.

When she was about to explain it, Bai Yinning grabbed her by her arm, pulled her closer, and whispered to her, "Don't embarrass me in front of my employees. If you were to reject me, feel free to do so when we are at home. Please, I beg you."

When Zong Jinghao's gaze fell upon them, he could only see Bai Yinning whispering to a lady. Due to their positions, he couldn't see Lin Xinyan's face but only saw her slim waist.

“I promised to be your company to attend the event, but never agreed to pretend myself as your girlfriend.” Lin Xinyan was very determined.

Bai Yinning wasn't mad at her as he finally realized that this woman was smart and had a strong will. He said, “Do you still want to know the craftsman who's skilled at making tea silk?”

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

At that moment, Lin Xinyan finally understood why tea silk appeared before his eyes, and said, “You did it on purpose.”

She sounded affirmative even though she was asking a question.

Bai Yinning didn't refute her and merely grinned broadly, revealing his good-looking white teeth. He came closer to Lin Xinyan and said, “I'm curious to know what kind of man can actually subdue you.” Lin Xinyan pushed him away and stood straight.

Once she turned around, Zong Jinghao who was standing on the first floor could see her face clearly.

It seemed as though time had frozen.

Sensed that something wasn't right, the city mayor looked downstairs and said smilingly, “Chairman Bai's a rather unconventional person as there was no woman around him in the past. But this time around, he suddenly brought along a woman who looks rather beautiful.”

“She...” As Shen Peichuan noticed the woman downstairs as well, he turned around to look at Zong Jinghao and said, “She's...”

He wanted to ask if that woman was Lin Xinyan, yet Zong Jinghao had already left before he could speak.

He immediately followed him.

It was still cheerful downstairs as many people were surrounding and teasing Bai Yinning and Lin Xinyan.

Even though she hadn't said anything explicitly yet, Bai Yinning knew that she had agreed to it.

When he was about to introduce Lin Xinyan, a tall man with a darkened face was standing at the entrance. His imposing appearance soon grabbed the guests' attention.

Lin Xinyan moved her gaze unsteadily around the back of the lobby. She was dazzled by the lights as many guests were moving around and tried to focus her gaze on the entrance where the commotion was from.

Soon, a familiar figure leapt into her eyes, and her heart seemed to have stopped beating.

Zong Jinghao walked against the light and through the crowd slowly and steadily.

This was the look that he always presented to everyone. Since he experienced and witnessed various circumstances in business, he had trained himself to look strong and invulnerable, so that on one could ever read his mind.

It became his instinct to look calm and composed all the time. The more excited and emotional he was, the more composed he looked.

However, the muscles of his entire body were tense, while his heart was trembling.

He fixed his gaze on her who looked familiar and strange at the same time.

Lin Xinyan stood still like a stone. Although she was clearly excited to see him, she realized that she was startled and couldn't utter a word.

As far as he could remember, Lin Xinyan had never dressed so enchantingly. He was always thinking about her and couldn't even sleep because she was missing, yet she appeared in front of another man now and revealed her elegance that even he had never seen before.

"What are you doing?" He said with a loud, clear and deep voice.

Does she know how excruciatingly distressed he was these past few days?

Does she know how worried he was?

Does she know how much he missed her?

Does she know that he's thinking about her every second and every hour?

Does she know all of these?

"Why don't you say anything?"

"I..."

"Do you guys know each other?" At the moment when Zong Jinghao appeared, Bai Yinning knew that he must be looking for Lin Xinyan, but still feigned ignorance and asked that question.

When Zong Jinghao's gaze moved and stopped upon Bai Yinning, his lips quirked as he said tauntingly, "Chairman Bai, you prefer a married woman, don't you?"

Bai Yinning's face darkened a little. He didn't believe it when Lin Xinyan said she was married and had children and thought that she was just making up an excuse to get rid of him.

But... he wouldn't be so sure about it now.

"She looked very young..."

Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan's hand and raised his eyebrows. Even the muscles on his face prickled slightly as he gave him a petrifying smile and said, "Since she's married to me when she was 18, would you agree that she's young?"

Bai Yinning frowned when he heard it. He felt that Lin Xinyan was an opinionated person and wouldn't get married so soon.

"You must be making a joke." His gaze fell upon Lin Xinyan, as if trying to ask if what he said were true.

"Xichen and Ruixi are still waiting for you." Zong Jinghao dragged her away from this place once he finished speaking.

He didn't allow her to speak with Bai Yinning at all.

He was very domineering, as if a kid who fought with another person who wanted to snatch his favorite toy.

He clasped Lin Xinyan's hands tightly in his palms like a clamp and strode away.

Since Lin Xinyan's legs were injured and she was wearing high heels, she couldn't keep pace with him at all. She bore the pain of her ankle and sole, and said, "Please walk slower."

Zong Jinghao turned around to look at her and said, "Are you reluctant to leave?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head and said, "No."

Ah...

Zong Jinghao picked her up right after she spoke, and she instinctively wrapped her arms around his neck and shut her mouth.

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Lin Xinyan could feel his arrhythmical heartbeat at this very moment. She wanted to ask why he would be here, yet realized that she couldn't utter a word even though she opened her mouth.

When they were walking up the stairway, Zong Jinghao looked back at Shen Peichuan and said, "You can go back."

Shen Peichuan understood his intention in just a second. He turned around and left without saying a word.

The light in the stairway was rather dim, and Lin Xinyan could clearly hear the sound of heartbeat. Thump! Thump! Thump! She couldn't differentiate whether it was her heartbeat or his.

"Why would you be here?" After Zong Jinghao walked up the stairs for two floors, she recollected herself and found her own voice.

Zong Jinghao remained silent.

Lin Xinyan stared at him when the light swept over his face and asked, "Are you here to look for me?"

Her hands unknowingly grasped the back of his collar. She hoped that he would answer yes.

But since she was afraid to be disappointed, she added, "You're here for business."

As Zong Jinghao still remained silent, Lin Xinyan felt rather uneasy. As she got increasingly unsettled and anxious, she asked carefully, "What's wrong?"

Zong Jinghao who was carrying her in his arms reached the floor that they had reserved entirely. Shen Peichuan had already come up and made the arrangements to send away all of their men who were guarding the passageway, before keeping himself in the room of Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi. After pushing open the door of a room, he walked in, locked the door and carried Lin Xinyan to the bedroom to put her down on the bed.

Since his silence was terrifying, Lin Xinyan didn't dare open her mouth.

Zong Jinghao just sized her up silently. She looks simple and innocent since she doesn't really like to put on makeup. If she's wearing jeans and t-shirt, some would even think that she's a varsity student, and can't tell that she's already a mother with two children.

But at this moment, she looked rather enchanting while retaining her innocence. He could feel that she exuded an air of charm whenever he looked at her.

At this moment when she was sitting on the bed, he could easily peek at the curve underneath the deep v neckline which looked fair-skinned, round and soft by just moving his gaze down on her.

When he and the two children lost their appetite to eat and couldn't sleep well because of her, she dressed up 'coquettishly' in front of another man instead. What was she trying to do?

Did she fall for the disabled person?

"What's between you and the disabled person?" He went nuts when he recalled that she was whispering in Bai Yinning's ear.

Is she blind?

Why would she fall for the disabled person?

Lin Xinyan was at a loss for a while before she realized that the disabled person that he mentioned referred to Bai Yinning. Since Lin Xinyan never saw him being so mean before, she couldn't help but laughed and replied, "It was very complicated, and I couldn't explain it in just a few words..."

Zong Jinghao stared at her moving red lips, then came up to her so close and forcefully held the back of her head towards his. He kissed her on her lips and stopped her from talking.

He didn't want to hear anything about that man now.

When he recalled that Bai Yinning and she were rather intimate, he got rougher with the desire to possess her.

Lin Xinyan's eyes were wide open, while her face turned red. She wanted to push him away as she was suffocating.

But he didn't want to let her go at all, as if wanted to devour her entire body.

"Hmm..." Lin Xinyan couldn't help but hold his lower lip and bite on it. Feeling the pain, Zong Jinghao stopped for a while and immediately sprang upon her again.

There was the smell of blood between their teeth and mouths.

"You don't want me to kiss you?" Zong Jinghao asked with a muffled voice.

Lin Xinyan wanted to deny it, yet she was about to suffocate to death as his kiss was too rough. When she just opened her mouth, she couldn't help but make a sound, "Mm..."

She moaned seductively.

However, Zong Jinghao thought that she admitted to it when he heard it.

He bit her tongue and didn't let go, as if wanted to punish her. The smell of blood within their teeth and mouths was getting stronger, and it's difficult to differentiate whether the blood was his or hers.

He sucked and tasted her tongue while gulping down all of her saliva and blood.

Words couldn't vividly describe the eroticism between them.

Lin Xinyan was distressed and felt that she had been wronged. She suffered a lot, but why does he treat her like this every time he meets her?

Why?

Is he really heartless?

“Zong Jinghao, you think I'm a steel wall that doesn't feel any pain no matter how many times that I'm being pricked?”

He could hear that she started to snivel, and slowly let go of her lips.

Her lips became red and swollen after merely a few minutes.

His eyes misted over as he pinched her chin. He then said, “It's painful? Do you really know what pain is? Do you know how worried I was, and how much I missed you when you were gone?”

“Whenever Ruixi asked about you, do you know how I lied to her? I said you are playing hide-and-seek with us, and we are going to find you. But what did you do instead?” He looked at her from her face to feet while he was talking, and then sneered, “Instead, you were enjoying your intimate moments with another man. Did you really feel the pain?”

“I wasn't enjoying anything.” Lin Xinyan immediately refutes him as she would never admit to something that she had never done!

“I had no choice!” Since she went through an ordeal to escape from He Ruize, she wasn’t sure if she could survive if it wasn’t for Bai Yinning.

“I narrowly escaped death. How dare you question and doubt me? How dare you?” Even though she didn’t blink, tears still streamed down her face.

“Ruixi and Xichen were...” She held her chest and said, “They were exchanged with my life. Do I not miss them? Do I not worry about them? I’ve never left them since they were born and grew up until now. I’ve been working hard to take care of them because they are my children and my only treasure. Ever since I couldn’t see them, I’ve always been worried about whether they have enough food and clothes, whether they are taken good care of, and whether I will die and never see them again.”

When Zong Jinghao realized that she was very distressed, he immediately took her into his arms and kissed her on her forehead and hair. He felt very sorry for her.

“I’m sorry...” He kissed her hard on her eyes and wiped away the tears on the corner of her eyes.

Lin Xinyan finally recollected herself after quite some time, but Zong Jinghao was still grinding on her. He caressed her hair, kissed her on her cheeks and the corners of her eyes, and said, “You’re a married woman, and so you can’t have any intimate relationship with any other man. I don’t like it.”

Lin Xinyan gently lowered her eyes. She could feel his feelings for her, yet she didn’t dare to accept him as there were so many obstacles between them.

“Zong Jinghao, can you accept me for who I am?”

She considered his family background and social status.

“Can you accept Xichen and Ruixi?” Tears uncontrollably streamed down her face again.

Zong Jinghao's arms that were holding her began to quiver as he said, "Six years ago, in Country A, MOEN Hotel, Room 608..."

Lin Xinyan's body was suddenly stiff. How... How did he know about this?

She pushed him away and questioned him sternly, "You probed me?!"

Only a handful of people knew about this, yet why would he know?

This incident was her inexplicable pain and humiliation that she would never want to talk about ever again.

It was a secret that she buried deep in her heart.

Zong Jinghao moved a step back when he was pushed by her. He was just two steps away from her while watching her covered with nervousness, embarrassment and resistance.

"That year, your mother and brother met with an accident. As you needed money, someone recommended..."

"Stop it!" After Lin Xinyan interrupted him, she hit him madly and screamed, "Go. Go away. I don't want to listen to what you say!"

Zong Jinghao grabbed her wriggling arms and continued, "You sold yourself in exchange for a payment to save your mother and brother."

She felt ashamed, helpless and lost. She even wanted to hide herself as she felt that she was stripped naked. It is just like the night that she could never forget, when she's naked and standing in front of him. She feels that her whole body is now revealed and held up as an object for him to watch and ridicule at he pleases.

As her whole body was trembling, she said with a quivering voice, “Are you happy now? Are you satisfied? Do you feel the sense of accomplishment when you reopen the old wounds of others?”