

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 231

The man who spoke just now was the bodyguard of Zong Jinghao. Su Zhan saw the bodyguard and said, "It is me. Where is President Zong?"

"He is inside." The bodyguard replied.

The path here was much easier to walk. The people who walked before them had left behind a trail of the muddy road. The bodyguard was leading the way in front, and they crossed the mountain top and saw a persimmon forest before them. The leaves on the tree had almost fallen off during this season, leaving only the red fruits.

Lin Xinyan saw her daughter and Zong Jinghao under a large persimmon tree. It seemed that her daughter had eaten the persimmon and Zong Jinghao was wiping the persimmon juice left on her mouth.

All this while, she thought Zong Jinghao was lucky as his parents didn't abandon him. Besides, he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and had always been a center of attention.

However, she found him pitiful after she learned that Cheng Yuxiu was actually his mother without him knowing.

"Mommy." Lin Ruixi was the first one to see Lin Xinyan from far. She shouted excitedly, "Mommy, are you here to see me?"

Zong Jinghao turned and saw a beautiful lady standing at the top of the mountain. Although it was dark and couldn't see her clearly, she was stunningly beautiful.

How can she get out of there when time is not up yet?

Lin Xinyan walked down into the persimmon forest with ease as the weeds were lesser than the previous path. She walked up to her daughter and stretched out her hand to stroke her daughter's face. However, she retracted her hand when she saw it was dirty. She said, "Yes, I miss Ruixi so much, that's why I asked for leave to see you."

"Did you hurt yourself?" When Lin Xinyan stretched out her hand just now, he saw her hands with a dried bloodstain.

Lin Xinyan looked at her palm and said, "don't worry, it is not a big deal."

"Let's go." Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan's hand with one hand, while the other hugging his daughter.

"Mommy, mommy." Lin Xichen ran over with two persimmons in his hands.

"Slow down there. Don't fall down." Lin Xinyan warned her son.

"Don't worry. I got it." Lin Xichen walked up to Lin Xinyan and passed her the persimmons. The persimmons were orange color and not too big; however, they had ripened to perfection. "Mommy, give it a bite, it is so sweet." Lin Xichen said lovingly.

This type of persimmons would be astringent if it were unripe. But, it would taste very sweet if it was ripened to perfection, just like the one Lin Xichen handed to her.

Lin Xinyan smiled, "I will eat it when I go back. Let's go back first."

She had wasted a lot of time, and she worried that Cheng Yuxiu would be worried.

Lin Xichen nodded and asked, "Mommy, does it mean that you can be with me from now on?"

Lin Xinyan paused for a moment and raised her head to look at Zong Jinghao. Although she was looking at Zong Jinghao, her words were meant for her son, "I am still in the middle of something. I will come back once I have settled everything. However, I can bring the two of you with me now."

"Oh really?" Lin Xichen hugged her lap happily. He was happy to be with mommy.

"Mommy, can I come with you too?" Lin Ruixi blinked her eyes.

"Yes, of course." Lin Ruixi was happy and smiled. Her eyes were very beautiful when she smiled.

"How about me?" Zong Jinghao held her hand tighter as he asked. Since she could bring the two children with her, how about him?

Lin Xinyan looked away from him. She did not dare to look into his eyes as she denied, "Master only allows me to bring two children with me, so..."

"So you cannot bring me?"

Zong Jinghao's gaze fell on her slightly reddened earlobe. It was obvious that she was lying as she avoided looking at him. But Zong Jinghao didn't expose her.

"Let's go then." Zong Jinghao said lightly.

With the assistance of the bodyguards, they soon arrived at the bottom of the mountain safely.

Zong Jinghao handed her daughter to Qin Ya and brought Lin Xinyan back to the room. If this were before, Lin Xinyan would not have listened to him so willingly, but now, she didn't want to reject him.

I want to hug him.

That was what she thought and she did just that. Once they entered the room, she wrapped her arms around his waist.

Zong Jinghao was caught off guard by Lin Xinyan's initiatives. His body froze for a moment, and he was curious as to why her behavior changed just after a few days of training?

However, he liked it.

He lowered his head to kiss on her forehead. Then, he kissed on the corner of her eyes. With a low voice, he asked, "Do you miss me?"

He had a strong and warm chest. Initially, she still had reservations for him, but now she would like to open her heart, and tried to love and accept the man in front of her.

He was the father of the child, and they even had an engagement since they were young.

She had heard a saying of how fate works. Thousand times of brushing past each other in the first life are only enough to earn a head turn in the second, and only with a thousand head turns in the second would earn a chance to meet up in this life.

Zong Jinghao thought that she had changed. In the past, no matter how intimate they were, she would never take the initiative, and she always had reservations about him.

He liked the way she was right now. However, he was feeling uneasy and kept pondering, what makes a person change in just a few days?

Did she meet anyone? Did anything happen?

What changed her?

Lin Xinyan raised her head and stood on tiptoe to kiss his lips. It was a peck on the lips, and while Zong Jinghao was still devouring the kiss, she was done with the kiss and drew back.

She acted all lovey-dovey and said, "You will agree to let me take Ruixi and Xichen with me for a few days, won't you?"

Zong Jinghao would like to say no to her. But obviously, he can't.

Zong Jinghao could feel his heart was beating fast for the woman in front of him. At this moment, he wanted to hug her hard and melt her into his body.

"I am okay with it, but..." His lips brushed at her earlobe and continued to linger between her neck and earlobe. "You will have to kiss me one more time, then I will agree with you."

He leaned closer towards her and flirted with her.

Lin Xinyan didn't know what to do and trembled slightly in his arms. Zong Jinghao hugged her tight, with the corners of his lips raising. He liked to see her shy face; it was so beautiful and seductive.

"Close your eyes." Lin Xinyan said as she lowered her eyes. Her voice was so soft that he hardly could hear it.

Zong Jinghao closed his eyes with a smile. He lowered his head and waited for Lin Xinyan to kiss him.

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes as well. She thought of Cheng Yuxiu, who was still waiting for her, and her heart clenched with determination. She pressed her lips against his. His lips were soft and slightly cold.

As she was about to draw back her lips, she felt that he was clasping her head. His lips pressed on her lips so hard. He then stuck out his tongue and gave her a French kiss.

Lin Xinyan was afraid that it would lead to the next step, so she pushed him away with her hands. With her wounded palm pressing against the button on Zong Jinghao's shirt, she shouted in pain. Zong Jinghao let go of her lips and asked, "Am I hurting you?"

"It is my hand." Lin Xinyan said in a low voice, resentfully.

Her hug was so sudden that he forgot that her hand was hurt. Zong Jinghao went to check at her hand, and the palm seemed to be poked by something. There was a small hole with blood stain.

"What happened?" He asked with a frown.

Lin Xinyan told the truth, "It was from the branch of a tree."

Zong Jinghao raised his head and looked at her. He was about to comment on how careless she was, but thinking of the crooked branches he saw along the way, he said no more. He probably couldn't bring the children up to the mountain safely without the bodyguards' assistance either.

"Hold on." He wanted to make a phone call and get someone to send over the medical supplies such as the antiseptic cream and so on. There was nothing here, and he couldn't treat Lin Xinyan properly.

Lin Xinyan wanted to rush over to Cheng's family house so she stopped him by saying, "It's okay. I don't have much time. Master is still waiting for me to go back. I have to leave immediately."

Zong Jinghao stared into her eyes and asked, "You are in such a hurry?"

Lin Xinyan nodded, "Yes."

At that instant, Zong Jinghao wanted to figure out why she had changed her attitude all of sudden. Hence, he went with the flow and agreed to what Lin Xinyan said. Lin Xinyan was so happy that Zong Jinghao gave his permission.

Yet Zong Jinghao seemed preoccupied. Although he liked Lin Xinyan the way she was right now, he couldn't help but feel uneasy with the reason behind all her changes.

Lin Xinyan went to the yard to find her two children. With one hand hugging her daughter and the other hand holding her son's hand, they walked towards the backyard.

As soon as they left, Zong Jinghao left the wooden house with Shen Peichuan as well. They walked along the path outside the house, all the way to the backyard. He wanted to see what Lin Xinyan wanted to do with the children in the backyard. Surprisingly, Lin Xinyan didn't stay in the backyard for long. Instead, she exited the door of the backyard together with the children.

Not far away from the roadside was a car waiting for Lin Xinyan. Most importantly, Zong Jinghao was familiar with the car.

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“Isn’t it that car from your family?” Shen Peichuan looked at him curiously. If he had sensed something was wrong, so Zong Jinghao would definitely notice that as well.

“Perhaps...your dad is here?” Shen Peichuan didn’t say the name but he knew that car belonged to Yuxiu.

But he didn’t dare to mention the name to Zong Jinghao.

“What do you think that woman is up to?” Zong Jinghao asked suddenly.

Zong Jinghao seldom mentioned Yuxiu, and today was the first time he brought her up.

Deep down in his heart, he knew that Lin Xinyan was most probably meeting Yuxiu. The last time, she went to Lin Xinyan’s clothing store’s grand opening and even gave her a bracelet. Lin Xinyan was still wearing the bracelet until today.

Obviously, Lin Xinyan was here to bring the children back to meet her.

Zong Jinghao narrowed his eyes and wondered why did Yuxiu want to approach Lin Xinyan. What is she up to?

“Perhaps she wants to cotton up to Lin Yanxin?” Shen Peichuan was making a wild guess. After all, Zong Jinghao had been very cold to Yuxiu. “You see, Ms. Lin has given birth to two lovely children for you. It doesn’t matter what you feel about her; you will have to take care of her out of responsibility. The children are the flesh and blood of the Zong family. Therefore, I bet your dad loves the children too. Yuxiu knew that you disliked her, but she could always cotton up to Ms. Lin and the children?”

Zong Jinghao found Shen Peichuan's analysis on point. If his analysis was correct, how could Lin Xinyan not notice Yuxiu's motive? She even brought the children to meet Yuxiu.

Moreover, Lin Xinyan's attitude towards him had obviously changed this time. If Yuxiu were the one who swayed Lin Xinyan for her change of attitude, then it would be too scary to think of.

What did Yuxiu say to her? What did she do to change her?

"Your step-mother is a patient person, she was still young when she married your father, yet they didn't have another child. It is..."

Zong Jinghao turned and looked at him.

Shen Peichuan had no choice but to bite his tongue. He then changed his tone by saying, "I heard that stepmothers usually ill-treat their stepchildren, some of them even tortured them. Since she married your father at such a young age, I bet she was still fertile back then. However, she didn't give birth to any child, and also didn't do anything to harm you. I think her biggest mistake would be marrying your father at the wrong timing when your mother had just passed away."

He had to admit that Yuxiu didn't do anything to harm him. Shen Peichuan's analysis was on point; however, he still couldn't accept Yuxiu.

If he accepted her, how could he face his dead mother?

"Do ask someone to check if there are other villages around this area?" He needed to find out whether Lin Xinyan was meeting her? If so, why did she meet up with her?

Shen Peichuan nodded, "Sure, I will send someone to check it now."

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan sat in the car and looked back from time to time. She was afraid that someone might follow the car.

Luckily it was a quiet neighborhood, and not even a single car passed by.

Soon, the car stopped at the front door of the Cheng family.

Yuxiu had waited at the front door and anticipated their arrival. When the car finally arrived, she stood in stunned silence. All these while, Lin Xinyan never knew about her real identity when she met the children, but it was different now.

“Huh? Grandma is here too.” Lin Ruixi spoke as she was holding Lin Xinyan’s hands.

Lin Xinyan then asked the children to stand side by side, and she crouched down to look at them. “Xi, Ruixi, I want you two to do me a favor. Is that alright?”

“What is it?” Lin Xichen asked.

Lin Xinyan turned them to face Yuxiu and introduced formally, “She is your Grandma.”

“Yeah, I knew it. We have met before.” Lin Xichen blinked her big eyes innocently, not knowing why her mother would tell her something that she already knew.

Lin Xinyan stroked their hairs and said again, “She is your real Grandma.”

She was the mother of Zong Jinghao, and also their real Grandma.

She encouraged the children to walk towards Yuxiu, “Let’s go over there.”

Lin Xichen heard the conversation between Aunt Yu and Zhuang Zijin before; he knew that this Grandma was Zong Jinghao’s stepmother, not the real Grandma.

However, since her mommy said so, he knew that her mommy must have had her own reason. So, he took his sister's little hand and walked towards Cheng Yuxiu.

Cheng Yuxiu looked at them and her eyes welled with tears instantly. She had never seen her son before he turned six years old but she couldn't remember well as she wasn't in a good mental state. Then, she got better eventually and Zong Jinghao grew up slowly.

She missed out on seeing how he grew up; she missed out on the best part of his childhood. Which meant that she didn't know when he started walking, growing his first tooth, started talking and what his first word was.

She knew nothing about it. She missed out too much that she had too many regrets.

At this moment, her heart ached as she watched the little ones walking towards her.

"Grandma." Lin Ruixi was the first one to call out Grandma. She wasn't as cautious as her brother, she believed that this was the real Grandma if her mommy said so.

Lin Ruixi had a soft and pleasant voice. Hearing her voice, Cheng Yuxiu couldn't hold the tears in her eyes and it rolled down uncontrollably. She quickly wiped her face as it wasn't nice to cry in front of the children.

She bent down and hugged the children into her arms, "Xi, Ruixi, it has been so long."

While Lin Xichen pressing his chin against her shoulder, he had a feeling that Grandma was actually a nice person. He then said lovingly, "You can meet us as often as you like. Don't worry."

Cheng Yuxiu was moved at what he said. Zong Jinghao had never given her a chance to go near him. Ever since she was married into the Zong family, he had always been cold to her.

And now, she was happy to be able to hug his children.

“Let’s go. I will bring you over to the yard.” Cheng Yuxiu stood up and held both their hands, with one on her left side, and another on her right side. Lin Ruixi looked up at Cheng Yuxiu and asked, “Grandma, do you have any yummy food inside the house?”

“Come on, Ruixi. Why do you think about food all the time?”

What a glutton.

Cheng Yuxiu replied with a smile, “Yes, I do.”

“Today I went to the mountains with my father and my brother. There were so many persimmons there. We plucked a lot of them. They were so sweet, and we even brought some with us.” Lin Ruixi said proudly. It was her first time climbing up a mountain to pluck fruits.

She thought it was interesting and she was doing really well.

“Oh, really? Is that the persimmons from the west hill?” said Cheng Yuxiu in a surprised tone. Over the years, she had a good understanding of Zong Jinghao’s temperament. He had always been a cold person and a workaholic, so she never thought that he would change after being a dad.

He brought the children to the mountains.

He is a humane person with feelings.

“Although ripened persimmons were delicious, you should not eat too much of it. Two persimmons should be the maximum.” She said lovingly as she stroked Lin Ruixi’s hair.

“Yeah, mommy told me about it in the car just now. She said too many persimmons would be bad for my health. I want to eat it so badly, but I only got to eat three of them. I really want to eat more, but mommy won’t let me. Also, the persimmons are just too small. She made a gesture with her hands as she spoke, “it was the size of an egg, some are even smaller than an egg.”

Lin Xinyan held a bag of persimmons in her hand and walked at the back of them while they talked.

She looked at their back, and a small smile crept onto her lips.

It was almost afternoon when the fog cleared up and the sun shone warmly onto them.

Cheng Yuxiu chatted and laughed happily with the children as she led them into the yard.

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Cheng Yuwen came back first before Lin Xinyan went up to the mountain. He arranged the two solid wood thousand squares shelf in the yard, with various wood carvings in it.

Lin Xichen's eyes lit up as he saw them. He let go of Cheng Yuxiu's hand and walked over to grab a wood-crafted pigeon. What surprised him was the legs, wings, and eyes could move on its own. The feathers of the pigeon were so lifelike.

"Wow, this is my first time seeing wooden carvings." Perhaps boys are naturally more drawn towards toys, while girls aren't. Lin Ruixi was much calmer compared to Lin Xichen. All she cared about was yummy food and fluffy soft toys. She could hardly find any other toys that she liked other than food and soft toys.

Cheng Yuwen had never been married before. He had been staying in the same place since Cheng Yuwen married into the Zong family. He passed his time by doing woodcarving. He carved all the wood carvings on the shelf. He spent a lot of time learning from scratch, and now he could master all types of animal wood carvings, be it the animals that flew in the sky, swam in the water, or ran on the ground. He could make all of them lifelike as if they were real.

Lin Xichen was overwhelmed by all the wood carvings before his eyes. He thought all the animals were so cute and lifelike. He couldn't help but placed it onto his hands for a closer inspection.

Seeing Lin Xichen so happy, Cheng Yuwen laughed out loud.

"What is so fun about these?" Lin Ruixi said with a pouted mouth. She felt like all these carvings were prepared for the brother, and she had got nothing to play with.

The little girl pouted her mouth, looking very upset.

Lin Xinyan stroked her daughter's hair and looked up at Cheng Yuxiu, "She just loves to compare with her brother."

Cheng Yuxiu smiled at her and thought that it was the nature of the children. That was what made them so cute and naive, without any worries.

"Oh my, Ruixi was jealous of her brother?" Cheng Yuwen teased her in a loving manner. He looked amiable with the smile lines around his eyes and mouth.

Lin Ruixi pursed her pink lips, "You have prepared so many fun toys for my brother, while I have nothing at all."

"Then what do you like? Cheng Yuwen asked.

Lin Ruixi thought about it while tilting her head, "I like to eat pudding, red bean cake and cantaloupe-flavored chocolate..."

It was all about food.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

"This girl..." Lin Xinyan knew that her daughter was a glutton, but she never thought that even when others asked about her favorite toys, she could relate it to food as well.

"I don't have anything that you mentioned just now. However, I do have..." He walked over to the parasol tree which leaves were pale yellow and lush.

There were two ropes, as thick as the whip, hanging down from the branches. At the end of the rope was an unknown object covered in red cloth.

"I have prepared some toy for Ruixi as well but I am not sure if Ruixi will like it."

The little girl was so excited that she ran towards it, "What is it? Let me see."

"You may open up the cloth yourself." Cheng Yuwen worried that the little girl would not like the surprise that he had prepared.

Lin Ruixi grabbed the red silk cloth and pulled it down. The red cloth then fell to the ground, revealing a big white swan before her. The wings of the white swan were tied with ropes on each side. The body was dug out in the middle making it perfect for sitting. It was a seat with a backrest.

"I want to sit on it." The little girl held onto the white swan and said, "I have never sat on a white swan swing before."

Cheng Yuwen helped her up to sit on a chair made of unique materials. The big white swan was carved out by him, using a massive tree root and painted in white.

Although it was nothing special, he put in a lot of effort to make it.

"Yeah, the big white swan is flying now" The swing swung gently as if a white swan was flying in the sky.

Lin Ruixi shouted happily as she sat on the big white swan, holding tight to its neck, and flew into the sky.

Lin Xinyan and Cheng Yuxiu sat on rattan chairs in the yard, and a kettle was placed on the table in front of them. The kettle was prepared by Cheng Yuwen.

Cheng Yuxiu was glad that the children enjoyed themselves here. The Zong residence was very different from the houses in a busy city as it was quiet and peaceful. It was a much-desired lifestyle to some people.

She turned and looked at Lin Xinyan, "See how happy they are despite the fact that this place wasn't fancy or high-tech, yet they are having so much fun."

Lin Xinyan looked at her children and sighed, "Yes, indeed."

Seeing her children having so much fun, the corner of her lips raised into a smile.

"Jinghao has been the only male in the family for the last three generations. The Zong family is wealthy and powerful; however, there aren't many descendants in the family. I knew that you must have had a hard time giving birth to the kids. If it is possible, I would like you to have another child, and I will help you in every way..."

She stopped her sentence midway for she knew that Zong Jinghao would not let her go near his children.

Thinking about it, her expression turned gloomy.

Lin Xinyan understood what she meant and why she stopped her sentence midway. There was too much bitterness in it, and only those who had been through it would truly understand the sorrows.

She lied to Zong Jinghao about not being able to give birth anymore. The truth was the car accident and giving birth to the twins had ruined her body. The doctor advised her that it was best not to have another child. Even if she could conceive, the chances of keeping the child were very slim as her body was too weak.

Even though the relationship between her and Zong Jinghao was better now, she had never thought about having another child. However, she didn't want to reject Cheng Yuxiu straight to her face. Therefore she said, "I will consider it."

As she sat in the yard where she had once lived and looked at her happy grandchildren and the kind-hearted daughter-in-law; she felt lucky and happy at the same time.

"I have a favor to ask of you." Cheng Yuxiu looked at Lin Xinyan with a serious face.

“Yes, what is it?”

Cheng Yuxiu held Lin Xinyan’s hands in her palm, “Please take care of him for me. Even if he makes a mistake, please forgive him and don’t leave him.”

Lin Xinyan couldn’t say no to a mother as she was a mother herself. She knew how important a child was to a mother.

Nonetheless, she didn’t dare to make a promise, nor did she want to disappoint Cheng Yuxiu. She replied, “I will not leave him as long as he doesn’t ask for separation first.”

She would not leave him easily for the sake of the children.

All parents only wish for the best for their children.

In the evening, Cheng Yuwen prepared a sumptuous meal for them. All of which are the local specialties and some were made according to the children’s preference.

“Let’s go back after the meal.” Although Cheng Yuxiu wanted them to stay longer, she afraid Zong Jinghao would get suspicious.

Initially, Lin Xinyan wanted the children to spend more time with Cheng Yuxiu, as she had missed out a lot on Zong Jinghao’s childhood. But what Cheng Yuxiu said made sense, Zong Jinghao was not a gullible person. Everyone would be dead meat if he found out about the truth.

“When I have a chance next time, I will take them to see you again.” Lin Xinyan said.

As Cheng Yuxiu placed some food onto the children’s plate, she said, “I’m afraid I won’t be here next time.” She then looked at Lin Xinyan, “I am going back tomorrow. How about you?”

“I may stay on for a few more days.” All the while, she had a huge interest in tea silk, and now she wanted to learn even more after learning that it was the ancestral business of the Cheng family.

Since Cheng Yuwen hadn't gotten to the core of the skill yet, she was afraid that she couldn't leave just yet.

There were a few of them, and it might take some time for them to leave, at least for a few days more.

It was already dark after they had their dinner. The driver sent Lin Xinyan back.

Cheng Yuxiu reminded the driver, “Please drive slowly.”

“Don't worry about it, Madam.” The driver had worked for a long time for the Zong family, and his driving skill was excellent.

Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi squeezed at the car window and waved at Cheng Yuxiu, “Goodbye Grandma.”

Cheng Yuxiu waved back, “Goodbye.”

Cheng Yuxiu followed the back of the car as it drove away slowly. Cheng Yuwen stopped her and said, “It's not like you don't get to see them again. Do you think that you can keep up with the speed of the car?”

Cheng Yuxiu looked at the car leaving and sighed. She no longer followed the car anymore, but she didn't want to avert her gaze either.

Back in the car, Lin Xinyan hugged the children and said, “Xi, Ruixi, Mommy has a favor to ask of you two.”

“What is it, mommy?” Both of them replied in unison.

Lin Xinyan stroked their faces gently and said, "Please don't tell your dad that we met your Grandma today."

"Why is that?" Lin Ruixi asked curiously.

"Just listen to mommy." Lin Xichen said as he hugged his sister, "We have to listen to mommy, or she will be mad at us."

Lin Ruixi nodded her head obediently.

It was easier for a child to persuade another child.

After a while, the car stopped on the road in the backyard.

There was a figure hidden in the dark, looking at them. Lin Xinyan pushed the door and got out of the car, as the driver followed her, "The road here is uneven, I shall send you in."

"It's okay, I am fine. You don't have to send me in." Lin Xinyan rejected.

She was afraid that someone else would notice her.

"Okay, be careful."

"Hmm..." With one hand hugging her daughter, and another holding her son's hands, they walked along the path and arrived at the back yard.

She sent her children to the front yard as there wasn't a place to stay in the back yard.

Su Zhan, Shen Peichuan, and Bai Yinning were playing cards in the yard. Perhaps the village was a boring place for them, after all, city folks like them already got used to the vibrant nightlife in the city.

She didn't see Zong Jinghao anywhere.

"Oh, Xi and Ruixi are back?" Qin Ya watched them play cards at first, then she walked over to greet them after seeing the children.

"Oh, sister-in-law is back." Shen Peichuan put down the cards in his hands.

Lin Xinyan nodded in a smile, "Yes, please carry on. Don't bother about me."

"Alright, then." Shen Peichuan picked up the cards once again.

"Ya, can you please bring the children to Zong Jinghao?" For the past two days, so many things had happened, and she would like to have some time alone to clear her thoughts.

Besides, the front yard was safer than the back yard, where there were bodyguards in the front yard. Shen Peichuan was also a reliable person. Zong Jinghao should be in the house, and she trusted Qin Ya as well.

"Okay, I will bring over the kids to President Zong."

Lin Xinyan smiled at her and turned to lock the door of the backyard. She then walked up to the door and pushed it open. There was no light in the house, and she thought it would be better for her to clear her thoughts in the dark.

As she was closing the door, someone hugged her from behind, and her facial expression changed instantly, "Who is it..."

Her mouth was covered before she could finish her sentence.

Her body was pinned that she could not move.

She was terrified and wanted to call for help, but she couldn't as there was a palm covering her mouth.

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Due to the experience of being imprisoned by He Ruize, she was terrified of such shackles. She felt the blood in her body started boiling, and her heart was beating fast as if it would jump out of her chest. She couldn't help but trembled in fear.

"It's me."

It was Zong Jinghao?

She regained her composure and tried to smell the body odor of the man.

He kissed the back of her neck and buried his head in her hair, "Where did you go today?"

After hearing his familiar voice, she finally calmed down.

However, his question made her jumpy as she didn't know what to tell him.

Zong Jinghao's heart sank, as he knew that she was hiding something.

Lin Xinyan's mind was racing with every possible answer at that moment. After a few seconds, she finally said, "I didn't go anywhere. I just missed them so much, and I spent an entire day in the back yard with them. What's wrong?"

"Nothing." Zong Jinghao clasped her waist with his hand while the other trying to lift her shirt. Her waist was smooth and delicate, just like a baby's skin. He thought that if he exerted a little effort, he might leave a mark on it.

“Yan, I want to...” If it weren’t for the dim light, Lin Xinyan would definitely see him behaved unnaturally. He was saying something so flirty, yet his eyes were so cold.

Lin Xinyan felt that her throat was dry, and she opened her mouth. She said in a hoarse voice, “I haven’t bathed in a few days...”

“I don’t mind.” He tested the water by unbuttoning her pant with his hands. Lin Xinyan’s heart was beating fast, but she did not refuse.

She closed her eyes and enjoyed the moment.

Suddenly, the light of the room was turned on. Zong Jinghao let go of her and took a step back.

Seeing her closing her eyes willingly, and he didn’t feel any urge to continue.

For the first time, she was willing to surrender herself to him, but he didn’t want to touch her.

He was here tonight to probe for any inconsistencies in her story.

He wanted to know how much she had really changed.

Before this, she would only accept his kisses, but she let go of all her reservations this time.

Why has she changed suddenly?

Has she accepted him out of pressure or is it love?

He can’t tell.

He was terrified and frightened.

“Are you hiding something from me?” Zong Jinghao asked suspiciously.

Lin Xinyan opened her eyes slowly and saw him before her. His eyes were so distant and cold, and he was not as passionate as before.

She was stunned for a moment. Then she soon realized that he was probing her instead of wanting her for real.

Had he found out about anything?

“What do you think I can hide from you?” Lin Xinyan pretended to be calm. She was so guilty that she took the initiative to come over and put her arms around his neck. She did not dare to look at his face, and asked while leaning on his chest, “Are you curious as to why I said yes to you?”

The light was glowing with a yellowish halo, and it came down from the top of her head in circles. She looked away and said softly, “We already have Xi and Ruixi, but I have never...”

She meant what she said.

This man in front of her was her first man, and also the father of her children.

This was also the first time she had feelings for someone.

She didn't force herself, and she was willing to surrender herself to him.

Despite what Lin Xinyan had said, Zong Jinghao still couldn't trust her words entirely. After all, she didn't come clean with her whereabouts today.

He lowered his eyes and stared at the jade bracelet on her hand. He reached out to take her hand and pressed it against his chest. “If you face any challenges, you must let me know. I want you to know that I can share your burden with you. You are not alone.”

He worried that Lin Xinyan was threatened by others.

And that was why she acted differently.

How he hoped that her changes weren't because of external influence. He hoped that she had truly accepted him.

"I have never felt so lost for a woman before." His tone sounded like he was mocking himself.

He disliked himself like this.

"Rest early." He left the room as soon as he finished speaking.

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment. He didn't seem like his usual self as he used to love pestering her.

She followed him at the back. She stood beside the door and looked at his silhouette under the dim light, she asked, "Is there anything bothering you?"

Zong Jinghao didn't turn back, he stared into the empty yard and replied, "You told me that you were in the back yard for the whole day, where is your master then?"

Just then, Lin Xinyan realized that Cheng Yuwen didn't come back together with her.

"Master went out, so he isn't here." She explained quickly.

"Is that so?" Obviously, Zong Jinghao didn't trust her words.

He hoped that she would come clean. He had already given her so many hints that he actually knew what happened. Why was she still hiding the truth?

Was it because she didn't trust him?

However, he couldn't bring himself to question her any further nor hurt her feelings.

After that, he didn't look back and walked out of the backyard.

Lin Xinyan stood at the door and kept staring at his silhouette. He had gone far in the dark, and yet she didn't want to retrieve her gaze.

She wasn't a fool. Obviously, he was suspicious of her whereabouts.

Yet, she had promised Cheng Yuxiu not to let him know about his real identity.

If everyone knew that he was the son of Cheng Yuxiu, he would be known as an illegitimate son.

For a man with high social status like him, his inglorious identity would definitely receive a lot of criticism from others.

Lin Xinyan felt that he definitely wouldn't want that to happen.

When Zong Jinghao returned to the front yard, the card games had dismissed. There was a brazier in the middle of the yard, and Su Zhan and Qin Ya were barbecuing sweet potatoes. The night was still young, and they couldn't sleep either. There was simply no other place or activity to kill time.

The children squatted down around the brazier and watched how Su Zhan barbecued the sweet potatoes. They found it fascinating and interesting as this was their first time doing barbecue. They had tried roasting sweet potatoes in the oven at home before but barbecuing was much more fun.

Shen Peichuan stood at the side and looked at them.

“See how happy these two kids are, I am finally doing a good deed by making President Zong’s kids so happy.” Bai Yinning looked at the sulky face of the man who just walked out of the back yard, and he mocked, “President Zong surely didn’t look well. Did you not see Ms. Lin just now?”

Zong Jinghao put his hands in the pocket and sneered, “I thought gossipmonger only refers to a woman.”

What he really meant was Bai Yinning was as gossipy as a woman.

Bai Yinning was stunned at what he just said, and laughed out loud, “Wow, now you can even scold someone without using any dirty words. You have advanced to another level now.”

Zong Jinghao didn’t have the energy to bicker and argue with him. Instead, he called out Shen Peichuan, “Would you come over here, please.”

Shen Peichuan knew what he was about to ask; he patted on Su Zhan’s shoulder and told him, “Look after the children; I will go out for a while.”

He wasn’t sure what kind of a person Bai Yinning was. Although there wasn’t any malice in his actions, Shen Peichuan still had to beware of him.

Su Zhan understood what he meant and nodded, “Sure, I know what to do.”

The only advantage of living in the village was that when the night fell, the air was fresh, the weather was good and the sky was full of stars like a big disk full of jade beads. Back in the city, the air was polluted, and it was never easy to see the stars.

Under the starry night, they walked to the entrance of the village.

This time, they didn’t talk to each other by the river. They didn’t want Bai Yinning to eavesdrop their conversation.

At this moment, nobody knew for sure whether he was a friend or a foe.

However, judging from the current situation; he was certainly up to something for luring Lin Xinyan over.

Their car was at the entrance of the village. Zong Jinghao switched on the high beam headlights so that nobody could hide in the dark. This way, nobody would be able to eavesdrop on their conversation.

“How is the investigation going?” Zong Jinghao asked.

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“Indeed, she brought the two children to visit Yuxiu and they seemed to interact really well,” Shen Peichuan stated.

The gigantic mansion of the Cheng family made it easy to spot. The people whom Shen Peichuan hired were not only skilled but also had excellent investigation expertise.

It should be easy to find out where exactly did Lin Xinyan go.

However, they barely met a few times, why are they so close to each other?

This was the question that Shen Peichuan could not figure out.

“In my opinion, the tea silk weaving master might be the one who introduced them to each other...” Shen Peichuan suggested.

Disagreeing, Zong Jinghao shook his head.

“They have already met previously. Yuxiu even gave a jade bangle to Lin Xinyan. She told her that it was from the Zong family, yet I have never ever heard about that bangle in my entire life,” Zong Jinghao explained.

Even if the Zong family actually had a hair loom, shouldn't the jade bangle be in the hands of Wen Xian? Why was it with Yuxiu instead?

“Then, Yuxiu was probably trying to butter up to Ms. Lin in order to build the relationship between her and yourself since she does not have a child...” Shen Peichuan tried to convince Zong Jinghao. Although it is true that Yuxiu was a mistress, she had never abused or mistreated Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao felt that something was amiss, things could not be this simple. Lin Xinyan's family was also destroyed by a mistress. She would never be so benevolent to a homewrecker and be won over by a jade bangle.

Furthermore, he was certain that Lin Xinyan was not someone that would go against her morals and be bribed by money .

"Just pretend that you do not have any idea about this matter," Zong Jinghao uttered as his face darkened.

He wanted to see how long could Lin Xinyan possibly keep the matter from him.

If Lin Xinyan were to tell him the truth, he would not resent or be infuriated. Zong Jinghao understood that everyone was free to have their own opinions and perspectives. He never wanted to force Lin Xinyan to agree to his stance. He was just exasperated that she did not come clean with the truth. In his opinion, this simply meant that she did not trust him at all. If she did not even trust him wholeheartedly, how could they be together?

Shen Peichuan mumbled an 'alright'. It was obvious that Zong Jinghao was not in a good mood, and Shen Peichuan was not in any position to give his advice. He was assured that Zong Jinghao would be able to resolve the problems and clear up any misunderstandings.

At the moment, Zong Jinghao really wanted to be alone in order to think things through. However, he knew that the two children were still waiting for him. He had to return back.

Turning the car lights off, they turned back.

"Ms. Lin probably had her own reasons for doing so. The relationship between a mother and her daughter-in-law needs to be built and maintained. Ms. Lin might just want to get closer to your family," Shen Peichuan hypothesized. .

Actually, this might not be a bad thing. Maybe, Lin Xinyan wanted to get closer to Yuxiu because of Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao did not reply. He had his own considerations. He knew Lin Xinyan well enough and was certain that she was not someone that would simply butter up to someone.

When Shen Peichuan and Zong Jinghao arrived at the entrance, they saw Bai Yinning sitting in his wheelchair and he seemed to be waiting for someone.

“President Zong, can I have a word with you?” Bai Yinning asked.

Zong Jinghao gave Shen Peichuan a look, prompting him to leave. He wanted to hear what Bai Yinning had to say.

Having understood the signal, Shen Peichuan headed towards the yard.

Operating the wheelchair, Bai Yinning turned towards the river at the side.

“President Bai, what is it about?” Zong Jinghao calmly asked. His hands were folded in his pockets as he stood tall beside Bai Yinning.

Looking at the man in front of him, Bai Yinning clenched his fists tightly. He was once like him and now he had no choice but to rely on a wheelchair. Even till now, Bai Yinning was unable to accept this reality completely. Honestly, no one would be able to.

“Would you like to hear a story?” Bai Yinning spoke as he tilted his head up slightly, looking at Zong Jinghao.

Bai Yinning did not like to look up to anyone but given his circumstances, he did not have much options.

Zong Jinghao replied, “Sure, I’m all ears.”

Bai Yinning gazed towards the sky and slowly spoke, "You must have done a background check on me, am I right, President Zong?"

Although it was a question, his tone was certain.

Zong Jinghao did not deny that he had ordered Guan Jing to do so.

Bai Yinning was an orphan. After that, he was adopted by Bai Hongfei. When Bai Hongfei passed away, Bai Yinning inherited the entire Bai family's business.

Bai Yinning was really lucky to have met Bai Hongfei, otherwise he would not be able to reach his current status so easily.

Zong Jinghao did not believe in succeeding through entrepreneurship. Without any family background and connections, chances of success were slim, especially when starting from scratch. It would be impossible for Bai Yinning to have his achievements at this age.

Bai Yinning selected a picture from the gallery and showed it to Zong Jinghao. "This is Bai Hongfei, my foster father," Bai Yinning introduced.

Zong Jinghao took a glance at the picture. Frankly, he was not interested but he thought that Bai Yinning definitely had his intentions.

"Do you realize that he has lost two fingers?" Bai Yinning commented.

His pinky and ring fingers were missing.

Narrowing his eyes, Zong Jinghao asked, "What are you trying to say?"

"He was not born like that- someone chopped it off," Bai Yinning responded.

After Bai Yinning was adopted by Bai Hongfei, Bai Hongfei taught him how to operate the business. When he gradually grew up, he always wondered why Bai

Hongfei did not want to marry and have his own children but chose to adopt him instead.

Given his status, even without two fingers, many women would still be willing to marry him.

Later on, Bai Yinning realized that Bai Hongfei remained single because of a woman. That woman was Cheng Yuxiu.

As time passed, Bai Hongfei was at his deathbed. Prior to his death, he finally told Bai Yinning that his only regret was to let go the love of his life.

“I knew that after she gave birth to her child, we cannot be together anymore. She mentioned that she loves daughters, I am pretty sure that she will give birth to a pretty daughter. In the future, I hope that you would be able to marry her daughter and dote on her. That’s my only wish...” Bai Hongfei uttered his last words while grasping onto Bai Yinning’s hands.

In this lifetime, although affinity brought them together, they were unable to be together. Bai Hongfei just hoped that his fostered son was able to marry Cheng Yuwen’s daughter.

The heart rate monitor stopped beeping and the screen showed a straight line.

Having said his last words, Bai Hongfei finally passed away.

Bai Yinning could not understand: if Yuxiu gave birth to a child, where exactly did the child go? After Bai Hongfei passed away, he did a background check on Cheng Yuxiu. Bai Yinning knew that she was married to Zong Qifeng, but she never gave birth to a child.

“In the past, my foster father was kept in captivity for six years. His fingers were lost in that six years,” Bai Yinning revealed.

Six years was not a short duration, Bai Yinning could not find out who imprisoned his fostered father and even severed his fingers. It seemed like someone was trying to hide the past. Given his limited capabilities, he was unable to find out more and hence, he needed Zong Jinghao to investigate further.

Bai Hongfei brought him up and entrusted the entire Bai family to him. Bai Yinning would be eternally grateful to his foster father. In order to avenge for him, Bai Yinning wanted to find out who was the mastermind that imprisoned Bai Hongfei. However, to imprison Bai Hongfei for six years and ensure that the Bai family was unable to find out anything- this was not an easy task. Bai Yinning was certain that the mastermind was powerful. He was not sure whether he was able to rival against that opponent alone.

If his guesses were accurate, Zong Jinghao was very likely to be the biological son of Cheng Yuxiu. Of course, Bai Yinning lacked evidence but given that Zong Jinghao was implicated into this matter, it was now impossible for him to leave unscathed. With his abilities, Bai Yinning was very confident that the truth would be uncovered, sooner or later.

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Undeniably, being kept in captivity for six years is a terrible experience. However, why did Bai Yinning tell me this story?

Giving it some thoughts, Zong Jinghao understood Bai Yinning's intentions.

Zong Jinghao turned towards Bai Yinning and asked, "So, President Bai, your intentions for telling me this story is to ask for my help. Am I right?"

Exposed, Bai Yinning was surprisingly not flustered nor embarrassed. Letting out a laughter, Bai Yinning revealed, "Seems like you have figured it out. If you are willing to investigate further, I am certain that you would be able to find out more."

"And how would that benefit me?" Zong Jinghao questioned.

Zong Jinghao obviously did not want to be involved in this matter. If not for Lin Xinyan, he would not even be here at all.

He wants to take advantage of me? What a joke!

Bai Yinning's expression became more serious. Without a doubt, making use of Zong Jinghao without him realizing, was impossible.

In order for Zong Jinghao to take interest in this matter and start investigating, Bai Yinning knew that he needed a bait.

"My foster father remained single his entire life due to his first love. They were even engaged. However, due to some reasons that I am not aware of, they were separated. In the end, his first love married your father, Zong Qifeng. Remember, my foster father was locked up for six years..."

“What are you trying to imply? My father intervened their relationship?” Zong Jinghao advanced, cutting Bai Yinning off. Zong Jinghao never liked Yuxiu in the first place and now, she was the cause of every single incident that happened. This realization irritated Zong Jinghao even more.

At first, Bai Yinning also suspected that his foster father was abducted by Zong Qifeng in order to force Yuxiu to stay by his side. If she refused to comply, Bai Hongfei would be harmed. This was his explanation for Bai Hongfei’s kidnap and severed fingers.

However, Bai Yinning could not understand one thing: if Zong Qifeng was the mastermind, how was it possible for him to avoid the Wen family’s fury?

Zong Qifeng and Wen Xian were husband and wife. If Zong Qifeng went to such extremities, how was it possible for the Wen family to not do anything about it? Hence, his suspicion could not be verified nor explained.

“Have you ever wondered why didn’t the Wen family stop your father from marrying Cheng Yuxiu right after your mother’s death? How was this possible?” Bai Yinning spoke.

Regardless of influential families or ordinary citizens, who would be tolerant enough to accept their son-in-law to marry another woman right after their daughter’s death? It was really strange that the Wen family was able to accept it!

“What did you just say? Cheng Yuxiu?” Zong Jinghao was alarmed.

Zong Jinghao was always indifferent to Yuxiu and had never interacted with her willingly. However, he definitely knew what was her name and also knew that his father would always introduce her as Yuxiu, not Cheng Yuxiu.

Hearing how Bai Yinning addressed her, Zong Jinghao was bewildered.

Why did she conceal her surname? What is she trying to hide?

Zong Jinghao knew that Bai Yinning was deliberate in revealing those information in order to use him to investigate more about the past. Yet, despite so, Zong Jinghao was willing to uncover the truth, or else he felt that he would be living in lies.

“President Zong, are you willing to collaborate with me?” Bai Yinning suggested as he felt that Zong Jinghao was slightly convinced.

“To be very honest with you, my achievements today are not possible without my foster father. He has already passed away and all I can do now is to avenge those who hurt him. I am sure you would also like to find out the entanglement between your father and Cheng Yuxiu. If we were to cooperate, finding out the truth would not be difficult at all. What do you think, President Zong?” Bai Yinning continued.

Chuckling, Zong Jinghao answered, “I can find out the truth alone, why would I need your cooperation?”

Zong Jinghao implied that Bai Yinning lacked the bargaining power to get his help.

Bai Yinning lowered his head and smiled bitterly, “Taking advantage of President Zong is so difficult. And yes, I have another piece of evidence regarding this matter.”

Initially, Bai Yinning did not want to reveal everything to Zong Jinghao. However, at this point of time, if he did not reveal his trump card, Zong Jinghao was very unlikely to work with him.

“There is a tea silk weaving master. His name is Cheng Yuwen,” Bai Yinning uttered.

The Cheng family was once influential and glorious. However, as they gradually went into a decline, they started to live in seclusion.

Cheng Yuwen and Cheng Yuxiu?

“If I am not wrong, Ms. Lin knows about everything,” Bai Yinning added.

That day, Bai Yinning excused himself for work, but in actual fact, he was investigating the vehicle parked in the backyard. That day, Bai Yinning was already informed that Cheng Yuxiu brought Lin Xinyan to see Cheng Yuwen, even before Zong Jinghao was notified.

“Before Ms. Lin went to pick up the two children, she was at the Cheng Mansion for an entire day. Cheng Yuxiu was there too,” Bai Yinning finally disclosed everything he knew.

Zong Jinghao clenched his fists.

Is this the reason why Lin Xinyan changed her attitude? What did Cheng Yuxiu tell her during her stay at the Cheng Mansion?

“Is this all that you know?” Zong Jinghao asked, maintaining his composure although he had made up his mind to work with Bai Yinning.

Even so, Zong Jinghao would not let Bai Yinning have the upper hand.

“That’s all. If I had known everything, I would not need President Zong’s assistance,” Bai Yinning declared.

Deep in thought, this matter seemed to be pretty complicated. However, this was Bai Yinning’s territory and he would continue to investigate further here while Zong Jinghao would be in B City. With both of their connections, finding out the truth should not be too difficult.

“Daddy...” Lin Ruixi called out, interrupting the silence.

In these days when Lin Xinyan was not around, Lin Ruixi was too used to Zong Jinghao's embrace as she slept. After washing her face and brushing her teeth, Qin Ya wanted Lin Ruixi to change into her pajamas and prepare to sleep. However, Lin Ruixi was adamant for Zong Jinghao to be beside her as she slept. Helpless, Qin Ya finally brought Lin Ruixi to Zong Jinghao.

"She is unwilling to change into her pajamas," Qin Ya depicted.

Stepping forward, Zong Jinghao picked the little girl up and walked towards the yard. Before he left, he affirmed, "I will leave it to you to find out more about what happened here."

"Of course, don't worry. I will find out the truth soon," Bai Yinning exclaimed.

He knew that Zong Jinghao was willing to cooperate with him.

In his territory, to investigate what happened to the Cheng family in the early years was definitely manageable. If the event actually happened, it was not possible to not leave a single trace.

"Daddy, when is mommy returning back?" Lin Ruixi inquired with her arms wrapped around Zong Jinghao's neck. She was starting to miss grandma.

"Soon, my dear. It's time to sleep," Zong Jinghao comforted as he gently pat her head.

"President Zong, you're the most generous man I have ever met," Bai Yinning added. In his wheelchair, Bai Yinning followed behind them.

"Usually, a child will bear his father's surname but you are willing to let your children have your wife's family name. Your love for your wife is admirable," Bai Yinning chortled before returning back to his room.

Obviously, Bai Yinning was mocking him. He knew that when Lin Xinyan gave birth to the two children, Zong Jinghao was not by her side. Leaving her no choice, they had to bear her surname.

Stopping in his tracks, Zong Jinghao raised an eyebrow at Bai Yinning. "That's my intentions, you don't have to worry," Zong Jinghao retorted. As long as they were their children, he was not particular about their surname. Even if Zong Jinghao wanted a child that bore his surname, they could simply just have another child.

After understanding what Zong Jinghao implied, Bai Yinning's smile that was originally etched on his face slowly faded.

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The most crucial part of a quality tea silk was not about the weaving but to have the most superior thread.

Lin Xinyan always thought that learning the expertise of weaving the tea silk was the most important part!

The thread used for tea silk weaving was made from a combination of natural silk, cotton and fiber from milk.

With exact portions from all three ingredients, the thread produced would be very fine and of excellent quality. Hence, to achieve this step was not an easy task.

By using this unique thread, then only could the tea silk be light, thin and smooth.

Although Cheng Yuwen divulged this most crucial step to Lin Xinyan, he still insisted to follow Lin Xinyan back to the B city.

If the Wen family were to take any actions, he would bear all consequences. This was the decision made by Cheng Yuxiu and himself.

“I thought you mentioned that you are not leaving this place?” Lin Xinyan pondered.

Lin Xinyan knew that if Cheng Yuwen were to follow her to B City and tea silk weaving got launched into the market, the Cheng family would definitely figure out that something was amiss.

“Are you afraid that I will be in danger?” Lin Xinyan asked as she recognized the reason for his sudden decision.

Alone, she was certain that she would be no match against the Wen family. However, she was not alone.

“I don’t agree,” Lin Xinyan was adamant.

“Please have faith in me. I believe that if I am in any danger, Zong Jinghao will be there to protect me,” Lin Xinyan persuaded. Subconsciously, she had already trusted and relied on Zong Jinghao.

Without herself realizing, Lin Xinyan’s attitude towards Zong Jinghao had gradually changed.

In need of help, the first person whom Lin Xinyan would turn to would be Zong Jinghao- the person whom she was close to and trusted so much.

Cheng Yuxiu had sacrificed too much for Zong Jinghao. Now, it was their turn to protect her.

“Wen Qing has reached the national level...” Cheng Yuwen murmured.

“No matter how ruthless he is, he would not harm his ‘nephew’, would he?” Lin Xinyan countered. Zong Jinghao’s identity was not revealed in the first place due to Wen family’s influence. If they discovered that Cheng Yuxiu was the one who gave birth to Zong Jinghao, he might be murdered right after his birth.

“You can’t convince me! Please do not go back to B city!” Lin Xinyan declared, her tone was firm.

Sighing, Cheng Yuwen muttered, “I am an old man. It doesn’t really matter if I die today or tomorrow.”

Yet, no matter what Cheng Yuwen said, Lin Xinyan would not give in.

As the sun rose, Lin Xinyan packed her personal belongings and left the backyard without bidding goodbye. All she left was a note.

In the front yard, most people were already up, except the two little ones. Despite the weather getting colder, the village did not have any heater. Under the covers, the two little kids were not willing to leave the bed.

Opening the door, Lin Xinyan saw both of them watching a cartoon animation on a tablet. Lin Xichen was initially not interested, however, giving in to his sister, he agreed to her requests regardless.

On the other hand, Zong Jinghao was sitting by the window, attending a video conference.

As the door opened, Zong Jinghao looked up from his laptop and saw Lin Xinyan entering the room with a backpack on her shoulders. Seeing her, Zong Jinghao knew that she had honed her craft. This meant that they were finally able to leave this place.

Zong Jinghao handed down some instructions to his subordinates before he ended the meeting promptly. Closing the laptop, he stood up.

“We can leave now,” Lin Xinyan mumbled at the entrance.

“Alright, can you help to dress them? I will inform the others about it, they will need some time to prepare,” Zong Jinghao said as he left the room.

When he walked past Lin Xinyan, he avoided her. Usually, Zong Jinghao would brush against her lightly.

It was the exact same scenario as that day when Zong Jinghao left the backyard. The atmosphere between both of them turned slightly bitter. There seemed to be an invisible barrier that was separating them.

Without herself knowing, Lin Xinyan was used to the intimacy, his touch and even his tease. The sudden distance between the both of them made her uncomfortable.

Lin Ruixi was jumping on the bed. Donning her duckling pajamas, she looked like a little duck that was bouncing around. As she raised her arms, Lin Ruixi beamed, "I want a hug from mommy!"

Putting down her belongings, Lin Xinyan went forward and gave a big hug to both children. "It's getting late. Let's get changed and then we can leave," Lin Xinyan suggested.

"Really?" Lin Xichen wondered, his voice filled with excitement. After staying at this place for quite some time, he was getting bored.

Picking up their clothes, Lin Xinyan started to dress them up. "Yes, we are leaving now. Mommy will not go back on my words," Lin Xinyan coaxed.

"We can finally leave!" The two children marveled in unison and went on to cuddle Lin Xinyan.

"Do you guys not like this place?" Lin Xinyan asked.

Shaking his head, Lin Xichen explained, "It is great here. The sky is nice and the view is awesome but it gets boring after a while."

"What a picky little boy. If you think that this place is boring, what about the residents that are living here?" Lin Xinyan commented as she gently stroked his face.

"No, mommy, it doesn't work that way. We are living in a city where it is driven by technology unlike the locals here who are used to living in this place. At first, when we moved here, this place is definitely fascinating but after a while it gets a bit dull and mundane," Lin Xichen argued.

Unable to refute his point of view, Lin Xinyan shrugged helplessly.

He had such a silver-tongue at such a young age!

“Alright, stop publicizing your insights. Hurry up and wear your shoes,” Lin Xinyan instructed while patting his bottoms.

Slightly embarrassed, Lin Xinyan jumped down from the bed and followed her commands.

Finally done with dressing up her son, Lin Xinyan moved on to her daughter. Yet, Lin Ruixi kept fidgeting, making it difficult for Lin Xinyan. “My dear, stop fidgeting,” Lin Xinyan directed at the little girl.

After what seemed like an eternity, Lin Xinyan finally dressed them up and got them ready for departure.

“I am here to help you with the belongings. We are ready to go. The vehicles are parked at the entrance of the village,” Qin Ya notified Lin Xinyan.

“Where’s daddy?” Lin Ruixi pondered. She was naturally clingy towards Zong Jinghao since he doted on her so much.

“Your daddy is having a conversation with Mr. Shen and Mr. Su. You will see him soon,” Qin Ya replied as she gently stroked her braids which were styled by Lin Xinyan. Carrying a plushie backpack, Lin Ruixi hummed a random tune as she leaped towards the door, wanting to find Zong Jinghao.

“This girl is getting more adorable day by day,” Qin Ya exclaimed.

Lin Xinyan responded with a smile. However, her smile seemed to be a little half-hearted as she was still affected by the previous incident.

Lin Xichen was still indulged in the excitement of being able to leave this place and did not realize what was wrong with Lin Xinyan.

Holding her son's hand while grabbing their belongings, Lin Xinyan walked towards the door. Beside them, Qin Ya was also holding onto two big bags of belongings. It's impressive that all of the stuff belonged to the two little children.

As Zong Jinghao saw them approaching, he swiftly ended the conversation with Shen Peichuan and Su Zhan. Walking towards Lin Xinyan, he initiated, "Let me carry the bag."

Lin Xinyan tightened her grip on the bag and simply stared at the man in front of her. Her silence showed her unhappiness.

It was true that Zong Jinghao was angry at her for not telling him the truth. Yet, he could not bear to see her suffer at all.

In that instant, the atmosphere became slightly tensed. With so many people around, Lin Xinyan finally gave in.

Lifting the bag pack, Zong Jinghao uttered, "Let's go."

Only at this moment, Lin Xichen finally realized that the relationship between Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao had become a little strained.

What happened to them? Are they arguing?

In the past, Lin Xichen never wanted Lin Xinyan to forgive this heartless man. However, when Zong Jinghao stopped clinging onto Lin Xinyan, Lin Xichen started to worry.

Deep down, he still wished that his mother and father could be together. Although sometimes he would reject or make things difficult for Zong Jinghao, it was simply because Zong Jinghao once abandoned them.

Lin Xichen still wanted his daddy. No matter how much resentment he had, the blood ties between them could not be severed. Not to mention that Zong Jinghao doted so much on Lin Ruixi and Lin Xichen. It would be a lie to say that he was not moved by his efforts.

Grasping tightly onto Lin Xinyan's hand, Lin Xichen hoped that Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan would never be separated. He would make sure that this would never ever happen!

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Lin Xichen quickened his steps intentionally so that Lin Xinyan would be able to match Zong Jinghao's pace. "Ruixi, let me hold your hand, alright?" Lin Xichen suggested while reaching out to the little girl's hand.

Shaking her head, Lin Ruixi protested, "I want daddy to hold my hand!"

Lin Xichen went speechless.

Why did she not get my hint at all?

Letting out a sigh, Lin Xichen did not continue to insist. He decided to wait for a better time to matchmake them.

The masterplan was that Lin Xichen could hold Lin Ruixi's hand and Zong Jinghao then could hold Lin Xinyan's! What a pity that Lin Ruixi did not cooperate.

Lin Xichen's plan failed.

A number of cars were at the entrance of the village. As the road was bumpy, it was not convenient for Bai Yinning to walk out of the village since he was wheelchair-bound. Hence, Bai Yinning left earlier than everyone else.

"It's been a while since I last met you, Ms. Lin," Bai Yinning smiled as he peered at the woman who approached.

Lin Xinyan greeted, "Thank you so much for your referral previously, Mr. Bai."

Lin Xinyan did not continue the conversation. The way Bai Yinning spoke made it seem that they were close but they were never so close to begin with.

Bai Yinning could tell that Lin Xinyan was distancing herself. In response, he let out a laughter. Turning towards Zong Jinghao, whose face darkened by the second, Bai Yinning did not hold in his chuckles.

“You used to call me Yinning, and now you address me as Mr. Bai. Is it because of him?” Bai Yinning asked while pointing to Zong Jinghao.

If Bai Yinning wanted to take advantage of Zong Jinghao in the business world, it would be close to impossible. However, Bai Yinning could create some trouble for him through Lin Xinyan.

Almost instantly, Lin Xinyan knew Bai Yinning’s intentions.

Although things were awkward between them, it was obvious that Lin Xinyan knew who to side. If she responded to Bai Yinning’s request and addressed him by his name, it would definitely make Zong Jinghao feel upset. She did not want him to feel that way.

“I will definitely answer to your requests since you saved me before. I won’t forget that I still owe you a favor. However, Mr. Bai, I am now married. I don’t want to create any misunderstandings. I hope that you can understand and please don’t make things difficult for me.” Lin Xinyan replied.

Upon hearing her words, Zong Jinghao’s face brightened almost immediately while Bai Yinning went speechless.

Bai Yinning wanted to make things hard for Zong Jinghao but now it seemed that he had shot himself in the foot.

Although Bai Yinning was unwilling to let Zong Jinghao off so easily, if Bai Yinning rejected Lin Xinyan’s suggestion, it would be clear that Bai Yinning was finding trouble for the both of them.

“Of course, Ms. Lin. I understand,” Bai Yinning reassured.

Lin Xinyan did not want to make things too awkward since Bai Yinning had saved her and even taken good care of her previously. “If I have the chance, let me treat you to a meal. Thank you so much for bringing me here...” Lin Xinyan offered.

“No problem, thank you in advance for the treat,” Bai Yinning beamed a little.

As Lin Xinyan finished her sentence, Zong Jinghao’s expression darkened instantaneously. This realization made Bai Yinning crack a grin. However, Lin Xinyan was not aware of Zong Jinghao’s displeasure.

Lin Xinyan was still dwelling on the incident. Many thoughts rushed through her mind.

Did I do anything wrong? Why can’t he just tell me about it? Why is he being so cold out of the blue? Maybe...he doesn’t like me anymore?

Forcing herself to stop overthinking, Lin Xinyan grabbed Lin Xichen’s hand and said, “Let’s go.”

Lin Xichen could feel the dejection in Lin Xinyan’s voice.

Obediently, Lin Xichen followed Lin Xinyan. However, he did not get into the vehicle but pointed to the caravan behind it and exclaimed, “Mommy, I want to sit in that car. It’s more comfortable and really spacious. Ruixi and I usually go with that car.”

“Yes! Mommy, do you want to sit with us? It’s been a while since you sat with us. I miss you so much,” Lin Ruixi ran towards Lin Xinyan and pouted.

Lin Xinyan could see the expectations in the little girl’s eyes.

In Lin Xichen's mind, he gave his sister a thumbs up. For once, she was being useful.

Knowing how clingy Lin Ruixi was towards Zong Jinghao, Lin Xinyan knew that Zong Jinghao would follow them to that caravan. However, Lin Xinyan did not want to face him at the moment.

"It's going to be really squeezey..." Lin Xinyan tried to reject.

"No mommy! It's really big! There's a bed, sofa and television. Mommy, you can even take a nap in there! It's comfy there!" Lin Ruixi persuaded.

Hearing their conversation, gloom enveloped Zong Jinghao. If only there was no one with them, Zong Jinghao would definitely ask why was she trying so hard to avoid him!

Bottling his discontent, Zong Jinghao wrapped his arms around Lin Xinyan's waist and muttered, "If you don't want to sit with Ruixi and Xichen, where would you like to sit?" Ignoring her resistance, Zong Jinghao pulled them towards the vehicle.

Lin Xinyan was struggling to avoid his touch and refuted, "It's not that I don't want to sit with my children. I just don't want to bother you!"

"How are you bothering me?" Zong Jinghao uttered beside her ears, ensuring that only she could hear him.

Lin Xinyan did not reply. Zong Jinghao was the one who started this entire ordeal! After he himself started to distance away from her, why was he trying to imply that Lin Xinyan was the one who was looking for trouble?

"Stay away from Bai Yinning. We have returned that favor of saving you. Why must you treat him a meal? Look at how smug he was!" Zong Jinghao grunted under his breath.

Zong Jinghao didn't know much he wanted to rip off that smile etched on Bai Yinning's face.

"He took good care of me, why can't I treat him to a meal?" Lin Xinyan rebutted. Using her elbow, she jabbed Zong Jinghao's arm away. Without saying more, Lin Xinyan carried Lin Ruixi and held onto Lin Xichen's arm and they entered the vehicle.

Inevitably, Zong Jinghao's heart stung a little.

This woman!

Pft!

Su Zhan could not hold onto his laughter any longer.

This was the first time Su Zhan witnessed that somebody could argue and even jab Zong Jinghao, leaving him here, helpless!

Su Zhan really wanted to ask Zong Jinghao if it hurt.

Ha, ha, ha!

Furrowing his brows, Zong Jinghao glared at Su Zhan and hissed, "Are you not afraid that you might bite your tongue?"

Zong Jinghao then entered the car.

Upon hearing his words, Su Zhan froze a little.

I...I didn't even do anything. Why can't I even smile now? And... it's not so easy to bite my own tongue...

“You are dumb,” Qin Ya commented as she rolled her eyes. Ignoring Su Zhan, Qin Yan went up to Shen Peichuan and asked, “Mr. Shen, can I hitch a ride from you?”

“My pleasure, “ Shen Peichuan answered while he stole a glance at Su Zhan.

“Shen Peichuan! Are you still my friend?” Su Zhan stormed as he held onto Shen Peichuan’s collar.

Shen Peichuan threw his palms out and smirked, “She was the one who asked. I can’t possibly reject a lady, am I right?”

“Get lost!” Su Zhan bellowed. He released his grip as Shen Peichuan took a step back.

Actually, Shen Peichuan did not want to let Qin Ya hitch a ride from him. All Shen Peichuan wanted to do was to joke around with Su Zhan.

Regardless of whether or not would they end up together, Shen Peichuan could tell that Su Zhan was in love with Qin Ya. Unlike his previous relationships, Su Zhan was serious in this one.

“I’ll have to give someone else a ride. Su Zhan will give you a ride instead. As you can tell, if I let you ride with me, he will murder me,” Shen Peichuan sounded helpless.

As he spoke, Shen Peichuan made a gesture of cutting his own neck with his finger, leaving Qin Ya speechless.

There are so many cars here, I don’t believe that I must hitch a ride from Su Zhan!

However, she was really rejected by everyone else!

“Ms. Qin. Please don’t put us in a difficult position. We are all boors, it’s not that suitable for you to squeeze with all the guys. How about you go with Mr. Su? He can give you a ride.”

Qin Ya glared at Su Zhan and ignored the triumph etched across his face. She strode swiftly towards the caravan car. Before she could open the door, she was interrupted by Su Zhan’s voice. “The family of four was separated for so long. It’s not very nice of you to interrupt them, am I right?” Su Zhan spoke.

Qin Ya froze in place. On second thought, it was indeed not suitable for her to barge in like that, especially when Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan seemed to have some misunderstandings.

“How about you get in my car?” Without her approval, Su Zhan held onto her shoulders and urged her towards his car.

“Su Zhan!” Qin Ya threatened but to no avail. Why is this guy so annoying!

Ignoring her opposition, Qin Ya was finally stuffed into his car. As Qin Ya tried to get out of his car, Su Zhan leaned in and whispered, “Don’t force me to do anything offensive, especially with so many people looking.”

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“You...”

Qin Ya was so angry that her face turned red. ‘Despicable’ and ‘disgusting’ were adjectives too mild to describe the man in front of her.

Su Zhan started the car, “Don’t glare at me; if you glare too hard, your eyes will pop out. If you go blind and can’t see me anymore, you’ll miss me.”

Qin Ya was at a loss for words.

“Can you be more shameless?” Qin Ya really could not find any word to describe him.

Su Zhan did not mind at all; instead, he laughed. “If I were a gentleman, I wouldn’t have been in your room that night...”

Qin Ya took a deep breath. She kept trying to comfort herself psychologically and encouraging herself not to quarrel with someone of such low IQ. If I hurt myself, I am the one who will suffer.

I’ll hold my horses. When we arrive at our destination, I’ll hide, can I not do that?

I cannot insult him straightaway but I can hide, can I not?

Su Zhan became a little serious and stopped agitating her. “Don’t be angry anymore, alright?”

Qin Ya ignored him. She turned her head and looked outside the windscreen.

He is just a housefly in human form.

Inside the RV.

This time, Shen Peichuan was not inside. Seated at the wheel was a highly-skilled driver.

At the back, Lin Xinyan was with her two kids. Lin Ruixi watched an animation movie for a while and was now sleepy. Lin Xichen quietly took the tablet from him and started playing Super Brain on it.

The number game he was playing previously could no longer satisfy him. It was too easy.

This present game, Super Brain, was a little more challenging.

He was interested. The more difficult the challenge, the more he loved it.

Lin Xinyan gently patted her daughter as she read the info Cheng Yuwen had given her.

Zong Jinghao sat in front, staring at the info Guan Jing had given him. However, he could not absorb even one single word. He just kept turning around and looking at the back.

What's she doing now? Why is there no sound of voices or movements coming from them?

Lin Ruixi cannot sit still in a car. Why is there no sound from her?

Then, the sound of Lin Xichen's voice was heard, saying, "Mommy, I'm tired too. I'm going to sleep."

He spoke loudly and clearly, as if intended for Zong Jinghao's ears. He and her younger sister were sleeping now, so Zong Jinghao could come over and talk with Lin Xinyan. They could spend some time together.

In fact, Zong Jinghao wanted to see what Lin Xinyan was doing. Hearing Lin Xichen's words just made him more eager to do so.

He shut the laptop, sat for a while and after deciding that Lin Xichen must have fallen asleep, he got up and made his way to the back. He pulled up the curtains so that the back of the RV was not visible from the front.

Indeed, the two kids were lying down. Lin Ruixi was really asleep. Perhaps the swaying movements of the car was similar to that of a cradle and so, she slept soundly. However, Lin Xichen was not asleep at all. He was just pretending.

"What are you reading?" Zong Jinghao came over and started to converse with Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan knew that he was coming over. She did not even look up from her reading material. She was making plans to be carried out on their return to City B- where she would place the machines and strategies to promote 'Xiang YunSha

' silk.

For too long, people had forgotten this fabric. Furthermore, many other good materials had been produced over the years.

To reach the market again, new strategies were necessary.

Zong Jinghao was silent.

Shall I ignore him?

Imagine he's disappeared into thin air?

"I'm reading. Do you need a drink?" Finally, Lin Xinyan looked up.

Zong Jinghao breathed heavily. He was not thirsty and he did not need a drink. He had come to see her.

"Are you ignoring me?" He lowered his voice.

If it were not for the two children present, he could not have kept so calm.

Self-control? In Lin Xinyan's company, I do not have it.

My mood changes with her attitude towards me.

It was not Lin Xinyan's intention to engage in a cold war forever. "It was you who distanced yourself from me. If I have done wrong, you could have told me truthfully, not beat around the bush. I'm not good at guessing. It tires me, really."

Zong Jinghao looked at her for a few seconds before asking, "Are you hiding something from me?"

Lin Xinyan was surprised. He is suspicious?

From that night on, he has constantly been asking this question.

What did he see?

What has he discovered?

"I..."

Lin Xinyan thought over it for a while. Then she replied frankly, "Yes, I have to withhold something from you. I cannot tell you what it is."

Now that Zong Jinghao has found out, if I continue to conceal, his suspicions will only deepen. I might as well tell him.

Zong Jinghao was silent for a while.

"Why?" he asked.

"Because this is my secret. Everyone has something that they don't want to talk about. The same goes for me. What about you? There are some people or incidents in your life that you don't want to remember, aren't there?"

Zong Jinghao frowned. He could not argue with that. It was true that everyone had some things they would rather not talk about.

In that case, why do I feel uneasy?

I do not like her to have secrets?

I want her to be frank with me in everything- inner feelings and day to day living.

A knot formed in his throat and he had to suppress the uneasy feeling he was feeling. He could neither question nor force her.

In the car, there was an unusual atmosphere. In the suffocating silence, Zong Jinghao turned around.

Lin Xinyan called out to him.

"Zong Jinghao."

She got down from bed and looked at his departing figure. He was tall and inside the car, the crown of his head almost touched the roof.

“Does it bother you a lot?” Lin Xinyan too wanted to let him know Cheng Yuxiu’s identity.

As a mother, she understood how a mother felt.

At the same time, she understood why Cheng Yuxiu had to hide her identity.

She admired Cheng Yuxiu’s strength. If it were her, she could not have done it.

Zong Jinghao remained silent. He did not know what bothered him. Was it her keeping a secret or was it the secret itself?

“If you cannot accept that, let us ...”

Suddenly Zong Jinghao turned around and gazed sharply at her, “Let us what?”

“Let us go our separate ways.” Lin Xinyan knew that she had now gone too far. At this point, she wanted to know how much she meant to him. This secret was destined to be the cause of contention between them. If she did not tell, there would always be this doubt on his mind.

Though she knew she loved this man.

Nevertheless, she had promised Cheng Yuxiu.

Right now, there was no other way but to keep him in the dark.

Was he angry? This was insufficient to describe Zong Jinghao’s feelings.

This woman dared to mention separation?

Separation? To be separated from him?

He narrowed his eyes and the muscles of his jaw tensed instantly. Lin Xinyan did not dare to look at his eyes as she could feel the bone-chilling coldness coming from him.

He pulled her into his arms and could not help saying, "Don't even think about it!" Then he kissed her lips urgently. Lin Xinyan's words- 'separate ways'- had hit him hard.

He seemed to be punishing her.

Lin Xinyan understood his anger and she put up with the pain.

His anger proved that she mattered to him.

She slid her hands around his neck and lifted her head to receive his advances.

Laughing, she said, "I'm glad."

Zong Jinghao was surprised, "You..."

"I know why you're angry. You don't want to leave me, am I right?" She wore a smile, so beautiful, so wide, so tender and so solemn.

That's the reason why she said that just now?

Zong Jinghao felt that whenever this woman appeared in front of him, he would turn into a clumsy, bumbling idiot.

He was at a loss, "You were testing me?"

Lin Xinyan nodded her head solemnly, “Yes. You are so much older than me. I have no idea how many relationships you’ve experienced. How much do I mean to you...”

She was still speaking when his fingers pressed on her lips. Zong Jinghao placed his fingers hard on her pink lips until they changed their shape...

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It was painful for Lin Xinyan but she kept quiet, allowing him to vent his anger.

No matter what, it was she who concealed the truth.

His gaze was deep and his voice was low and warm, "I only have one woman and that is you..."

All his emotions and physical body were dedicated to one woman.

Lin Xinyan was not sure if his breathing was too warm or he had caught her off guard. Her body felt feverish with panic. Yet, pretending to be calm, she asked, "What about He Ruilin?"

Deliberately, she brought up the past.

If she could find no fault with him, she was afraid he would continue to pester her about what she was concealing.

This time Zong Jinghao was not fooled by her, he pinched her chin and embraced her in his arms, vowing, "In my last life, I must have been a heinous villain. In this life, the heavens sent you to punish me."

Even though he knew her intentions, he could not point it out.

That's alright.

Anyhow, I will investigate and find out.

I want to know what has been hidden from me.

What could have changed her attitude and made her do everything to prevent me from finding out.

Lin Xinyan held on to his collar. Her heart was in turmoil. Quickly, she recovered as she began to understand. She thought it out and made a decision, "I've never been in love. I don't know how to love a man. If there is anything I did not do correctly, please forgive me."

Zong Jinghao was taken aback. Slowly he lowered his eyes, "Are you confessing to me?"

Lin Xinyan was still uncertain but she decided to try, "You may assume I am."

He laughed aloud. His gaze fell upon her shy face. Just a moment ago, she was so brash and vocal but now she was blushing timidly.

Lin Xinyan avoided his eyes. He brushed her hair away from her face and looked at her for a while. Everything about her was pretty.

He brought his lips near and touched her cheeks. Then he said something strange, "I regret."

Lin Xinyan's eyes widened in surprise. She did not respond for a long while. What does he mean by that?

"What do you mean?"

Zong Jinghao raised his eyebrows and chuckled. His tone was low and deep with a tinge of unconditional acceptance. "You forget so soon? It's okay, I will explain another day."

Lin Xinyan always felt that his words had double meanings.

Suddenly, her eyes widened. Was he talking about last night?

Boom!

Her face felt flushed as if on fire. She turned redder.

Zong Jinghao held her in his arms lying on another bed that was quite narrow. Since Zong Jinghao was so tall, his feet were left dangling outside the bed. He curved his upper body as well. Lying on one side, holding Lin Xinyan who was also lying on one side, this was the only way they could lie in bed together.

Lin Xichen's little hands gripped his pillow tightly in order for him to stay quiet. He kept telling himself, "They are my parents, so it is normal for them to embrace. It is not wrong."

He was struggling with himself. He wished that Lin Xinyan would not forgive Zong Jinghao so easily.

On the other hand, he feared they would separate.

In his mind, he thought, perhaps he was a contradiction.

About noon, they reached Baicheng.

All this time, living in the village was quite inconvenient and they did not rest well either. And so, when they returned to the hotel, everyone was tired.

"Everyone, go upstairs and get a bath. Rest for a while. Later on, come down here for lunch. Let me arrange," Shen Peichuan said to the group.

Su Zhan left first, "I haven't changed for a few days. I've got to go back to my room."

"Come, let's go together." He looked at Qin Ya who was next to him.

Qin Ya stepped back, putting some distance between them.

Su Zhan frowned, "Don't forget, we are a couple..."

"We have broken up," Qin Ya replied loudly.

She was tired of Su Zhan and worried that if they carried on any longer, it would be difficult to dump him later.

Su Zhan was taken aback. He had not expected her to say this in public. He was stunned for some time.

Shen Peichuan called out his name worriedly, "Su Zhan..."

"That's okay, this is a matter of the heart. Two people are involved. She can't make this decision alone," Su Zhan resumed his happy-go-lucky style, "I'll go up first."

"Ya," Lin Xinyan let Zong Jinghao take care of her two kids and walked over to Qin Ya to see that she was okay.

"Lin, I'm fine, don't worry about me. I'm going upstairs for a shower. It's been some time since I had one."

After she said that, she hurriedly went upstairs as if trying to flee from something.

At this point, she wanted to be left alone.

Lin Xinyan was a little worried. These two had been together not for long. She was afraid Qin Ya would be hurt.

Zong Jinghao held her hand, "Don't worry, they're not kids. In matters of the heart, let them handle themselves. You go on upstairs."

Lin Xinyan nodded. Perhaps she worried too much. They were adults and Su Zhan was a lawyer by profession. Though he was unemployed, when necessary, he could surely handle things appropriately.

Lin Ruixi scratched her head and her brows were knitted together. Lin Xinyan picked her up, asking, "Your scalp feels itchy?"

"Yeah." The little head nodded vigorously. Her tiny hand continued scratching. Travelling outside, her hair had not been washed for days. It was uncomfortable.

Lin Xinyan comforted her, "You will be fine after I wash it for you."

On entering their room, after putting down their luggage, Zong Jinghao went into another room, letting the children use the former one.

Lin Xinyan went into the bathroom and filled the tub with warm water, getting ready to bathe Lin Ruixi.

The little girl exclaimed, "It feels comfortable to be at home."

"This is not home," Lin Xichen corrected her. Can't she differentiate between hotel and home?

The little girl was annoyed. She pouted, "Big brother is annoying."

Lin Xichen shook his head as if he did not know what to do with her.

"Mommy, look! My brother is bullying me." Lin Ruixi ran into the bathroom, climbed onto Lin Xinyan's back and hugged her neck to complain. Lin Xinyan rubbed her cheek and asked teasingly, "How did he bully you? Did he beat you or pinch you?"

Lin Ruixi did not reply immediately.

She tilted her head and thought for some time, "He hit me."

Lin Xichen stood at the doorway, looking at his younger sister, and asked, "I hit you?"

Lin Ruixi nodded her head determinedly, "You hit me."

"Where did I hit you?"

Lin Ruixi thought for a while, "Hmm... my bum."

"Bum, oh..." Lin Xichen lifted his hand and made a gesture as if to hit her. At the same time he said, "Since you say I've hit you, I must do it or else you would be lying."

"Ahh..."

Lin Ruixi was scared and hid in Lin Xinyan's arms. Lin Xinyan turned off the water faucet, saying, "That's enough playing, it's time to bathe."

Lin Xichen stopped horsing around. She looked at her sister and said, "For mommy's sake, I forgive you."

Lin Ruixi poked her tongue out at her elder brother.

Lin Xinyan removed her clothes and put her into the tub.

The water temperature was just right. The little girl sat in the tub with her head above the water. With her body soaked in the water, she felt comfortable. After soaking for a while, Lin Xinyan washed the dirt from her body.

Then she washed her hair.

When she was done, she wrapped her in a towel and used a hair-dryer to dry her hair.

At this moment, the doorbell rang suddenly.

Lin Xichen got the door. It was a hotel staff.

“Hi, what’s up?” Lin Xichen looked up. He had seen this staff member before so he let his guard down.

“This is for your mommy.” The staff member handed him an exquisitely decorated box.

Lin Xichen hesitated for a while. “What is inside? Who is it from?”

“I don’t know. I’m just delivering it. I don’t know any details,” The staff member answered truthfully.

The guests on this floor came with bodyguards and luxury cars. They looked wealthy. No one would dare play pranks on them anyhow.

Lin Xichen accepted it and told the staff member politely, “Thank you.”

“Don’t mention it.” The staff smiled, thinking how well-brought-up this child was, not at all spoiled. He was well-mannered and good-looking.

Lin Xichen closed the door and put the box on the bed. He folded his arms upon his chest and rubbed his chin with his fingers. Staring at the box, he was curious what it contained.

Can it be papa giving mommy a present?

His curiosity overwhelmed him and, unable to resist, he opened the box.

However...

“Ahh!!...”