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Gao Yuan froze in his place. Who are the roses for?

It was general knowledge that roses were the floral language of love. Half a beat later, Gao Yuan seemed to have something on his mind. He spoke as if he pitied Bai Yinning, "Ms. Lin is already married. Why do you have to be so stubborn?"

Bai Yinning arched his neck. He did not look pleased. "Don't stick your nose into my personal affairs."

Gao Yuan lowered his head. "Sorry."

Bai Yinning didn't continue to chastise Gao Yuan. He simply didn't like other people poking their nose into his business. "I'll buy it myself. You just bring me to the florist."

"Okay." Gao Yuan kept his head lowered.

Gao Yuan pushed Bai Yinning across the road and into a florist's. A unique yet sweet scent greeted them when they entered the shop. There were a large variety of fresh flowers in the shop. The aroma of each flower mingled together to give the unique scent the two of them smelled just now.

The owner of the shop walked over to greet her customers, "How can I help you?"

Bai Yinning ignored the florist and wheeled himself straight to the roses. Each of the roses was like a red flame burning in all elegance. They were very eye-catching.

The florist instantly knew what her customer wanted. She scurried to Bai Yinning and asked, "May I know how many stalks do you want?"

Bai Yinning replied coolly, "Five."

The florist spaced out for a second before smiling politely. "Alright, please wait for a moment."

Then, the florist bundled five proud roses into a bouquet and filled in the interspaces with white spiraea. Juxtaposed with the white petals, the five red roses appeared even more striking now. The florist then picked a pastel wrapping paper that matched the passion of the red roses to wrap the bouquet. She was rather adept in her craft, as the end result was simple yet captivating.

"Here you go!" The florist handed over the bouquet to Bai Yinning carefully.

Bai Yinning placed the bouquet on his lap. He lowered his gaze onto the flowers and caressed the petals. He uttered nonchalantly, "Gao Yuan, help me pay for this."

"It will be 380," The florist spoke before Gao Yuan could ask her the price.

Gao Yuan gave the woman 400 and asked her to keep the change. Then, the two men left the florist.

"Are we still going to the hospital?" Gao Yuan asked.

He's not buying the flowers for himself, right?

Bai Yinning hummed softly in agreement.

Gao Yuan sighed. He pitied Bai Yinning for he would be a perfect man if only he could walk.

Still, he had no idea why his boss would fall for a married woman.

If Bai Yinning were less obstinate, he would be in a happy relationship with a girl right now. Yet, he could not forget about the married woman.

Gao Yuan could not understand what Bai Yinning had in his mind at all.

However, Gao Yuan did not dare to confront him but keep all his thoughts to himself.

Sigh. Wake up, Bai Yinning! You don't have to live life this way!

The security personnel was surprised to see Gao Yuan and Bai Yinning again. Wait, didn't you guys just leave? Why are you guys back?

"I'll leave right away after I pass her the flowers," Bai Yinning said to the security personnel.

The security personnel seemed troubled.

His superiors told him not to let anyone enter the room easily. Moreover, Bai Yinning was already here earlier.

At that moment, Aunt Yu walked out of the room to throw away some trash. She was puzzled to see Bai Yinning pacing in the corridor outside the room.

She approached him and asked, "Is there anything else I can do for you?"

Bai Yinning passed the flowers to Aunt Yu, "Please help me pass this to her."

Aunt Yu received the flowers with glee. The roses were so pretty. It would definitely lift Lin Xinyan's mood since she had been stuck in bed for a long time. Aunt Yu smiled and replied, "I thank you on behalf of young mistress. She's not

feeling so well, so I think it's better if you don't visit her now. The doctor said she needs plenty of rest."

Bai Yinning nodded. "Then, please take good care of her."

He then asked Gao Yuan to pass Aunt Yu a name card. "Please contact me if you guys need any help. "

Aunt Yu hesitated for a while before receiving the card. She figured that it would be rude for her to not accept Bai Yinning's well-intended gesture. Furthermore, Bai Yinning seemed to be quite a close acquaintance of Lin Xinyan, which was all the more reason for her to accept his card.

Bai Yinning nodded in response.

When Aunt Yu returned to the ward with the roses, Lin Xinyan was asleep. Her eyes widened when she saw Aunt Yu with the bright-colored roses in her hands. Out of puzzlement, she asked, "Where did you get them from?"

Did Zong Jinghao buy them for me?

"It's from the guy on the wheelchair who came just now." Aunt Yu found a glass vase and arranged the roses into it. The stalks slid into the narrow mouth of the vase as if they were a bunch of cheeky kids going down a slide.

Lin Xinyan's eyelashes fluttered. Zong Jinghao isn't the kind of person who will bring me flowers anyway.

She chuckled bitterly. What am I thinking?

Why do I always think of him?

The vase of roses stood silently on the night table in the ward. The vibrant red of the flowers enlivened the ambiance of the room. Suddenly, the room did not feel as cold as it once was.

Aunt Yu originally intended to chat with Lin Xinyan, but by the time she finished arranging the roses, Lin Xinyan's eyes were closed. Aunt Yu did not know whether she was sleeping. She then figured it was best to let her rest in any case.

Soon, it was time for dinner. The maids from home brought over a few home-cooked dishes. Earlier in the afternoon, Aunt Yu called home to ask for meals to be prepared at home. Cheng Yuxiu was the one who answered Aunt Yu's call. Seeing how much Zong Jinghao trusted Aunt Yu, she ordered the maids to prepare dinner for the two of them at the hospital right away.

However, Cheng Yuxiu still did not know about Lin Xinyan's pregnancy. It was all up to Zong Jinghao's discretion whether she should be informed.

Aunt Yu knew Zong Jinghao's attitude towards Cheng Yuxiu and figured it was better to keep her mouth shut.

Nevertheless, Cheng Yuxiu did question Aunt Yu about the special meal she had ordered the kitchen to make. In response, Aunt Yu simply made up an excuse, saying that Lin Xinyan was too ill to have anything too greasy.

Cheng Yuxiu did not doubt Aunt Yu at all, as it was perfectly normal for Lin Xinyan to not have an appetite since she was ill.

Cheng Yuxiu was still a bit worried. But knowing that Zong Qifeng was visiting their son to set things right, she decided to take her mind off the matter.

Dinner was made exactly to Aunt Yu's order. The dishes were light on the palate, yet they still tasted delicious. Even though Lin Xinyan did not eat much of the nutritious meal specially made for her, she had at least a few bites, which made Aunt Yu glad. "So long as you eat something."

Her appetite will surely get better with time.

After dinner, Lin Xinyan looked at the clock and realized it's already 7 p.m. Why isn't Zong Jinghao back yet?

As Aunt Yu was out cleaning up the dishes, Lin Xinyan leaned against the headboard. Subconsciously, her eyes landed on the roses. They were in full bloom and were absolutely mesmerizing. Lin Xinyan simply couldn't take her eyes off them.

Not before long, Aunt Yu got back to the room with the clean plates and cutleries stacked on her palms. She saw how engrossed Lin Xinyan was with the roses and said, "They're so pretty, right?"

Lin Xinyan turned her head to look at Aunt Yu absent-mindedly but did not say anything.

Half a beat later, she suddenly asked, "Aunt Yu, do you know what flowers are these?"

Aunt Yu shook her head. As much as she found the flowers pretty, she did not know its name.

Lin Xinyan uttered blandly, "They are called roses."

Even though Aunt Yu didn't know much about flowers, she found the name pleasing to her ears.

Aunt Yu then responded, "The guy in the wheelchair sure have taste."

Lin Xinyan did not know how to react to Aunt Yu's opinion of Bai Yinning.

Roses were a symbol of romantic love. Lin Xinyan did not understand why Bai Yinning still send her roses when she was already pregnant with someone else's child.

Lin Xinyan sighed at the stupidity of that man.

"What's wrong? Is it not appropriate for him to send you flowers?" Aunt Yu noticed Lin Xinyan sighing and asked bemusedly.

Lin Xinyan only replied casually, "It's nothing." She then deliberately changed the topic. "What time did he leave this morning?"

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Aunt Yu paused to think for a while before replying, "Around 6 I think."

Lin Xinyan wasn't keeping track of time for the whole day. She only remembered Zong Jinghao calling to tell her to get to the hospital at 5 a.m. Then, she spent around 30 minutes packing her belongings. Before she left home, Zong Jinghao also called her again to inform her about some matters.

Lin Xinyan looked out of the windows. She figured that things were getting too tough to settle, as Zong Jinghao had not shown up the entire day. Also, she knew it was impossible for her to help him in any way given her current situation.

In truth, she was kind of worried. Everything was uncertain at the moment.

"What's on your mind? Why do you look unhappy?" Aunt Yu was concerned about Lin Xinyan's emotional well-being. She added, "It's not good for you to be in low spirits now that you are pregnant."

Lin Xinyan was also aware of that fact. She also knew that her worries were not going to get her anywhere. The only thing she could do at the moment to not add to Zong Jinghao's burdens was to take good care of herself.

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes. "Aunt Yu, could you please turn the lights off? I want to take a short nap."

The lights were too glaring. It made it hard for her to calm her thoughts down.

Aunt Yu nodded and went to where the switches were located. Very soon, the lights in the room were dimmed to a low level.

Aunt Yu sat on the chair next to the bed. "You sleep on. Just call me if you need anything. I'll be here with you."

"Aunt Yu, I am fine by myself. You should get some rest too."

The whole level had been booked just for Lin Xinyan. Thus, there were many rooms Aunt Yu could rest in if she wanted to.

However, Aunt Yu did not feel safe leaving Lin Xinyan alone in her room. "It's fine. You just take me off your mind and rest well. I'll nap on the couch if I'm too sleepy."

Lin Xinyan knew Aunt Yu only meant well and stopped asking her to leave her side. With that in mind, Lin Xinyan slowly closed her eyes as she sank her body further into the bed.

Lin Xinyan was not feeling sleepy as she had slept in the afternoon. Still, after laying in the bed for a long time, she still fell asleep unknowingly.

By the time Zong Jinghao came, it was already close to midnight. He switched off the lights near the door to illuminate the pitch dark room. As Aunt Yu was only in light sleep, she was stirred awake by the sudden movement.

She got to her feet right away. "You're back."

Zong Jinghao murmured a simple reply. He walked straight to the bed where Lin Xinyan was still deep in slumber.

He unbuttoned the first button on his shirt, and immediately he could breathe better. His eyes were still fixated on Lin Xinyan as he asked Aunt Yu, "Was she feeling okay just now?"

"She vomited a lot and didn't eat much in the afternoon. The doctor prescribed her a nutrient injection and gave me some recipes custom made for her. At dinner, she was able to eat something, and she didn't vomit too."

Zong Jinghao nodded. He extended one hand to caress her smooth and petite face lightly. Perhaps because Zong Jinghao's touch had itched Lin Xinyan, her brows twitched slightly out of the blue. She slowly opened her eyes. In her blurry vision, she could recognize the man standing next to her and immediately sat upright. Zong Jinghao held on to her arms and propped a pillow behind her back to support her body. He then asked gently, "Did I wake you up?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "I'm just a bit thirsty."

Zong Jinghao grabbed her by the shoulders and put her into a more comfortable position against the headboard before replying, "Okay. I'll get you some water."

As Zong Jinghao walked to the night table, he noticed the vivid roses. He glanced at it as he poured some water into a glass. As he passed the glass of water to Lin Xinyan, he asked, "Who bought you those flowers?"

Zong Jinghao had nothing on his mind. Other than himself, Li Zhan was the person who visited Lin Xinyan that day.

But why did that guy bring her roses?

Lin Xinyan could feel the water froze in her throat. But before she could say anything, Aunt Yu replied, "Some guy on a wheelchair brought her those flowers. It was quite thoughtful of him to do so."

Aunt Yu did not know Bai Yinning and Lim Xinyan shared a past. Thus, she only replied to Zong Jinghao truthfully.

Lin Xinyan raised the glass of water to her lips as she stared at Zong Jinghao, waiting for his response.

Zong Jinghao lowered his gaze to Lin Xinyan and asked plainly, "So he came just now?"

Lin Xinyan answered truthfully as she knew she wouldn't be able to hide the truth from Zong Jinghao anyway. "Yeah."

Zong Jinghao always had his guards up against Bai Yinning. Thus, Lin Xinyan knew he would definitely be upset and that he wanted an explanation. Nonetheless, Lin Xinyan did not know how to answer Zong Jinghao as it was a fact that Bai Yinning was deeply involved in her life back then.

Lin Xinyan tightened her fingers around the glass.

"Are you still drinking?" Zong Jinghao's eyes drifted to the glass in Lin Xinyan's hand.

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "I am done."

Zong Jinghao took the glass from her and placed it on the table. Aunt Yu could sense that the atmosphere in the room was tense but she could not tell what was wrong. She chose to keep her mouth shut for the time being.

"Aunt Yu, please go and rest."

Aunt Yu stared at Lin Xinyan as if she were speaking in another language. Only after Lin Xinyan nodded at her did she turn around to leave the room.

The room was suddenly dead silent after Aunt Yu closed the door behind her as she left.

Right away, Lin Xinyan wanted to address the elephant in the room. "Are you angry?"

Zong Jinghao ignored her question. "Do you like roses?"

There were questions in his mind. Why did she receive the flowers and set them up so nicely? What does she have on her mind?

Zong Jinghao drew a rose out of the vase and studied it from top to bottom. He appeared to be gentle with it, but Lin Xinyan still felt uneasy looking at him.

I didn't even do anything wrong. Why is he angry?

Lin Xinyan advertently said, "Every woman likes flowers including me. I asked Aunt Yu to put them up because or it would be a waste. They are so pretty."

Zong Jinghao kept mum.

He arched a brow at Lin Xinyan. You think I'm angry?

"So you like these flowers?"

"Yes."

Plop! Zong Jinghao abruptly picked up the roses and flung them into the trash can.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

What the hell are you doing?

"Hey!"

"If you like them, I'll buy some for you." Zong Jinghao approached her and wrapped his arms around her. He uttered under his breath, "Let's nap for a while. I'm tired."

Only at such close proximity did Lin Xinyan notice the dark circles under Zong Jinghao's fatigued eyes. She edged to the side of the bed to make space for him to lie down. Zong Jinghao laid down next to Lin Xinyan with his arms still enwreathed around her.

Lin Xinyan turned her head to look at Zong Jinghan. "Did the baby come at a bad timing?"

Lin Xinyan had the notion that her pregnancy would add to Zong Jinghan's stress.

After all, it was not easy at all being him. He had so much to juggle with on his own.

Zong Jinghao opened his eyes and stared back at Lin Xinyan. "What do you mean?"

Lin Xinyan replied in a hoarse voice, "I'm saying that I shouldn't get pregnant now."

"Babe, what are you talking about?" Lin Xinyan could barely finish her sentence when Zong Jinhao intervened with her. He leaned in to give her a kiss on her lips. Suddenly, he bit her lips gently as if to punish her for her thoughts. Lin Xinyan took a sharp breath. With his lips still on hers, Zong Jinhao mumbled, "Don't you dare say anything like that again."

Although it hurt a little, Lin Xinyan could feel her heart warmed up. Lin Xinyan put her hands behind Zong Jinghao's head and shoved it into her chest.

"I'm very surprised myself. I thought I wouldn't be able to get pregnant anymore. You know how happy I was when I knew I am pregnant. Are you happy too?" Lin Xinyan's voice trembled a bit as she spoke.

Lin Xinyan was completely thrown off by news of her pregnancy.

Never in a million years would she expect herself to get pregnant.

Nevertheless, it was a beautiful accident.

Zong Jinghao did not answer her. He took her hands and placed them on his chest. He clasped onto her hands tightly and said, "Feel it. It's been beating this fast ever since you told me you're pregnant."

Zong Jinghao's chest was hard yet pleasingly warm. His heart throbbed powerfully against Lin Xinyan's palm.

Lin Xinyan smiled as if all of her worries had vanished from her world. Instead, all she could think about was her future with him.

A future beyond reach by anyone.

"Do you want a boy or a girl?" Lin Xinyan's voice as soft as a newborn calf.

Zong Jinghao answered at once, "As long as it's our child, I'll love him or her."

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Lin Xinyan contemplated for a moment and added, "What if you have to choose between a girl or a guy?"

Zong Jinghao lifted his head to look at her. "If I have to choose, I'll want a daughter."

Zong Jinghao thought one son was more than enough in his family.

To be honest, he preferred to have a daughter. He always liked how Lin Ruixi clung to him.

In comparison to daughters, sons were usually less caring and affectionate towards their parents.

Lin Xinyan slumped down into a comfortable position in Zong Jinghao's arms. "I would like to have a son. I hope this little fella inside of my tummy is a boy."

In Lin Xinyan's opinion, girls were more sensitive. They were more likely to overthink in everyday affairs. In most relationships, they were usually the ones who got their hearts broken.

Zong Jinghao knew what Lin Xinyan had on her mind. He also knew that it was because of her experiences that she harbored those thoughts. He planted a kiss on her forehead. "Our daughter won't be hurt by anyone."

Lin Xinyan only smiled faintly. She chose to believe her husband.

Out of the blue, Lin Xinyan shot Zong Jinghao a question that was completely unrelated to the conversation they were having. "Why did you tell Li Zhan about this?"

"Huh?" Zong Jinghao furrowed his brows a little. What are you talking about?

What did I tell Li Zhan?

"About what Wen Qing has done." Lin Xinyan replied matter-of-factly.

"Oh, he knows about it?"

"Wait, so you're not the one who spilled it to him?" Lin Xinyan suddenly had a feeling that something was off. If Zong Jinghao was indeed the person who revealed what Wen Qing had done to Li Zhan, he would definitely own up.

Shen Peichuan, Su Zhan, and Bai Yinning were some of the very few people who knew about it. Any one of them could have leaked the secret.

"Don't think too much about it." Zong Jinghao patted Lin Xinyan's back. "Just sleep."

Zong Jinghao didn't want the fact that Li Zhan had knowledge of the incident to bug himself too. As much as he didn't want Li Zhan to know about the truth, Li Zhan would still find out about it someday as the incident was nothing trivial.

Of course, he did not want Lin Xinyan to worry about it.

"You just take good care of yourself and give birth to my precious daughter. Don't worry about anything else. I'll settle everything."

Lin Xinyan lowered her gaze to the bed. *Tsk, who said it's going to be a daughter?*

Lin Xinyan chuckled gingerly. "What if it's a son?"

"It won't be a son." Zong Jinghao exuded confidence as he spoke. He continued, "If it's a son, let's have another baby."

She'll definitely still be strong enough to conceive another child after this baby is due.

Lin Xinyan went silent.

"Okay. Just listen to me and get some sleep, alright?" Zong Jinghao slid her head onto his chest and wrapped his arms around her torso.

Lin Xinyan raised her chin. A strong jawline came into her sight. The fair skin was marred by an uneven stubble. Lin Xinyan figured that Zong Jinghao had not been sleeping well lately.

Li Xinyan lay quietly in Zong Jinghao's embrace.

Not before long, she could hear Zong Jinghao's breath settle into a steady rhythm. Lin Xinyan knew he must be very tired. She leaned in to give him a kiss and wiggled around to find a comfortable position to sleep in.

Perhaps because of her pregnancy, Lin Xinyan fell asleep soon enough.

The silent night was bizarrely calm. The day did not leave any of its hubbubs behind.

Approximately around 5 a.m., Zong Jinghao woke up at the ringtone of his phone. Worried about waking Lin Xinyan up, he got off the bed gently and went to the balcony to pick up the call.

"What's the matter?"

Guan Jing's voice rang on the other end of the call. "Zhuang Zijin's test results just came out."

What? The results are already out?

Zong Jinghao suddenly recalled what Guan Jing said to him, and the tendons around his jowl subconsciously tensed up. "Say it."

Guan Jing paused to glance at the test results in his hand and then the doctor next to him. He asked the doctor again, "Are you sure of the results?"

The doctor answered confidently, "Yes."

The illness was at the terminal stage.

There was no way that the tests would go wrong.

Moreover, it was the most prominent hospital in the country. The chances that their diagnoses were inaccurate were next to zero.

Guan Jing could only reply truthfully, "The doctor has confirmed with me. It's the final stage."

This is terrible. With the current situation Lin Xinyan's in, if she knows about Zhuang Zijin, she'll definitely...

He did not dare to think any further.

Thus, he rubbed the center of his forehead. "Don't let anyone know about this."

Guan Jing answered, "Understood."

Other than himself and Zong Jinghao, only the doctor knew about the test results. If the hospital strictly kept the results confidential, Lin Xinyan would never find out about it.

Now that Zong Jinghao knew about Zhuang Zijin's condition, he had to do something about it. After spending some time in silence, he dialed for Shen Peichuan and asked him to fetch Zhuang Zijin to the hospital for treatment. Even

though the illness was terminal, Zong Jinhao still wanted to get Zhuang Zijin treated as early as possible.

With how dire Zhuang Zijin's situation was, it was easy to secure her a slot in the hospital for therapy. Shen Peichuan replied right away, "I'll make sure everything is done properly."

Shen Peichuan was also guite affected by the piece of bad news.

Meanwhile, Chen Shihan left no trace behind her wherever she went. It was as if she knew someone was on her tail. Shen Peichuan did not have any progress in tracking her down. Now that he was in charge of bringing Zhuang Zijin to therapy, he figured it was better for him to let his subordinates locate Chen Shihan.

Inside the ward, Lin Xinyan stirred in her bed. It was then she noticed she was sleeping alone. She slowly opened her eyes and turned her head around. Indeed, the man sleeping next to her was gone. Suddenly, she had the urge to go to the toilet. As she was getting off her bed, she saw Zong Jinghao standing on the balcony.

Zong Jinghao had a white shirt on that was wrinkled all over. Even though it was not pleasant to look at, it did not distract Lin Xinyan from the tall and straight outline of Zong Jinghao's body.

Zong Jinghao hung up the call. He stood alone in the coldness for a while before heading back in. He was taken aback for a moment when he saw Lin Xinyan waiting for him on the bed. Nevertheless, he soon got back to his senses. He strode towards her and spoke meekly, "You're awake."

Lin Xinyan nodded. "Who was on the phone?"

Lin Xinyan did not hear any of the conversations Zong Jinghao had over the phone. Right when she woke up from her deep slumber, Zong Jinghao had just hung up the call.

"It's from the office." Zong Jinghao simply made up an excuse.

Zong Jinghao then ran his fingers along the length of her unruly hair. "Are you hungry?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head. It's so late now. If it's from the office, it definitely has something to do with me.

Despite knowing that Zong Jinghao was not telling her the truth, Lin Xinyan was unaware that the call was actually about her mother and not her.

"Please get Aunt Yu here." Lin Xinyan requested.

Lin Xinyan wanted to go to the washroom. But for some reason, she did not want to do so in front of Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao thought she was feeling sick. "You want me to get the doctor?"

"No, I'm fine," Lin Xinyan blurted.

"Hmm?" Zong Jinghao frowned. Then why do you want me to get Aunt Yu?

Is there something you cannot let me help you with?

If you're not hungry, then are you thirsty?

"I'll get you some water then." Zong Jinghao tried to guess what Lin Xinyan needed. Weirdly, Lin Xinyan's urge to go to the washroom became more intense at Zong Jinghao's words.

"I'm not thirsty." Lin Xinyan's face was starting to redden. Zong Jinghao quickly noticed that she was holding something in her.

As if he suddenly thought of something, Zong Jinghao walked straight to Lin Xinyan and picked her up. "You want to go to the washroom, right?"

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips and remained silent.

Zong Jinghao chuckled lightly. "Why are you so embarrassed by something that every human does every day? Also, it's not like I haven't seen your body before."

Lin Xinyan's face was flushing red. She was not sure what she was feeling at the moment. It could either be shyness or embarrassment.

"Let me down." Lin Xinyan bit her lips.

"I'll take you inside." Zong Jinghao did not care about Lin Xinyan's refusal. He sat her on the toilet seat and asked, "Do you want me to help you take off your pants?"

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Lin Xinyan couldn't stand it anymore.

"Get out!"

Zong Jinghao tilted his head as he looked at her. "You angry?"

Lin Xinyan glared at him.

"Help me take it off. I want to use the bathroom too."

Lin Xinyan found herself speechless at his response.

How can he be so shameless?

She then deliberately clutched her stomach. "Are you trying to annoy me?"

Zong Jinghao became serious all of a sudden. "Are you feeling unwell?"

Lin Xinyan acted like she was feeling weak and in pain. "Yeah, I'm feeling uncomfortable because of you! If you keep doing this, I'm really going to get angry with you!"

Zong Jinghao knew better than to tease her any further and got out of the bathroom. "I'll wait for you outside. Just let me know when you're done!" He said, still feeling worried about her.

Lin Xinyan nodded, and he shut the bathroom door behind him.

Zong Jinghao maintained a carefree attitude in front of her as he didn't want her to end up overthinking things.

He then whipped out his phone and texted Shen Peichuan: *Arrange for Zhuang Zijin to be in this hospital. That'll make it easier for me to visit and look after her. Lin Xinyan can't get off the bed by herself, so they won't run into each other.*

He was confident that Lin Xinyan wouldn't find out about it.

Besides, this was the best hospital in the country, and he didn't feel safe having her stay over at any other hospital.

Shen Peichuan replied his text shortly after: Okay.

Lin Xinyan had just finished washing her hands and saw him looking at his phone as she opened the bathroom door.

"What are you looking at?" Lin Xinyan looked up at his phone.

Zong Jinghao put his phone away. "Just checking the news."

"Is that so?" Lin Xinyan didn't give it much thought.

Zong Jinghao handed her the phone and chuckled. "Would you like to go through my phone, then? See if I'm texting any girls."

Lin Xinyan glared at him. "That's none of my business!"

Zong Jinghao knew she would refuse and deliberately held it up to her again. "Are you sure you don't want to take a look? I might just be texting some pretty girls though! The doctor said we can't have sex for three months, remember? Who knows, I might not be able to control myself!"

"If you cheat on me, I'll just do the same..."

"You wouldn't dare!" he cut her off before she could even finish.

Zong Jinghao picked her up and pretended to be angry. "I'll break your legs if you dare cheat on me!"

"You're the one who said you'd cheat on me," Lin Xinyan muttered under her breath.

Her voice was so soft that Zong Jinghao didn't hear what she said. "What was that?" he asked after setting her down on the bed.

"I said, I wouldn't dare."

Zong Jinghao smiled and gave her a kiss on the cheek. "That's more like it. How could you be cheating on me when you're pregnant? Besides, where are you going to find another guy as great as I am?"

Lin Xinyan found herself speechless at how shameless and demanding he was.

Zong Jinghao took a look at the time and saw that it was almost six. "Are you hungry?"

Lin Xinyan got into a more comfortable position on the bed. "Are you going to eat here?"

"Mmm." Zong Jinghao replied after giving it some thought.

"Yeah, I'm hungry," said Lin Xinyan. She was afraid that he'd leave without eating as he had been busy all morning.

Zong Jinghao turned around and was about to call out to Aunt Yu. When he opened the door, he saw her standing outside with lunchboxes in hand.

She had gone home at 3 a.m. to prepare the food and brought it over.

"I brought you breakfast and some extra clothes."

Aunt Yu said with a smile on her face as she held the lunchboxes in one hand and a bag of clothes in the other.

Zong Jinghao was still wearing his shirt from two days ago, and it was his first time wearing something this wrinkled.

"You should take a shower. They have hot water in the bathroom," Lin Xinyan said. She could see that he had not been resting well in the past two days, let alone grooming himself.

Zong Jinghao stepped aside to let Aunt Yu in and took the bag of clothes over from her. He was about to enter the bathroom when he suddenly turned around and told Lin Xinyan. "You go on and eat. Don't wait up on me!"

He didn't want to keep her waiting any longer as she said she was hungry.

"All right." Lin Xinyan waved at him.

Aunt Yu placed the food on the table and asked her. "Are you going to start eating now?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "No, let's wait for him."

Aunt Yu smiled and felt that they were looking more and more like a married couple with the way they cared about each other. "I'll go check when the doctor will make his rounds."

She came up with that excuse and left the ward to give Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan some privacy.

Lin Xinyan chuckled as she watched her close the door behind her. There's a fixed schedule for doctors to make their rounds, so there's no need for her to go

check at all. It's obvious that she's trying to give Zong Jinghao and me some time alone.

The ward was huge. It had a shower in the bathroom, a sofa by the window, a closet, and a desk by the wall. That made things a lot more convenient for her during her stay, with the only downside being the strong smell of disinfectant.

Fortunately for her, she didn't really mind that smell.

After he was done with his shower, Zong Jinghao came out of the bathroom with only a white towel wrapped around his waist. He was wiping his hair dry while walking towards her.

Lin Xinyan stared at him. "Why don't you put some clothes on?"

Doing it at home was one thing, but they were in a hospital right now.

Zong Jinghao had only done so after hearing Aunt Yu leaving the ward. Unlike their bathroom at home which has a separate dry area, it was inconvenient for him to get dressed in the small hospital bathroom.

He went over to lock the door before turning towards her. "Did you see anything?"

Lin Xinyan knew he was going to say something obscene and glared at him. "You're shameless, you know that?"

Zong Jinghao chuckled and replied in a husky voice. "How else would you get pregnant otherwise?"

That left Lin Xinyan at a loss for words.

"Besides, it's not like you haven't seen me naked." Zong Jinghao said as he removed his towel and got dressed in front of her.

Lin Xinyan knew she couldn't win that argument and simply covered her face with her hands.

"I'm done, so you can look now." Zong Jinghao said a few minutes later while buttoning up his shirt.

Lin Xinyan put her hands down, and true enough, he was all dressed.

Zong Jinghao served up the food that Aunt Yu had brought them and placed everything on the overbed table.

She had made them shrimp porridge, vegetarian steamed dumplings, fried eggs, broccoli, and a few other side dishes.

It was a very light meal with little to no seasonings as the ingredients gave the food plenty of flavor.

Lin Xinyan found all the food to her liking, especially the porridge which tasted amazing.

Zong Jinghao saw her finish her porridge really quickly and gave her his serving. "Here, have some more."

Aunt Yu had made an extra serving for Lin Xinyan as she saw how late Zong Jinghao came over the night before and figured they would have breakfast together.

Lin Xinyan looked up at him. "Aren't you going to eat it? It's really good."

"I don't like it." He said while stuffing a spoonful of broccoli into his mouth.

Lin Xinyan smiled and took the bowl of porridge over from him. Despite how delicious it was, she simply couldn't finish two bowls.

She ate what she could and handed him the bowl. "I can't finish it."

Zong Jinghao eyed the porridge in the bowl and raised an eyebrow.

"What? You don't want it anymore because I've eaten from that bowl?"

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Zong Jinghao looked at her and picked up the bowl. He then licked the spoon she used as he ate it and shot her an affectionate glance. "There, does this prove that I don't feel that way?"

Lin Xinyan kept her head low and shoved an egg into her mouth. The part of the spoon that he licked was exactly where her tongue had made contact with when she was using it earlier.

She ate really quickly to hide how flustered she was and ended up choking on the egg yolk.

Zong Jinghao handed her a glass of water and patted her gently on the back. "Are you okay?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head and took a few gulps of water to help wash down the dry egg yolk stuck in her throat.

"Why are you eating so quickly?" Zong Jinghao asked while caressing her hair.

Before Lin Xinyan could blame it on him, the aftertaste of the egg yolk engulfed her with a wave of nausea.

"Mmph!"

Lin Xinyan held a hand over her mouth in an attempt to hold it in.

Zong Jinghao quickly carried her into the bathroom and had her bend over by the sink.

She didn't want him to see her vomit and gave him a push. "Get out."

Zong Jinghao frowned. "You..."

Lin Xinyan closed the door before he could finish, so he had no choice but to wait outside.

What followed were sounds of Lin Xinyan retching inside as she vomited all the porridge she just ate.

Despite being worried sick, Zong Jinghao didn't dare open the door for fear of upsetting her.

He then heard the tap running inside followed by sounds of Lin Xinyan rinsing her mouth and washing it all down the sink. She stood by the sink for quite a while and only opened the door when she no longer felt the urge to puke.

She saw Zong Jinghao standing outside looking at her worriedly and forced a weak smile at him.

"I'm okay. Don't worry about me. I just didn't want you to see the disgusting vomit..."

Zong Jinghao pulled her into his arms before she could finish. He wrapped his arms around her and kissed her on the head. "We won't have any more children after this."

Lin Xinyan leaned her head against his chest, and she could clearly feel his uneasiness. Back then, with Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi around, she was only able to hide and cry all alone. She didn't dare tell anyone about her problems, especially Zhuang Zijin as she didn't want to worry her.

As such, she could only tell herself to be brave and stay strong.

Now that she has someone who cared so much about her, she felt like everything she had suffered before was worth it. Lin Xinyan wrapped her arms around his waist and sniffled as she spoke. "Look at you... Don't worry, it's normal for pregnant women to vomit every now and then."

Zong Jinghao kept quiet and just held her tightly. I didn't give her any help when Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi were around. In fact, I even hated her at some point! Things must've been really difficult for her then, having to raise two kids in a foreign country all by herself. To think that I was oblivious to all that the whole time...

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It pained him to see her put up a tough front before him.

"Are you trying to smother me to death?" Lin Xinyan pushed at him as his hug was so tight that she could barely breathe.

Zong Jinghao loosened his grip slightly, but he didn't let go of her. He then softly squished her cheeks and whispered affectionately. "You're ugly and stubborn."

Always acting like you're fine and fearless, shouldering everything by yourself...

"Why do you like me if I'm ugly?" Lin Xinyan said, pretending to be angry.

Zong Jinghao carried her onto her bed. "Because I'm blind."

Lin Xinyan had thought of asking him about the progress regarding that incident and whether he had found a solution, but held her tongue in the end.

Beep!

Zong Jinghao's phone rang, and declined the call when he saw that it was Shen Peichuan.

Lin Xinyan lay down on the bed. "You can go take care of work. I'm tired, so I'm going to get some sleep."

She wasn't actually tired, but she didn't want Zong Jinghao to get distracted from his work because of her.

He understood her intentions and leaned forward to give her a kiss on the forehead. "You have me now, so don't worry about a thing and rest well."

"Okay." Lin Xinyan mumbled a response.

Zong Jinghao saw Aunt Yu chatting with the nurse when he stepped outside and went over to them.

"Have you two taken breakfast yet?" Aunt Yu asked when she saw him.

"Yeah. You should keep her company if you're free."

"Don't worry, I will. She can't get out of bed by herself now, so she needs someone to look after her."

Zong Jinghao trusted her a lot. He then turned to look at the two men standing guard outside the door.

"Mr. Zong." The men straightened up immediately.

"No one else except Aunt Yu is to be allowed inside without my permission, got it?" Zong Jinghao said sternly.

"Yes, sir!" The men replied in unison.

"Who let that person in the wheelchair inside yesterday?" I had specifically instructed them to not let anyone else in, so how did Bai Yinning manage to get inside?

The two looked at each other, and one of them replied. "We didn't let him in even when he insisted on entering, but then Li Zhan came over and gave you a call. He went in with Li Zhan after getting your permission. We tried stopping him, but Li Zhan said they knew each other, so..."

Zong Jinghao narrowed his eyes. So Bai Yinning used Li Zhan to get in...

"You'll be fired if this happens again." Zong Jinghao warned them.

He even mentioned Bai Yinning so they would remember him.

"So... Nobody else is allowed inside?"

"That's right." Zong Jinghao said.

"Understood, sir. We won't make that mistake again!" The two promised.

Zong Jinghao nodded in satisfaction before heading into the elevator. He then called Shen Peichuan and asked him where he was.

"I'm in the ward in the second building." Shen Peichuan replied.

The hospital had three buildings. Lin Xinyan was in the third building, which was newly constructed and equipped with better facilities than the other two. Shen Peichuan had arranged for Zhuang Zijin to be in a separate building so she wouldn't run into Lin Xinyan.

Although the facilities here weren't as good, the doctors in charge of treating Zhuang Zijin were the best ones available.

"Got it." Zong Jinghao hung up, feeling satisfied with Shen Peichuan's arrangement. The possibility of them running into each other is pretty high if they're in the same building, so it's better to have them separated like this.

He went over to the ward Shen Peichuan mentioned and saw that he was the only person inside.

"Where is she?" He asked as he entered.

It was a private ward with decent facilities to ensure a comfortable stay for Zhuang Zijin.

"The doctors brought her out for a checkup." Shen Peichuan said.

Zong Jinghao nodded slightly in response. Shen Peichuan looked outside to make sure no one was there before continuing. "I think Chen Qing is on guard against us. Chen Shihan couldn't even leave the gate of her residential area. What do we do now?"

They were at a stalemate, and Chen Shihan was their only way of breaking that stalemate.

Zong Jinghao turned to look out the window. "We have no choice but to agree."

Shen Peichuan began to panic. "What about Xinyan? She's still pregnant, and Zhuang Zijin is... I don't know if she can take it if she finds out..."

He turned to look at Shen Peichuan and said calmly. "You can't have a wedding without the bride, can you?"

Shen Peichuan stared at him in silence for a moment and seemed to understand what he meant. "You mean... You're going to do that to Chen Shihan on the wedding day?"

Given how cautious Chen Qing is being, the wedding day is our only chance at getting close to Chen Shihan. Let's see what Wen Qing will do when the bride goes missing,

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"This might just be a good idea."

We don't have much of a choice in this. If Wen Qing were to team up with Chen Qing, they might even get Lin Xinyan involved in this despite her being pregnant. That's just how ruthless they can be.

At that moment, the nurses brought Zhuang Zijin back into the ward and Shen Peichuan went over to help her out.

"How's her condition?" Zong Jinghao asked the doctor.

"We've completed all the necessary checkups. Now, we need to wait for the results before we can come up with a treatment plan." The doctor then seemed hesitant to continue in front of Zhuang Zijin and said. "Let's talk outside."

Zhuang Zijin kept quiet as she sat on the bed, well aware of her condition.

Zong Jinghao followed the doctor out of the ward. "Things aren't looking well for her. There are some drugs that could help her live for a few more years if she has a strong will to survive. The treatment would take a long time, but it is the least damaging method available. However, if she... Well, she doesn't seem very motivated, if you know what I mean."

The doctor was more concerned about patients giving up on treatment than the illness itself.

"I understand. Thank you, doctor. I'll leave her treatment to you." Zong Jinghao said calmly. Zhuang Zijin has probably lost her will to live along with her grudge towards Lin Guoan after his death.

The doctor had been studying abroad for many years and majored in chronic diseases. He was incredibly capable despite his young age. "Just doing my job as a doctor. The Dea of the hospital has also requested that we do our best, so you may rest assured." the doctor said while adjusting his glasses.

After a brief pause, he continued. "Now, if you'll excuse me, I have other patients to attend to."

Zong Jinghao nodded and stood in the corridor after the doctor had left. He felt uncomfortable with how Zhuang Zijin was taking it.

She had lost her son and gotten her revenge on Lin Guoan, but what about Lin Xinyan? As her daughter, Lin Xinyan had suffered a lot as well, but Zhuang Zijin only cares about herself! How could she be so selfish?

Zong Jinghao let out a deep sigh and headed back into the ward.

Zhuang Zijin's eyes were sunken and had a dull look in them. Her skin was sallow and her body was skinny. She forced a smile when she saw Zong Jinghao come in. "Thank you, for not telling Yan about this."

Zong Jinghao stared at her. "Do you even care about her?"

Zhuang Zijin paused for a moment as she didn't expect him to say that. "Of course I do... She's my daughter."

Zong Jinghao was dissatisfied with her pessimistic attitude, but he didn't want to disrespect her as she was still Lin Xinyan's mother after all. "If you do, then cooperate with the doctor's treatment so you can stay with her for a few more years."

"She's living just fine now..."

"She won't be if her mother is dead." Zong Jinghao interrupted her.

Zhuang Zijin was about to say something, but held her tongue in the end.

"For her sake, I hope that you'll do your best to survive." Zong Jinghao left the ward after saying that.

Shen Peichuan was able to guess what the doctor had told Zong Jinghao just by watching him leave. "He's been really busy lately. Things are really hectic these days, so please don't take what he said to heart. He is right about one thing though. You should give the treatment your full cooperation so you can spend a few more years with your daughter. I'm sure you feel the same way too, right?" He said in an attempt to comfort Zhuang Zijin.

Zhuang Zijin kept quiet.

I don't really care if I live or die, as I've already avenged my son. Lin Xinyan may have suffered a lot, but she has Zong Jinghao to take good care of her now. I don't have any more regrets in life...

"I'm tired now."

Shen Peichuan knew that was her way of telling him to leave. Being an outsider, he wasn't in a position to say much, so he quickly left the ward.

Besides, they had caretakers and nurses to look after Zhuang Zijin anyway.

Zong Jinghao headed over to the office after leaving the hospital. He got a call from Su Zhan after parking his car.

It was about the video of Lin Xinyan killing someone that went viral online. He told him that the situation was under control, and that the media that released the video have been called to account for it. As they had made accusations before the police confirmed anything, they would be sued for slander along with those who assaulted Lin Xinyan verbally in the comments.

"We'll have the results by today." Su Zhan said confidently.

"We must have them issue a public apology and statement." Zong Jinghao said as he entered the lobby, feeling satisfied with the progress.

"Understood. The court session is about to begin, so I'll hang up for now." Su Zhan said.

Guan Jing came rushing over the moment Zong Jinghao hung up the phone.

"Wen Qing and Chen Qing are here."

Zong Jinghao didn't seem surprised in the slightest. Guan Jing followed him as he calmly made his way into the elevator. "They're in the reception room. Would you like to meet them?"

"Why wouldn't I?" Zong Jinghao said with a sinister grin on his face.

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"But sir, they're most likely here to threaten you." Guan Jing said cautiously.

There would be no backing out once we meet them, and we haven't even caught Chen Shihan!

Zong Jinghao didn't bother to explain and simply replied. "Get back to work."

Guan Jing stopped in his tracks and returned to his desk as he wasn't able to help out anyway.

The sunlight from the window shone on Zong Jinghao as he opened the door to the reception room.

Wen Qing and Chen Qing were chatting on the leather sofa and turned to look at him when they heard the door open. They couldn't see his face clearly, but it was clear from his figure that he was none other than Zong Jinghao himself.

The two went silent as he made his way towards them.

Wen Qing was the first to speak up. "Well? Have you made up your mind?"

He was here because Chen Qing had gone to him and urged him to take care of things as soon as possible.

He was the first one to suggest having Chen Shihan marry Zong Jinghao, after all.

As Chen Qing had agreed to it, he had no choice but to go through with it.

It was like what Chen Qing had said, he had no way out of it now.

After getting a call about Zong Jinghao suing those responsible for the spread of Lin Xinyan's video, Chen Qing didn't dare get involved in the matter any further for fear of Wen Qing noticing anything amiss. As such, he had no choice but to have Wen Qing settle things with Zong Jinghao.

In other words, he wanted Wen Qing to force Zong Jinghao into agreeing to their terms.

Zong Jinghao sat on the sofa with his legs crossed elegantly and stared at them with a cold look in his eyes.

Wen Qing found his gaze unsettling and tried to distract himself by breaking the silence. "I'm doing this for your own good. Why would she be in cahoots with Cheng Yuxiu anyway? You're her husband! She wouldn't be causing so you much trouble if she truly cared about you! Wouldn't you agree?"

Zong Jinghao kept quiet as he listened to him.

Thinking that he had managed to persuade Zong Jinghao, Wen Qing took it a step further. "Come on, you've known me for so many years now. I would never hurt you, especially when you're a part of the Wen family too! Chen Shihan is young, pretty, and her family background makes her a great match for you..."

"Lin Xinyan." Zong Jinghao interrupted Wen Qing suddenly. "Did you know that my wife, Lin Xinyan is pregnant?" He asked while staring straight into his eyes.

That had Wen Qing at a loss for words. Captain Chen had already told him about it over the phone the other day.

He was surprised too when he heard the news and had actually started to waver as he understood the importance of a child to his or her parents.

Despite being at loggerheads with Li Zhan all the time, he still loved him deep down inside.

It was Chen Qing who reminded him that the timing of Lin Xinyan's pregnancy seemed a little too convenient.

He believed that it was either Lin Xinyan's excuse to avoid being brought to justice or a part of her scheme with Cheng Yuxiu in order to keep Zong Jinghao by her side.

Chen Qing's accusations combined with how close Lin Xinyan and Cheng Yuxiu were had Wen Qing convinced that her pregnancy was a part of her scheme.

"Yes, but don't you think that's too much of a coincidence? What, she just happens to get pregnant right when I wanted you to marry Chen Shihan?"

Chen Qing kept quiet and simply observed from the side as he was in no position to talk.

Zong Jinghao stared at Wen Qing for quite a while before leaning against the sofa. "Well, thank you for thinking so highly of me."

Not wanting to get on his bad side, Chen Qing chuckled and said. "That's not up to me to decide. Your uncle was the one who suggested it."

It was indeed Wen Qing who suggested it in the first place.

Zong Jinghao simply smiled at them in response. As if he would send his daughter to me like this without any ulterior motives of his own!

Wen Qing quickly explained. "That's right. He only agreed to it because of me."

Zong Jinghao leaned his head back against the sofa and ran his tongue over his teeth. "In that case, it'd be rude of me not to accept your kind offer!"

Both Chen Qing and Wen Qing frowned upon hearing that.

It was obvious that he was being sarcastic and insulting Chen Shihan for offering herself up to him.

Wen Qing said solemnly. "Shihan is a member of the Chen family, so I know her very well. You can't compare her to other women..."

Zong Jinghao wasn't in the mood for that and cut him off. "I promise to marry Chen Shihan. However..."

The tone of his voice grew cold as he stared intensely at Wen Qing. "I want this matter taken care of. Make it seem as if it had never happened."

Wen Qing had never expected Zong Jinghao to say yes that easily and was actually trying to think of a way to persuade him. "Of course. As long as you marry Shihan, the police will declare that this has nothing to do with Lin Xinyan and provide evidence to prove her innocence," he said with a smile.

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If they had the evidence to pin the crime on Lin Xinyan, they would naturally have the evidence to clear her name as well.

Someone had been hiding in a corner and recorded the entire incident when it happened. Lin Xinyan had fired a shot at He Ruize in a state of panic in order to defend herself. However, He Ruize didn't die from that shot itself. He Ruize then grabbed Lin Xinyan by the hand and fired two more shots at himself, ending his life on the spot.

The video that went viral online had been edited to only show Lin Xinyan firing the first shot at He Ruize, leaving him lying on the ground with blood all over him.

That gave people the impression that Lin Xinyan was the one who killed him.

Wen Qing had the full video, and it was Chen Qing who managed to get himself a copy without him knowing and had someone edit it before posting it online.

That video was sufficient to prove that Lin Xinyan didn't murder anyone, and that she had only fired a shot in self-defense.

However, Zong Jinghao wasn't satisfied with his response. "You guys accused a woman of murder. Did you think you could just brush it off so casually like that?"

Wen Qing frowned. "What more do you want?"

"Not much. All I want is for those involved in this incident to apologize to her." Zong Jinghao said indifferently.

Wen Qing got mad when he heard that. Being the person behind it all, I would have to be the first to apologize! I didn't expect for Zong Jinghao to come up with

such a request... I've never had to apologize to anyone my entire life! There's no way I'd apologize to Lin Xinyan!

"That's impossible!" Wen Qing refused.

Even Chen Qing was surprised by Zong Jinghao's request because it was just ridiculous.

"He's your elder..."

"Age has nothing to do with this. The law punishes people regardless of their age." Zong Jinghao interrupted him. "What, did you think you could get away with anything just because you're a government official?"

Chen Qing went silent immediately. He was afraid of saying something he shouldn't as he was still in office.

He knew how important it was for those in his position to be careful with their words and actions.

Wen Qing's face turned red with anger. As someone with an old-fashioned mindset who didn't believe in gender equality, he absolutely refused to apologize to Lin Xinyan.

"Jinghao, you're making me apologize for a woman?" His frown deepened.

Zong Jinghao just smiled at him and said. "That, I'm afraid, isn't up to you."

The look on both their faces turned grim, especially Wen Qing as he asked. "What do you mean by that?"

Zong Jinghao stood up and dusted his sleeves. "You two aren't the only one with tricks up your sleeves, you know? Unfortunately, you're no match for me when it comes to schemes."

The great power and glory that came with being a government official was also accompanied by a great amount of weaknesses.

A single scandal could result in tons of investigations being carried out, and Zong Jinghao could cause them a huge amount of trouble with that.

Chen Qing didn't dare say anything further after that. Despite their difference in age, he could tell that Zong Jinghao was on a whole different level compared to the both of them.

It was unclear whether Wen Qing was trembling from anger or fear, but he most certainly wasn't being his usual self.

He clenched his fists and glared at Zong Jinghao who was walking towards the door.

"Oh, by the way, this reception room has been bugged with hidden cameras." He had his back towards them when he said that at the door, so they weren't able to see his expression.

Chen Qing and Wen Qing stared wide-eyed at him in shock. That means he's got everything we said on camera!

Fortunately for Chen Qing, he didn't say much throughout the conversation. Wen Qing on the other hand, said plenty to get himself in trouble.

By offering to prove Lin Xinyan's innocence in the incident, he had implied that he would abuse his power for personal gains.

That was a huge weakness for people of his position as it would have a great impact on his career and reputation.

Wen Qing knew that just as well as Chen Qing did.

"Don't worry, I won't release this footage." Zong Jinghao turned around slowly and said with an expressionless look on his face. "Think of this as a final act of mercy from me in view of our relationship."

Wen Qing had been nice to him throughout those years, and he had learnt to appreciate the kindness of those close to him ever since he got together with Lin Xinyan.

Despite everything, Wen Qing was still his uncle.

This final act of mercy marked the end of their relationship, and Wen Qing had received that message loud and clear.

So this is it, then? He's cutting all ties with me?

His eyes got blurry as his eyes began to tear up at the thought of that.

Ever since Wen Xian died, I've been treating Zong Jinghao as part of the Wen family, and yet...

Wen Qing felt an overwhelming sense of emotions, followed by his vision going black.

"Wen Qing!" Chen Qing held him steady and called out to him. "What's wrong?"

Seeing that Wen Qing had fainted, he quickly whipped out his phone.

"Hang in there! I'm calling you an ambulance right away!"

Zong Jinghao simply watched as he stood at the door before turning around and leaving the room.

"Zong Jinghao! He's your uncle for crying out loud! How could you just leave him like this?"

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Chen Qing shouted at Zong Jinghao, but he ignored him completely and walked away.

Wen Qing should've expected for this to be the end of our relationship the moment he decided to come here. This outcome is simply inevitable. I cannot accept someone who keeps trying to tear me and Lin Xinyan apart as my uncle!

I may have had my suspicions towards Lin Xinyan and Cheng Yuxiu at some point, but it's like what Lin Xinyan said. Cheng Yuxiu might be partly to blame, but she isn't a bad person. All I can do is to not accept her and to keep my distance from her. That's the least I can do for his dead mother, Wen Xian.

The door to the elevator opened right as he entered his office, and a group of paramedics came rushing out. "Where's the patient?"

Chen Qing called out to them upon hearing their voices. "Here! Over here!"

Zong Jinghao shut the door behind him, blocking out the noises outside.

Wen Qing was brought downstairs on a stretcher with Chen Qing following closely beside him.

The ambulance was parked right outside the office building.

Meanwhile, Li Zhan was standing outside the Wen family house. Images of his first encounter with Lin Xichen kept running through his mind. Lin Xichen had asked him if he was a student there too.

Li Zhan was puzzled by that question and wondered what a young child like him was doing in a university instead of a kindergarten.

He then knelt down beside Lin Xichen and asked. "You talk like you're a student here. Do you still wear diapers?"

"You're the one wearing diapers!" Lin Xichen retorted, his cheeks puffed up with anger.

Li Zhan found out later that the principal had allowed him into the university in view of him being a talented genius.

That made him wonder who Lin Xichen's parents were, considering how gifted he was. Imagine the shock when he discovered that Lin Xichen was from a single-parent household. His mother and her sister were the only girls in the family, with one being in charge of looking after them while the other puts food on the table.

He was impressed at how smart and mature Lin Xichen was despite his family background and felt bad for him not having a father figure in life.

He also admired Lin Xinyan for being able to raise her kids well while supporting the family all by herself.

His curiosity and sympathy for their family was what led to him spending more time with Lin Xichen and getting closer to him.

However, the fact that Lin Xichen was Zong Jinghao's son caught him completely off guard.

The world seemed to be so large and yet so small at the same time.

After snapping out of his train of thoughts, he made up his mind and was determined to put a stop to Wen Qing's irrational plans.

It wasn't easy for this family to finally be complete. I'm not going to let anyone tear it apart like that, regardless of their reasons!

He knocked on the door, and Li Jing opened it shortly after.

She hugged him the moment she saw him. "How could you just leave like that? You didn't even bother to give me a call! Do you know how worried I was?"

Li Jing almost cried when she finally saw her son again.

"I thought you didn't want me anymore since you fell out with your father!" She exclaimed in a hoarse voice.

Li Zhan hugged her and gave her a pat on the back. "I would never do that! You're my mother! I'd rather stay single for the rest of my life than to lose you!"

"What are you saying, silly boy! Oh, speaking of which, have you gotten yourself a girlfriend yet?" Li Jing laughed and gave him a gentle slap on the cheeks.

Li Zhan froze for a brief moment before smiling again. "Well... I do have someone I like, but I'm not sure if she feels the same about me."

"Who is she? Do I know her?" Li Jing was a little excited as that was the first time he had mentioned his girlfriend in front of her.

All parents care deeply about their children's relationships, and Li Jing was no different.

Li Zhan deliberately held her in suspense. "Hey, is that all you care about? Aren't you going to let me in? Besides, I don't think she likes me."

That came as a surprise to Li Jing, considering how practically all of his fans dreamed of dating him. "Who wouldn't like such a handsome guy like you?"

Like every other parent out there, Li Jing felt that her son was the most handsome man in the world and would make too good a match for any woman.

Li Zhan went into the house with Li Jing and began glancing around. "Relax, he's not here right now. Chen Qing came to see him earlier, and they left the house together after spending about half an hour in the study."

"Where did they go?" Li Zhan asked.

"I don't know, I didn't ask." She hadn't been talking to Wen Qing ever since they had a fight the other day.

She didn't bother to ask where he and Chen Qing were going, but she knew it had something to do with Zong Jinghao.

After all, that was the only thing that he seemed to care about these days.

Although she couldn't interfere with Wen Qing's plans, she did have a say in helping her son get a girlfriend. "Come on, be honest with me. Who do you like?"

Li Jing had a feeling that the girl was probably troubled when she saw how hesitant he was being. "You've already gone against your father's wishes and became a star. But you mustn't get yourself a girlfriend from the entertainment industry, you hear?"

Female celebrities nowadays would do anything to gain views! They'd wear revealing clothing and even have no issues with showing their cleavage! I'd object to it even if Wen Qing didn't! There's no way I'd accept a daughter-in-law whose body has been seen by everyone! That'd be too humiliating! Even someone from a normal background would be a lot better than a shameless celebrity who makes a living by selling her body!

Li Zhan saw how agitated she was and said calmly. "She's not a celebrity, nor is she someone from the entertainment industry. Her family background is decent too."

Li Jing got even more curious after hearing that and pressed him for answers. "Who is it then? Come on, tell me!"