

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 621

Shen Peichuan turned his head towards Su Zhan slowly. His tone was as cold as ice as he spoke, "I'm not in the mood for jokes, Su Zhan."

Su Zhan took a good look at the other man's face. He stopped smiling when he realized Shen Peichuan was being serious. "Tell me what happened."

"It's nothing. I was just in a bad mood all of a sudden." Shen Peichuan downed his entire glass in one go.

"I'm feeling a lot better now," he said while putting his glass down.

Su Zhan wasn't buying it. "Come on, man! We're brothers! You don't have to hide it from me, you know?"

"Who are you calling a bro? You only care about women!" Shen Peichuan tried to play it cool, teasing him.

"Hey, I wouldn't be here right now if that was the case!" Su Zhan poured him another glass. "You want to drink? Fine, I'll drink with you! We're not going home until we're both wasted!"

Shen Peichuan refused to drink from the glass Su Zhan poured for him, so the latter held the glass up to his mouth. "Come on, young men like you should drink more alcohol!"

"You're the young one here!" Shen Peichuan pushed his hand away and stood up. "I'm leaving."

Su Zhan followed beside him and placed an arm around his shoulder. "Man, you're such a buzzkill! You asked me to come and drink with you, yet you're

leaving before we even get started? Don't expect me to believe you ever again, you liar!"

Shen Peichuan felt goosebumps all over and shuddered upon hearing that. "Damn it! Quit fooling around, will you?"

"What? It's not like I'm trying to get you in bed or anything! I'm straight, okay?"

Shen Peichuan began to regret his decision of calling his friend over.

Why did I invite him, of all people, to keep me company? I must've been out of my mind!

The waiter approached them with the bill, and Su Zhan pointed his finger at Shen Peichuan. "He's paying."

"That'll be three hundred and eighty, sir."

Shen Peichuan handed the waiter four hundred and said, "Here, keep the change."

"Where are we going?" Su Zhan asked as he followed Shen Peichuan out the bar.

"I'm going home to get some sleep," Shen Peichuan stated.

Su Zhan stared wide-eyed at him in disbelief. *Are my ears deceiving me? This man is practically as busy as Zong Jinghao! He's been really busy ever since he became a team leader, so shouldn't he be even busier now that he's the deputy chief?*

"Sorry, what did you just say?"

Shen Peichuan ignored him and hailed himself a taxi, leaving Su Zhan there all by himself.

What the hell is going on? How could he leave me behind like this when he's the one who invited me over?

"I'll remember this, Shen Peichuan!" Su Zhan shouted angrily. After calming down a little, he gave it some thought and felt something was amiss. *Shen Peichuan rarely, if ever, asks me out for a drink like this. On top of that, he's really busy with his work and has a highly responsible attitude. How could he just go home like this? Shouldn't he be at work right now? What could've caused such abnormal behavior in him?*

Su Zhan downed two glasses of wine and lounged on the sofa as he gave Zong Jinghao a call.

Meanwhile, at Wanyue Group. Guan Jing brought a stack of important documents over. Those were supposed to be signed the day before, but Zong Jinghao wasn't around to sign them.

"These need to be signed right away," Guan Jing articulated.

Zong Jinghao looked up at him. "Are you ordering me around?"

Guan Jing immediately tensed up and shook his head profusely. "I wouldn't dare!"

Zong Jinghao was flipping through the documents when his phone rang. He took a look at the caller ID and declined the call straight away, much to Su Zhan's dismay.

What on earth is going on with everyone today? Why did he decline my call? Is he getting it on with Lin Xinyan right now? He's so lucky to have a happy family... Screw it; I'm gonna harass him a little!

With that thought in mind, Su Zhan dialed Zong Jinghao's number once more.

Zong Jinghao looked up at his phone. *Su Zhan again?*

"What is it?" he asked after putting him on speaker.

Su Zhan wasn't expecting the man to answer his call so soon; he had prepared himself to keep dialing the same number a few more times.

"Why did you decline my call earlier? Did I call at a bad time and interrupt your moment with your wife?"

Guan Jing scratched his head awkwardly. *Good grief... Is sex the only thing on his mind?*

Zong Jinghao kept his head down and continued signing his documents. "Don't you have anything better to do?"

Su Zhan clicked his tongue. "Did something happen to Shen Peichuan? Something seems off about him today. He asked me to come and have a drink with him, but he stopped after two glasses and left the bar. So, I asked him where he was going, and he said he was going home to get some sleep! Isn't it abnormal for someone as responsible as him to behave like this?"

This really isn't like him...

Zong Jinghao disabled the speaker and picked his phone up. "Where is he now?"

"Home, I guess." Su Zhan shrugged.

"Find him and bring him over here."

"All right, I'll see you later."

Zong Jinghao was about to put his phone back down when he heard his secretary's voice outside the door. "You can't go in there."

However, the person outside didn't seem to care and shoved her aside. "Get out of my way!"

Gu Bei came into his office with his hands in his pockets and a grin on his face. "Hello there, Mr. Zong."

The secretary bowed apologetically. "I couldn't stop him..."

"It's okay; you can get back to work now." Zong Jinghao said.

Zong Jinghao then handed the signed documents over to Guan Jing and told him, "You too."

With that, Guan Jing went out the door with a huge stack of documents in hand.

Gu Bei removed his sunglasses as he walked up to Zong Jinghao's desk. "You've got good taste, Mr. Zong," he complimented while looking around.

Zong Jinghao casually leaned against his chair. "Did you barge into my office just to compliment my taste in decor?"

Gu Bei chuckled and twirled his sunglasses around. "Your friend Shen Peichuan has lost all his authority in the force now, and I can put him in prison if I want to. What do you think? Should I do that?"

Zong Jinghao narrowed his eyes.

"Come on, don't look so surprised now. I told you, you're no match for me. No one opposes me and gets away with it!" Gu Bei chuckled while putting his sunglasses back on.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 622

The look in Zong Jinghao's eyes grew cold as he realized what Gu Bei had done. "Is that so?"

"Is it not? I mean, look at what has happened to the great Number Four, Shen Peichuan!" Gu Bei sneered. "If you beg me right now, I might be merciful enough to let him go. How about that?"

He started cackling like a madman as he continued, "Go on, say you're sorry. Beg me to forgive you!"

A look of hatred flashed past in Zong Jinghao's eyes, but he quickly regained his cool. "I'm afraid you're in for a disappointment, Mr. Gu."

"Do you not realize the situation you're now in?"

"I haven't got a clue. Mind explaining it to me again, Mr. Gu?" Zong Jinghao asked casually, unfazed by the man's taunts in the slightest.

Gu Bei exploded with anger. "How dare you take that attitude with me, Zong Jinghao? You may be wealthier, but I'm far superior in terms of power!"

"Are you sure about that?" Zong Jinghao smiled, sending a shiver down Gu Bei's spine.

Damn that sinister smile of his! Does he have a secret weapon or something? No, that can't be... Shen Peichuan is his only strongest ally, and I've already gotten him out of the picture. Zong Jinghao isn't close with the Wen family, so I don't have to worry about them either. Even if he were, there's no way Wen Qing would help him now that his own reputation has gone down the drain! There's Su Zhan, but he poses no threat to me at all! I've got my dad and my sisters on my

side! They've got powerful friends all over the country, so I'm definitely the more powerful one here!

Gu Bei regained his confidence at the thought of that.

“Your bluffs don’t work on me!”

Zong Jinghao maintained that smile of his as he questioned, “Do you know what makes us so different?”

“What?”

“You indeed have a wide range of connections, but you’re forgetting something really important. Those in the light are incredibly vulnerable to attacks from those in the shadows. You may have done something to Peichuan, but, you don’t know who I have on my side.”

It was obvious that there was more to Zong Jinghao than he was letting on. Gu Bei’s confidence wavered when he realized that. “W-What do you mean?”

“You can’t understand such a simple concept?”

Gu Bei was an impatient person, to begin with, so it didn’t take much effort for Zong Jinghao to get under his skin.

“So you’re basically implying that you have more connections than I do?” Gu Bei wasn’t entirely convinced as he couldn’t tell if Zong Jinghao was bluffing. “Even if what you say is true, you haven’t won just yet!”

The man then stormed out of the office and bumped into Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan at the door.

“Oh? If it isn’t Mr. Gu...” Su Zhan eyed him from head to toe and sneered, “What’s with that look on your face? Did your dad die or something?”

Gu Bei grabbed Su Zhan by the collar and shouted at him, "You got a death wish, asshole?"

"So what if I do? You're on our turf now!" Su Zhan alluded with a chuckle.

Gu Bei had come alone, so starting a fight would only end badly for him. In the end, he had no choice but to let go of Su Zhan.

"I'll get you for this! Just you wait!"

Su Zhan dusted his clothes off and shouted back at him, "Sure, I'll be waiting! Make sure to give me all you've got!"

The two of them stared each other down as if they were having an epic battle with their eyes.

"Shen Peichuan!" Gu Bei sneered and strolled right out the door.

Su Zhan was confused. *Why would Gu Bei call out his name? Is he out of his mind?*

"Why did he call out to you?" Su Zhan asked Shen Peichuan.

"He's crazy. Just ignore him," Shen Peichuan replied.

"Are you sure?" Su Zhan felt that there was some hidden meaning behind Gu Bei's actions.

Shen Peichuan ignored him and entered the office. "What did he come here for?"

Zong Jinghao walked up to him and asked, "I know something happened to you. Why didn't you tell me about it?"

Shen Peichuan sat down on the sofa. “You were busy with the preparations for your wedding, so I didn’t want to bother you.”

Zong Jinghao was somewhat displeased with that answer. “So, what do you plan on doing about it?”

How could he keep something this serious to himself? What if things go terribly wrong? Doesn’t he care about his future?

“What are you guys talking about? What happened to you?” Su Zhan asked Shen Peichuan, who simply lowered his head and kept quiet.

Zong Jinghao tugged at his necktie. “You still won’t tell us?”

“Captain Song called me to the station this morning. I saw some guys from the Prosecutors’ Office there. They told me that I’ve been accused of bribery and that I’m suspended until the investigation is over.”

“Gu Bei is such a shameless bastard!” Su Zhan exclaimed angrily.

Zong Jinghao frowned. Being accused of bribery is a serious issue – especially for those in law enforcement. It has a huge impact on their future. If Gu Bei is successful in framing him for such a deed, Shen Peichuan will be done for!

“What do we do now? Shen Peichuan’s reputation is at stake here!” Su Zhan asked anxiously.

Fortunately, Zong Jinghao had expected Gu Bei to cause trouble while he was busy with his wedding preparations. As such, he was well prepared for whatever the man had to throw at him.

Gu Bei’s main source of support was his father. Those brothers-in-law of his only supported him out of respect for his Old Master Gu.

Without his father, Gu Bei would lose their support immediately and be left with nothing.

Therefore, the most efficient way to take him out was to eliminate his father.

“You two head on back. I’ll take care of this.” Zong Jinghao stood up and grabbed his phone.

“You got a plan?” Both Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan stared at him in surprise.

However, Zong Jinghao wasn’t in the mood to explain his plan. “What, you don’t trust me?” he asked while raising an eyebrow.

Su Zhan nodded but quickly shook his head. “Of course we trust you! Do you have anyone to back you up, though?”

After all, Zong Jinghao was only a businessman, not a government official.

“I may not have anyone, but my wife does,” Zong Jinghao conveyed mysteriously.

Lin Xinyan had saved Shao Yun’s number in Zong Jinghao’s phone ever since she got a call from him previously. That was so he could ask Shao Yun for help whenever it was inconvenient for him to handle something personally.

Lin Xinyan didn’t really know what kind of person her father was – she didn’t want to find out either.

Wen Xian’s letter had stated that he was a good person, and that was all she had to know.

Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan exchanged glances; they realized what he meant.

Zong Jinghao wasn't just talking about Lin Xinyan. He was also talking about the power and influence she inherited from her parents.

Su Zhan felt slightly relieved in knowing that Zong Jinghao had a plan in store for Gu Bei, but he was utterly disgusted by the latter's actions.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 623

“Who does Gu Bei think he is? Without his powerful father, he’s nothing! Ugh, seeing that smug attitude of his makes my blood boil!” Su Zhan cursed angrily.

Although Zong Jinghao had told them to head back, Shen Peichuan realized he didn’t have anywhere to hang out now that he was suspended from work.

“How about you come by my place?” Su Zhan wrapped an arm around his neck.

“No, thanks. If you’re that free, how about getting yourself something to do instead of having sex all the time?” Shen Peichuan shot back at him.

Su Zhan clicked his tongue. “I don’t make any less than you do, so what’s wrong with me spending my time however I want? Besides, I’ve found the secret of life!”

“Oh? And what’s that?” Shen Peichuan asked.

“Tell me, why do we work?”

“To live, of course,” Shen Peichuan replied.

“What do we need in life?” Su Zhan asked.

“Water, fire...”

Pfff... Su Zhan nearly spat out his water. “Man, are you an idiot or something? Stuff like water and fire is what we need to survive, not to live. To live a great life, we need a successful career and a soulmate. We only have the former, so it only makes sense for me to look for the latter!”

Shen Peichuan rolled his eyes. "Well, I don't have either right now, so I'm just going to focus on staying alive."

He walked out of the office after saying that.

Zong Jinghao had left a while ago, so it was about time for the two of them to leave as well.

"How about I go to the university with you? We can go see your little girlfriend together!" Su Zhan suggested while running after him.

Shen Peichuan felt a sting in his heart upon hearing those words.

"Stop following me. I want some time alone."

"No way! I have to stick with you in case you get all depressed and kill yourself!" Su Zhan insisted.

"I'll kill you if you don't cut it out!" Shen Peichuan walked the other way to put some distance between them, but Su Zhan simply continued following him.

"What's the matter with you? Why are you acting so heartbroken?"

Shen Peichuan shot him a glare and began hailing a taxi by the roadside.

"Hey, where are you going?" Su Zhan felt something was off about him. "Zong Jinghao said he has a plan, so why are you still depressed?"

Shen Peichuan kept his head low. "Sang Yu's gone."

Su Zhan was confused. "But she hasn't even graduated from university! Where could she go?"

"I don't know," Shen Peichuan replied.

That made Su Zhan even more confused. “What could possibly make her give up on her education?”

Shen Peichuan told him about what had happened to Sang Yu’s mother, hoping that doing so would make him feel a little better.

Su Zhan eyed him cautiously. “Is that why you’ve been down in the dumps? It’s because she left?”

A taxi pulled up next to them, and Su Zhan followed him into the car. “Hey, I asked you a question!”

“I don’t know,” Shen Peichuan answered impatiently.

All he knew was that he had felt something in his heart when he read her confession in the letter.

However, he wasn’t sure if what he felt was actually love.

Su Zhan turned silent when he finally understood why Shen Peichuan was so depressed.

“Where to?” the taxi driver asked.

Shen Peichuan stayed silent at that question, so Su Zhan gave the driver a location.

I heard from a lawyer that there’s a huge matchmaking party in town today! This is a perfect opportunity for Shen Peichuan to meet some single ladies!

The party was so well-known that even the taxi driver knew about it. “Are you guys single too?”

Su Zhan pointed at Shen Peichuan. “He is.”

Shen Peichuan kept quiet as he wasn't in the mood to deny that statement.

The taxi driver laughed. "This is the fifth time I'm heading there today."

Su Zhan was surprised. "Those passengers... Were they male or female?"

"Both, but there were more males than females. From what I've heard, the male-to-female ratio is poorly balanced at the moment. My cousin joined the military a few years ago and turned old by the time he got discharged. After many failed matchmaking attempts, he ended up dating a woman who had been married thrice," the taxi driver replied.

"Your cousin must be ugly because a lot of girls like military men these days," Su Zhan commented.

The taxi driver chuckled. "You sure are straightforward with your comments, kid. It's true that my cousin isn't exactly the brightest banana in the bunch. Heck, he wouldn't have made it into the military if it weren't for his connections. He's short, dark, and... Well... he's not exactly young anymore. I'd say he's lucky if he can find himself a woman. One of our neighbors has two kids, and they spent a fortune buying a house and a car to help them with their dating game. Guess what? The car is now an old hunk of junk, and the two brothers are still single!"

Su Zhan's eyes went wide with shock, and he turned towards Shen Peichuan. "You better seize this opportunity, then! Look at how hard it is for guys to get themselves a girlfriend nowadays! If you find someone you like, go ahead and date her, got it? I don't wanna see you end up like those guys he just mentioned!"

"Piss off!" Shen Peichuan would've gotten out of the car if it weren't moving.

Su Zhan knew his friend was in a bad mood, so he didn't take it personally.

"Come on, don't be mad... I'm just concerned about you..."

"Stop the car," Shen Peichuan told the driver.

The driver pulled over by the side of the road, and Shen Peichuan got off after paying the fare.

Su Zhan followed him out of the car. "Hey, what are you doing? You got a problem with matchmaking or something?"

"You can go if you want." Shen Peichuan began walking down the sidewalk.

"You're going a little overboard here!"

Shen Peichuan ignored him and simply continued walking forward. "Fine! I won't care about you anymore if that's the case!" Su Zhan hailed himself another taxi, but he was so worried about his friend that he had the driver tail Shen Peichuan from a distance anyway.

Shen Peichuan came across a convenience store and bought a box of cigarettes. As he was paying for it, someone placed a bottle of water on the counter.

"Peichuan?"

Shen Peichuan turned around.

"Oh, wow, it really is you! What are you doing here?" Song Yaxin asked with a smile.

"I..." Shen Peichuan didn't know why he was there either.

"You must be feeling terrible right now. My dad told me all about what happened. I just want you to know that I believe you," Song Yaxin stated.

Shen Peichuan kept quiet and handed the money to the cashier, "I'll pay for her water too."

The two walked out of the store after that. "Why are you here?" Shen Peichuan asked.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 624

“Oh, I was just running some errands nearby. Are you busy? If not, how about we go have seat somewhere?”

Having nowhere else to go, Shen Peichuan agreed to that idea.

“Did you drive here?” Song Yaxin asked.

“No.”

Song Yaxin pointed at a car parked by the side of the road. “We’ll take my car then. It’s just over there!”

Shen Peichuan nodded and got in the car with her.

“What the... Did that man just get in the car with a woman?” Su Zhan couldn’t believe his eyes.

The driver replied, “Yes, and a pretty one at that.”

Su Zhan chuckled to himself. *So he already has a woman, eh? So much for acting all depressed! Wait... Who is she? What’s their relationship? Has he been keeping this relationship a secret from us? Why would he do that?*

Su Zhan was filled with questions, but there wasn’t anyone around to answer them.

The driver glanced at him from the rear-view mirror. “Do we follow them? I can’t just sit around here all day, you know?”

Su Zhan felt reassured now that Shen Peichuan had someone to keep him company, so he had the driver take him to Zong Jinghao's villa instead.

After making their way into the city, Song Yaxin drove towards a nice little café. "Let's catch up over coffee."

Shen Peichuan wasn't a big fan of cafés, but he got out of the car anyway as he had already agreed to spend time with the woman earlier.

"We're just getting some coffee. Why do you look so reluctant?" Song Yaxin asked with a smile.

"I..."

"I'm just kidding!" Song Yaxin interrupted him; she knew he was still upset about Sang Yu.

Sang Yu had visited her before leaving as she knew Song Yaxin had feelings for him, and her being the daughter of Captain Song could greatly benefit him in his career.

While it was true that Captain Song favored him greatly, things would be even better for Shen Peichuan if he were to marry his daughter.

As such, Sang Yu told Song Yaxin the truth about everything before she left B City.

The decorations in the café gave it a warm and romantic atmosphere. It was a popular spot for couples to hang out at.

Song Yaxin sat down next to a window. The tall trees outside helped block most of the sunlight, so it wasn't too bright. There was a white vase on the table with some daisies in it.

“What would you like to have?” she asked Shen Peichuan.

“Green tea.”

“We’ll have a glass of green tea and a cappuccino with extra milk,” Song Yaxin told the waitress.

“Coming right up!”

Song Yaxin smiled at the man after the waitress had left. “Do guys hate sweet stuff? I heard you take your coffee without milk and sugar.”

“It’s probably just a personal preference.” Shen Peichuan shrugged.

“I heard about what happened. I didn’t think you’d have a childish side to you!” Song Yaxin remarked.

Shen Peichuan was confused. “What did you hear?”

“Take a guess.” Song Yaxin smiled.

“I can’t think of anything.” Shen Peichuan shook his head.

“Aw, you’re no fun at all! Still a man worth marrying, though. You know, I really regret it a lot. My dad actually wanted us to get married back then...”

“That’s all in the past now.” Shen Peichuan cut her off – he didn’t want to talk about it.

“Do you hate me?” Song Yaxin asked.

“No, I don’t,” Shen Peichuan said honestly.

Had Song Yaxin been willing to marry him at the time, he would have agreed to it.

However, he felt neither love nor hatred for her. It was simply because they were both of suitable age.

The waitress came over and served them their beverages. "Enjoy."

Song Yaxin took a sip of her coffee and waited for the waitress to leave before continuing, "Do you find me unattractive?"

Shen Peichuan frowned and kept quiet.

Song Yaxin let out a wry smile. "Is it because I got divorced?"

"Having been through a divorce isn't really that big of a deal." Shen Peichuan made no efforts to comfort her. That was simply how things were in society. Given the increasing divorce rates every year, divorced men and women were pretty much everywhere.

"I used to be a huge fan of romance when I was younger. I longed for my significant other to tell me he loves me and give me flowers every once in a while to keep the romance alive. However, as time passed, that passion fades, and we're left with nothing but boring everyday life. This is when people start to feel lonely, like my husband who betrayed me when life got boring." Song Yaxin said while stirring her coffee. "If only I chose you instead... We would be so happy together and maybe even have children by now. I really regret it, Peichuan."

She looked up at Shen Peichuan, but he avoided her gaze. "You're not at fault here. It's his loss for not appreciating you."

We were never meant to be together back then, and we still aren't now.

"Peichuan..."

“I just remembered that I’ve still got some business to take care of.” Shen Peichuan stood up.

Song Yaxin pursed her lips. *God has given me a second chance at this, so I’ve got to make this count!*

“I’ll give you a lift.” She followed him from behind.

“We’re not going in the same direction.”

“But we did come in the same car.” Song Yaxin smiled. “Come on, don’t be so cold. It makes you look as if you hate me or something.”

Shen Peichuan couldn’t find any more excuses to refuse her without seeming rude, so he had no choice but to accept her offer.

“Where are you headed?” Song Yaxin asked after they both got into the car.

Shen Peichuan was direct her to the police station but held his tongue when he remembered that he had been suspended.

At that moment, his phone began ringing in his pocket. He answered the call when he saw Zong Jinghao’s caller ID.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 625

“Send me Gu Bei’s criminal records,” Zong Jinghao instructed.

“Right away.”

He had kept it all in his house to prevent anyone from finding it.

Shen Peichuan turned towards Song Yaxin and said, “You head on home. There’s something I need to do.”

“All right then,” Song Yaxin replied.

After fastening her seatbelt, she rolled her window down and called out to him, “Dad will do his best to help you out, Peichuan. I believe in you!”

Shen Peichuan didn’t want to trouble Captain Song, so Song Yaxin’s words of encouragement only made him feel awkward.

He thanked her politely and waited till she drove off before taking a taxi home.

He called Zong Jinghao after compiling the files and offered to bring them over, but the man told him to send them over via email.

Shen Peichuan did as told without any questions, and the next two days went by very peacefully.

Zong Jinghao hadn’t returned to his villa at all, and even Lin Xinyan had no idea what he was up to. He had only told her via phone call that he would be away for two days due to work.

Although peaceful, a lot happened throughout those two days. Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen had returned to B City, and Qin Ya had recovered enough to walk again. At first, the woman had been in a hurry to return to C City but changed her mind when she found out that Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao were having their wedding later on.

As such, Qin Ya had to wait till after the wedding before she could leave.

“What will you be wearing?” Qin Ya asked.

Lin Xinyan looked at her in confusion. “What do you mean?”

“I’m talking about your wedding dress. Are you going for a Chinese or Western style?” Qin Ya munched on an apple while lounging on the sofa.

“Oh, I don’t know. He’s the one preparing everything.”

Such a response left Qin Ya dumbfounded. “Are you even looking forward to your wedding at all?” *Isn’t it every woman’s wish to have a romantic and memorable wedding ceremony? Why does she look like she couldn’t care less about it?*

Lin Xinyan was so calm about it because she had been through too much before.

“Seven years ago, I’d be so excited that I wouldn’t be able to sleep a wink. A wedding is indeed a very meaningful event for a woman, but... Jinghao and I have been living our lives like an ordinary married couple for a long time. This wedding is just a formality. Think of it as a way to announce our relationship to the public,” Lin Xinyan explained.

Qin Ya gave it some thought. *She’s right. The two of them are basically living the life of a married couple with two kids right now.* She placed a hand on Lin Xinyan’s tummy and said, “You two really do look like an old married couple. Heck, you’re already having your third child! Why didn’t he ask me to design your wedding dress? Does he not like my designs?”

Qin Ya really wanted to help Lin Xinyan design a wedding dress.

“He probably doesn’t want to trouble you. Besides, you’re still injured, so I had him take care of everything by himself.”

“All right then...” Qin Ya looked at the time. “Why aren’t the kids back yet?”

Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen had brought the two kids out to play in the afternoon, and it was already getting dark outside.

“It’s almost six. Will they be coming back for dinner?” Qin Ya asked.

“I don’t know. They didn’t say if they were coming back for dinner when they left,” Lin Xinyan replied.

“Your husband hasn’t been home for two days now. Did something happen?”

Lin Xinyan didn’t give the matter much thought because she knew she couldn’t do anything to help out anyway. What she could do was take care of things at home. That way, Zong Jinghao wouldn’t have to worry.

She figured that it must’ve had something to do with Gu Bei, as that was the only unresolved issue at the moment.

What she didn’t expect was for Shen Peichuan to be brought into this mess.

The two kids had taken their dinner outside before returning, and Zong Jinghao had yet to return. As such, Lin Xinyan and Qin Ya were the only ones at the dinner table.

“It’s so quiet with just the two of us...” Qin Ya commented.

“Yeah... It sure is...” Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen were planning on staying at the old manor at first. Afraid that Zong Qifeng would be reminded of Cheng Yuxiu, Lin Xinyan invited them to stay in the villa instead.

With the two kids keeping them company, they wouldn't feel as lonely.

“Have you given your uncle a call?” Qin Ya asked while stuffing a tomato into her mouth.

It's Lin Xinyan's wedding, after all. Shao Yun should be invited.

“I'll call him after dinner.”

With Aunt Wang over to help out, the chores became a lot more manageable. Although Lin Xinyan no longer had to bathe her kids as they were old enough to do so themselves, she found herself being a lot more exhausted lately.

It's probably due to the baby being so far along...

Lin Xinyan was lost in thought as she lay in bed after taking a shower.

She then grabbed her phone and dialed Shao Yun's number, but the line was busy no matter how many times she tried.

Why isn't he picking up? Hmm... Maybe he's in a place with a bad reception... I'll try again tomorrow... She frowned and put her phone down.

Lin Xinyan had had difficulty sleeping in the past two days as she was used to having Zong Jinghao beside her.

She was tempted to call him out of concern for his safety but resisted the urge. She didn't want to disturb him while he was busy.

After an entire night of tossing and turning, she eventually fell asleep without even realizing it and woke up very early the next day.

It was no ordinary day, however, as something big had happened in B City.

A huge group of people from a faraway village had gathered outside the city hall.

The crowd consisted of old people – most of them were women. They held up banners, demanding an explanation from the government.

It was obviously premeditated, as they had all arrived in B City and gathered outside the city hall within a single night. On top of that, the press had also arrived at the scene very quickly to report on the incident.

A female reporter held a microphone towards one of the protesters and asked, “Could you tell us where you’re from and why you’re raising a ruckus here?”

The woman being interviewed was a dark and skinny middle-aged woman in her forties with two of her kids by her side. “We’re not raising a ruckus!” she retorted with a thick country accent.

“What are you doing here, then?” the reporter asked.

“We just want an explanation.”

“What kind of explanation?”

“We’re from X Province, Ning County. My husband is an ordinary bricklayer. He was killed by a collapsed building fifteen years ago.”

The reporter shot her a confused look. “If that’s the case, you should’ve had sought justice from the responsible party back then. Why did you come all the way here now?”

“Because it was taken care of fifteen years ago,” one of the kids next to her spoke up. She looked around sixteen or seventeen years of age, so she was about one or two years old when her father died. “We came here today to impeach the official who was in charge of the inspection work in Ning County.”

The reporter pointed the microphone towards the young girl. “Could you tell us what this is all about? Why are you impeaching this said official?”

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 626

“I believe most people don’t know about Ning County because of how poor it is. Fifteen years ago, the government sent a group of officials over for inspection. In order to pass the inspection, the county magistrate asked a team of craftsmen to build a school as we didn’t have one at the time.

The kids in the village would gather at the house of an educated girl, and she would teach us everything she knew. We didn’t have textbooks and blackboards either, so we could only listen while she spoke.

It’s impossible to build a school in such a short timeframe, so nobody was willing to do it. They feared it would be dangerous for their children who would be attending that school. However, the officials didn’t care about that... They would barge into the homes of those who refused to comply and harass or beat them up.

Having no other choice, the craftsmen did as told. The materials provided were of terrible quality, and the building collapsed halfway through construction. My father died along with four other craftsmen in that accident.”

“Shouldn’t there be funding for the construction of schools?” the reporter asked.

“The money probably went into that man’s pockets,” the girl said with a cruel smile.

She had phrased it vaguely, but it was straightforward enough to be understood by everyone.

“How was this incident resolved back then? Did the investigators not escalate the incident?”

“No, they kept it hidden from the press and covered it up with lies.”

At that point, the public had heard enough to figure out what it was all about.

“How were the deceased compensated?”

An old villager stepped forward and declared, “There was no compensation! Not only that, but they also threatened us into silence! Anyone who dared speak up about it would have their houses demolished!”

The reporter couldn't believe what she had just heard. *This is outrageous!*

The rural nature of the village combined with the lack of advanced technology back then made it extremely easy to cover up such incidents.

The villager began crying as she spoke, “My only son was killed in that accident... When we demanded an explanation from them, they beat us up and threatened us!”

She then rolled up her sleeves to reveal a huge scar on her arm. “See this? This was from a shovel they beat me up with!”

The wound had completely healed, but the lack of proper medical treatment resulted in a nasty scar being formed.

“We're family members of the deceased! All we ask is for the people responsible to be brought to justice!” The old lady wiped her tears with her wrinkled and callous hands.

With such huge media coverage, the incident was quickly spread all over the news.

The netizens, too, began spreading the word online and digging up information on the official in charge of the inspection.

Everyone wanted to find out who had done such a horrible thing.

With how advanced internet technology was, stopping the spread of information proved impossible.

The identity of the investigators, as well as the officials, was soon exposed. The netizens unleashed their wrath in the comment sections.

Why don't these people just die? They're practically the devil in the flesh!

How on earth did they even get to where they are today?

Someone replied to that comment: *By being devoid of conscience, that's how!*

These people deserve to die in the worst way possible! Look at that poor old lady! Her children were only 1-2 years old when it happened! She had to raise them without her husband's support!

I know, right? I wanna chop these heartless bastards into pieces!

These monsters bullied the poor defenseless villagers! They deserve to be dismembered by four horses like in ancient times!

With things rapidly spiraling out of control, the government had no choice but to put those officials under protection in a safe place. The government then declared that they would carry out a proper investigation and punish the officials if the accusations were proven to be true.

The netizens saw that and expressed their support for the investigation.

Please give these villagers the justice they deserve!

I believe our government will provide us with a satisfactory solution. If this is true, then please have those inhumane bastards shot! This is simply unacceptable!

That day was bound to be an extraordinary one as the news had caught the entire nation's attention.

A huge commotion erupted in the Gu family household.

Even Gu Bei and his siblings were unaware of such an incident.

"Is this true?" Gu Bei asked his mother.

Mrs. Gu nodded, her face as white as sheet. "Yes..."

"How could dad do such a thing?" the fifth daughter of the Gu family asked. She couldn't believe that her father had actually done such a thing.

From what she knew, the man had always favored his sons over his daughters, but he had never done anything that horrible.

"This is unbelievable!" The second daughter of the Gu family was shocked by how heartless her father was as well.

Gu Huixin sat quietly in a corner and didn't dare say anything. She had never thought of helping her father out, to begin with, as she actually hated being a part of the Gu family.

"Someone must be trying to set him up. If not, they wouldn't have exposed something from so long ago in such detail!" Mrs. Gu kept her calm despite being shocked by the sudden exposure of her husband's wrongdoings.

Those villagers have appeared out of nowhere and caused a huge scene to gain sympathy with the help of the media. Now that the entire country has heard about it, they're pressuring the government into taking action. There's no way this isn't orchestrated!

"Did dad offend anyone recently?" Gu Bei asked.

Mrs. Gu shook her head. "I'm not sure. It's common for officials to have some conflicts every now and then, but I doubt they'd go as far as bringing up something this old."

"We should focus on finding a solution. Given how serious this has gotten, the punishment will be extremely severe if they manage to prove him guilty!"

In order to appease the public, the government would surely punish the accused severely.

The eldest daughter of the Gu family spoke up, "Sisters, we must figure out a way to save dad!"

"And how would we do that?" the second daughter asked.

My husband didn't want me coming over when I got the call earlier. He was so displeased with dad... He asked me why I was his daughter in such a nasty tone! Well, if I had a choice, I wouldn't have chosen to be born in this patriarchal family either! I don't want to be unfilial, but I feel no attachment to this household! In fact, I don't even see this as a family! Thank goodness my husband is a righteous man like Zhou Huaihou, who doesn't want anything to do with the Gu family...

"My husband isn't powerful enough to be of much help. I've got some things to take care of at home, so I'll be on my way now," the second daughter stated.

Gu Bei got mad and stopped her from leaving. "How can you abandon your father like this? Have you no heart?"

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 627

“Kindness? What kindness? Tell me,” the second daughter of the Gu family said bluntly. “A kind person wouldn’t do such a thing!”

Gu Bei was infuriated, but he didn’t know how to counter his sister’s statement.

After a while, he found the words to rebut her, “You are our father’s daughter, after all. You have an obligation to him.”

His sister snorted, “What obligation? Am I obligated to protect someone who doesn’t have a conscience?”

Mrs. Gu slammed her hand down on the table. “How dare you speak in such a rude manner! This is your father we’re talking about!”

The second daughter turned towards her mother and sneered, “Yes, he is my father, but has he shown me any love and care? All these years, I have never experienced any fatherly love from him, nor have I experienced any warmth from my family.”

Mrs. Gu was at a loss for words. Indeed, she and her husband had never really treated her as their daughter. After having a girl as their firstborn, they had wanted a boy as their second child. So when their second born turned out to be a girl again, they gave her away to Mrs. Gu’s brother.

Life as an adopted child wasn’t great for the second daughter.

“I couldn’t be bothered anymore. If you wish to recognize me as your daughter, go ahead. Otherwise, treat me as if you never gave birth to me at all. After all, you have never been involved in raising me,” the second daughter snapped and left in a fit of rage.

As she walked towards the door, she stopped to look at her younger sisters, who were sitting in the living room. "I won't stop you if you want to get involved. If you wish to acknowledge me as your older sister, address me as sis when we meet. We can still be sisters then. If you do not wish to, then so be it. Consider us strangers who do not know each other. I don't care anymore."

"Sis..." one of her younger sisters tried to console her.

"Don't bother. Even though we're biological sisters who were conceived in the same womb, we cannot force each other to change our thoughts and actions. I've made myself clear. Those who do not recognize me as their sister can treat me as a stranger. We can act as if we don't know each other when we meet," the second daughter interrupted the fifth daughter.

Right after that, she walked away with determination.

That very moment, Gu Huixin stood up and said, "Huaihou is well-known in the community for being a righteous man, so I won't comment much on right or wrong as this involves my father. I know Huaihou definitely won't get involved in this matter, and I can't be of much help either."

"Huixin, do you not care about Dad anymore?" the oldest daughter of the Gu family looked at her in disappointment.

Gu Huixin answered collectedly, "It's not that I don't care. I just can't handle all of this. What do you expect me to do?"

The oldest daughter didn't know how to respond as Zhou Huaihou was indeed well-known for being a righteous person.

The public would definitely be scrutinizing every move the Gu family makes after the uncovering of this incident. Even the tiniest action might be criticized.

Besides, it was natural for the children who had been raised by their biological parents to act more favorably towards them compared to children who had been given away for adoption.

The oldest daughter wanted to solve this matter as soon as possible, fearing that her father might end up in prison.

“All these years, Huaihou and I have always maintained an upright reputation. We only have one daughter, and he loves both of us to bits. I would never do anything that would put him in a difficult position. I hope you and Mom understand,” Gu Huixin clarified her stance that she wouldn’t throw her husband under the bus for the sake of her father.

“You ungrateful b*tch! You don’t even care for our father’s safety!” Gu Bei flipped the table in front of him.

His sisters stared at him in distress.

“How could you say such a thing?” his fourth sister shouted.

We’re all siblings born from the same womb. How could he curse our sister?

“Huixin has made it clear why she cannot get involved. How could you curse her like this? So what if you’re the only son in our family? Do you not have any morals?” the fourth daughter berated him. She had always held him in disdain as she felt like he did not have any respect for his sisters whatsoever.

If it weren’t for the sake of her father, she would not be sitting here bantering with him.

“Stop arguing, all of you!” Mrs. Gu’s almost blew her top. She was still angry even though she knew why her third daughter did not want to get involved. But after considering Zhou Huaihou’s status in society, she forced herself to calm down.

“Huixin, I’m sure Huaihou will be able to help given his position in society...” Mrs. Gu began courteously.

Gu Huixin interjected, “You know very well that Huaihou won’t get his hands dirty. No matter how hard I beg him, it would be useless. If you wish to see my marriage crumble, I’ll go back and argue with him then. I dare you to challenge me.”

She intentionally challenged her mother as she knew that her mother wouldn’t want to see her marriage fall apart.

Sure enough, Mrs. Gu was rendered speechless.

Among all her children, she had only raised her oldest daughter and youngest son by herself. The others had never really experienced her love and care before.

“If you want to leave, go. We can still save our father without you.” Gu Bei couldn’t bear to see his mother being put in such a difficult position anymore.

Gu Huixin bowed towards her mother, then turned to her sisters and said, “My actions may be wrong, but I hope you all can find the heart forgive me.”

Her sisters replied empathetically, “Just go. We know you’re caught in a difficult dilemma. To be frank, all our families have troubles of our own, but he is still our father. No matter how much we resent him, we cannot turn a blind eye to his predicament. Don’t worry; we’ll find a way to resolve this.”

Her sisters’ remarks made it seem as though Gu Huixin paid no heed to her family’s troubles, but she did not regret her final decision.

Gu Huixin turned and left with a web of tangled emotions in her heart.

She hated what her father did, but she was in no position to reproach him as his daughter.

Along the way home, she calmed down and lightened up. She did not want to bring back negative emotions about her father into her own home.

Upon reaching home, she noticed that her daughter was at home alone. Zhou Huaihou had not returned from work. "Why are you at home alone? Where's Yinning?" she asked.

"I don't know. He went out right after receiving a parcel. I'm not sure where he went," Zhou Chunchun answered. As she finished painting the last stroke in her calligraphy piece, she put down her brush and noticed that her mother was not in a good mood. "What's wrong, Mom?" she asked.

Gu Huixin shook her head and said, "It's nothing. I'm going to rest in my bedroom for a while." Something else crossed her mind soon after, so she added, "Chunchun, when are you going back to Baicheng again?"

She didn't want her daughter to remain here; she felt that this wasn't a good place to settle down.

Unfortunate events kept happening one after another.

Zhou Chunchun responded, "Yinning still has a couple of things to attend to here. We'll go back in a few days."

Zong Jinghao had avoided him the previous time Bai Yinning wanted to meet him for a collaboration, so they didn't end up having a meeting.

Even though Bai Yinning was not successful, he did not want to leave so easily; he didn't want others to view him as a coward. Until now, Gao Yuan was still in the hospital, and though his injuries were not life-threatening, they were still considered rather serious. Bai Yinning could not bring himself to walk away without avenging his assistant.

For the past few days, he had sent men to investigate Gu Bei. He had used Zhou Huaihou to establish connections with several other people of status.

As he was seeking the right moment to strike back at Gu Bei, he suddenly received a parcel.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 628

The parcel did not contain the sender's name.

Inside the parcel was a piece of crucial information and a USB drive containing a video. The video showed Gu Bei at the beach instructing several men to dispose of Number Four's body into the sea. It was clearly an incriminating piece of evidence.

Just as Bai Yinning was in the midst of investigating Gu Bei, he somehow received evidence of Gu Bei's crime at his doorstep.

He could not figure out who had sent the parcel to him even after racking his brains for a long time.

His first instinct was to rule out Zong Jinghao since the man evidently did not want to meet with him.

However, it was indeed Zong Jinghao who had sent him the parcel.

Although Zong Jinghao did not have a liking for Bai Yinning, the former decided that it was an advantageous time to make use of the man.

After all, one of Zong Jinghao's common practices was to use others to achieve his end goals.

He did not view the enemy of his enemy as his friend, but he could certainly use that person as a tool.

He knew very well that Bai Yinning wouldn't hold back after suffering at the hands of Gu Bei.

If Gu Bei struck one of his men, he wouldn't hold back either.

Even though now wasn't the best time to strike back, he was still going to do it, just like how Gu Bei had framed Shen Peichuan in the past.

Now that Old Master Gu's past actions were revealed, it would be difficult for him to escape the law since all eyes were on him.

If the evidence of Gu Bei's crimes were exposed at this moment, it would be adding fuel to the fire.

Zong Jinghao believed Bai Yinning would be smart enough to know what to do next.

If things went as planned, Bai Yinning would be curious to know who sent him the parcel, and he would not pass up on such a good opportunity to take revenge on Gu Bei.

The man would definitely strike while the iron was hot.

After laying eyes on the evidence, Bai Yinning did not look for the person who sent the parcel. Instead, he went searching for the several men in the video.

He was prepared to interrogate them using various means until they were willing to confess, and he planned to record their confession just in case they pleaded innocence during trial.

After gathering sufficient evidence, Bai Yinning set out on his search for the person who had sent him the parcel.

Who would dare rat Gu Bei out so easily? This is indeed the perfect time to add fuel to the fire.

Politics and the marketplace were similar in the sense that they were both battlefields without guns. People were all fighting for their own self-interests.

The day after Old Master Gu's scandal was exposed, the Prosecutors' Office immediately detained Gu Bei.

Major news outlets received word of this supposedly confidential matter and rushed to Gu Bei's house, hoping to get some pictures of him being arrested.

If what happened that day was shocking, today's incident was even more mind-boggling.

Since the public was already speculating whether Gu Bei committed any immoral deeds as his father did, it was an opportune time for Bai Yinning to expose the video of Gu Bei dumping a dead body into the ocean.

After all, things had already developed to an irreversible point at this stage.

The person in charge of investigating Gu Bei's case issued a statement saying that investigations will only commence after a report is received.

At the same time, the authenticity of the video was yet to be verified, leaving the public in further speculation.

Since the Internet was very advanced these days, news about Gu Bei would easily spread like wildfire, and most people would believe what they see rather than process facts rationally.

So, just like that, a biased narrative of Gu Bei emerged on the Internet.

Disparaging comments surfaced as netizens condemned both Old Master Gu and Gu Bei.

A comment which received five hundred thousand likes stated: *Like father, like son. Gu Bei is definitely crooked like his father.*

Another user commented: *Evil runs in their bloodline. Such people should be castrated to prevent their genes from being passed on to the next generation.*

And someone replied to that comment: *You're absolutely right.*

That thread was followed with dozens of other comments: *He should be the one dumped into the ocean and fed to the sharks.*

It's no surprise that they are father and son. They are an absolute match.

Hurry up and shoot this scumbag already.

I heard that Gu Bei was spoilt by his father. See, it's clear that children should not be spoiled and pampered.

Having six sisters, Gu Bei is the only son in the family. He must be spoilt rotten and used to always getting everything his way. He gets involved in all sorts of businesses. Even the nightclub on Central Avenue belongs to him.

Someone replied to that: *How do you know?*

The earlier commenter replied: *I worked in that nightclub before, so I know of some insider news.*

Another person replied: *What else do you know? Tell us.*

The original commenter: *There was a murder case involving a young lady in that nightclub. She was a newcomer who did not play by the rules of the club. After Gu Bei messed around with her, he decided to kill her.*

The first reply soon came: *No way. That's so inhuman.*

Then, the second reply: *This guy deserves to be cut into a thousand pieces.*

Then the third: *Do you have any evidence?*

The original commenter retorted almost immediately, commenting: *Of course I do.*

Show it to us.

I don't dare to. I'm afraid Gu Bei's men might come after me if I do.

A user then stated: *We will protect you. Just show it to us.*

The original commenter then sent an emoji of a scared face.

You have our support.

Yes, yes. Quickly, show it to us.

After everyone's curiosity peaked, the original commenter finally replied to the thread: *Ok, I'll post it now. Please forward it and share it with everyone you know. The more people you show it to, the safer I'll be.*

The other netizens replied: *Don't worry. We will.*

That very moment, the original commenter posted a three-minute video showing a woman's thighs. It was recorded in a cryptic surrounding. People could barely tell where it had been taken.

The content of the video set the netizens abuzz.

Back in the Gu family's home, the Gu sisters were caught off guard when the video surfaced on the Internet. Before they could even find a solution for their father's predicament, their younger brother was detained by the authorities again.

Overwhelmed by the development of events, Mrs. Gu passed out instantly.

Now that both the patriarch and matriarch of the family were down, the rest of the Gu family was in a mess.

Meanwhile, Zhou Huaihou summoned Bai Yinning to his study after the former returned to the Zhou family's residence. No one else was allowed to enter the room.

"Were you the one who stirred up trouble for Gu Bei?" Zhou Huaihou asked. Although he expressed his words in the form of a question, it sounded as though he was sure that Bai Yinning was the person responsible.

For the last few days, Bai Yinning had stayed out until late at night, and he had also been in close contact with several of his associates.

Without trying to hide anything, Bai Yinning answered, "Did I do anything wrong?"

Zhou Huaihou kept quiet.

"You know it's true. That's why you have nothing to say back to me. I won't hide anything from you, but please don't tell Huixin," Bai Yinning looked at him and said candidly.

No matter what, Gu Bei was still his Gu Huixin's younger brother, and Zhou Huaihou didn't want to be in conflict with his wife because of this matter.

So he sighed and said, "Alright, I won't tell her."

Bai Yinning then expressed in a sincere tone, "Dad, I'm not a perfect person, but I have to try my best in whatever I do so that I don't let my subordinates down."

"I understand," Zhou Huaihou responded.

He knew that a boss who protected his employees would make them feel safe.

“Gu Bei wouldn’t be able to escape the long arm of the law. No one else will be able to bring him down if not for the law,” Bai Yinning stated.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 629

Afraid that he would be forced to get involved, Zhou Huaihou said, “Once Gao Yuan recovers, all of you can go back to Baicheng.”

Bai Yinning knew that Zhou Huaihou said this for his own good, but he wouldn't be able to walk away in peace before seeing the outcome of this incident.

“You've done enough,” Zhou Huaihou said as he sat down. “A special task force has been set up to investigate this incident. Once the incident has been investigated thoroughly and the evidence is conclusive, even the gods would not be able to save them. You don't have to get involved anymore.”

Bai Yinning realized the seriousness in Zhou Huaihou's tone, so he asked, “Are you part of the task force?”

Zhou Huaihou shook his head. “The authorities know that I am related to the Gu family, so they didn't include me in the task force. They're very serious this time. If anything goes out of hand, even I will be investigated.”

“Is it really that serious?” Bai Yinning furrowed his brows as he speculated what the outcome of the incident would be.

“At this point, the top level of authorities have already threatened the lower level to make sure they carry out investigations justly. If they don't, they too would have consequences to face,” said Zhou Huaihou.

Gu Bei's incident was a humiliation for the authorities as they had recently adopted a 'zero tolerance for criminals' policy. Any convicted crimes would be punished severely.

“Just listen to me this time. Quickly head back. Don’t let yourself get hurt because of this,” Zhou Huaihou advised.

“I will deal with those few officials whom you had connections with. Just take Chunchun back to Baicheng with you and stay out of sight. Don’t make me worry.” Zhou Huaihou patted Bai Yinning’s shoulder.

Bai Yinning began reflecting on his recent actions. He realized that he had only thought about himself without any consideration for Zhou Huaihou. He knew very well that Zhou Huaihou had a reputation in society, and that Gu Huixin was related to the Gu family, yet he had exploited Zhou Huaihou’s connections for his own self-interests. After reflecting on all this, Bai Yinning realized that he had put Zhou Huaihou in a very difficult position.

“I’m sorry,” he apologized sincerely.

“You don’t need to apologize. We’re family, after all,” said Zhou Huaihou. He simply wanted to protect his own family.

Knock knock!

There was a sudden knock on the door before Zhou Chunchun called out, “Dad, Yinning, it’s time to eat.”

“Okay,” Zhou Huaihou answered his daughter.

“Come on, let’s go and eat.” He walked up and opened the door for Bai Yinning.

That evening, dinner was prepared by Zhou Chunchun. Gu Huixin had heard of the news and was so distressed that she did not come out of her room. No matter what, the person involved was still her biological brother.

Zhou Huaihou said to his daughter and son-in-law, “Go ahead and eat first. I’ll go and take a look at Mom.”

Right after that, he went into the bedroom and found Gu Huixin lying on the bed like a sick person. She appeared listless and gloomy.

He walked up to her bedside and tried to console her, "Come on, get up and have something to eat. Chunchun and her husband are here."

"I'm not hungry. I really can't stomach anything right now," Gu Huixin answered feebly.

Zhou Huaihou sighed. "Why don't I quit my job? We can then go and live in Baicheng with our daughter and her husband."

Gu Huixin immediately got up and cried out, "That's not acceptable!"

She knew very well that her husband was an ambitious man, and she admired that quality of his.

She couldn't bear to see him in a difficult position, so she held his hand and said, "Have I affected you in any way?"

Zhou Huaihou stared at her and replied, "We're husband and wife. Nothing could affect me."

Nevertheless, Gu Huixin understood the severity of this matter. She also understood how anyone related to the Gu family would be implicated sooner or later.

"Mom, Dad, can I come in?" Zhou Chunchun knocked on the door and asked.

"Sure, come on in," Gu Huixin said as she let go of her husband's hand.

Zhou Chunchun opened the door and walked in with a tray of food that she took from Bai Yinning. "Mom, please have something to eat. You haven't eaten anything since noon. Skipping meals is not good for your health," she advised.

Gu Huixin forced herself to smile and chirped out, "What a good daughter you are."

Zhou Chunchun placed the food on the bedside table and said, "I made some of your favorite dishes. Please eat."

Gu Huixin then took a sip of water.

"Mom, why don't you come along to Baicheng with us?" Bai Yinning suggested.

Knowing that he had said this out of concern for her, Gu Huixin felt a sense of warmth in her heart, but she said, "I won't go. If I do, your father will be alone over here. I have to stay here to keep him company. When are you planning on leaving? I suggest you leave soon as the smog has been getting worse lately."

Indeed, Gu Huixin wanted them to return to Baicheng as soon as possible.

"We'll leave in two days," said Bai Yinning.

He knew very well that Chunchun was the apple of her parent's eyes, so he cared for her the best he could.

Zhou Chunchun looked at Bai Yinning and said, "Why are you in such a hurry to leave? You didn't even discuss it with me."

Bai Yinning chuckled. "Do you have any other matters to attend to over here?"

"Yes, I do," she answered. "Before we leave, I have to say goodbye to Xinyan."

"Who's Xinyan?" Gu Huixin was confused as she didn't know who Zhou Chunchun was talking about.

Bai Yinning, on the other hand, knew exactly who she was referring to, and he interjected, "No, we're not going."

Zhou Chunchun didn't understand why he was reluctant, so she asked, "You don't want to see Xinyan?"

"No, I don't," Bai Yinning answered.

"Which Xinyan are you talking about?" Gu Huixin asked as she looked at them. Suddenly, Lin Xinyan's image flashed through her mind, and she came to a great realization. "Ohhh, you mean her."

Zhou Chunchun nodded her head vigorously and responded, "Xinyan has a very cute and pretty daughter. I really like her."

"You like kids?" Gu Huixin questioned her.

Zhou Chunchun nodded without any hesitation. "Yes, I do."

Gu Huixin immediately winked at Bai Yinning and said, "You two should have a baby then. I can help you take care of the baby after Chunchun gives birth."

Her remarks instantly made Bai Yinning feel uncomfortable, so he quickly changed the topic and said, "You should start eating."

Knowing he still had feelings for Lin Xinyan, Zhou Chunchun retorted, "I don't want kids of my own."

Gu Huixin was disconcerted by her daughter's response. *How could she not want kids of her own?*

"I don't want to have kids now," Zhou Chunchun elaborated. Gu Huixin then stared at her and said, "You gave me a fright just now."

The next day, Zhou Chunchun insisted that Bai Yinning go along with her to say goodbye to Lin Xinyan.

Bai Yinning initially didn't want to go as he wanted to restrain his past emotions, but he yielded to Zhou Chunchun after she insisted.

They chose to go in the afternoon so that they would have more time to spare. They could also avoid having lunch that way.

When they arrived at Lin Xinyan's villa, Bai Yinning didn't want to get out of the car and asked Zhou Chunchun to go in by herself.

However, she tugged him and said, "Xinyan did us a big favor last time. Are you not going to thank her before we leave?"

He looked at her helplessly and replied, "Chunchun, you know I still have feelings for her, yet you want me to have contact with her. Won't you get jealous?"

She answered, "I'm so envious of Xinyan. I know you like her very much and that you want to see her, so I try my best to endure it. I want you to be happy. As long as you're happy, I'm happy."

Bai Yinning suddenly realized how much she cared for him. *Shouldn't happiness come from seeing the one you love being happy?*

Love should not always be self-centered.

He reached out and held Zhou Chunchun in his arms, saying, "Promise me you'll always stay by my side."

Zhou Chunchun hugged him back and said, "I promise I will be with you forever. I'll watch you grow gray hair and become a grandfather."

Bai Yinning pinched her cheek and asked, "Won't you grow old as well?"

"I won't. I will look like this forever," she answered cheekily.

“Let’s get out of the car.” Zhou Chunchun opened the car door, and Bai Yinning acknowledged her.

Just as they got out from their car, several other cars approached them.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 630

Three luxury cars stopped by the roadside, and half a dozen men alighted from them.

“Who are they?” Zhou Chunchun, who was standing behind Bai Yinning, asked.

Bai Yinning shook his head. He, too, had no idea who those men were.

They then saw the group of men take out multiple briefcases and boxes from the car. One of the briefcases had a tough metallic casing with number locks.

One by one, they carried the briefcases and boxes toward the villa.

“Let’s follow them,” Zhou Chunchun suggested.

Bai Yinning nodded. He was also curious to know what the group of men was up to. The two of them followed the group from behind into the main house of the villa. The leader of the group rang the doorbell.

Aunt Yu was the one who came to answer the door instead of Lin Xinyan. Lin Xinyan was already fast asleep upstairs because she had not been able to rest well – though she could guess what Zong Jinghao was doing for the past few days based on the news, she was still worried about him and had been waiting for his return since the night before.

Zong Qifeng and Zong Yanchen were busy playing chess in the living room, while Qin Ya and Cheng Yuwen were playing poker with Zong Yanxi.

The family had a habit of having fruits half an hour after lunch, so Aunt Wang was washing fruits in the kitchen.

Everyone in the living room looked up when the doorbell rang. They were anticipating the arrival of Zong Jinghao, who had not returned home in days.

Aunt Yu was thinking the same as she went to get the door. However, she was met by a group of men holding briefcases and boxes.

“Who are you?” Aunt Yu asked warily.

“We’re workers from the insurance company.” The leader of the group donned a black suit and wore white gloves. With a rather professional-looking stature and aura around him, he said, “We have been appointed by Mr. Zong to deliver some parcels over.”

“Insurance company?” Aunt Yu was a little confused.

“We work for a company called LEO,” said the other four men from the group.

Upon hearing that, Qin Ya immediately figured out what the group of men were there for. Lin Xinyan had talked about having a wedding with Zong Jinghao, and those men were probably there to deliver some of the items needed.

Wow. Did Zong Jinghao buy a tailor-made bridal gown from LEO for Lin Xinyan?

She dropped the poker cards in her hands and turned to Zong Yanxi. “Go call Mommy upstairs, okay?”

Zong Yanxi was an obedient girl. She quickly made her way to the staircase.

“Be careful!” Qin Ya added, worried that she would fall.

Along with the group of eight men, Bai Yinning and Zhou Chunchun entered the villa. Fortunately, the living room was sufficiently spacious to fit all of them in.

“When did you come over?” Bai Yinning asked upon seeing Cheng Yuwen.

“Of course I had to come. It’s Jinghao’s wedding, after all,” she replied.

Bai Yinning raised his eyebrows. He could finally wrap his head around what was going on and why those people had come to the villa.

“And why did you come?” Cheng Yuwen asked in return.

Bai Yinning was still immersed in his thoughts. Zhou Chunchun tapped on his hand “What?” He looked up, snapping back to reality.

Cheng Yuwen squinted her eyes as she stared at Bai Yinning. “I said, why did you come?”

“I’m just tagging along with Chunchun. We are going back to Baicheng soon, so she’s coming to say goodbye to Ya- Ms. Lin,” Bai Yinning replied.

He was about to call her Yan but quickly corrected himself.

Zong Yanchen and Zong Qifeng, who were seated in the other corner of the room, decided to pause their chess game to check the boxes that had been brought in.

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan and Zong Yanxi finally came downstairs, only to see a living room full of people.

Zong Yanxi was really surprised to see that Zhou Chunchun had also come to the villa. “Hi, Aunt Chun,” she greeted her excitedly.

Noticing Bai Yinning and Zhou Chunchun, Lin Xinyan called out to them, “Hey, you guys came too.”

Bai Yinning looked toward the staircase. Lin Xinyan was walking down step by step, holding onto the railing cautiously. The bulge on her belly was apparent from the dress she wore.

Though she looked a little disoriented, as of a person who just woke up, Bai Yinning could tell that the woman was genuinely happy as her face was filled with warmth and love.

Perhaps Zhou Chunchun is right. Watching someone you love live a happy life really can make you feel happy too.

“Chunchun and I came over to bid farewell. We initially planned on returning to Baicheng, but then we heard about your wedding, so we’ll probably postpone it. We will be receiving an invitation letter, won’t we?” Bai Yinning joked.

“Yes, yes. You’re my friend, after all.” Lin Xinyan smiled as she walked over and asked, “What are all these?”

“Gifts for you, of course,” said Qin Ya.

“For me?” Lin Xinyan remarked in disbelief.

“Hi, are you Lin Xinyan?” The man in the group who held onto the briefcase with number locks asked, walking towards her.

Lin Xinyan nodded. “Yes.”

“Alright, open them up!” The group of people lined up in a row and opened all the briefcases and boxes. They then arranged them before Lin Xinyan.

The contents of the boxes shocked everyone.

Only Zong Qifeng remained relatively calm.

Within the briefcase safeguarded by number locks, a glistening tiara sat on a velvet cushion.

Qin Ya pointed at it shakily. “Are, are those diamonds on there?”

How luxurious!

“Of course, of course. I bought that tiara from an auction in Country Y more than twenty years ago,” Zong Qifeng said.

It was a tiara that had originally been created in celebration of the royal wedding between a twenty-one-year-old Farah and the crown prince, Charles Palafea back in 1959. Having taken a grand total of six months to complete, the tiara weighed 1600 grams, with 1469 diamonds and 36 gems on it. The most prominent jewel on the tiara was carved out from a 150-carat raw diamond.

That said tiara was sold to an auction house in Country Y in 1983. It was said to have been auctioned off to an anonymous buyer for two million in the 90s. When word of that got around, the public flew into a frenzy – everyone wanted to know who had bought it.

However, the information on the mysterious buyer was rather limited – all that people knew was that the buyer was from China. Some even guessed that the buyer was some wealthy Chinese woman.

Truth was that Zong Qifeng had bought the tiara, intending to gift it to Cheng Yuxiu. They were a married couple but he had never expressed his love for her before.

That was the greatest regret in his life.

For many years, he kept the tiara safe and secure in an overseas insurance company. It was only upon hearing about Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan’s wedding that he arranged for the tiara to be sent back.

As for the necklace and earrings that went as a set with the tiara, Zong Jinghao made use of his connections to find and purchase them. At first, the owner was unwilling to sell them, but Zong Jinghao still managed to obtain them in the end.

Qin Ya could not help but purse her lips.

“I like them too.” Zong Yanxi’s eyes gleamed with fascination.

Zong Qifeng patted her head. “Your mother shall pass it down to you when you grow up. You’ll be able to wear it for your wedding too.”

“Yay! I can’t wait!” Zong Yanxi exclaimed.

The tiara looked truly marvelous.

The necklace and earrings were kept in the other briefcases, while the bridal gown and dresses were kept in the boxes from the LEO staff.

Knowing that LEO was where Lin Xinyan fulfilled her potential and grew as a person, Zong Jinghao made a special request for Mrs. William to design her bridal gown.

Of course, Mrs. William was more than willing to do the job.

During the exhibition, Zong Jinghao was swept away by the traditional Chinese bridal gowns, but he felt that white was a more fitting color for someone pure and elegant like Lin Xinyan. The red elements of the Chinese bridal gowns were also too overpowering for her quiet personality.

There were a total of four sets of clothes – Zong Jinghao’s suit, Lin Xinyan’s bridal gown, and two other dresses for the bride.

Furthermore, the gowns were designed to be flattering on Lin Xinyan’s pregnant body.

“For the past two weeks, thirty of our dressmakers have been pouring their hearts and souls into making these dresses,” one of the LEO employees told Lin Xinyan.

Since he knew about her, his tone was very endearing.

“Mrs. William also attached a letter for you.”