

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 631

He handed a parchment envelope to Lin Xinyan. Mrs. William could not write in Chinese, so the letter was written in Country A's language. Nevertheless, Lin Xinyan could easily read it after having stayed in Country A for a long time.

She did not read the letter immediately.

Instead, she shifted her gaze towards the bridal gown. She could not make out the full design of the gown, as it was folded and placed in a special box.

Qin Ya, who was onlooking, suggested, "How about you try it on to see if it fits?"

Lin Xinyan turned to her and said, "I think it'll fit me for sure."

She had worked at LEO for many years. Mrs. William knew her figure and taste very well.

"Oh, don't be such a wet blanket! We just want to see you wear it. Mommy, can't you try it on?" Zong Yanxi pulled on Lin Xinyan's dress, making a sulky face. "Mommy, you'll look so pretty! Don't you want to try it on?"

"Mommy, please wear it!" Zong Yanchen was really excited too.

"Xinyan, I can't wait to see how good you'll look. Come on!" Zhou Chunchun chanted along.

Exasperated, Lin Xinyan complied. "Alright, alright."

Qin Ya picked the box up and said, "I'll help."

And so, Lin Xinyan went to Qin Ya's room to try on the bridal gown. "You can change now," Qin Ya said as she shut the curtains.

The two of them had been living together and were really close. Stripping in front of each other was not an awkward affair for them at all.

Qin Ya carefully took out the bridal gown and turned around. Lin Xinyan was already undressed. Under the lights in the room, her fair skin was radiant and glowing. Besides the bulge on her belly, there was not the tiniest bit of extra fat on her limbs or thighs. Her breasts were full and supple, with a flattering outline showing even through her underwear. A flawless curve ran down her lower back toward her full hips. "No wonder he likes you so much," Qin Ya remarked.

"What are you talking about?" Lin Xinyan frowned at her.

Qin Ya suddenly came closer and said, "I'm saying you have a good figure. Your body looks hot even though you're pregnant. Forget about men; I'm starting to feel a little something even as a woman."

That remark left Lin Xinyan at a loss for words.

The bridal gown had an off-the-shoulder design with a glamorous flare that spread out on the floor. Knowing that she was pregnant, the dress was designed to be elegant and natural rather than form-fitting.

Layers upon layers of elaborate lace adorned her waist and lower belly, covering up the bulge. Without any excessive accessories and details, the bridal gown was simple but polished.

"It's fantastic. The white really suits you, and the dress fits well too!" Qin Ya's eyes were sparkling as she admired Lin Xinyan in her gown. "Go show your children!"

Lin Xinyan looked down at the gown she was wearing. She was beginning to feel butterflies in her stomach as if she were actually at the wedding already.

*I once thought that I would never be able to wear a bridal gown in my life, but look at me now. I've forged a relationship with someone I never expected to be with. And having kids? It really is as they say, life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get.*

Qin Ya opened the door for her and walked behind her to help hold up the corners of the gown – the bridal gown was too long, making it difficult to walk.

Upon hearing the door open, everyone turned to look at the bride-to-be.

Lin Xinyan's appearance did not disappoint them at all. She looked like a princess who had out walked out from a fairytale – serene and elegant.

Bai Yinning could not take his eyes off her as if he were in a trance. The admiration and joy in his eyes were hard to miss.

Zhou Chunchun was unaware of her husband's behavior because she was also immersed in looking at Lin Xinyan in her bridal gown. However, Cheng Yuwen immediately noticed Bai Yinning's passionate gaze.

*I had my suspicions when he spaced out upon hearing about the wedding. And now, this? I can't believe he actually likes Lin Xinyan. If not, why would he stare at her like that?*

“Mommy, you're so pretty!” Zong Yanxi ran towards Lin Xinyan, pouncing onto her. “When do I get to wear it?” she asked nonchalantly.

Everyone in the room burst out in laughter.

Since the bridal gown fitted her very well, Lin Xinyan decided to skip trying on the other two dresses.

*The measurements are perfect.*

Lin Xinyan changed out of the gown and placed it back into the box.

The briefcases and boxes were then temporarily placed in the study because the other rooms were full. Furthermore, it was too troublesome to carry everything upstairs.

Qin Ya then sent the group of men who came to deliver the items off, chatting with the staff from LEO along the way.

While Zhou Chunchun talked with Zong Yanxi, Cheng Yuwen dragged Bai Yinning to a corner and asked, "Are you in love with Yan?"

Bai Yinning quickly countered the statement, "You're mistaken. I have a wife."

He did not want to complicate things, nor did he want to cause trouble for others. If the two of them were not destined to be, so be it.

Cheng Yuwen stared at him quietly as if trying to detect if he was lying.

"I hope you can stay true to your words then. You do have a wife." Cheng Yuwen did not want Bai Yinning to be lusting after his nephew's wife.

Furthermore, Lin Xinyan was his disciple.

Meanwhile, Zong Yanchen was holding onto Lin Xinyan's hand like an octopus, exclaiming melodramatically, "Oh, it's such a shame that your hubby hasn't seen you in that bridal gown!"

Lin Xinyan smacked his head. "Huh? Try saying that again!"

"Is he not your hubby?" Zong Yanchen trailed off, running off as fast as he could.

Lin Xinyan sighed. *This kid is becoming bolder by the day.*

Since Bai Yinning had decided to postpone his return to Baicheng in order to attend Lin Xinyan's wedding, he left the villa promptly in the afternoon.

He did not get a chance to talk to Lin Xinyan in private as there were too many people at the villa.

Besides, Lin Xinyan was also avoiding him on purpose.

She was not the type of person who could play the fool when she knew clearly that he had feelings for her.

They did have families of their own, after all. They should keep their distance from each other.

More importantly, she did not want Zhou Chunchun to get hurt.

Zong Jinghao still had not come home. Deep in the night, Lin Xinyan felt that she missed him more than ever as she lay on her bed, eyes wide open. Suddenly remembering about the letter from Mrs. William, she got up and took out the letter.

As she unfolded the letter paper, she was greeted by familiar handwriting.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 632

*Lin. It's been so long since we last met. Time truly flies. It almost seems as though you joined LEO yesterday. I want to congratulate you on finding a life partner after so many years. Mr. Zong is a modest young man, so I'm really happy for you. The bridal gown was personally designed by me and I hope you'll like it. Oh, it's such a shame that I can't make it to your wedding due to my physical condition. Let us meet again sometime in the future. All the best for your wedding!*

As Lin Xinyan read on, she could not help but reminisce about her time at LEO. When she had just joined the company, she thought she would stay there forever, since Mrs. William had given her such a precious opportunity. Who would have thought that she would one day return to China and start her own studio?

Who would have known that she, who did not believe in love, would one day be wedded to the love of her life?

*How extraordinary.*

She folded the letter after reading it. Looking through the window, Zong Jinghao's face somehow popped up in her head again. *Oh, I miss him so much. I wonder when he'll come home.*

Not wanting to trouble him, she had not contacted him all this while. However, she could no longer hold herself back.

She took out her phone and searched for his number. As she hesitated on the dial button, her phone suddenly rang.

It was him.

She immediately answered the call.

“Hey.”

For the past few days, Zong Jinghao had been terribly busy. He had gotten acquainted with a government official from Old Master Gu’s time through Shao Yun’s connections.

It was also through him that he got to know of Old Master Gu’s crimes from the past.

After understanding the case fully, Zong Jinghao promptly sent people to verify, investigate, and gather evidence. Before disclosing the information on the case, he even went on-site to make sure that there were no inaccuracies.

He made use of Shao Yun’s connections to get his hands on the information he needed. Everything else was handled by him.

He brought the victim of the incident to B City. He then contacted various influential media companies to cover the case instead of presenting the case directly to the authorities.

People would often feel naturally inclined to help the weak, the elderly, and the young.

The public would definitely feel outraged about the case, and he needed that to pressure the government into taking actual action.

On top of that, if he were to expose Gu Bei of his wrongdoings concurrently, the backlash caused would be unimaginable.

Though Zong Jinghao was no veteran in the world of politics, he knew enough about human nature and manipulation to get the situation to play out as planned.

And so, his plan rolled out smoothly. Furthermore, the governmental authorities took the case very seriously and even formed a special task force. Once they had collected sufficient evidence, they would bring the case to court.

A lawsuit was bound to be filed sooner or later. It was an actual crime, after all.

In order to keep the case relevant online, he got Guan Jing to hire netizens with some online presence to leak new information and create hot topics of discussion.

After concluding a meeting with the personnel from two large media companies, he swiftly made his way back to the villa. He had constantly been on the move for the past few days. His work was mostly done, and all that he needed to do next was to follow up on any new updates to the situation.

As he parked his car and made his way to the villa, he began wondering if Lin Xinyan missed him in his absence.

*She did not contact me at all.*

Leaning against his car, he decided to make a phone call.

To his surprise, the call was answered in no time.

He felt a little startled but quickly asked, "Were you on your phone?" *Or else, how would you have picked up so fast?*

"Yeah. How are you doing?" Lin Xinyan replied. *Urgh. I should have said that I miss him and wanted to call him.*

Zong Jinghao looked up. The weather was good, and specs of stars glimmered in the clear night sky. "Did you miss me?" he asked, smiling to himself.

Lin Xinyan got off her bed and went to sit down on the sofa by the window. She replied softly, "I do. I wish I could see you right this instant."

"How about I make a wish upon the stars so that they can bring me to you?" he joked.

Lin Xinyan chuckled. "Sure."

"You haven't told me you miss me yet. How can I make my wish without that?" Zong Jinghao teased. He was yearning for her to say that she missed him.

"I miss you very much. I really do." Lin Xinyan was not shy to confess her feelings.

"Alright then, since you miss me so much, I'll make a wish upon the stars." Zong Jinghao entered the villa stealthily using the passcode without ringing the bell. Everyone seemed to be sound asleep. The living room was lit dimly by a single night lamp.

He changed into his slippers and crept upstairs.

"Count to ten. Let's see if the stars heard my wish."

Lin Xinyan could not help but laugh. "You actually believe in that sort of thing?"

"Everyone needs something to have faith in. Come on."

*How childish. It's kind of cute, though.* Lin Xinyan replied, "Alright then."

"Yeah."

Hearing that, Lin Xinyan began counting. "Ten, nine, eight... "

*Clack!* As she counted the last number, her bedroom door swung right open.

She turned her head in shock.

Under the dim lighting, she saw a tall figure walk toward her.

“Jinghao?” Her voice was shaking. *How is this possible?*

Zong Jinghao smiled. “I’m back-”

Before he could say another word, Lin Xinyan ran toward him and locked him in a tight embrace. “I’ve been so worried.” She buried her face in his chest.

Zong Jinghao kissed her forehead tenderly. “Why didn’t you call?”

“I didn’t want to cause you any trouble and possibly distract you.” Lin Xinyan looked up at him, staring at his face under the dim lights. “Did you miss me?” she asked.

“Of course I did.”

Lin Xinyan smiled. “Me too.”

She stood on her tippy toes and kissed his lips. In response, Zong Jinghao caressed her waist.

Lin Xinyan was wildly passionate that night.

“I’m gonna take a shower,” Zong Jinghao said.

He had not been able to rest or shower for the past few days.

Lin Xinyan could smell a trace of sweat on him, but she could not care less about it. “It’s alright. Even if you’re unshaven and unkempt, I’ll love you no matter what,” she said.

“You do know how those words make me feel, don’t you? Or are you trying to seduce me?” Zong Jinghao brushed his fingers against her cheeks and stroked her neck lovingly.

Lin Xinyan began undoing his shirt buttons. “What are you gonna do about it?”

He gazed at her hands and whispered into her ear, “I’m going to carry you to the bed.”

The sweet scent emanating from her body lingered in his nose, inviting him to dig in.

And so, he did not hold back and followed his heart’s desire.

He picked her up and placed her on the bed.

However, Lin Xinyan had other plans in mind, and she flipped him over, pushing him down instead. She rode on his body and hugged him tightly. “Let me hug you like this for a bit.”

Zong Jinghao said nothing in reply.

He wanted more than a hug.

“Wifey...” His voice was hoarse.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 633

Lin Xinyan asked, "What are you doing?"

"Are you planning to hug me the whole day?" Zong Jinghao blinked his eyes and looked at her passionately.

"Don't you like it when I hug you?" Lin Xinyan pretended to not understand the underlying meaning behind his words.

He wrapped his arms around her waist gently and said, "Let's do something else."

"What should we do then?"

"Let's do something a couple likes to do." He rubbed himself against her waist with the thin fabric between them.

However, she looked up and replied, "I like you more when you're serious."

Zong Jinghao was rendered speechless by her statement.

*She seduced me first yet doesn't allow me to make a move now.*

*Is she deliberately doing it to make me feel irritated?*

*Besides, isn't it something normal for a husband and a wife to do?*

After a while, Lin Xinyan got up and said, "You should take a bath and go to bed."

Zong Jinghao remained on the bed and asked blandly, "Are you disgusted by my body odor because I perspired?"

"Well, if you don't feel uncomfortable and can still sleep soundly, I don't mind." She pulled the blanket he had sat on and prepared to sleep.

He sat up as soon as she lay down. Then, he glanced at her and said, "The reason I can't sleep is not that I haven't taken a bath."

Nevertheless, she pretended to not have heard his remark, simply telling him that Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen were at the house.

Zong Jinghao mumbled a response and stood up to take a bath.

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan didn't fall asleep as she was waiting for him to finish bathing.

About half an hour later, Zong Jinghao wrapped himself with a white bathrobe and opened the bathroom door. Lin Xinyan hurriedly got off the bed to take a set of pajamas for him.

However, he refused to take the pajamas from her. "I'm not wearing them."

As Lin Xinyan was rendered speechless, she glanced at him from head to toe and asked, "In that case, are you going to sleep with merely a bathrobe?"

He nodded in response.

"You're shameless."

*I really can't do anything with this man.*

"Why should I feel ashamed before you?" He caressed her belly and continued, "How can you be pregnant now if I'm ashamed of myself?"

Lin Xinyan didn't know how to respond to him, so she threw the pajamas on the bed and said, "Just wear them if you want to."

The next moment, she sat on the bed cold-faced and pretended to be pissed off.

Immediately, Zong Jinghao came up to her. He lowered his head to look at her and asked, "Are you angry?"

However, she turned around and kept silent.

"Alright, I'll wear them." After taking the pajamas, he stood before her and requested, "Help me take off the bathrobe, will you?"

"You're shameless... Mmm..."

Before she could finish, his lips met with hers, cutting her off.

He kissed her gently and asked, "Are you really angry at me?"

"Will you coax and make me happy if I'm really angry?"

Without hesitation, he answered confidently, "I will."

Before she said anything, he walked to the closet to take her pajamas.

She stared at him and asked curiously, "Why are you taking my pajamas out?"

"I will wear them."

Lin Xinyan couldn't imagine how her husband would look in her pajamas. Her lips couldn't help but quirk up. She was amused by his actions and said, "Cut it out. Don't ruin my pajamas."

“You laughed,” Zong Jinghao stated as he walked toward her.

She grabbed the pajamas from him and chided, “Well, I wasn’t angry in the first place.”

“So... You cheated me?” He raised his eyebrows and looked at her.

She immediately explained, “I didn’t mean to do it. It was you who...”

“I don’t care. I’m going to punish you anyway.” He brought her onto the bed and covered both of them with the blanket. Soon, her pajamas were thrown out.

Lin Xinyan bit her lips as she leaned against his warm skin.

As they began to be intimate with each other, Zong Jinghao made sure to restrain himself. He consciously moved gently because she was pregnant.

As the night stretched on, they lingered on fervently.

The sun always rose early during the summer, and the light seeped into the house through the gaps between the curtains.

Zong Jinghao somehow felt that there was no one in his arms. It was empty when he touched the other side of the bed, and he couldn’t feel any warmth. He swiftly opened his eyes and realized he was in the room alone.

Since there were many people in the house, Lin Xinyan, as the lady of the house, had to wake up early. Although Zong Jinghao never talked about the incident, she knew he would be rather tired. Therefore, she got out of bed gently to avoid waking him up. She wanted to let him get more sleep.

Ever since Aunt Yu retired from the kitchen, Aunt Wang was in charge of cooking breakfast while Aunt Yu took care of the other house chores.

Considering that many people stayed at home today, Lin Xinyan offered to help Aunt Wang in the kitchen. She was worried Aunt Wang would be overwhelmed by the sheer amount of things to do.

The breakfast was ready at 7 in the morning, and everyone began to leave the comfort of their beds. Zong Yanxi was always the last one to wake up because she liked to sleep in.

Lin Xinyan exited the kitchen but didn't see Zong Jinghao around anywhere. She thought he was still sleeping, considering that he finally had a sound sleep last night after several busy days.

Hence, Lin Xinyan went upstairs to check up on her daughter. As expected, she was still lying on the bed with her messy hair and didn't wish to get up.

"Get up and have some breakfast." Lin Xinyan took out some clothes for her and put them on the bed as she continued, "Get up now. I will put on clothes for you."

"I don't want to wear them and have breakfast." As she spoke, she wrapped herself in the blanket and refused to get up.

Whenever Lin Xinyan tried to pull the blanket away, she grasped it tighter to wrap herself in it.

Meanwhile, Zong Yanchen, who happened to pass by, stood beside the door and said, "Don't wake her up anymore. When she's hungry later, she will get up by herself even if you don't wake her up."

She turned around and asked, "Have you freshened up?"

He nodded in response.

Lin Xinyan had no other choice but to let her sleep.

When she opened her bedroom door, she noticed that Zong Jinghao was still sleeping. She didn't wake him up but went into the bathroom instead to tidy the clothes. She had to bring his suits for dry-cleaning and wash his underwear at home.

After being deprived of sleep for several days, Zong Jinghao finally had a sound sleep last night; he was now feeling reenergized. When he heard someone come into the room, he thought Lin Xinyan would wake him up. He closed his eyes and waited for a while, yet he didn't hear anything from her.

Therefore, he got out of bed and walked to the bathroom. When he saw her tidying the basin, he came to hug her from behind and said, "Just let the maids or Aunt Yu do this."

"The maids are rather busy because many people are in the house. Also, our house has to be cleaned every day so that dust won't pile up. All the rooms from downstairs to upstairs have to be cleaned. Besides, I have to do some exercise anyway to help ease the process of labor."

Lin Xinyan turned around to glance at him and continued, "Why don't you get more sleep? I didn't wake you up because you seemed to be sleeping soundly just now."

The next moment, Zong Jinghao rested his chin against her shoulder and replied, "I have had enough sleep. Should we hire an extra maid?"

"That won't be necessary. By the way, are you going out today?" she asked.

It was enough to have two maids in the house.

Besides the fact that it was inconvenient to have too many outsiders in the house, not every maid was suitable or competent enough.

"Yes, but I can leave later." Then, he grabbed the cloth in her hand and said, "I'll help you wipe the glass."

However, she didn't hand it over to him but said, "I'm not wiping it now. Why don't you freshen up since the breakfast is already ready? Since you're at home, you should greet your father and uncle. I mean, you can't stay upstairs all the time and avoid meeting them."

He kissed her cheek and said gently, "I'll do as you said."

Lin Xinyan walked out of the bathroom as he was freshening himself up. At this moment, Zong Jinghao's phone that was on the table suddenly rang. After picking up the phone, she noticed that there was no contact name. She didn't answer the phone, handing it over to him directly. "Your phone is ringing."

Zong Jinghao was washing his face when the call came in, so he instructed her, "Answer the phone for me, please."

Hence, Lin Xinyan answered it and put it on speakerphone.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 634

After putting the call on speakerphone, Lin Xinyan greeted, "Hello?"

However, the person hung up on the call once he noticed that it was a woman's voice.

Lin Xinyan looked at the phone curiously.

Once he was done washing his face, Zong Jinghao stole a peek at her and asked, "Who is that?"

She shook her head and answered, "I don't know. I answered the call as you told me to, but the person straight away hung up the phone without saying anything."

He didn't find it strange and answered, "Maybe it was a misdialed call."

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan felt a little curious about the whole situation. She didn't think it was a misdialed call because that person had hung up right after he heard her voice.

But she didn't want to be bothered by it.

"Breakfast is ready. Come downstairs whenever you're done freshening up." She put his phone next to the basin and left the room.

At the same time, Zong Yanxi, who was still wearing her pajamas and had messy hair, stood next to the door. She looked up at Li Xinyan and asked, "Mommy, I think I heard Daddy's voice just now. Has Daddy come home?"

Lin Xinyan instructed her gently, "Change your clothes and freshen up, and I will tell you later..."

"Daddy!"

Zong Yanxi saw Zong Jinghao coming out of the bathroom before Lin Xinyan could finish her sentence. Immediately, she rushed into the room and hugged one of his legs. Then, she looked up at him lovingly and said, "Daddy, when did you come back?"

Zong Jinghao bowed to pick her up and said, "Let me carry you to check if you're any heavier."

"Am I?" Zong Yanxi wrapped her arms around his neck and asked.

"Yes, you're heavier."

Since she loved eating and sleeping in, the girl had gained a little weight recently. Besides, she had also grown taller than before; she looked like a primary school student now.

Zong Yanxi shook her father gently and asked once again, "When did you come back?"

"Last night." Zong Jinghao continued, "Do you want me to help freshen you up?"

To which Zong Yanxi answered gleefully, "Sure."

*How lucky I am! Daddy wants to help me freshen up!*

Hence, Zong Jinghao carried her and walked out of the room. When they walked past Lin Xinyan, Zong Yanxi said to her excitedly, "Mommy, Daddy is going to freshen me up."

Lin Xinyan was amused by her child's antics. She patted the girl's bottom and said, "You're such a lazy girl."

*You're indeed very lazy.*

Nevertheless, Zong Yanxi wasn't angry – she even chuckled.

"I'll go downstairs now," Lin Xinyan told Zong Jinghao.

He mumbled a response and brought their daughter into the washroom.

Since everyone got up from bed, Lin Xinyan asked Aunt Wang to serve breakfast on the dining table.

After a while, everyone eventually sat at the table and was about to begin having breakfast. At this moment, Zong Jinghao came downstairs while holding his daughter's hand.

"Oh? Daddy, when did you arrive home?" Zong Yanchen was shocked to see his father.

Actually, that was the question everyone wished to ask.

Zong Jinghao picked his daughter up and put her down on a chair before he replied, "Last night."

After taking a seat next to his daughter, he greeted Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen and continued, "I didn't come home for a few days because I had to deal with some matters."

The two elders didn't ask any questions – they didn't want to create trouble for him like Lin Xinyan. Also, they were aware that they couldn't help him in any way.

Apart from that, Zong Qifeng had confidence in his son. Whatever Zong Jinhao did, Zong Qifeng believed that he had considered every possibility thoroughly before making a decision.

“Tell me if you need any help.” Even though Zong Qifeng had not socialized with his friends for many years, he still had many connections.

In the past, his relationship with Zong Jinhao wasn't as close because of Cheng Yuxiu. Therefore, Zong Jinhao never usually looked for him even when facing difficulties.

Now that the truth had been revealed, Cheng Yuxiu wished for them to be able to mingle well like a father and a son from an ordinary family.

Zong Jinhao said that he would Zong Qifeng's help when it was necessary.

“If you're busy, your dad and I can arrange and prepare the wedding for you,” Cheng Yuwen reminded.

Apart from the fact that Zong Jinhao was always busy, Cheng Yuwen also understood that someone had to keep an eye on the details of a wedding.

Zong Jinhao was willing to hand over the task to him since he had requested it. After all, he had only one demand – the wedding had to be extremely grand.

He wanted to let the whole world know that he was married and that Lin Xinyan was his wife.

“Rest assured.” Cheng Yuwen promised, “We will make sure the wedding is a huge success.”

After breakfast, Zong Jinhao went upstairs to change his clothes. Lin Xinyan straightened up his collar and asked, “Will it be too flamboyant?”

He lowered his head to glance at her and asked, "What are you referring to?"

"The wedding! The jewelry is too flamboyant..."

"The jewelry is all here already?" he asked.

Lin Xinyan nodded in response.

"In my eyes, not a single piece of jewelry is worthy of being worn by you because you are the most outstanding woman ever," he grasped her hand as he spoke flatteringly.

Lin Xinyan chuckled when she heard such a compliment from him. After all, every woman wishes for their boyfriend or husband to always flatter them. Nevertheless, she pretended to act coquettishly, saying, "Since when did you learn how to sweet-talk me? Did you do something wrong?"

*Am I wrong to be nice to her?*

"In that case, should I beat you three times a day to prove that I love you?"

Once he finished, she retracted her hands from him. Then, she put the necktie on his neck and said coldly, "Do it yourself."

However, Zong Jinghao hugged her and refused to let her go. He said gently, "In that case, should I ask you to beat me three times instead?"

Lin Xinyan glared at him and replied, "Well, I can never win in a fight against you because you're way stronger than me."

Much to her surprise, he bit her ear passionately and whispered, "I won't fight back."

As Lin Xinyan felt ticklish, she tried to wriggle free from him and said, "Stop messing with me."

"You have to serve me first."

Lin Xinyan had no choice but to mumble a response. When she helped him wear the tie, she couldn't help but remind him, "Please be careful."

As the saying goes, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. She was worried that they would take revenge against Zong Jinghao once they found out that it had all been done by him.

Zong Jinghao responded affirmatively.

After straightening his clothes, Lin Xinyan saw her husband out and said, "I'll wait for you to come home. Please come back early."

Zong Jinghao said smilingly, "How I wish that I don't even have to go out!"

Deep in his heart, he sincerely wished to stay at home to accompany her. However, he understood at the same time that he couldn't provide her a safe home if the problem weren't solved once and for all.

"I've got to get going now."

Lin Xinyan watched him leave the house.

Even though Shen Peichuan didn't take part in the plan, he could guess that the mastermind was Zong Jinghao. He invited Zong Jinghao to meet up with him after giving the man a phone call.

Nevertheless, they didn't meet outside but at the office instead.

When Zong Jinghao arrived, Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan were already waiting for his arrival.

As soon as Su Zhan saw the man, he cried out emotionally, "This is so satisfying! I never thought Old Master Gu was that cruel and heartless in the past."

In fact, he almost clapped his hands and cheered when he read the news that reported Gu Bei's arrest. *Such scum should not even exist in this world at all.*

As Su Zhan was getting too excited, Shen Peichuan poked his friend with his elbow and reminded him, "Hey, be quiet."

Su Zhan looked at him and said, "Well, I didn't talk that much, did I?"

"Fine, continue if you're not tired of babbling." Shen Peichuan took a sip of his drink after talking.

When Zong Jinghao came into the room, Shen Peichuan put down the cup and stood up. The former immediately waved his hand in a friendly gesture, signaling for Shen Peichuan to sit down.

"Why didn't you tell me about the matter? I could have surely helped you more or less," Shen Peichuan said.

Su Zhan immediately interrupted, "Exactly. Do you think we are not competent enough?"

Zong Jinghao shot Su Zhan a sideways glance and ignored him.

He wanted to meet Shen Peichuan to discuss the latest development with him. Since the Gu family was currently in deep trouble, it would be the best opportunity for Shen Peichuan to fight back because the family wouldn't have time to keep an eye on him.

Under such circumstances, even those who once depended on the Gu family would dissociate from them.

Given that the situation was grave and affected many parties, no one would risk being dragged into the mess.

Shen Peichuan got Zong Jinghao's message, and he said, "Let me handle this on my own."

After all, Shen Peichuan had established his own connections throughout the years. In the past, many didn't wish to interfere with anything because the Gu family was powerful. However, the situation today was completely different.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 635

Zong Jinghao had faith in Shen Peichuan because the latter had an excellent track record of being meticulous. He said, "Call me whenever you need me."

Shen Peichuan replied, "I understand. Please excuse me."

The next moment, Shen Peichuan's phone rang as he stood up. He took out his phone and noticed that it was a call coming from Captain Song's office. He didn't answer the phone right away, glancing at Zong Jinghao first. "It's Captain Song. I've to get going now because he might need me for something."

Zong Jinghao nodded his understanding.

After Shen Peichuan left the office, Su Zhan turned around to look at Zong Jinghao. "Have you two finished your discussion?"

*Why don't I understand what on earth happened?*

Nevertheless, Zong Jinghao ignored his friend's question. He walked to his office desk slowly and glanced at Su Zhan. "So, are you not leaving?"

*Should I leave without having any task to accomplish?*

"Since my wife is at your house, where should I go? To your house?" Su Zhan approached the table and stared at the other man. "You have to tell me the truth."

Meanwhile, Zong Jinghao began flipping through the document that Guan Jing had put on the desk. His assistant needed to get his signature. He didn't look up as he said blandly, "What kind of truth?"

“How did you make Xinyan forgive you?” Su Zhan blinked his eyes when he asked sincerely. After all, he had already tried all sorts of methods in hopes of coaxing Qin Ya, yet the woman still didn’t want to forgive him.

It appeared that Qin Ya was firm; she didn’t want to accept his explanation.

*Why is it so difficult for me to get my wife back? My god, it's like an impossible mission!*

Zong Jinghao shifted his gaze from the document toward Su Zhan and said, “Show your charm as a man.”

Su Zhan was rendered speechless.

*What exactly is “the charm as a man”?*

He moved closer to Zong Jinghao and begged, “Could you teach me how?”

“Your stupidity is beyond redemption,” Zong Jinghao ridiculed him without hesitation.

That made Su Zhan a little annoyed.

He straightened himself and sneered, “Do you think I really have no idea about it? You didn’t coax Xinyan successfully in one attempt either.”

When he finished speaking, Zong Jinghao shot him a cold-eyed stare and mocked, “In that case, why are you still asking me for help?”

Su Zhan was shocked to hear such a remark. After recollecting himself, he said gleefully, “Sorry, I was just impatient. Can you please help me? Please give me an idea.”

Zong Jinghao retorted coldly, “I don’t have time for that.”

Su Zhan was startled by his coldness.

“If you don’t help me, I’ll ask Xinyan for help.” He walked toward the door as soon as he finished speaking.

He wouldn’t actually ask for a favor from Lin Xinyan; he merely wanted to provoke Zong Jinghao.

*I know Zong Jinghao very well. He definitely won’t let me create trouble for her because he cares about his wife the most.*

Hence, he deliberately moved slowly when he turned the knob, waiting for Zong Jinghao’s response.

“Wait!”

As he expected, Zong Jinghao hurriedly stopped him before he left the office.

Su Zhan turned around cold-faced and asked, “What’s the matter?”

Zong Jinghao massaged his temples. He didn’t actually have experience in courting a woman. He used to force Lin Xinyan to be with him in the beginning, but she eventually accepted him as her boyfriend. It was a long process that couldn’t be explained in a few words.

He knew time was needed for a couple to build a relationship, and that was why he didn’t believe in love at first sight. Two people would surely be attracted to each other after realizing the strengths and weaknesses of each other.

As a matter of fact, Zong Jinghao saw right through Su Zhan’s mind. He simply didn’t voice his thoughts out.

That was because the man would always be wandering in the office as long as he couldn’t get Qin Ya back.

Besides, it would be troublesome if Qin Ya refused to give him a clear answer all the time.

“Tell me, what do you want me to do?”

Su Zhan guffawed and reentered the office. Then, he lay on Zong Jinghao’s desk, moving his body nearer to him.

Immediately, Zong Jinghao moved backward and warned, “Stay away from me.”

*If you want to speak, go ahead. Why do you have to be this close to me?*

Su Zhan grew a little annoyed. *Humph! Who wants to be close to you? I don’t like men anyway.*

“Ask a favor from your wife to invite Qin Ya to a place. Since there are too many people in your house, it isn’t convenient for me to talk to her there. I wish to meet her outside and talk to her,” Su Zhan said.

Zong Jinghao gazed at his friend but didn’t agree to it immediately because he was giving it some thought.

*Will he drag Xinyan into this mess? If Su Zhan goes too far, Qin Ya might blame Xinyan for that. That definitely isn’t something I wish to see.*

“Let me make a phone call and ask her.”

However, Su Zhan grasped the phone even before Zong Jinghao could dial the number. He asked nervously, “Will Qin Ya come out to see me if you spill the beans?”

“Don’t be overly anxious.” Zong Jinghao pulled his hand away and chided, “Will she ever come out if I don’t make the phone call?”

Su Zhan didn't utter a word, only retracting his hands dejectedly.

Once he managed to get loose from Su Zhan's grip, Zong Jinghao dialed Lin Xinyan's number.

Before the woman picked up the phone, he reminded Su Zhan that he would never force Lin Xinyan to do anything if she refused to help.

After all, he couldn't afford to offend his wife.

Su Zhan couldn't help but purse his lips at that statement. *Humph! He's so willing to ditch his buddy for a woman.*

Despite thinking that way, he dared not say it out loud, worrying that Zong Jinghao would be pissed off. The man may not help him after that.

Somewhere far from the office, Lin Xinyan was discussing the design of a Chinese-style wedding dress with Qin Ya. They had received an order from a customer who specifically requested to use mandarin ducks as the main theme for the embroidery.

Mandarin ducks were considered an auspicious symbol in a wedding. But still, they had to give it some thought to produce a design that suited the wedding while emphasizing the auspicious overtone.

Qin Ya thought about designing a two-piece dress with an outer jacket.

On the other hand, Lin Xinyan looked at different pictures of mandarin ducks. She would then select the most suitable picture to embroider on the wedding dress.

When her phone rang, she didn't check the contact name, answering it right away. "Hello?"

“Can we have a word?”

It was Zong Jinghao’s voice that sounded. *Why is he calling me when he has just left not long ago?* After checking the caller ID, she confirmed that it was his number. She put the phone near her ear again and said, “Sure. Go ahead.”

Qin Ya was sitting near her, so she could hear Zong Jinghao’s voice coming from the phone. She leaned against Lin Xinyan and whispered, “Does your hubby want to have a heart-to-heart talk with you?”

Lin Xinyan was embarrassed and pushed her aside.

Qin Ya wanted to mess with her, so she hugged Lin Xinyan’s shoulder to listen to what Zong Jinghao had to say. Nevertheless, she was prepared to leave if their conversation was private and secret. The next moment, Zong Jinghao said, “Su Zhan is next to me.”

Given that Su Zhan was the subject of the conversation, Lin Xinyan didn’t have to avoid Qin Ya to answer the phone. She asked immediately, “What does he want since he’s next to you?”

“He hopes to see Qin Ya.”

She glanced at Qin Ya for a while and said over the phone, “So?”

“He wants to ask a favor from you to bring Qin Ya out. Do you think you’re up to it?” he asked for Lin Xinyan’s opinion.

Considering that they were good friends, he couldn’t mislead her to bring Qin Ya out with lies.

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan couldn’t decide whether she would do it. Therefore, she turned around to gaze at Qin Ya, waiting for her response.

After a moment, Qin Ya finally nodded.

As such, Lin Xinyan answered her husband confidently, “That’s certainly possible.”

“How about going out for lunch today?” Zong Jinghao asked.

“Okay, you can choose the restaurant,” Lin Xinyan replied.

Once she got an affirmative answer, she hung up the phone and looked at Qin Ya again. “What’s your thought on this?”

Qin Ya pondered over it for a moment before she replied, “I will take the opportunity to clear things up with him.”

“Have you decided on what you want to do?” Lin Xinyan asked suspiciously.

She felt that the two still loved each other.

“His grandma really wishes to have grandchildren, but I can’t bear him any. Besides, you’re also aware of the fact that he really likes kids. Even if we stay together now, we will have conflicts in the future because of this matter. If that’s the case, why don’t we end it earlier on?” Qin Ya sounded determined.

“Can’t you see that Su Zhan actually loves you a lot? Otherwise, he wouldn’t have courted and waited for you patiently even after you distanced yourself from him many times. In fact, he never gives up, and it shows how certain he is that he loves you. Why don’t you talk to him openly and decide only after you hear it directly from him?”

Nevertheless, Qin Ya shook her head and stated, “I can’t accept it. I don’t like who I am now, and I can’t accept a defective marriage.”

Everyone would have a different opinion on this matter. But to Qin Ya, two people, who were in love, wouldn't be complete without a child.

She believed that a child was the greatest symbol of love between a man and a woman.

*What will we have? Nothing at all.*

"In that case, are you planning to stay single forever?" Lin Xinyan asked worriedly.

Qin Ya shook her head and replied, "No, of course, I won't stay single forever." She then flashed a smile toward Lin Xinyan and continued, "Didn't Uncle call you and say that he will come over here later?"

Lin Xinyan nodded and said, "Yeah, he did. He's boarding the plane at 10 at night."

*Wait a minute, what does that have to do with Shao Yun?*

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 636

“What are you trying to do?” Lin Xinyan sensed the other’s intentions. *But I can’t be sure.*

“Just let him give up on me. Just tell him I have found someone else,” Qin Ya stated without evasiveness.

“How could you be like this? You two should discuss this clearly together...” Lin Xinyan frowned and looked at her incredulously.

“Do you want me to tell him about my physical defects?” Qin Ya interrupted her. If she could have said it, she would have said it long ago. *I wouldn’t have dragged it on if I were given a choice.*

“If Uncle can live all by himself, so can I. Come to think about it, it’s actually not bad to live together as a group.”

“You can’t be serious,” Lin Xinyan responded in disbelief from what she had heard.

Qin Ya nodded. “Yes, I actually wanted to do this a long time ago. It was just because I was still hurt and Uncle wasn’t here, so...”

Lin Xinyan was caught off guard by that. She had no idea how to persuade Qin Ya to give up this crazy idea. “I need to calm down,” she said and stood up.

After saying that, she walked out.

Qin Ya knew that Lin Xinyan was worried that she would force herself into a desperate situation by cutting off all possibilities with Su Zhan.

However, she had made up her mind and nothing could change that.

“Don’t you worry about me! I’d rather have an easier life than living under pressure,” Qin Ya called out to her.

*Even if it were not Su Zhan, it’s the same if I fall in love with another man. Someone with a physical disability will always feel guilty toward their lover. Sometimes, living alone in style is not such a bad thing at all instead of living in guilt. Even living with someone who doesn’t give me pressure is better, as long as it’s not someone I love.*

Lin Xinyan stopped in her tracks. She did not persuade Qin Ya or stop her. *Qin Ya is an adult now. She knows what she’s doing. I don’t have any right to interfere with her decisions.*

“There is still time to think. Once you’ve made your decision, there’s no turning back to Su Zhan again.” Lin Xinyan did not say that much. *There is still a long way to go. No one can always be there to make decisions for her. The only thing I can do is to remind her.*

“I know. I have made myself clear.” Qin Ya had carefully thought about it. *I don’t want to be a burden to others with such a body of mine. I need to be good to myself too. What’s best for me now is to not begin any relationships.*

“Well, as long as you’ve thought through this.” Lin Xinyan then walked out of her room.

Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen went out with the kids. The villa was peacefully quiet. However, Lin Xinyan’s thoughts were all in a muddle when she went upstairs.

She felt that Qin Ya’s actions were lack of thorough consideration. However, she had to respect her. She understood the feelings of a woman who could not bear children for the man she loved.

So Lin Xinyan couldn't say anything more. Maybe they were destined to not be together.

Today was also destined to be eventful.

From time to time, the online netizens spilled more beans. Not only did the drama not diminish, but it intensified even more.

In the hospital, Mrs. Gu woke up from her unconsciousness. During her lifetime, she gave birth to seven children. Her eldest and youngest were there for her, but the others chose to stay far away from the Gu family. Gu Bei was imprisoned, while Mrs. Gu's fifth daughter couldn't visit her because she had to take care of her three children. Moreover, her husband disallowed her to reconnect with the Gu family. She wanted to help but she couldn't. After all, she was a mother, so she couldn't have any conflicts with her husband for the sake of her children. It would be terrible for the children to be without their father. Thus, for the harmony of her family, Mrs. Gu's daughter could only stay away from the Gu family.

The youngest daughter was different from her sisters. When she reached adulthood, she went overseas to further her studies. Her results were outstanding. Eventually, she got a pretty decent job as a vice president in a foreign company.

With all her success, she still remembered her parents.

She and her eldest sister had not been home for years now. The Gu relatives who used to visit their home had stopped visiting them by giving different excuses such as being too busy with work and not having much time for visits.

Obviously, these were all excuses. They cut ties with the Gu family after seeing them fall from grace.

This was what society was like. Many people would celebrate successes with one, but few would stay throughout one's failures. People always showed their true colors when faced with adversities.

Indeed, many had wanted to curry favor with the Gu family. Now, everyone kept their distance away from them like they had seen a ghost.

Old Master Gu was locked up so mysteriously that they could not see him. After a lot of bribing, they could finally meet Gu Bei.

Gu Bei had sobered up a lot after staying inside for a whole night. He was no longer confused like when the accident just happened and had thought about some things clearly.

His only enemy was Zong Jinghao.

However, he had not expected for his father's past to resurface and had no idea how to react.

He conveniently made use of his sisters' visit to express his hypothesis to them, saying that this had something to do with Zong Jinghao or that he actually did it.

"Did you offend him?" Gu Huiyuan questioned.

"There was a little conflict," Gu Bei casually replied.

"A little conflict?" Gu Huiyuan scoffed with disbelief. *Why on earth would a person spend so much time and effort to stir up such huge trouble if it's just a small matter?*

"What did you do?" Gu Huiyuan yelled, "If you're not telling the truth, who can save you?"

Of all those sisters, only she could handle Gu Bei.

"At first, it was just a small matter. I helped Wen Qing to kidnap Zong Jinghao's stepmother. However, we got into a car accident and she died. Later, he framed

me. I didn't have any choice back then. So, I went up against him and kidnapped his wife's relatives and framed his friend... "Gu Bei lowered his gaze and sighed.

"Are you an idiot?" Gu Huiyuan couldn't help but scold him. *He got himself into trouble because he poked his nose into other people's business? Is he a fool?*

"Now the entire Gu family has become a disgrace in your hands. Why are you going against him? You even kidnapped his people and framed his friends!" Gu Huiyuan fumed and felt like giving him a series of slaps to his face.

"Don't you know what kind of person he is? Haven't you heard of him? Does he look like a pushover to you?" Gu Huiyuan was so outraged that she clutched her chest. Her figure trembled violently out of excessive rage.

It was obvious she was not happy at all.

Gu Bei wordlessly hung his head.

He regretted it. It was just that he couldn't hold himself back then.

"Who knew that Dad did such a thing when he was younger? He got himself into this trouble..."

*Slap!* Before he could finish his words, Gu Huiyuan slapped him and shouted angrily, "You still can't see clearly yet? It's because of you that people have a hold over Dad."

At this moment, someone came to say that the visitation time was up.

Fear crept into Gu Bei's heart. He grasped the edges of his sisters' shirts. "You guys have to save me! I can't stay here anymore! It's terrible in here," Gu Bei pleaded.

“We will save you.” The eldest sister promised, suppressing her tears. Gu Bei still didn’t know about the situation outside. Now the chances of saving him were slim to none.

The authority had clearly intended for a rigorous investigation. Otherwise, a special task force would not be formed. Outsiders would not be able to intervene at all. Even if his brothers-in-law were willing to help, it would be futile and they might even be implicated in this matter. The statement was clear from the authority that once the evidence was conclusive, the people that were involved would receive severe punishments.

Gu Huiyuan and the eldest sister left the detention center. Immediately through their personal connections, they inquired about Zong Jinghao’s contact information.

Gu Huiyuan then quickly dialed the number. After the call was connected, a woman’s voice came over the phone. Just as she was about to speak, the eldest sister snatched the phone and hung up.

She looked at her eldest sister in dissatisfaction. “What are you doing?”

“Things have gotten to this point. Do you think it’s still useful for us to look for him? There’s no longer any room for negotiation!” the eldest sister retorted.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 637

*That's right. At this stage, things are obviously beyond salvation. Unless time could rewind or a miracle happened.*

Gu Huiyuan turned to her older sister. "What do you think we should do now?"

Although the Gu family seemed like a very large family, there weren't actually that many people who could pitch in and help when something happened.

As the children hadn't been raised together, they weren't very close. Furthermore, the daughter had quite a few issues with her parents. It was perfectly normal for them not to be united now that something like this had happened.

"Huixin..."

"Don't even think about it. Didn't she make herself very clear the other day? She won't be willing to help. Truth be told, this is our parents' fault. Had they showered the four of them with the slightest bit more love and care back then, they wouldn't have taken things that far. But alas, in the eyes of our parents, their son would always be the most important thing to them. They've spoiled him rotten. He knows nothing but to get into trouble." Gu Huiyuan could understand where her older sisters came from. "And we have to prepare for the worst as well. If there's even a chance that we can save Bei, we have to give it our all."

This was what her oldest sister was thinking about as well. "Let's pay mother a visit and discuss this with her."

Gu Huiyuan nodded her head.

At ten that morning, Lin Xinyan was about to leave her house after recollecting herself when Qin Ya asked, "Are you going to pick up Uncle?"

Lin Xinyan nodded her head. "He just came here. He's definitely unfamiliar with this new environment. That's why I'm going to pick him up."

"Why don't I go instead? Tell me where you two agreed to meet and when the time comes, we can head there straight away."

Lin Xinyan turned to look at her and asked again, "Have you really thought this through?"

Qin Ya nodded. "Yes."

Not knowing what else to do, Lin Xinyan could only accede to her friend's request. "Alright then. We agreed to meet at that tropical-themed restaurant near the office."

"You don't look good when you frown," Qin Ya chuckled, "So stop frowning. I've thought through it and I need to take responsibility for what I've done. That's why you don't have to worry about me."

Lin Xinyan pulled her friend into her arms. "As long as you think you'll be happy with that."

Truth be told, what she said made sense. If being with the person she loved was putting too much pressure on her, she might as well break up with him so that she could have greater peace of mind.

After Qin Ya had left, Lin Xinyan followed suit and went to pay Zong Jinghao a visit at the company in advance.

Zong Jinghao, however, was not in his office. Instead, he was in the reception room discussing some things with other people. Although there had been quite a commotion and the higher-ups were taking it very seriously, they still could not

take the situation lightly. They had to gauge how things were going to turn out as they closely monitored the latest developments.

Lin Xinyan didn't instruct his secretary to inform him that she had arrived. Instead, she went inside his office to wait for him.

On his way back after completing the discussion, he heard from his secretary that Lin Xinyan was here. Picking up the pace, he whizzed towards his office and pushed open the door. He was immediately greeted with the sight of Lin Xinyan sitting behind his desk and taking a look at the documents laid out on it.

She actually couldn't understand many of the technical jargon in those documents. She was only reading them to pass the time as she was bored.

Hearing the door open, she raised her head and saw that it was him. "Are you done?" she asked.

Closing the door behind him, Zong Jinghao walked over to her and asked, "Hmm. Why didn't you tell my secretary to inform me?"

"Weren't you busy?" Lin Xinyan was about to stand up when Zong Jinghao placed one hand on her shoulder and stopped her from doing so. Lin Xinyan laughed, "Why aren't you letting me stand? Is it because you want me to take your place?"

Zong Jinghao leaned against the side of the table not too far away from her. "Well, it was your to begin with, wasn't it?"

During the Lunar New Year, Zong Qifeng entrusted her with the shares he had given the kids. Thus, she was now the biggest shareholder.

Lin Xinyan reached out and grabbed his tie. Pulling him over, she looked into his eyes as a faint smile played on her thin lips. "So you work for me now?" she teased.

Lowering his gaze to look at her fingers gripping his tie, a defeated look flashed across his face. "I'm all yours. From now on, you'll sit here and I'll be at your beck and call."

Lin Xinyan laughed. Her smile, however, quickly slipped off her face. Yet, her hand refused to let go of his tie. Zong Jinghao bent forward cooperatively.

"Was Su Zhan the one who has been pestering you to ask Qin Ya to come out?" she asked melancholically.

Zong Jinghao reached out and tried to smoothen her frown. "What's wrong? Was Qin Ya against it?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "No. Do you still remember when I asked you if you would still love me even if I couldn't bear you any children?"

Zong Jinghao's brows quivered as he suddenly understood everything. He had his suspicions back when Lin Xinyan had asked this question.

"The miscarriage caused by the explosion resulted in her being unable to conceive any more children. That's why she wants to break up with Su Zhan. The reason she agreed to come today might be because she wants to clear the air with Su Zhan."

"And truth be told, there's nothing wrong with that."

After clearing the air, both of them could finally close this chapter and re-embark on their search for a suitable partner.

And this wasn't really a bad decision. After all, some things just couldn't be undone. No matter how hard one tried to piece things back together, there would still always be some cracks and fissures.

These broken pieces were better off left alone.

Lin Xinyan lifted her gaze to look at him. “Should we have a talk with Su Zhan to prepare him mentally for what might happen?”

She was afraid that when the time came, Su Zhan wouldn't be able to take it.

“You don't have to care about that.” Zong Jinghao bent over lower and asked, “Are you going to keep pulling me by the tie like this?”

With a start, Lin Xinyan realized that she hadn't released her grip on his tie the whole time. She had pulled his entire tie out of his suit. Hastily letting go, she adjusted his collar and tie. “It's about time. Shall we head over now?”

“Hmm,” Zong Jinghao replied.

He wanted to reach first so that Lin Xinyan could have something to eat beforehand. He was afraid that she wouldn't have an appetite later on.

“Let's go.” Zong Jinghao said as he put one arm around her waist.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 638

1

Both of them walked into the restaurant. As they had made reservations beforehand, the waiter proceeded to lead them to their table after they gave their names.

“Their dessert is quite nice.” The dessert chef working in this restaurant came from Country F. Their desserts were rather famous. Many people came here just for them.

Lin Xinyan’s brows knitted into a frown. “Are we going to start eating even though they haven’t arrived?”

“You should have something to eat first,” Zong Jinghao insisted.

He arranged for the meeting here as he knew that she had developed a sweet tooth after she became pregnant. What more, she hardly ever left the house. Thus, he wanted her to try the desserts.

Lin Xinyan didn’t object. She thought that the place seemed rather classy and relatively peaceful. The other customers were also very well manner.

All the waiters working in this restaurant were guys. They each donned a black vest over their white shirt with a black tie on their collar. One of them walked to the front of their table and handed them a menu.

Opening up the menu, Zong Jinghao asked, “Is there anything in particular that you would really like to have?”

Lin Xinyan shook her head. “You decide.”

As she didn't have morning sickness today, there wasn't anything in particular that she really wanted to eat.

Zong Jinghao then proceeded to order two sets of desserts and a glass of goat's milk.

Closing the menu, he handed it over to the waiter and concluded, "That'll be all."

"We'll be serving your food shortly," the waiter replied as he bowed slightly and left.

Feeling bored while they were waiting for their food, Lin Xinyan began fiddling with the freshly cut rose decorating the table.

Zong Jinghao, on the other hand, watched on silently. He felt that at that moment, she behaved exactly like a child. She was a little childish, but she also seemed quite cute.

Caressing her hair, he said, "Watch out for the thorns."

The rose was renowned for its beauty. Yet, it had thorns pricking those who touched it.

Thus, people who sought for roses always ended up hurt.

Lin Xinyan retracted her hand. *Qin Ya's just like this rose right now. Her thorns, however, can only hurt Su Zhan alone.*

Soon, the waiter served the desserts they had ordered.

There were two dishes in total. The first dish was lemon tarts. Country F's desserts were mainly in the form of puff pastries, with lemon tarts being the most classic dessert. The authentic way to make this dish was to use freshly squeezed lemon juice, butter, sugar, eggs and other ingredients to make the custard. The

next step was to scatter some lemon peel over the dish to make it more fragrant. Finally, the lemon-shaped mixture of strawberries and crisp candy was used to adorn the dish.

The sweetness from the combination of lemon and butter was just right. The lemon fragrance, fluffy texture, superb presentation and amazing taste of this dish made it one of the most popular desserts.

The second dish was another dessert that originated from Country F — the mille-feuille. The dough used for the crust had to be folded six times in order for the crust to become crispy after baking. Every layer had to be brushed with wine and every alternate layer stuffed with vanilla seeds coated in custard sauce. Finally, some icing sugar and nuts were sprinkled on the top layer. And coupled with a glass of lamb's milk, one would have him- or herself a delicious yet nutritious dessert.

“They look good,” Lin Xinyan commented as she picked up a spoon. Perhaps it was because she was pregnant, she had become something of a glutton.

Especially after seeing such sumptuous desserts. She proceeded to take a small piece of lemon tart and place it in her mouth. The lemon tart was soft and fluffy. There was a rich taste of lemon and just the right tinge of sour within all that sweetness. On the other hand, it wasn't so sweet to the point where it was cloyingly sweet. All in all, it was a very tasty dessert.

The mille-feuille was very delicious as well.

Perhaps because it was the afternoon and she was hungry. That was probably why she devoured her dessert rather quickly.

“Hey, slow down. No one's going to take your food,” Zong Jinghao chided gently as he fished out a piece of tissue to wipe the butter on the corners of her mouth.

Lin Xinyan picked up a piece using her fork and put it by his mouth. “Try some.”

“I don’t like sweet stuff.” Zong Jinghao kept his mouth closed.

Refusing to give up, she wheedled, “Just one bite.”

As she spoke, she moved the piece closer to his mouth and even smeared some butter on his lips. Zong Jinghao had no choice but to open his mouth and eat the dessert.

“Remember to pack some for the kids before we leave,” Zong Jinghao reminded her after swallowing that mouthful of dessert.

Lin Xinyan nodded. The portions weren’t that big and were just about enough for one person. After devouring both portions, Lin Xinyan picked up the glass of ‘milk’. But after the first sip, she immediately detected something unusual with the milk. *This doesn’t taste like the milk I usually drink.*

Frowning, she asked, “What’s this?”

“Goat’s milk.”

Goat’s milk provided pregnant women with more nutrients as compared to cow’s milk. The amount of fat in goat’s milk was about a third of cow’s milk and more easily absorbed by humans. Furthermore, the prolonged consumption of goat’s milk wouldn’t result in people getting fat. The vitamin and micronutrient content of goat’s milk was much higher. This could help prevent the oxidation and breakdown of cells and aliphatic acids in pregnant women. This could also slow down the effects of aging on the skin and improve one’s complexion.

Lin Xinyan put down the glass.

Zong Jinghao picked up the glass of milk and insisted, “Drink it.”

Lin Xinyan, however, refused to take the milk and just stared at him silently.

Exasperated, Zong Jinghao threatened, "This milk has a lot of nutrients. Why don't we start drinking this milk at home as well?"

"No, I don't want that!" Lin Xinyan promptly objected.

"What do you not want? Is Jinghao bullying you?"

The first thing Su Zhan heard after he entered the restaurant was Zong Jinghao's voice. He looked at the glass in Zong Jinghao's hand and then at Lin Xinyan.

"What are the two of you doing?"

Lin Xinyan took the cup in Zong Jinghao's hands. She didn't want to embarrass him in the presence of others.

"Did Qin Ya not come along with you?" After taking a look around and seeing that there was no one else, Su Zhan pulled out a chair and sat down.

Lin Xinyan didn't like the taste of goat's milk. But when Su Zhan asked this question, she instinctively placed the cup against her lips. It was as though she was trying to conceal the fact that she didn't know how to answer his question.

After taking a sip, however, her brows immediately furrowed.

"Was Qin Ya unwilling to come along with you?" Su Zhan asked as he desperately tried to quell the disappointment within him.

"She'll be here in a while," Lin Xinyan replied as she put down the glass.

Upon hearing this, Su Zhan was immediately all smiles. "Xinyan, you've got to help me. I'm at my wit's end. I've tried everything."

"Her heart has become stone cold. No matter how much I try, she just won't warm up to me."

“Su Zhan...” Lin Xinyan’s voice trailed off. But even after a moment, she just couldn’t find the right thing to say.

Su Zhan’s heart leaped into his throat upon seeing the hesitant expression on Lin Xinyan’s face. “What do you want to say, Xinyan? Does Qin Ya no longer have feelings for me?”

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 639

Lin Xinyan said nothing.

It was because she did not know how to tell him, or how to relate the message to him.

“Xinyan, if you have something to say, you can just tell me. The more you hesitate, the more unsettled I will be,” Su Zhan was fidgeting uncomfortably in his seat, getting more and more nervous by the second..

If it were going to be something good, Lin Xinyan would definitely not look so conflicted.

Therefore, there was only one answer. And it could only be something bad.

Lin Xinyan looked at him. “Everything that Ya does, she has her own reasons. You shouldn’t...”

As she was speaking, Su Zhan’s gaze wandered off and was staring out of the glass window. Following his gaze, Lin Xinyan saw the scene outside where Qin Ya was getting out of a car while holding onto Shao Yun’s arm.

Lin Xinyan sighed. *She still acts like that, even though I have asked her not to.*

“Xinyan.” Su Zhan’s gaze turned back towards her and bitterly said, “The thing you have a hard time trying to tell me... Is that she actually has found another lover?”

Lin Xinyan tried to console him, “Please calm down.”

Su Zhan smiled bitterly and leaned back on his chair, "So she found herself an old man to spitefully show off to me?"

"I'm not trying to rub salt on your wound. I just don't want you to cling unto me and pester me anymore," a testy reply suddenly came out from nowhere.

While Su Zhan was talking, Qin Ya and Shao Yun had walked in together and overheard him, thus resulting in the interjection.

Su Zhan stared at her for two seconds before suddenly getting up and grabbing her wrist, "I have something to tell you."

"If you have anything to say, you can just say it here." Qin Ya tried to free her hand.

Su Zhan's eyes were bloodshot red, and despite her struggle, he managed to pull her away stubbornly.

Struggling with all her might, Qin Ya could not break free of Su Zhan's iron grip. After all, the strength of a man was way beyond a woman's. Thus she was led, albeit dragged, all the way to the street outside the restaurant.

"Su Zhan, let go of me this instant!" Qin Ya raised her voice, tinged with a faint sign of anger.

Su Zhan pushed her against the wall in the alley. "Speak now! What are you trying to do?" he demanded.

"Just like what you saw earlier," Qin Ya replied, staring back at him indignantly.

It was like she was stating the truth blatantly.

Su Zhen narrowed his eyes and questioned, "With that old man?"

“Methinks someone who is older is much better than you. Isn’t there a saying that goes ‘an older person knows how to care for others better’? He definitely knows how to care for me a lot better than you do,” Q in Ya gritted her teeth as she uttered these hurtful words.

Su Zhan’s face was burning red as if it were burnt by fire.

Rubbing her reddened wrist, she continued berating, “He can give me the sense of security that I long for, and he cares for me. Apart from our age difference, there is no other issue. Besides, age doesn’t matter in the face of true love. Love will conquer all!”

Ignoring Su Zhan’s furious face, she continued, “What I regret the most is that I am not able to give him my undefiled virginity. In fact, he does not mind nor despises me for that, something which I am really grateful for...”

All of a sudden, he grabbed her neck and pressed her against the wall once more.

Growling at her, he spat out, “You are lying to me!”

Qin Ya was unrelenting. “If you don’t believe me, I can call him out now and kiss him in front of you. Or if you want to witness a more passionate scene, I can prove it to you...”

Staring at her stubbornness, Su Zhan could not hold onto his fury any longer. His red eyes moistened and formed a thin layer of water right beneath his bottom eyelids. He could only murmur in a hoarse voice, “Qin Ya, if you continue to be like this, our relationship is really over.”

“You and I... we’re over. I’m done with you a long time ago. It’s just that you didn’t see it,” she bluntly retorted, as her hands, hanging by her side were tightly clenched into fists.

Her nails were digging into the flesh of her palms. Reasoning within her mind, she assured herself that this was for the best. *The pain can keep me awake and keep me calm.*

“I, Qin Ya, am not turning back nor reminiscing the past. It’s impossible for you and I to rekindle our relationship. Not ever!” Knowing that she was hurting Su Zhan even while making this vow, she could also feel her heart stabbed by a knife too.

“Good. Good. Very good. Very well-spoken,” Su Zhan retracted his hands reluctantly. Every time he muttered the word “good”, he reminded himself in his heart to call it quits. *Just give up and let go.* Sensing warm water flowing out of his eyes, he quickly turned his head away, not wanting Qin Ya to see his tears.

With his back facing Qin Ya, he solemnly said, “I won’t pester you again in the future. You and I... this is the end of us!” Right after uttering those teary words, he hurriedly walked away.

Left behind, Qin Ya slumped against the wall and did not move. Staring at his back and watching him leave, she felt inexplicably numb. She felt as if a large swath of cotton was stuck in her throat, making it hard for her to breathe. She could only force herself to draw in the air with her open mouth as tears streamed down her face without restraint.

Su Zhan did not leave the place but instead went back into the restaurant. He wanted to prove to Qin Ya that his feelings for her were dead, and he would no longer cause any more trouble for her.

Meanwhile, Shao Yun was complaining to Lin Xinyan, “I couldn’t help but to agree to her plan.”

She understood perfectly well that once Qin Ya had made up her mind, the latter would come up with all sorts of ways to definitely drag Shao Yun into helping her with her act.

Shao Yun shook his head and sighed, "I really don't want to do this. As the saying goes, I would rather demolish ten temples than ruin a marriage. I have just turned into the hated antagonist, haven't I?"

Sighing along with him, Lin Xinyan assured him, "Since she is the one making the tough decision, just go along and help her."

Blinking with surprise, Shao Yun got curious. "Don't you want to persuade her? Talk some sense into her perhaps?"

"With her determination, she can't be persuaded." Lin Xinyan had wished upon the stars that things would turn out differently. Only heaven knows how much she wanted to sit down with Su Zhan to have a good, long, serious talk.

However, Qin Ya had a knot in her heart. And with her current mental state, she was not willing to face her true feelings.

Not only Su Zhan, even if Qin Ya were to meet another good man, she would still not open her heart to talk about her deepest, honest feelings.

*There's simply no solution.*

Qin Ya had to make a mental breakthrough before she could see through the matter. Else, no one could ever help her.

"It's such a pity. I can see that that young man is a good person," Shao Yun gave his opinion regarding Su Zhan. Although he did not know Su Zhan personally, without even knowing the latter's ability nor personality, Shao Yun had a good impression of him.

"Looks like this is the only way." Shao Yun said in resignation as he wondered, "What has happened to Ya that she would go to such an extreme..."

Lin Xinyan saw Su Zhan approaching from the distance and quickly patted Shao Yun to alert him. Shao Yun immediately understood her gesture and stopped short, leaving his sentence unfinished.

At that moment, Su Zhan had already settled himself in, pulling out his chair and sitting down as if nothing had happened.

With a careless and undaunted look, Su Zhan ventured, "Why don't we order some food?"

Lin Xinyan stared at him for two seconds, knowing that he only pretended to be okay based on the uneasy air that emanated off from him.

He casually beckoned the waiter and said, "Order please!"

Soon a waiter rushed over with a few menus in hand.

Taking one of the menus, he took a glance before asking without even looking up, "Jinghao, is this your treat?"

Zong Jinghao glanced at him briefly and grunted in agreement.

"I'll have this, this, this, and also this." Pointing to the menu, Su Zhan raised his head and looked at Lin Xinyan, "Xinyan, what do you like to eat? I'll help you place an order."

Lin Xinyan just looked at him, trying to gauge his feelings, then she said nonchalantly, "Whatever you think is good. I'm fine with anything."

Su Zhan nodded and added a few more dishes to the order before looking at Zong Jinghao, "How about you? I know you prefer bland food, let me help you to order."

Without waiting for any validation, he ordered two more dishes. Everyone on the table knew that he was heartbroken and was in a bad mood, so they let him order whatever he wanted.

“How about you, old pal?” Su Zhan boorishly addressed Shao Yun.

Shao Yun did not utter a word.

In his mind, he was thinking to himself. *Who is your “old pal”?*

He held himself back from speaking his mind. After all, he was the “culprit” who had “stolen” his girlfriend.

“I’m just a guest. Anything will do.” Shao Yun tugged at the collar of his shirt. It was still his favorite fashion: a short-sleeved floral shirt with beige trousers and white lace-up shoes. That was his trademark.

His favorite way to dress-up.

“Then I’ll help you order.” Thus he placed a few more orders with the waiter.

The waiter noted them down and followed-up, “Is there anything else you need?”

“That’ll be all, thank you.” He closed the menu and handed it over to the waiter.

Qin Ya joined in the table late, after the dishes were served. She came in through the door with her makeup reapplied, but those present could still see that her eyes were red.

Su Zhan did not look at her at all.

Initially, Qin Ya thought that Su Zhan had left. However, when she saw him there, the emotions that she had managed to suppress within her began to bubble up again.

She could not take it nor sit and eat, acting as if nothing had happened. She was afraid that her sanity would not be able to bottle up her emotions any longer. Stretching out her hand to grab Shao Yun's arm, she spoke out, "I don't feel like eating anymore. I need you to accompany me back."

Shao Yun turned and looked at Qin Ya intently. Seeing the tear stains still on her face, he guessed that she had cried before joining them. Immediately, he stood up and said, "Let's go then."

As he spoke, he took the initiative to put his arms around her shoulders. He was always very close to her but had always treated her like a relative. Even then, he did not hesitate to put up such an act.

After all, she had addressed him as her Uncle. That made him her relative.

Knowing that she must be feeling sad and uncomfortable, he was sincere with his intent to comfort her.

Su Zhan suddenly raised his head and coldly remarked, "Is it because of my unbearable presence here that you can't even sit and have your meal?"

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 640

As if answering his own question, Su Zhan laughed awkwardly and said, "Don't worry. I no longer long for you. If my presence here is choking you, then let me be the one to leave. You don't have to go. Please stay."

Taking off his napkin and putting down the knife and fork in his hands, he stood up and said once more, "Just sit down and eat. I'll leave to make you feel at ease and eat in peace."

Having said that, he turned to Xinyan and bid her farewell, "Xinyan, I'll take my leave now."

Xinyan could not say anything, so she could only watch him leave.

After Su Zhan left, she pulled Qin Ya to make her sit down once more.

Even after she obediently sat down, she had lost her appetite. Xinyan handed her a sheet of tissue and comforted, "Cry if you want to cry. Let it all out, dear. You will feel better after crying."

Sensing they were not needed, Jinghao and Shao Yun left. Glancing at them, she had initially felt that the setting here was not appropriate, but she kept her opinion to herself.

As for the two men, there were reasons for them taking their leave as well. Jinghao had something to say to Shao Yun.

The latter had helped him greatly last time, but due to both of them being busy, neither of them had the luxury to sit down and talk their hearts out.

After this incident, Jinghao knew that Xinyan's father was not a plain Joe. Otherwise, there would not have friends like Shao Yun.

Although he had not done much, the clues in his hands were valuable and rare. After all, he could not track and trace the incidents which happened long in the past.

"Is everything all right?" Shao Yun asked curiously.

When he was not putting on his mischievous smiley face, he looked scary – the type that would make any unfortunate children who set their eyes on him cry in fear.

However, when he was not so serious, and when he had his playful smile on, he instantly became very approachable.

Very rarely would he suppress his smile, for he always carried a jovial, gleeful look.

Jinghao revealed, "A task force has been set up to investigate this case. Since it has caused such a huge trouble, the matter must be tightly monitored and investigated."

Shao Yun nodded his head in agreement, "If you need any help, just give me a holler."

As far as he was concerned, she was not an outsider. After all, Xinyan's husband was his close buddy's son-in-law.

Jinghao did not want to put too much burden on him. With the current trouble in hand, it was already quite a handful to handle.

"Let me drop Qin Ya back first." Xinyan was seen walking over, for she had also lost her appetite. Plus she did not feel like staying here for too long. Also, since Qin Ya did not want to go back to the villa, she wanted to take her out to relax.

Jinghao offered, "Let me send you back."

He was worried about Xinyan, she was pregnant, yet she had to take care of others. He was afraid that she would overexert herself.

During times like this, Qin Ya definitely did not want to have too many people around her. Xinyan rejected his offer, "We're not thinking of going home yet. We would still like to have a stroll somewhere. I've already booked a room in Narada Hotel. You can send him there for a rest."

Originally, she had intended for Shao Yun to stay in the villa. However, it had run out of available rooms. There were already two maids, added with the presence of Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen as well as Qin Ya and the children. The remaining rooms were the utility room and the study, but she could not make those available. Left with no choice, she booked a good hotel.

Shao Yun waved his hand and said, "Just tell me the place and I'll get there on my own. I'm already old enough. I don't need anyone to fetch me here and there like a kid."

Xinyan smiled, "Uncle, you have not eaten much for lunch. If you're feeling hungry please do order something to eat at the hotel. I'll pick you up at night and show you around."

"Don't worry. I can take care of myself. You can take care of Ya. Do whatever you need to do, I'll be alright." Shao Yun gave her the nonchalant look, the kind to indicate that he could fit in anywhere, anytime to put her at ease. "Just tell me the location of the villa, and I'll go there by myself tonight."

Knowing full well Shao Yun's character, Xinyan had no choice but to tell him about the address before leaving with Qin Ya.

As for whether Jinghao was the one sending him back or perhaps he got back on his own, she had no idea.

“Shall we go to the movies?” Xinyan suggested, trying to break the awkward silence.

Qin Ya remained silent.

Lin Xinyan let out a sigh and said in resignation, “I’m pregnant, therefore I can’t accompany you for a drink. If you feel awful and couldn’t bear the pain anymore, perhaps I can talk to Su Zhan for you.”

Qin Ya shook her head, “No, I don’t regret making this decision. Giving him up hurts though.”

Xinyan sighed, “I can totally understand your feeling, but I don’t know how to comfort you.”

“Why don’t you take a walk with me?” Having said that, she took Xinyan’s arm in hers.

Xinyan nodded. It was a hot noon, but it was quite cooling walking under the dense canopy of the Chinese parasol trees.

When Qin Ya had made up her mind, she had prepared thoroughly for it emotionally. However, it still needed some time to get over and transition to a new life.

She believed she could survive the pain on her own. After all, she had persevered through the past pains, and now she would definitely endure this one as well.

Compared to hers, Su Zhan did not fare much better.

After leaving the restaurant, he went out alone for a drink to heal his broken heart.

All by himself, he ordered quite a few bottles of foreign wine. Since Su Zhan was a regular here, the manager knew him quite well. Seeing him sitting alone with alcohol in hand, the latter offered, "Shall I call a lady to accompany you?"

Su Zhan continued to pour wine into his glass, pretending to ignore what the manager had offered.

"It'll be a bummer to drink all by yourself. I have a girl here who is a good drinker. It'll be better to have one or two to accompany you. Definitely way better than drinking away your sorrows alone."

Su Zhan started to feel irritated. He felt that the manager was acting like a pesky fly, buzzing around his ears while he was in his bad mood.

"You're crazy, right? I'm here only for a drink, yet you keep insisting on getting me a lady. I'm a clean freak, okay? Just stay as far as you can from me, and stop bothering me!"

Losing his patience, Su Zhan let loose his ire on the chatty manager.

"I only take pity on you seeing you drinking here alone. My intention is good. Don't try to bite back on my kindness, you ingrate..."

"What are you babbling about? Who are you calling an ingrate?" Su Zhan glared at him intently, the blue veins on his temple popping up suddenly as he cajoled, "I'll forgive you if you call yourself an ingrate too. Come, let me hear it."

The manager rebuked him coldly, "You have had too many drinks."

Just as the words left his mouth, as he was turning to leave, Su Zhan grabbed hold of his shirt, "So you're leaving just like that after insulting someone? Who do you think I am? A cowardly turtle?"

The manager stared at the hands that were grabbing his shirt before looking at his face. "Hey buddy, don't cause any ruckus here. Otherwise, don't blame me for being ruthless later," he said threateningly.

"Ah, so you'll be rude to me?" Su Zhan was persistent as he egged the manager on. After all, he was still upset and was straining to control himself.

Grabbing the manager's collars, Su Zhan roared, "Are you going to hit me? Gimme some! Bring it on!"

The manager could feel Su Zhan's breath against his face, reeking alcohol. Frowning, he patiently reminded, "You will do well to let me go. I don't feel like teaching you a lesson."

"C'mon! Show me your guts! Teach me a lesson! Or are you a coward? If you're a coward then don't bother barking your empty threats like a dog..."

The manager could not bear it any longer and calmly called for backup. "Take this madman away."

"You're the crazy one!" Su Zhan was mad drunk and was emboldened by liquid courage.

The manager glared at him with fury before narrowing his eyes, "Hey kid, are you looking for a good round of beating?"

Su Zhan drunkenly nodded, "Yes I am! I'm looking for one!"

At this moment, he really felt like fighting someone. His pent-up frustration and disappointment in him were reaching a tipping point. He felt like dying.

His words sounded like a genuine provocation. Narrowing his eyes, he called two bouncers who rushed over and commanded, "Beat him up! Teach him a lesson!"