

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 661

Leaning against the wall, Zong Jinghao insisted, "You can undress, but I have to stay here."

Lin Xinyan glowered at him. "Are you going to act like a jerk now?"

Zong Jinghao laughed out loud at her remark. "Do I have to resort to acting that way? Everything I'm going to do to you from now on is legal, including peeking at you when you're taking a bath."

"You're so shameless." At last, Lin Xinyan immersed herself in the bathtub without removing her bra.

Zong Jinghao approached her to hold her still. "Be careful."

As the floor was slippery, he was worried that she might slip and fall.

Lin Xinyan felt rejuvenated at once when she immersed herself in the water which was adjusted at the right temperature. In fact, Zong Jinghao had arranged everything in advance, including getting the hotel staff to prepare a set of pajamas for Lin Xinyan.

After taking the bath, washing her hair, and removing the makeup on her face, Lin Xinyan changed into a two-piece pajama set consisting of a tube dress and a robe. Zong Jinghao helped her blow her hair dry while she lay on the bed with her back resting on the headboard. She ended up falling asleep before Zong Jinghao even finished drying her hair.

Zong Jinghao sighed wistfully. Just now, the ambience in the bathroom seemed just right and Lin Xinyan too looked recharged enough for some action. After all,

it did not feel right to do nothing on the first night of their marriage. Much to his disappointment, she still fell asleep in the end.

He supposed such thing had never happened to other newlyweds. If words got around about how they slept through their first night of marriage, he was sure everyone would assume he was impotent.

Looking at the serene expression on Lin Xinyan's face when she was in deep slumber, he suddenly thought it was good enough to just have her in his embrace.

Zong Jinghao had put everything at work on hold, so he did not need to wake up early the next morning. He made good use of the rare opportunity to rest properly and had a deep sleep that night.

By the time Lin Xinyan woke up the following day, it was nine in the morning. As the curtains were blackout curtains blocking out most of the sunlight, the room was dim and they were spared from waking up to the glare of the morning sunlight. Just as Lin Xinyan was about to get out of bed, she found that she was locked in the embrace of Zong Jinghao, who was still fast asleep. Usually, he would be out of bed earlier than her as she tended to lie in after waking up. It was uncommon for her to wake up finding Zong Jinghao still asleep.

His eyes were tightly shut and his chest were heaving up and down at a regular rhythm following his steady breathing. Relishing in the sense of security offered by him arms, she reached out to stroke his cheeks and brows. She couldn't help but marvel at his good looks as he looked exceptionally charming with the tranquil air he was exuding at the moment. She edged closer to him and planted a kiss on his lips. Just as she was about to extract her lips from his, her head was locked in place by his hands. Then, his deep and hoarse voice came. "Do you actually think one kiss is enough?"

"What else do you want then?" They were so close to each other that Lin Xinyan's pouty lips were grazing against his lips every now and then when she was talking.

Zong Jinghao did a quick flip so that he was on top of her. Brushing some of her fringe hair to one side, he mumbled, "Are you still tired?"

She shook her head as she had a good sleep that night. "I'm not..."

Her voice trailed off as her mouth was sealed by his kiss instantly. At the same time, his hand moved downward and lifted the hem of her nightdress...

He was careful not to exert any pressure on her belly. Placing his weight on the upper part of her body, he moved his hip on hers and entered her.

Lin Xinyan experienced mild pain following his sudden intrusion. However, it took her a short time to get used to it and to start feeling the pleasure that quickly followed. Furrowing her brows as she enjoyed the ride of ecstasy, she parted her lips slightly and started moaning.

Ever since Lin Xinyan was pregnant, Zong Jinghao had been very cautious and gentle every time they made out. This time, although he did restrain himself from going too rough on her, he couldn't help but lose control slightly in the end.

When they were done, Lin Xinyan felt so weak as though all her energy had been sapped. Slumping on the bed, she stayed motionless as her legs felt like jelly.

She was not even in the mood to talk. Although her skin felt sticky and uncomfortable, she was too lazy to clean herself up.

In the meantime, Zong Jinghao had gone to take a shower. He looked smart and refreshing after changing into a fresh set of clothes.

He handed a wet towel to Lin Xinyan for her to wipe her body clean. However, her eyes were drooping and she couldn't even keep them open

"Go ahead and sleep if you're tired. I'm going to stay by your side for the entire day," Zong Jinghao said after wiping her body clean and tugging her in.

Although she did not respond to him, it was obvious that she heard what he said. Heeding to his advice, she squirmed her body slightly in search of a more comfortable posture before shutting her eyes.

It was two hours later when she woke up. In the meantime, Zong Jinghao had ordered some food through room service for lunch.

He carried the food tray to the bed for her. Rubbing her eyes sleepily, Lin Xinyan muttered, "I have yet to brush my teeth and wash my face."

"You know what, you can just do that after eating." Lin Xinyan glared at him resentfully and snapped, "You're the reason why I'm so sleepy!"

"Yes, it's all my fault. I'll control myself better next time. Come on and grab a bite now. I know you must be starving." Holding the food tray, Zong Jinghao sat down on the edge of the bed.

She was indeed famished as she did not have anything for breakfast just now. She took two sips on the glass of milk handed to her by Zong Jinghao before putting it back down. Then, she picked up the spoon and started wolfing down the shrimp porridge, fried eggs, and fruits served on the food tray.

"Let's go and catch a movie after this." Watching her munching the food, Zong Jinghao pulled out a piece of tissue to wipe her mouth clean.

Lin Xinyan nodded in agreement.

Their phones had never rung even once as most of their acquaintances knew better than to disturb them after the first day of their wedding.

While Li Xinyan was washing up, Zong Jinghao went to take out a fresh set of garments he had prepared for her beforehand.

After Li Xinyan got changed, they went out together. One of Zong Jinghao's arms was wrapped around her waist as they were walking.

Zong Jinghao suggested catching a movie more to enjoy the dim lighting and relaxing atmosphere in a cinema than to really enjoy the story. The cinema was deserted during daytime and most of the seats were empty. Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan sat in the last row in the corner of the cinema where he put his arm around her shoulder.

She leaned closer on him too.

Zong Jinghao probably had no clue of the storyline of the movie as he spent most of the time smooching with Lin Xinyan.

Whenever the story reached exciting parts that came with booming background music, he would deliberately produce some smacking noise with his lips when they were kissing. Finding it fun because his noise would be drowned by the loud music, Zong Jinghao kept pulling that off until Lin Xinyan's lips were made red and swollen.

When the movie ended, Lin Xinyan was forced to hold her head low to hide her lips as they walked out of the cinema.

By the time they returned to their presidential suite, the entire room had been thoroughly cleaned. They stayed in the room for the rest of the day spending time with each other and enjoyed dinner which they ordered through room service.

Later that night, Lin Xinyan was dragged to the bathroom by Zong Jinghao to take a bath together. Of course, they also carried out some intimate activities other than just soaking in the warm water.

On the following day, Lin Xinyan went to do her pregnancy checkup accompanied by Zong Jinghao.

The last checkup she did was in C City. At that time, Zong Jinghao had to impersonate as a doctor just to accompany her as their relationship was still a secret. Now that they were officially married, he no longer had to be so secretive.

Thanks to the fact that Lin Xinyan had made an appointment in advance, they could skip the queue and get their turn right away.

Now, Lin Xinyan had been pregnant for more than six months already.

After going through the checkup, Lin Xinyan sat down on the bench along the hospital corridor while Zong Jinghao went to collect her medical report.

At that juncture, a woman sat down next to her.

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“Are you here for a pregnancy checkup?” The woman glimpsed at Lin Xinyan’s bulging belly.

Lin Xinyan nodded at her politely.

“You’re such a lucky girl. I’m really envious of that grand wedding ceremony you just had,” Gu Huiyuan remarked with a smile.

Lin Xinyan turned to look at her. “Do we know each other?”

“You may not know who I am, but I do know you,” Gu Huiyuan answered, still wearing the same smile.

Frowning slightly, Lin Xinyan pondered hard over the woman’s face and was sure she had never met her before.

“How did you learn about me, and who are you?” Lin Xinyan was very vigilant and careful when it came to strangers. While putting her bag on her lap, she fished out her phone.

It was so that she could phone someone for help immediately if anything bad happened.

Meanwhile, Gu Huiyuan watched her fumbling with her phone. *She’s such a vigilant and cautious woman.*

“Did you receive my wedding gift for you? Have you tried it on for your husband?”

Lin Xinyan looked stunned at once. *She was the one who sent me that nightdress? Who exactly is she? What is she up to? She is the sender Shen Peichuan didn't manage to find out.*

“Who exactly are you?” Clenching her fists tightly, Lin Xinyan was extremely antsy at the moment.

She had a vague feeling that the woman approached her with some ulterior motive.

“You don't have to know who I am because I'm just a woman living a tough life. While you're here for a pregnancy checkup, I'm here for...”

Gu Huiyuan pointed in the direction of the operation room. “I'm here for an abortion.”

She rose to her feet and continued, “I'm really, really envious of you. You have a husband who loves you, and your kid is going to be much-loved by the people around you. Meanwhile, I'm not allowed to give birth to my baby.”

“What're you trying to say? And, why're you telling me this?” Lin Xinyan confronted her in an icy voice.

“Nothing. I just need to share my agony with someone. After all, I'm a mistress and my baby has no right to be born. Besides, my baby's father is married with children. So, how can my baby exist alongside them? Perhaps, he only spent that fateful night with me in a moment of folly... I think he still loves his wife very much, judging from how good he treats her,” she said, trying to hint at something.

She turned around and walked away right after saying that.

The crease on Lin Xinyan's forehead deepened as she was puzzled by the woman's behavior.

What is she trying to imply?

She whipped out her phone and called Shen Peichuan.

Shen Peichuan was engaging in another phone call with his subordinates at the moment. They had been sent by Shen Peichuan to keep track of Gu Huiyuan's whereabouts, but they just lost her.

"What's wrong with you guys? How can something like this happen?" Shen Peichuan reprimanded sternly.

"I think she must have noticed me. The last place I saw her at was a public restroom, but she spent a very long time inside. By the time I went inside to look for her, she had already gone. I didn't think of following her into the women's restroom just now... It was my mistake."

"Fine. Just continue to follow her once you managed to track her down." Shen Peichuan was worried, thinking that the woman must be up to no good. Other than sending a gift to Lin Xinyan at her wedding ceremony, she was sharp enough to notice that she was being followed and was actually capable of getting rid of the shadows on her tail. Obviously, she was a very shrewd and cunning person.

At that juncture, Shen Peichuan's phone dinged, signaling that he had another phone call coming in. "Just track her down as quickly as possible," he instructed.

He ended the call and picked up the other call.

"It's me." Holding her phone, Lin Xinyan glanced around and made sure the coast was clear before saying, "I just found out who gave me that mysterious gift at the wedding reception."

Shen Peichuan was stunned to hear that. "H-How did you find that out?"

"I met her just now. She told me some really weird stuff and left right after that. Can you help me look into it?"

“Sure. Where did you meet her just now? Does Jinghao know about this?” he asked.

Now, Shen Peichuan was completely sure that Gu Huiyuan was trying to approach Lin Xinyan with a purpose. Whatever that purpose was, he was sure it would not be something positive.

“He doesn’t know as I have yet to tell him. Don’t forget to update me if you’ve got any lead.”

Shen Peichuan agreed.

At that juncture, Zong Jinghao made it back with her medical report. “Who’re you talking to?”

Lin Xinyan hung up her phone and told him she was having a phone call with Shen Peichuan.

“What’s the matter?” Noticing that her face was pale, Zong Jinghao helped her to her feet.

“There’s something I’ve been wanting to tell you – I received a gift on the day of our wedding ceremony from an unknown sender. So, I engaged Shen Peichuan to help me look into it.” She looked up him and asked, “Have you got my report?”

Zong Jinghao grunted his affirmation. Then, he took her to the consultation room to let the doctor have a look at the report.

According to the doctor, everything was fine and the baby was growing well and very healthy. The doctor reminded Lin Xinyan to stay upbeat and positive, and to visit the hospital for regular checkups.

Zong Jinghao acknowledged the doctor’s reminders.

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan appeared somewhat distracted as she had been trying to figure out what that woman meant.

When they got into their car, she was so absent-minded that she even forgot to fasten the seatbelt. When Zong Jinghao leaned over to help her with it, he asked, "What have you been thinking? You seem distracted."

Staring at his face only inches away from her, she called his name in a soft voice, "Jinghao."

"Yes?" He looked up to meet her gaze.

"Will you be able to control yourself in the face of temptations?" Zong Jinghao was in his thirties, an age when men were the most charming. Not only was he wise and mature, but he was also good-looking and loaded too. Lin Xinyan was sure there would be tons of women who were willing to offer themselves to him.

It went without saying that some of them could be attractive too.

Would he be tempted by them?

Zong Jinghao was starting the car engine with an impassive expression. Lin Xinyan's question obviously came as a surprise as their relationship had been going very steady at the moment. Besides, he could tell that she was trying to insinuate something to him. "Do you have no faith in me, or do you not faith in yourself?"

His phone in his trouser pocket vibrated at that moment. Taking it out, he found he just received a message from Shen Peichuan, who said, *My men lost track of Gu Huiyuan just now. She used the chance to meet Xinyan and tell her something weird. Xinyan just called and asked me to look into it.*

Zong Jinghao quickly typed a reply to him. *What did Gu Huiyuan say to her?*

Then, he pressed the button to send the message.

I have no clue what she said. Xinyan only told me she said something weird to her, but she did not share the specifics with me. Last time, she sent a nightdress to Xinyan. This time, I wonder whether she did say anything outrageous to Xinyan. Otherwise, Xinyan wouldn't have called me so soon.

Zong Jinghao sent him a reply, *Okay, I got it.*

He then put his phone aside and drove their way back to the hotel.

Lin Xinyan looked at him and wondered, "Who've you been texting with?"

"My phone is just there. You're free to check it for yourself," Zong Jinghao responded.

Lin Xinyan did not do as he said, but remained silent with her lips pursed. They had a quiet journey as Zong Jinghao did not utter a word too. Before long, they arrived at the hotel and returned to the presidential suite.

As soon as they entered the room, Zong Jinghao first tossed the car key and his phone onto the coffee table. After loosening his collar, he dragged Lin Xinyan over to the sofa and made her sit down.

"The woman who sent you that wedding gift is Gu Huiyuan, who's Gu Bei's sixth sister. Now that Gu Bei and Old Master Gu's become the target of the police investigation, I think their family has found out I was the culprit behind that. It's very obvious why they've been trying to approach you. They're either trying to turn you against me, or they're trying to sabotage you because you're my wife. What did she say to you? Did she say things that made you become suspicious of my fidelity?"

Lin Xinyan's eyes widened in shock in response. "She is someone from the Gu family?"

Zong Jinghao affirmed her question, "Yes. So, please tell me what she told you just now."

Lin Xinyan immediately felt ashamed of her paranoia just now. Holding her head low, she came clean, "She hinted to me that you might have had a relationship with her before."

"So, do you believe what she said?" Zong Jinghao raised his brows at her.

"Nope." She looked up at him and added, "I don't believe her. I'm only feeling insecure because I don't want to lose you."

She threw herself into his arms and buried her face into his chest. Fiddling with the buttons on his shirt with her fingers, she lamented in an agonized tone, "You're such an excellent man with so many woman around you, while I'm a mother of three. I'm really worried that you might decide to dump me one day. By the time that happens, I will feel very sorry for my children who will grow up without a father."

Zong Jinghao chuckled despite feeling exasperated. He pinched her chin to lift her head

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Lin Xinyan slapped his hand away from her face. "You're hurting me."

Zong Jinghao laughed in spite of his anger, "Is this your ploy to gain my sympathy?"

Lin Xinyan knew she shouldn't have been suspicious of him in the first place. In fact, she shouldn't even have allowed the seed of doubts to develop in her mind because as a married couple, they should just trust each other completely.

She had always trusted Zong Jinghao previously even on occasions when she received photos of him behaving intimately with other women. However, this time was different. Gu Huiyuan was really brilliant at dropping hints to make Lin Xinyan fall for her trick.

Lin Xinyan admitted that she was nearly fooled by Gu Huiyuan because she was being too careless.

Since it was her mistake, she did not mind admitting it.

She took the initiative to sit down on Zong Jinghao's lap and twine her arms around his neck. Nuzzling up against him, she pleaded coquettishly, "So, is my ploy working fine?"

Zong Jinghao gazed at her. Even though he was not pleased with how she was suspicious of his fidelity, he couldn't bear to criticize her too harshly, seeing how pitiful she looked. "That ploy is not working because I don't have much sympathy, to begin with. Why don't you try to seduce me instead?"

Lin Xinyan chuckled, "Do you think I'm attractive enough to seduce you?"

Zong Jinghao lifted her off and carried her to the bedroom. "If I don't think you're attractive, will I even think of sleeping with you every single day?"

Lin Xinyan struggled hard to get away from him. "Why're you bringing me to the bedroom in broad daylight?"

"To show that you're attractive to me." Zong Jinghao closed the door.

Lin Xinyan rejected, "I don't want to do it."

"What is it that you don't want to do?"

"What're you going to do to me then?" Lin Xinyan asked him back.

"Well, since you've succeeded in seducing me, what else do you think I'm going to do to you?"

"I'm tired." Lin Xinyan tried to come up with various excuses to dissuade him. "Besides, doing it too frequently is not good to the baby."

He had been using the excuse of their newlywed status to get her to make love to him. Although she had already been pregnant for six months and her condition had been stable, they really shouldn't risk it.

"Fine. I'll just hug you without doing anything naughty." With that, Zong Jinghao drew her into his embrace. Immediately, he dismissed all the dirty ideas in his mind right after Lin Xinyan mentioned the baby.

He brushed his lips against hers and whispered, "Let's stop having babies after this one."

"Are you suggesting this for your lust or because you care about me?"

“Of course, the latter.” Zong Jinghao tightened his arms around her. When he was on his way to collect her medical report at the hospital just now, he passed by the delivery room. His heart gave a lurch when he heard the agonized wailings and screaming coming from the women going through labor pain inside. He reckoned that the process must be extremely painful to make a bunch of women scream like that.

“Did you cry when you gave birth to Ruixi and Xichen?”

Snuggling in his arms, Lin Xinyan muttered, “I did, but I didn’t scream. I remember there was a lady who kept on cursing her husband during her labor. That was super hilarious.”

“Please feel free to curse me if it hurts when you’re giving birth to our baby this time,” Zong Jinghao proposed affectionately.

Lin Xinyan chortled, “I’m not going to do that; it’s too embarrassing.”

Suddenly, she changed the topic of their conversation. “Let’s go home tomorrow, shall we?”

It was not appropriate of them to leave all the senior members of their family behind at the villa for too long a time.

Zong Jinghao agreed, “Things will get dangerous and uncertain soon as the matter concerning Old Master Gu and Gu Bei has yet to come to an end. So, please don’t go out if I’m not with you. I’m worried they might get desperate and harm you.”

Although he would be keeping an eye on the people of the Gu family, he had to take every precaution he could to make sure Lin Xinyan was safe. He knew he could only let down his guard after everything was settled.

Lin Xinyan understood him well as she just witnessed a vivid example of what they might do to her in their desperation through Gu Huiyuan.

On hindsight, she couldn't believe she was dumb enough to nearly fall for Gu Huiyuan's trick just now.

On the following day, Zong Jinghao left for the office while Lin Xinyan headed back to the villa. As soon as she was back, she went to look for Qin Ya immediately.

She wanted to ask Qin Ya about her relationship with Su Zhan.

Keeping her eyes downcast, Qin Ya replied, "We decided to start our relationship afresh. In fact, I should have listened to your advice earlier by telling him the truth. It turns out that it wasn't that difficult to come clean with him as I imagined."

Lin Xinyan patted her shoulder soothingly. "Still, I'm glad that you guys got back together."

"By the way, Uncle and I are going back to C City tomorrow," Qin Ya announced.

That was a decision made jointly by her and Shao Yun. Shao Yun had been having a lot on his plate lately and he really needed someone to help him manage his store in C City.

"What about Su Zhan?" Lin Xinyan asked, wondering whether the couple were going to part ways again so soon after they patched things up.

"I've told him about that." Although they had decided to patch things up, they wanted to take their time to work on their relationship and their future together. They didn't get to do all that before because everything happened too fast when they first started dating each other. Their plan was to visit Grandma Su together when both of them were ready.

"He's okay with you leaving?" Lin Xinyan pressed on.

“Yup, he’s fine with it,” Qin Ya answered with her lips pursed. Ever since they got back together, Su Zhan had been treating Qin Ya’s words as if they were royal decrees. He had never said no to any of her requests so far.

“See how great things are going right now? You could have spared the two of you so much torture if you told him the truth earlier.”

Qin Ya kept her eyes downcast without uttering a word. Deep down inside, she felt guilty for making everyone worry about her because she was too much of a coward to face the truth.

Later that night, Su Zhan visited the villa and brought a huge bag of toys for the kids. He was there partly to inform everyone about Qin Ya and him, and partly to thank everyone for looking after him when he was in the city.

“Did you invite Peichuan to join us?” Lin Xinyan asked Su Zhan, seeing that basically everyone was there except Shen Peichuan.

Su Zhan answered, “I called him, but he said he was busy. I think Captain Song invited him to his house for dinner too. His boss really thinks very highly of him and treats him quite well.”

It was true that Captain Song admired Shen Peichuan. a great deal. Otherwise, he wouldn’t deem Shen Peichuan as his ideal future son-in-law.

Although Captain Song told Shen Peichuan to visit him at his place to talk about work, it was actually an excuse to create a chance for Shen Peichuan to get closer to his daughter.

On top of that, Captain Song decided to make his intention clear this time.

Halfway through dinner, Captain Song suddenly said, “Peichuan, you know that I’ve always thought very highly of you, don’t you?”

Shen Peichuan agreed, “Yes. Captain Song, I must say you have always taken care of m.”

Captain Song took a swig of wine before steeling himself to do this. If his wife and his daughter had not been pestering him to do this for a long time, he would not have agreed to have this discussion at all. After all, he was willing to do anything for his daughter’s sake. “I’m not sure whether you are aware of this – Yaxin seems to be quite fond of you too.”

Shen Peichuan froze for a moment before he realized what Captain Song meant.

“Uhm, I...”

“Please don’t get so uptight.” Captain Song took several seconds to rephrase his words. “Since you and I are so close to each other, let me get straight to the point with you here. Being wishy-washy isn’t my style at all too. As you know, Yaxin is a divorcee and I understand that she might not be good enough for you...”

“I certainly don’t think of her that way because I’m far from meeting her expectations too. Besides, I don’t think being a divorcee is something bad.” Frantically, Shen Peichuan added, “It’s not Yaxin’s fault to have an ex-husband who couldn’t stay faithful to his relationship.”

Captain Song let out a sigh of relief. “I’m very glad that you actually think that.”

Shen Peichuan did not respond to Captain Song, as he already had a rough idea of what he was going to say next. All at once, his mind was in a turmoil and he was at a loss.

“Peichuan, you’re not getting any younger now. Why don’t you... think about it?” Captain Song’s face reddened after saying that. As Shen Peichuan’s superior, he felt really embarrassed to hard-sell his divorced daughter to him.

“Just forget what I said just now if you don’t think it’s a good idea,” Captain Song added in the end.

Captain Song's approach came too unexpected that Shen Peichuan did not even know how to turn him down.

Captain Song really looked after him well at work and Song Yaxin was indeed a nice girl. However, marriage had never been on his agenda ever since his last attempt at getting married failed.

"Come on, let's drink and forget about what I said." Captain Song filled up Shen Peichuan's glass with wine.

Meanwhile, Shen Peichuan remained silent.

Captain Song then lifted his glass and clinked with Shen Peichuan's. "Cheers!"

Shen Peichuan took his glass and said after a moment of contemplation, "Captain Song, this is too sudden and I'm sorry that I don't have an answer for you right now."

"Please don't fret about it. I know you deserve a woman much better than Yaxin." Captain Song did not make that statement just to please Shen Peichuan. In fact, he genuinely thought that a divorced woman was inferior to single ladies. He applied his archaic mindset to all women, including his own daughter.

On the other hand, Captain Song really admired Shen Peichuan, who was not only single, but was also a righteous gentleman.

If he were not Song Yaxin's father, he would not have encouraged Shen Peichuan to get a divorced woman as his wife.

Shen Peichuan looked like he was in a dilemma. "Please don't say that. As this idea came too sudden, I really need some time to think about it."

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“Sure! You can take your time to consider it.” Captain Song lamented, “I was making such a fool out of myself just now.”

Then, he added, “However, I’m willing to do anything for my daughter. All the parents in the world would do the same for their children too, wouldn’t they?”

Refilling Captain Song’s glass with more wine, Shen Peichuan responded, “I understand.”

Shen Peichuan knew Captain Song well enough to be sure that Captain Song would not hold a grudge against him even if he rejected his daughter in the end. For a person with a big ego, it must have taken Captain Song a lot of determination to even bring up such an idea to him.

“Please don’t sweat over this.” Captain Song lifted his glass of wine and downed its content at one go.

Shen Peichuan shook his head.

After dinner, Song Yaxin volunteered to give him a ride home. “Since you’re drunk, just let me drive you home.”

Shen Peichuan glanced at her with some hesitation before nodding in agreement.

Watching the two youngsters go, Captain Song sighed ruefully. Mrs. Song, who found that irritating, snapped, “Why’re you looking so blue? I’m sure Peichuan will agree to go out with Yaxin. Our daughter is perfect for him as she’s beautiful and well-educated.”

In response, Captain Song cast an icy glance at his wife. "She doesn't deserved a man like Peichuan because she's a divorcee."

Mrs. Song was left speechless. "Being a divorcee isn't a big deal in this modern age. Doesn't Peichuan have an ex-girlfriend too?"

Captain Song placed his hands behind his back and made his way to the bedroom. "I'm not in the mood to argue with you."

Mrs. Song did not get into a fight with him, considering that he had done more than enough by having that conversation with Shen Peichuan just now.

For a man who had valued his pride more than everything else, she knew Captain Song must be in a foul mood after embarrassing himself in front of his subordinate just now.

Therefore, Mrs. Song went on to clean up the dining table.

Meanwhile at the courtyard of the house, Shen Peichuan got into Song Yaxin's car.

"Remember to fasten the seat belt," Song Yaxin reminded him.

Shen Peichuan did not hear her because he was too absorbed in his own thoughts. Squinting his eyes, he was massaging his temples in an attempt to clear up the mess in his mind.

Thinking that he must be too drunk to respond to her, Song Yaxin leaned over to fasten the seatbelt for him. Just as her body was inches away from him, Shen Peichuan suddenly realized what she was saying just now. "I can do it myself," he said quickly.

Smiling, Song Yaxin drew away from him. "Are you drunk or are you thinking about what my Dad just told you?"

Shen Peichuan told her he was drunk.

“Well, I won’t let him drink with you again next time then,” Song Yaxin commented with a smile.

Shen Peichuan only let out a chuckle without answering her.

The rest of the journey was quiet as Song Yaxin did not utter a word.

Before long, they arrived at Shen Peichuan’s place. Just as he was about to bid her farewell, he saw her getting out of the car too.

“I’d like to visit your place. You aren’t going to turn me down, are you?” Song Yaxin smiled.

To be honest, Song Yaxin was fairly good-looking and she was excellent in many aspects.

However, Shen Peichuan did not have any romantic feelings toward her, and he only saw her as a friend.

“Are you really going to turn me down?” The smile on Song Yaxin’s face stiffened as she had never been rejected by any man before.

Despite being a divorcee, she was still attractive and highly sought after. A lot of men out there were keen on marrying her because of her influential and powerful father.

However, she only had her eyes on Shen Peichuan.

“Of course not. This way, please.” Shen Peichuan walked in front of her and led the way. She quickly caught up and entered his place together.

More often than not, the place where a single man resided would be messy as no one was there to help them clean up. Surprisingly, Shen Peichuan's apartment was spick-and-span. During his off days, he would clean up his place because he preferred it to be spotless and tidy.

"Do you hire cleaners to help you clean up this place?" Song Yaxin asked after taking a seat on the sofa.

Meanwhile, Shen Peichuan poured her a glass of water. "No, I don't."

"Who's been helping you to keep this place so clean then? Have you been doing it yourself?" Shen Yaxin smiled.

Shen Peichuan replied, "It's not that hard because I live alone and I don't really have much stuff. Here you go."

Song Yaxin took the glass of water from him and made her way to the window. The apartment units in this building were built with some distance between each other for privacy. A large area of the building was covered with greenery. Besides, residents at the upper levels were blessed with an unobstructed and breathtaking view of the city. "Your apartment is quite nice."

"A friend of mine helped me choose this place," Shen Peichuan answered.

It was Su Zhan who recommended this place to him. Indeed, it was not bad location-wise.

Just then, Song Yaxin spun around to face him. "Peichuan, will you be my boyfriend? I really like you a lot."

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“Yaxin...” Shen Peichuan wanted to make it clear once and for all.

“I really like you, Peichuan. Please don’t reject me.” Song Yaxin hugged his waist.

Shen Peichuan pulled her arms apart and said, “Please don’t do this.”

Song Yaxin refused to let go and held him tighter. “Please don’t push me away. Please...”

“I tried hard to ask my dad to bring up this matter with you. I don’t know what to do if you reject me. Are you disgusted with me as I’ve married before?” She buried her face in Shen Peichuan’s chest.

Shen Peichuan said, “That’s not it.”

He really didn’t have any feelings toward Song Yaxin, and it just felt inappropriate for her to hug him like that.

If I like you, it doesn’t matter if you’re a divorcee.

You don’t have to be a virgin, either.

“It’s late. You should go back now.” Shen Peichuan didn’t know where to put his hands, as he didn’t want to touch her.

“No. I won’t release you if you don’t say yes.” Song Yaxin didn’t bother about her image. She just wanted Shen Peichuan. *No matter what, I must have you as my husband.*

I've missed out once. So I won't let go anymore.

Shen Peichuan asked directly, "Yaxin, do you not care that I don't like you?"

He didn't know how to convince her to give up, so he told her how he felt.

Song Yaxin's body froze as his words were an enormous blow to her. She raised her head and said, "I believe feelings can change."

Can feelings grow over time?

If they can, then I'll accept her.

Shen Peichuan said, "Alright, then."

That was fast. Song Yaxin replied in disbelief, "Really?"

"I don't lie." Shen Peichuan nodded.

Song Yaxin found his serious demeanor very adorable. *Why didn't I notice this part of him before?*

If only I knew he is the one, maybe we could've had a child by now.

"I'll go home and tell my parents. I'll get going!" Elated, Song Yaxin let go of her grip and got ready to leave.

Shen Peichuan nodded and said, "I'm not sending you off, then. Be careful on your way home."

Song Yaxin paused in her tracks and turned to look at him. "Why don't you persuade me to stay?"

Shen Peichuan was at a loss for words, as he was puzzled.

Why would I persuade her to stay?

We ate dinner, and it's already so late into the night.

Song Yaxin chuckled. "Perhaps, ask me to stay for the night?"

Shen Peichuan remained speechless.

"Silly, I'm just teasing you. I'll take my leave now. Don't stay up too late." Song Yaxin stifled her laughter.

After finishing her words, she walked to the door.

Shen Peichuan stayed frozen in place for a while. Finally, after coming back to his senses, he walked to the door and bade her goodbye.

Song Yaxin said, "Rest early. Goodbye."

Shen Peichuan nodded in response and closed the door.

He sighed, as he felt like everything was a dream.

This is for the best. She may be the most suitable woman for me. Plus, Captain Song spoke on her behalf.

I feel bad to turn Captain Song down, as he took care of me all these times.

And... I can't be single forever.

Sitting on the sofa, Shen Peichuan felt he was self-comforting with all those thoughts he had. After gulping down a glass of water, he murmured, "Song

Yaxin's actually quite nice. We have known each other for a long time, so living together shouldn't be too bad, right?"

Suddenly, he laughed and pointed at his head. *I'm still self-consoling.*

Early in the morning on the next day, a phone call from Su Zhan awoke Shen Peichuan. When he answered the phone, Su Zhan immediately said, "Peichuan, I have something to discuss with you."

"What's the matter?" Shen Peichuan just woke up, so his mind was still in a mess.

Su Zhan said, "I made up with Qin Ya." Shen Peichuan could feel Su Zhan beaming with delight from the mobile phone. "Congrats!"

"Why does your boss keep inviting you to his house? Don't tell me he wants you to be his son-in-law." On the way to Shen Peichuan's house, Su Zhan grinned, creasing the corners of his eyes in his car, the wound was still there.

If Shen Peichuan were there in the car, he would ask Su Zhan if it hurt.

Shen Peichuan asked, "So did you call me just to inform me of your good news?"

Su Zhan said, "No. Ya's going back to C City today, and you're coming with me to see her off."

"She's your girlfriend, not mine. Why do I have to be there?" Shen Peichuan was baffled.

Su Zhan explained, "You weren't around when I announced us reconciling yesterday. So today, you must be there to witness it as you're my buddy."

You already told me on the phone call. And you tell me I have to see it with my own eyes?

Are you crazy?

“Come pick me up. I don’t have my car here with me.” Shen Peichuan gave in to this pitiful man who finally made up with the love of his life.

Su Zhan said, “I’m already downstairs. Come down quick.”

Shen Peichuan was shocked. “So fast?”

Su Zhan urged, “Stop wasting time and come down quick.”

Shen Peichuan replied, “Give me ten minutes.”

He hung up after saying his words and got ready in ten minutes.

He went down and walked out of the neighborhood. Su Zhan parked his car beside the road, leaving the car window open while humming a tune.

Shen Peichuan opened the door and got in the car. “To part ways right after reconciling? Aren’t you afraid that her feelings will change?”

Su Zhan said confidently, “She won’t. If she does, she would’ve done it long ago.”

Shen Peichuan took a glance at him and said, “Look at you.”

“Hehe. I enjoy doing it.” Su Zhan didn’t bother to conceal his good mood in front of Shen Peichuan.

Shen Peichuan chuckled. “You’re hopeless.”

Su Zhan stifled his laughter and said seriously, “Ya’s body isn’t well enough to give birth, so we won’t have kids in the future. Never mention children in front of her. I don’t want her to feel bad.”

He knew Qin Ya didn't tell him about this because she refused to accept it. Plus, Qin Ya was sensitive, so Su Zhan feared she would be sad when someone asked her about having kids.

Shen Peichuan frowned. "Why?"

Su Zhan went silent. After a while, he lowered his voice and said, "She had a miscarriage previously."

Shen Peichuan kept quiet but patted Su Zhan's shoulder to comfort him.

Su Zhan reminded, "Don't make her feel that you're concerned or pitying her. And remember not to mention kids."

Shen Peichuan nodded and said yes.

When they arrived at the airport, Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao were talking to Shao Yun while Qin Ya was playing with Zong Yanxi.

Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao woke up early to send Qin Ya and Shao Yun off, and Zong Yanxi insisted on following them, so they brought her along.

"Uncle Su, Uncle Shen." When Zong Yanxi saw Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan, she immediately greeted them.

Qin Ya turned to look at them. She smiled at Shen Peichuan and said, "Why are you here too?"

Shen Peichuan smiled. "It's all thanks to your Su Zhan. He insisted on me coming here to make it up for not being there yesterday. Oh yeah, congratulations!"

Qin Ya lowered her head and said, "It's nothing worth that."

“We made up, so it’s necessary! Keep your words and don’t think of denying it.”
Su Zhan sat beside her and hugged her waist.

Sensing a hint, Shen Peichuan immediately carried Zong Yanxi and said, “Let’s not disturb them.”

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“Uncle Su, are you going to kiss Aunt Qin?” Zong Yanxi’s eyes were wide opened as they blinked.

Su Zhan said, “Of course. I wish to do that...”

Before he can finish his sentence, Qin Ya glared at him, and he immediately stopped.

Qin Ya scolded, “She’s just a kid, so she’s innocent. Are you one? Look around you.”

Su Zhan immediately apologized, “My bad. I’ll pay attention to the surroundings next time.”

Looking at how Su Zhan was squirming in front of his girlfriend, Shen Peichuan laughed at him. He carried Zong Yanxi somewhere else where they wouldn’t disturb everyone.

Shao Yun asked, “Did you see the news?”

Zong Jinghao hummed in response. It was actually Guan Jing who reminded him of the news.

Confused, Lin Xinyan asked, “What news?”

Old Master Gu’s case had been decided by a bench of judges. On the previous night, the official social media platform posted the punishment for him.

Even if the people involved didn't tell the truth, everything resurfaced after the polices' investigation. He was convicted of corruption and bribery, and the amount of money involved was two hundred million, so he was to be executed.

Everyone was thrilled to hear this.

Shao Yun patted Zong Jinghao's shoulders and said, "Take care of Yan and also, come to C City when you have time."

Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan's shoulders and said, "I'll be there."

"Flight A950 to C City will depart shortly. All passengers, please check your ticket at the boarding gate."

"I'll be off. You guys can go back home now." Shao Yun waved his hands.

Su Zhan and Qin Ya walked toward them. Qin Ya hugged Lin Xinyan and said, "I'll go back first and I will look after the store, so don't worry. Treat my godson well, alright?"

Lim Xinyan hummed in reply.

Soon, they reached the checkpoint.

As their figures slowly blended in with the crowd, Lin Xinyan felt crestfallen.

"Uncle, Qin Ya, I'll definitely go to C City and meet you guys."

"Okay. We'll be waiting for you." Qin Ya waved her hands while Shao Yun's eyes turned red with tears. "Damn..."

Then they turned to leave.

It's quite a sentimental fact that everything will eventually end. But we'll meet again.

“Goodbye, Uncle Shao and Aunt Qin. I’ll miss you guys, but I’ll visit you guys with my brother.” Zong Yanxi held her hands up high, waving at them.

The entrance was flooded with people, so they had no choice but to go in right away.

Su Zhan stood beside the entrance and took out his phone to send a message to Qin Ya: *Ya, I miss you already. What should I do?*

Upon sitting in her seat, Qin Ya’s mobile phone beeped. She saw the messages and replied: *There’s nothing you can do.*

After replying to Su Zhan’s message, she turned off her phone.

Reading her reply, Su Zhan chuckled like a child. Even if it wasn’t sweet talk, he was happy and satisfied that she didn’t ignore him.

Shen Peichuan looked at him coldly. “You laugh like a fool.”

“I don’t.” Suddenly, Su Zhan’s mobile phone rang. It was from the Law firm. There was a tough case, and no lawyer dared to take it, so Su Zhan’s help was needed. He replied with “I understand” before hanging up. Turning to Shen Peichuan, he said, “I have an emergency, so I have to go. You can get a ride in Jinghao’s car.”

With that, he left.

“What an unreliable person.” Shen Peichuan said subconsciously.

Zong Jinghao gave him his car keys and said, “Use my car.”

Shen Peichuan asked, “How about you?”

Zong Jinghao explained, “I have other matters to attend to, so I’m not going back right now. Can you help me send Yanxi back to the villa?”

“Alright.” Shen Peichuan nodded and walked away.

After taking two steps, he paused in his tracks and said, “Do you guys have time tonight? I want to treat you guys to a meal.”

“Is there anything?” Lin Xinyan looked at him and asked.

Shen Peichuan nodded. “I wish to introduce my girlfriend to you guys.”

Lin Xinyan’s eyes widened in surprise. “You have a girlfriend?”

Shen Peichuan thought since he agreed and accepted Song Yaxin as a girlfriend, then he should introduce her to his friends.

He nodded in response and said, “Yeah.”

“Sure. We have time for something so important.” Lin Xinyan grinned.

Shen Peichuan said, “I’ll send you the address after I’ve booked the place.”

Lin Xinyan nodded and reminded him to drive safely.

Shen Peichuan said, “Don’t worry. I’ll definitely bring Yanxi back home safely.”

With that, he carried Zong Yanxi and left the airport. Zong Yanxi leaned on his shoulder and pouted. “Haih, I was abandoned.”

“Don’t talk nonsense. Who has abandoned you?” Shen Peichuan placed her on the child seat after opening the backseat door.

Zong Yanxi pouted. “My Mommy and Daddy, of course. They are always together... They don’t want me and my brother anymore.”

Shen Peichuan offered, "You can live with me..."

"No way!" Before Shen Peichuan could finish his sentence, Zong Yanxi hurriedly interrupted him. Although she spent little time with her Daddy and Mommy, she was still happy.

Hmmph! I'm not leaving Daddy and Mommy to live with him.

After starting the engine, Shen Peichuan thought of Song Yaxin, so he took out his phone to give her a call, but he didn't have her number. He had no choice but to call Captain Song.

On the previous night, Song Yaxin got home and told her parents about Shen Peichuan accepting her to be his girlfriend.

Mrs. Song was smiling from ear to ear, but Captain Song only heaved a faint sigh.

Noticing his reaction, Mrs. Song frowned and asked, "You don't want our daughter to be with Shen Peichuan?"

Captain Song grunted and didn't make a reply. *It will be best if they can get together. But I can't seem to shake this feeling of guilt off me.*

The moment he saw Shen Peichuan's number on the screen, he immediately answered the call.

He wanted to find out about Shen Peichuan's thoughts on this matter, but before he could say anything, Shen Peichuan's voice could be heard from the phone. "I'm looking for Yaxin, but I don't have her number."

Captain Song looked at her daughter, who was peeling an apple, and handed her the phone. "Peichuan's asking for you, but he didn't have your number."

Song Yaxin immediately took the phone and smiled. “Peichuan.”

Shen Peichuan said, “I’m treating my friends to a meal tonight, and I’m thinking of introducing you to them. Are you free tonight?”

“Sure. Oh yeah, where are you right now? Can you come and fetch me? I don’t want to drive to work. Also, you can take your car.” *Since he promised me, and we’re in a relationship now. So, we must stay in touch to nurture our feelings.*

The neighborhood Song Yaxin lived in was in the same direction as the villa, so Shen Peichuan said, “Sure. You wait for me downstairs. I’ll be there in a moment.”

After about ten minutes, Shen Peichuan arrived in the neighborhood, while Song Yaxin was already waiting downstairs. She thought Shen Peichuan would ride a taxi, as his car was parked at her house. So, she didn’t realize his arrival before he called for her.

After she got into the car, she asked, “Who’s car is this? Yours?”

Before Shen Peichuan could answer, Zong Yanxi replied, “It’s my Daddy’s car.”

Song Yaxin finally noticed there was someone in the car’s backseat and furrowed her brows. *Here goes my private time with Shen Peichuan. Who’s this rascal?*

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Although Song Yaxin quickly concealed her expression, Zong Yanxi saw everything. She was initially happy to see her, but then she stifled her smile. “Aunt, are you not happy?”

Or else you won't frown.

Song Yaxin hurriedly forced a smile. “Not at all. I’m happy to see you. What’s your name, little girl?”

“I’m Zong Yanxi.” Zong Yanxi blinked her eyes, looking at Song Yaxin.

“Oh. Why are you bringing her with you?” Song Yaxin turned to look at Shen Peichuan.

Shen Peichuan replied, “I’m sending her back home initially. Your house is in the same direction where I’m going.”

Song Yaxin fell silent.

You'll choose your friend's child before your girlfriend?

She said, “Peichuan...”

“Hmm? What’s the matter?” Shen Peichuan took a glance at her and focused on driving.

Song Yaxin was unhappy, but she didn’t show it. “Nothing. I didn’t know you have a friend who is so rich.”

This car would cost a lot.

I never knew he has a friend this rich.

Shen Peichuan smiled when he heard Song Yaxin saying the truth, as Zong Jinghao was really wealthy.

“Uncle Shen, are you busy today? If you’re not, can you bring me out?” Zong Yanxi looked at Shen Peichuan.

Song Yaxin turned back and said, “Uncle Shen has to go to work. He doesn’t have time for you.”

Zong Yanxi leaned on the seat and said, “I’m asking Uncle Shen, not you. So why are you answering? How impolite.”

Song Yaxin’s face immediately turned dark. Shen Peichuan noticed her expression and lowered his voice. “She’s just a kid.”

After keeping her emotions in check, Song Yaxin said, “I know. I didn’t say anything. You’re so protective of her. And I’m the one you should defend, not her.”

Zong Yanxi pouted as she looked at Song Yaxin from behind. *I don’t really like her. She’s so pretentious.*

She was obviously angry, but she refused to admit it.

Hmmph!

Song Yaxin said, “Where should we have dinner with your friends? I know a good place, and their food tastes great too.”

“Then you decide.” Shen Peichuan left it to Song Yanxi to decide, as it wasn’t a big deal to him.

Song Yaxin got closer to him and rested her head on his shoulder. “Peichuan, you’re so nice.”

He really is a nice guy. After promising me yesterday, he’s introducing me to his friends. This makes me feel accepted and it gives me a sense of security.

Like many other teens who were dating each other, the girl would always ask the boy if he would share their pictures with their friends. And Shen Peichuan said yes and gave her assurance.

Shen Peichuan wasn’t used to her coming so close to him, so he felt uncomfortable. But he didn’t push her away. He made a promise, and it was his responsibility to acknowledge her identity as his girlfriend. So, there wasn’t anything about being nice.

Zong Yanxi stared at Song Yaxin. *Tsk! This woman is so disgusting. Did she not see I’m still here? She isn’t keeping her behavior in check.*

She really disliked Song Yaxin and despised everything she did.

Suddenly, Song Yaxin asked, “Peichuan, where’s your phone?”

Shen Peichuan replied, “It’s in my pocket.”

Song Yaxin’s hand snaked into his pocket, searching for the phone. Feeling the sudden contact, Shen Peichuan quickly put her hands away. “I’ll get it for you,” he said.

Song Yaxin’s hand froze, and she smiled. “I’m just going to save my number on your phone. Don’t be so sensitive.”

Shen Peichuan didn't say anything and handed her his phone.

Song Yaxin took it over and asked, "What's the password?"

"There's no password." Shen Peichuan wasn't used to setting passwords on his phone.

Song Yaxin slid the screen with her finger and smiled. "What nickname should I save? Is 'My Girlfriend' okay?"

Shen Peichuan said indifferently, "Whatever, anything's fine with me."

Song Yaxin took a glance at him when she felt he was in low spirits. "Are you not happy?"

Shen Peichuan replied, "No."

Song Yaxin thought little about it. "I'll save it as my name. Do you know Jiangnan Restaurant? I'll book a table for us."

Shen Peichuan mumbled a response. Soon, they arrived at Song Yaxin's workplace. She got out of the car and said, "Drive safely. Call me when you're free."

Shen Peichuan said, "Okay."

When Shen Peichuan drove the car away, Zong Yanxi asked, "Uncle Shen, is she your girlfriend?"

He replied, "Yes, she is."

Zong Yanxi said, "She's not good enough for you." *Uncle Shen's so likable, but she's rather hateful.*

Shen Peichuan found her words hilarious. “How do you know? Besides, I’m not nice either.”

Zong Yanxi retorted, “Who said you’re not nice? You’re the best, Uncle Shen!”

Shen Peichuan doubted, “Really?”

Zong Yanxi said, “Of course. Isn’t the atmosphere better when she’s not here? We’re more relaxed.”

Shen Peichuan’s mind flashed back to the time when Song Yaxin was in the car. *It is true. When she was around, the atmosphere felt tense.*

Shen Peichuan said, “Perhaps... It’s because we aren’t close enough. When we do, we will feel more relaxed interacting with her.”

Zong Yanxi shook his head. “Uncle Shen, you said Uncle Su is a fool, but I think you’re more like one.”

Shen Peichuan burst into laughter. “You talk so harshly. Be careful or else, you won’t find a boyfriend when you grow up.”

“I don’t need one. I’m going to be with Daddy and Mommy forever.” Zong Yanxi lifted her head valiantly.

Upon reaching the villa, Shen Peichuan carried Zong Yanxi all the way into the house. Baymax wagged its tail and pounced on them. “Put me down.” Zong Yanxi kicked downward, as she wanted to play with her dog.

Shen Peichuan put her down slowly.

Zong Yanxi hugged Baymax and stroke its head. Drinking his tea, Zong Qifeng noticed it was Shen Peichuan rather than Zong Jinghao, so he asked, “Why are you the one who brings her home?”

Shen Peichuan replied, "Jinghao has some matters to attend to. Well, I shall take my leave now."

Zong Qifeng hummed in reply as he walked over to his granddaughter, caressing her head. He asked, "Is it hot outside?"

Zong Yanxi shook and lifted her head after that. "Grandpa, I met Uncle Shen's girlfriend today."

"Oh? Peichuan has a girlfriend?" The news surprised Zong Qifeng, but he was happy for Shen Peichuan.

Zong Yanxi said, "Yeah. But I don't like that woman. She likes to pretend, and Uncle Shen doesn't seem passionate when he was with her."

Zong Qifeng chuckled and carried his granddaughter. "You're still so young, yet you know about passion?"

Zong Yanxi replied confidently, "Of course. I'm not stupid."

Zong Qifeng was amused with Zong Yanxi's attitude. "True. My granddaughter is smart. Who did you get your wisdom from?"

Zong Yanxi hugged her Grandpa's neck and said, "From Grandpa."

Looking at Zong Qifeng, who was laughing happily at the flattery of Zong Yanxi, Cheng Yuwen said enviously, "Look at the way you laugh."

Zong Qifeng didn't get mad. "I'm happy, so I laugh as I wish."

The kids accompanied the two elderly in the villa, so they didn't feel lonely and started bickering with each other.

The entire villa felt warm and had a lively atmosphere.

At Wanyue Group.

After leaving the airport, Zong Jinghao brought Lin Xinyan to the company.

“You are here to work, so why did you bring me here?” Lin Xinyan was dumbfounded. *He asked Shen Peichuan to send Yanxi back home, so I thought he had some business to attend to, but he actually wanted me to accompany him at work.*

“Why? Are you not willing to stay here with me?” Zong Jinghao opened the documents, but Lin Xinyan closed and took them over. “Of course. Because you don’t give me a salary.”

Zong Jinghao hugged her waist and placed her on his lap. “I’m yours. Are you still not satisfied?”

Lin Xinyan flipped through the documents and placed them aside, as she understood nothing written inside. She joked, “I like money more than you.”

“Is that so?” Zong Jinghao squeezed her thighs.

Lin Xinyan hissed at the pain and glared at him. “I’m telling the truth. Are you not willing to hear them?”

“Of course I don’t. Can money make you feel good? Should I prove that I’m more useful than money?” Zong Jinghao leaned in and smirked.

Lin Xinyan pushed his face. “We’re at the office. Take care of your image.”

“Then tell me, do you prefer money or me?” Zong Jinghao would not let it drop that easily.

“You.” Lin Xinyan cupped his face and gave him a kiss. “So, why do you bring me here?”

Zong Jinghao composed himself and said, "Some employees couldn't attend our wedding ceremony. We shall go meet them later."

There weren't enough tables for all the employees, so they invited only the higher-ups. *I'll have to introduce Lin Xinyan to them.*

Curling her lips into a faint smile, Lin Xinyan's eyes curved into crescent moons as she looked into his eyes while lifting his chin. "I see. So, you brought me here just to introduce me to your subordinates? And I thought you miss me and want me to stay with you."

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Zong Jinghao played along with her. He looked up at her, narrowing his eyes, and said in his magnetic and deep voice, "If I say that I miss you, would you allow me to do something in the office?"

Lin Xinyan's coquettish image was destroyed instantly, as she couldn't put up the act any longer. There's no way she could beat him in a battle of shamelessness.

She let go of his chin, but Zong Jinghao held her hand in place and chuckled. "Leaving right after teasing me?"

Lin Xinyan whined coquettishly at him. "I didn't tease you. Plus, there're no witnesses."

Zong Jinghao burst into laughter and said, "From now on, I'll take a video of everything you do to me as proof in the future."

Lin Xinyan didn't play around with him. Instead, she stood up from his lap. "Do your work. I'll wait for you at the side."

Zong Jinghao gripped her hand and refused to let go. "I'll look through the documents with you in my arms."

Lin Xinyan felt embarrassed. "What do we do if others see us?"

Zong Jinghao said righteously, "We are husband and wife, so they can't say anything."

Lin Xinyan was reluctant, but Zong Jinghao insisted and pulled her into his embrace, wrapping one of his arms around her waist while reading through the documents.

Knowing his personality, Lin Xinyan didn't struggle anymore. She made herself comfortable sitting on his legs. Many men were plump at his age, but he didn't have any paunch. All he had was a firm six-pack without an ounce of fat on his abdomen. Even women would be jealous of his figure.

Being swallowed by boredom, Lin Xinyan asked, "Don't you feel uncomfortable hugging me like this?"

Zong Jinghao lowered his gaze at her and replied, "I don't. I enjoy hugging you."

Lin Xinyan smiled when she leaned in his chest. "What do you think Shen Peichuan's girlfriend's like? She must be something to enlighten Peichuan this dense about relationships."

Shen Peichuan is a pretty nice man, but he's really dense when it comes to love.

He actually has a girlfriend! He even denied it the last time Su Zhan insisted on him having one.

She asked, "Have you met Sang Yu before?"

Zong Jinghao said no.

He saw her, but he forgot.

Su Zhan brought her to the company when things went wrong last time.

Lin Xinyan couldn't understand the documents, and she yawned as she grew tired. "When will you finish?"

Zong Jinghao patted her back and said, "Go ahead and sleep. I'll wake you once I'm done."

Lin Xinyan hummed in reply before closing her eyes.

Two hours had passed, and Zong Jinghao's legs were numb. However, Lin Xinyan was sleeping soundly in his arms, so he didn't move at all, as he didn't want to wake her.

"You should wake me up." Rubbing her eyes, Lin Xinyan got up from his chest. She gulped the glass of water from the table to relieve her dry throat after sleeping for a long time.

Zong Jinghao rubbed his numb legs and said, "You were sleeping so soundly, so I couldn't get myself to wake you up."

After putting the glass aside, Lin Xinyan hugged and kissed him. "Hubby, where do we go for lunch?"

Her calling him "hubby" shocked Zong Jinghao. "What did you call me just now?" And he looked at her in disbelief.

Lin Xinyan stood up straight and retorted, "Did I call you?"

Zong Jinghao laughed helplessly. "You're getting more and more cunning by the day."

"People describe foxes as cunning beings." Lin Xinyan supported herself along the table edge.

Zong Jinghao stood up and carried her in his arms. "You're a vixen."

Lin Xinyan swayed her calves, enjoying the princess-carry, his warmth, and his care. "Do you like a vixen like me?" She smiled gently.

"I'm bewitched by one, and I wish to sleep with her." Zong Jinghao placed her on the sofa. "Let's eat at the cafeteria."

Lin Xinyan nodded obediently and said, "Let's do as you say."

Zong Jinghao smiled and brushed her nose.

The lunch break for every employee was at ten past eleven. Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan were late for ten minutes, so when they arrived at the cafeteria, everyone was already there.

Guan Jing came later than them. He saw them while holding his meal tray and greeted them. “Mr. Zong, Mrs. Zong.”

Surprised at their presence, he asked, “Are you guys here for lunch?”

Lin Xinyan smiled. “What else can we do here?”

Guan Jing chuckled. *The food in the cafeteria is delicious, but they can never beat those in restaurants.*

At that moment, someone stood up and said, “Congratulations, Mr. Zong.”

On their wedding day, Zong Jinghao gave every employee a bonus of two thousand in a red envelope.

They got all warm and chummy and addressed Lin Xinyan as Mrs. Zong.

Before they had their wedding reception, everyone knew their relationship, but they didn't dare to address Lin Xinyan simply.

But now, everyone in the country knew.

“Sit here. There are empty seats.” The secretary sat at a table and asked the couple to sit with her.

When they were busy in the past, Zong Jinghao always ate in the cafeteria, so everyone got used to it. But this was the first time the lady boss came here.

Somebody shifted and left an open space. "You can sit here too. We have some space left."

"Thank you, guys. But we'll sit here." Lin Xinyan smiled and pulled Zong Jinghao to the secretary's table.

The secretary is the first person to offer, so it is best to sit with her.

Everyone had a good impression of Lin Xinyan, as she was friendly and never behaved arrogantly. Now, she was with Zong Jinghao in the cafeteria, and they treated her with warmth and respect.

Lin Xinyan couldn't enjoy her meal as people went to greet them once they finished their food.

"Get used to it. We finally have a lady boss, so we're happy." Guan Jing finished his food and walked toward them. He took the chance to blend in with the two people greeting her and teased her.

I regret looking down on her. She's now so popular and well supported by others. Sure enough, I don't have a keen eye for people.

And that's why I couldn't become a boss, but an employee.

Zong Jinghao looked up at him. "Are you not busy?"

Guan Jing laughed awkwardly and said, "I'm here to say hi."

Before leaving the couple, he told Lin Xinyan, "See, he always pressures me."

Lin Xinyan laughed and bumped Zong Jinghao's shoulder. "You should treat your subordinates kindly."

"Don't listen to his nonsense." Zong Jinghao snorted coldly.

Lin Xinyan stayed at the company for the entire day. After receiving a call from Zong Yanxi, Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan got off work and went back home to fetch their daughter, who insisted on going with them to the restaurant.

By the time they arrived, Su Zhan was already there.

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Zong Jinghao pulled the chair out for Lin Xinyan and waited until she sat down before taking his own seat with his daughter in his arms.

Su Zhan looked at the time and said, "Shen Peichuan is putting on airs this time, huh? He's even late for his own treat."

"Maybe he's held up," replied Lin Xinyan. The Shen Peichuan she knew was not a time-blind man.

"Who could this girlfriend of his be? Hasn't Sang Yu left B City? Xinyan, do you have any idea who it might be?" Su Zhan suddenly remembered seeing him getting in a woman's car. *Could it be her?*

"It's not Sang Yu?" asked Lin Xinyan.

Shaking his head, Su Zhan replied, "She left..."

"I know who she is. I've met her." Zong Yanxi cut Su Zhan off and said smugly, taking pride with the fact that she was the first to meet her, even though their first encounter was a hellish unpleasant experience.

"Really?" Su Zhan asked with a smile, "Is she pretty?"

Zong Yanxi thought about it and replied, "Just so-so."

Regardless of how good one looked, with a bad impression, everything else was pointless.

Zong Yanxi disregarded her looks altogether and remembered only the displeasing experience with her.

As with what was unlikable about her, she couldn't really tell. She simply didn't like her.

Just then, two persons showed up at the door of the restaurant.

"It's terrible to be late when we're the one hosting." Shen Peichuan wasn't happy because he thought that Song Yaxin was too capricious. It was almost time already when Song Yaxin insisted on going home to change, causing them to be late eventually.

"It's my first time meeting your friends and if I dress horribly, wouldn't I be embarrassing you?" Song Yaxin knew as well that showing up late was not appropriate but she wanted to make a good impression on Shen Peichuan's friends on their first meeting.

"I was looking all scruffy and hideous; aren't you ashamed of bringing me to see your friends that way?"

Shen Peichuan could not counter what she said so he replied placidly, "What I value in people is their virtue, not the veneer. You are who you are and there's no need to care about how you look in others' eyes."

Song Yaxin pursed her lips and asked, "Are you angry?"

"I'm not. Alright now, we are here." Shen Peichuan signaled her to stop speaking while he pushed open the door of the private room and greeted the others with a smile, "We're so sorry for being late."

Song Yaxin was indeed pretty and her outfit was also tasteful and elegant. Taking Shen Peichuan's arms, she smiled and said, "Sorry, the traffic was congested on our way here so we're late."

Shen Peichuan furrowed his eyebrows in surprise that she actually lied.

It was clearly because she insisted on changing into another outfit that we're late. How could she lie that it was because of traffic congestion?

"It's okay, no worries." Su Zhan smiled and sized her up while raising his eyebrows. *It's really that woman.*

Shen Peichuan introduced him to Song Yaxin, "This is my friend, Su Zhan."

Song Yaxin put on a graceful smile. "Hello."

Su Zhan nodded lightly.

Meanwhile, Zong Yanxi lay on Zong Jinghao's shoulder and whispered in his ear, "Daddy, I don't like this Aunt. I despise her."

Zong Jinghao patted her back and lowered his voice, "Mind your manners."

Zong Yanxi pouted and replied in a low voice, "I'm just being honest."

"Xinyan, this is Song Yaxin, my girlfriend." Shen Peichuan led Song Yaxin to Lin Xinyan and introduced her.

"Hi," Song Yaxin smiled as she greeted and eyeballed Lin Xinyan for a while before she turned around and pretended to look at Zong Jinghao casually while checking him out.

Even though he was silent all the while, she had noticed this man since she came in.

It had never occurred to her that everyone in Shen Peichuan's circle was extraordinary.

Sure enough, excellent individuals got along with others who were equally excellent. She would have grabbed this precious man sooner if she had known about this circle of his.

Lin Xinyan replied with a smile, "Hello there."

Her impression of Song Yaxin was fine. *She's pretty and courteous.*

"We've been waiting for ages for you to arrive. Don't keep us hungrily waiting again."

"That's true. Come on, let's sit down quickly." Song Yaxin tugged at Shen Peichuan to sit down together.

Su Zhan was holding his phone in his hand so he snapped a picture of Shen Peichuan and Song Yaxin together in secret and sent it to Qin Ya.

Very soon, Qin Ya replied with a shocked emoji: *Who's the woman sitting next to Shen Peichuan?*

Su Zhan replied: *Make a guess.*

Qin Ya replied with a soaky emoji: *Forget it then.*

Su Zhan smiled and replied: *That's his girlfriend. He's introducing her to us today. How nice it would be if you were here. We'll be able to have dinner together then. How about this, I'll come to see you after dinner, okay?*

Qin Ya texted him back: What time is it now? Are you mad?

Su Zhan replied: *I want to have breakfast with you tomorrow.*

Though smiling while looking at the text message, Qin Ya sent out was rather unkind: *You must be crazy!*

Smiling, Su Zhan put away his phone.

“I know some of the signature dishes here. Do you have any dietary restrictions?” Song Yaxin turned to Lin Xinyan and added, “What would you like to eat? I heard people say that expectant mothers are picky about food.”

“Not me, I’m fine with anything,” Lin Xinyan answered.

“Well, I’ll make the order then.” Song Yaxin flipped through the menu when suddenly, Zong Yanxi started, “Aunt, you haven’t asked me yet.”

Song Yaxin paused for a while, then she quickly smiled and asked, “Well, what would you like to eat then?”

Lying in Zong Jinghao’s arms, Zong Yanxi uttered, “I don’t even know what is available in this restaurant. What am I to order?”

Song Yaxin reacted immediately by handing the menu over to her. “Have a look and see what you like to eat.”

Though smiling amiably, she hated Zong Yanxi deeply within. *How could this little girl be so annoying?*

What a spoilt brat!

Lin Xinyan frowned and patted her daughter. “Hey, please behave yourself. How could you talk to Aunt like that?”

“It doesn’t matter. She’s still young.” Song Yaxin was still trying to keep her graceful composure.

In fact, Zong Yanxi knew it was impolite and unkind to behave in such a way. But for some unknown reasons, she just disliked this Aunt so much. To her, it was the same as how much she liked Zhou Chunchun; both happened without a reason.

One likes someone without a reason, and it's the same with hating someone.

“Why don't we just let Yanxi order the dishes for our dinner tonight? Please order more since it's a rare chance for Uncle Shen to be footing the bill,” Su Zhan said as he winked at Zong Yanxi.

Zong Yanxi grabbed the menu and acted like a grown-up. She had only started going to school for a few days and could only recognize a few words. However, since pictures of the dishes were provided, she could point at them to order.

She beamed with joy. This menu is really not bad. Some menus have only words and no pictures, making it difficult for those who can't read to make an order.

She pointed at almost all the dishes which were not spicy because she had been used to rather bland cooking at home and her parents preferred eating food that was light and bland. Therefore, the dishes she ordered were mostly light flavored.

While waiting for the food to be served, Su Zhan asked, “Ms. Song, right?”

Song Yaxin smiled and nodded.

“Oh, then your father must be Captain Song, am I right?” Su Zhan finally got his head around it. Lin Xinyan and he was having the same question in mind. *How did this woman get her hands on such a droner like Shen Peichuan?*

And all of a sudden, it occurred to him that Shen Peichuan's superior's family name was also Song. *Could it be that this woman's father is Captain Song?*

Shen Peichuan did not like to talk about subjects that were related to his job.

Hence, Su Zhan only knew very little about this.

Song Yaxin replied with a smile, “Yes.”

“Hold on, something’s not right. Weren’t you already married?” Su Zhan recalled that there was once when Shen Peichuan told him he was attending a wedding ceremony and he asked whose wedding it was and then got the reply that it was his superior’s daughter who was getting married.

Song Yaxin’s face darkened almost instantly.

“I am divorced.” Song Yaxin smiled wryly. She felt uncomfortable to be asked about her marital status. Hence, she stood up and said, “Excuse me for a while, I need to use the washroom.”

With that, she left the room.

There was a brief silence at the table. No one seemed to have expected that she was divorced.

Su Zhan looked at Shen Peichuan. “She was the one who pursued you?”

Shen Peichuan nodded.

Su Zhan blew up right away. It was not because he felt awful about divorcing, instead, it was because he knew how respectful Shen Peichuan was toward his superior.

If it were a request from Captain Song, Shen Peichuan would most probably agree to it as a note of respect to him.

Earlier on, he was still glum due to Sang Yu’s desertion. Who would have thought he would flip-flop and eventually hooked up with Song Yaxin? It was strange enough, indeed.

“You’re not a good match for each other,” Su Zhan spoke his mind directly.

There was not much expression on Shen Peichuan's face. "I think we should be fine."

Su Zhan went silent and just stared at him.

Disturbed by his glare, Shen Peichuan asked, "Why are you looking at me like that?"

Su Zhan snorted, "Because you look so much like a sitting duck, you fool!"

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“Haha—”

Zong Yanxi chuckled suddenly as she was amused by Su Zhan’s words. “Which part of Uncle Shen looks like a duck?”

Lin Xinyan took her daughter into her arms and asked her to quiet down.

She patted lightly on her head and said, “Be a good girl.”

Zong Yanxi nodded obediently.

Su Zhan regarded Shen Peichuan as a simpleton. “Did your superior also wish for you to marry his daughter?”

Shen Peichuan nodded in agreement. He could sense that. Besides, it was also what Captain Song said himself.

Su Zhan snickered, “If he really wanted you to be his son-in-law, why did he still marry his daughter to someone else?”

“She didn’t agree.”

This made Su Zhan’s animosity toward Song Yaxin even greater. “Not agreeing earlier but finally realizing how good you are after she divorced?”

He paused for a moment and continued with an even icier tone, “Are you a substitute?”

“Watch your words. Don’t be so mean.” Shen Peichuan took a sip of the water.

“I’m not being mean. It’s a fact. She wasn’t interested in you and now that she has divorced, she has developed a fondness for you all of a sudden? What kind of a person is she?” Su Zhan had a deep contempt for this sort of woman. “Shen Peichuan, there are no outsiders here, just tell us the truth. What is in your mind? Do you really like her? If you do, then we have nothing to say.”

Shen Peichuan was a little uneasy and kept pouring water for himself.

Lin Xinyan gave Su Zhan a look and said, “Stop it.”

“I couldn’t care less about him. I’m just worried he would be taken advantage of and regret it in the future.” Su Zhan chugged a mouthful of water as well. “You’ll be spending the rest of your life with this person, so you make your own choice. I’m not having this dinner anymore. I’ve met your girlfriend and I still have other things going on. I am leaving now.”

With that, Su Zhan pulled his chair and turned to Shen Peichuan. “Forgive me but I have a distaste for this woman.”

He left right after splurting that sentence.

Lin Xinyan was also not impressed by the fact that Song Yaxin had never considered Shen Peichuan before but decided to be with him after her divorce.

It was just like what Su Zhan said; she was treating him like a substitute.

But what did an excellent man like Shen Peichuan do to deserve this treatment?

“Xinyan, what do you think?” Shen Peichuan looked at Lin Xinyan with his baffled eyes.

He was completely lost.

He knew there were a lot of incompatibilities between him and Song Yaxin but he supposed that was how his life could be. Having someone to spend his life with was all he needed.

“She can’t help you decide on your relationship, so it mainly depends on what’s in your mind,” Zong Jinghao replied on behalf of Lin Xinyan.

Shen Peichuan did not respond.

He had just convinced himself on accepting Song Yaxin but what Su Zhan said caught him up in a mess and his heart wavered again.

It felt to him like he had made a very wrong turn.

On the other hand, Su Zhan who just left the private room bumped into Song Yaxin who was coming back from the washroom.

Seeing him, Song Yaxin smiled and asked, “Are you leaving now? We haven’t even had dinner yet.”

“Something’s up which I need to attend to.” After saying that, he passed her by and was preparing to leave. But before he took another step, he paused in his tracks and called out, “Ms. Song.”

Song Yaxin was wearing her smile all the time. “Is there anything I can help, Mr. Su?”

“I have a question for you, Ms. Song. What do you like about Peichuan?”

Song Yaxin answered right away without even giving it a thought, “He’s a good man. I like everything about him.”

“Then why didn’t you like him before? Why does your affection for him have to wait till after your divorce?” Su Zhan asked shrewdly.

The smile on Song Yaxin's face was starting to fade. "What are you trying to imply?"

"What am I trying to imply? How could such a smart person like Ms. Song not know what I meant?" With a scornful note in his voice, Su Zhan added, "One should always be kind and never pick on an honest man. Otherwise, retribution has its way of coming back to you."

Song Yaxin's face darkened completely and the last trace of elegance she had been keeping vanished into thin air. She asked with a frosty tone, "Do I have no more right to happiness just because I'm a divorcee?"

"Do you really feel happy being together with Shen Peichuan?" Su Zhan found it ridiculous.

"Yes, I'm very contented to be with him."

Su Zhan replied with a laugh, "If you really think he's good, why did you reject him previously? You're contented to spend time together with him, but have you asked whether he feels the same? Is Ms. Song someone selfish who only cares about your own feelings but neglects other's feelings?"

"You..."

"I'm feeling very sorry for my friend, that's all. Please don't mind me, Ms. Song."

He strode away after that.

Song Yaxin was rooted on the spot and glared at Su Zhan bitterly. "You're such a busybody. Just mind your own business."

Su Zhan heard her but he was not bothered. Pacing out of the restaurant, he fished out his car key and pressed the unlock button. The headlights of his car parked on the roadside flashed immediately. He walked toward the car door and pulled it open. He was getting madder as he thought about it. The reason he was

so furious was because Song Yaxin had not considered Shen Peichuan as befitting for her earlier. *Now that she is divorced and has become a used item that she comes to him. How could anyone be so thick-skinned?*

After starting his car, he searched for the route to C City with the GPS in his phone before leaving.

The lighting at night wasn't very good so Su Zhan was driving rather slowly. Since it was an impromptu plan, he did not bring anything with him either.

It was four o'clock in the morning when he crossed the border of C City and when he finally arrived at Qin Ya's place, it was already five.

It was the same house she had stayed with Lin Xinyan and the house was now only occupied by Qin Ya alone. She was still asleep at five in the morning but the doorbell woke her up. Blurred and half-awaken, she came to open the door in her pajamas. "Who is it?"

As soon as she opened the door, she saw Su Zhan standing there in his crumpled shirt, with deep, dark bags underneath his eyes. He mentioned coming to see Qin Ya last night which she had regarded as just a wisecrack. After all, it had only been two days since she came here.

"You... you've really come?"

Su Zhan replied with a smile, "I miss you, so here I come."

Qin Ya was a little touched. "Come in..."

Su Zhan held her close in his arms suddenly which took Qin Ya by surprise. Her eyes widened in astonishment as he buried his head into the crook of her neck and whispered, "I miss you."

Qin Ya did not reply and just stood there in silence. After a while, she uttered, "Come in first. It's not a good sight standing at the door like this ."

It was only then that Su Zhan let go of her.

Closing the door, Qin Ya asked, "Do you want to catch up on some sleep?"

With such big dark circles under his eyes, he clearly hasn't slept all night.

However, Su Zhan shook his head. "I'm not sleepy yet."

Qin Ya poured a glass of water for him and sat down on the sofa beside him.

"What is Shen Peichuan's girlfriend like? How did they meet each other?"

"Ugh, don't even bring it up." Su Zhan took a gulp of water. "She is a divorcee. She had never laid eyes on him previously. Now that she is divorced, she came to him. Shen Peichuan is still a virgin; what did that woman even do to be worthy of him?"

Qin Ya rested her chin on her hand and blinked. "What about you?"

"What do you mean 'what about me'?" Su Zhan was confused.

"Are you a virgin?" Qin Ya curled her lips. There seemed to be glee on her face but there was not a trace of joy in her eyes. It was creepy.

Su Zhan almost choked on the water. *Why does it feel like I've shot myself in the foot?*

"Ya, let's not talk about matters that have passed, alright?" Su Zhan tugged at the sleeve of her pajamas fawningly and feigned aggrievement. "If I knew back then that I would meet you, of course, I would have kept my virginity. I promise you, from now on, I'll never touch any woman other than you."