

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 561

The news was reporting about an incident in Nanshan Temple. The person who caught her attention, however, was the same person who had tried to take advantage of her back in C City.

This incident was reported in the news because the man had appeared in the temple stark naked with wounds all over his body. His appearance had caused some speculation.

Everyone knew a temple was a sacred and holy place where filthy behavior was taboo. No one knew this would happen.

Lin Xinyan sat on the sofa to watch the news, which reported that the man had been found in a deserted storeroom in the temple.

Gripping the remote control, Lin Xinyan sank into deep thought.

She started mulling over everything that had happened recently.

At first, the photos appeared. Then, the man appeared to take advantage of her before another man came to save her in time. Back then, Shao Yun told her the man who saved her was rich, but he wasn't from C City.

That means the rich man who saved her was from B City because this person who had tried to take advantage of her had appeared in B City. That rich man should be Gu Bei.

However, since he had participated in the 'save the damsel in distress' scene, he must be Gu Bei's trusted man.

But why did he appear in the temple, stark naked? She wondered.

Qin Ya must be locked up in a hidden place. Nanshan Temple is well-hidden.

The more she thought about it, the more terrified she was. *If Qin Ya had been locked up in the temple, then was the man naked because he had intended to rape her?*

At that thought, Lin Xinyan felt herself suffocating. She patted her chest forcefully, but she couldn't seem to breathe normally.

"Mommy! Can we go out today?" Zong Yanxi ran in and leaped into her arms. "Mommy, I wanna buy some dog food for Baymax at the pet store. I also wanna change his chain—"

"We can't go out today," Lin Xinyan interrupted. She patted her daughter's hair and said, "Be a good girl. We must stay at home today."

"Why?" Zong Yanxi seemed disappointed.

Lin Xinyan didn't know how to explain her concern. She wasn't sure who Gu Bei was. But as he had kidnapped Qin Ya, the man was definitely up to no good. She was afraid he'd target her kids next.

The villa was somewhat safer, so she tried to persuade her kid, "It's too hot."

"We can sit in the car. The driver will drive us there; we don't have to walk and get tortured by the sun. Besides, we can use a UV umbrella or a sunhat, can't we?" Zong Yanxi refuted her at once.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

When did she become an eloquent speaker?

She straightened and put on a serious expression. "We can't go out today."

Zong Yanxi blinked back her tears before jumping out of her mother's arms. She spun around and ran back to her room.

It was apparent she was upset.

Aunt Yu didn't know what was going on, so she couldn't bear to see Zong Yanxi so disappointed. The little girl had been so excited talking about what she wanted to buy for Baymax when they were bathing it. Hence, she went over to Lin Xinyan and said, "Don't worry; the driver and I will be with her. Why won't you let her out?"

Lin Xinyan refused to explain. She looked at Aunt Yu and uttered, "It's better for them to stay at home for now."

Aunt Yu was about to say something, but Lin Xinyan cut her off. "I need the driver to give me a ride later. Both of them will stay at home today."

With that, she rose to her feet and went upstairs. She hadn't planned to go out today, so she was clad in comfy pajamas. But after watching the news, she had to find out whether Zong Jinghao was lying to her. He only told her that Qin Ya had managed to escape.

I must find out what happened to her, otherwise, I won't be at ease.

Aunt Yu wasn't a fool, so she said nothing after Lin Xinyan's announcement. She turned and entered Zong Yanxi's room to console her. Zong Yanchen, however, sighed and poured Baymax a bowl of dog food. He squatted down to pat the dog's head. "You're a lucky dog."

You don't have to worry about anything because your owner will feed you on time.

If Baymax knew what Zong Yanchen was thinking about, it would reply, "Every dog has its own concerns, too. I need to please my owner lest she abandons me. It isn't easy being a pet."

Lin Xinyan came downstairs to see her son squatting down to feed Baymax. She told him, "You should console your sister."

Zong Yanchen looked up at her. "Don't worry; I will."

She came over to plant a kiss on her obedient son's cheek. "Thank you, son."

"But when you're free, bring her to the pet store. We need to stock up on Fipronil for Baymax," Zong Yanchen said.

Lin Xinyan had never owned a pet before, so she didn't know what her son meant. She inquired, "Is Baymax sick?"

Zong Yanchen replied cheekily, "Oh? I know something Mommy doesn't know!"

Lin Xinyan pretended to pull his ears, but she didn't exert much force. "It's hard enough for me to bring you and your sister up. I don't have time or money for pets!"

Zong Yanchen begged for mercy. "Mommy, forgive me. Baymax isn't ill, but he needs anti-tick spray to deworm regularly. Great-uncle brought some for us, but we emptied it all after giving Baymax a bath."

Every household with pets had to have anti-tick spray lying around somewhere, especially families with kids. Ticks were common among dogs and could attach themselves to kids. They could also end up everywhere in the house.

Lin Xinyan patted his head. "When your Daddy is free, he'll bring you there."

"Mommy, will you come with us?" Zong Yanchen grinned.

"Of course. I need to leave now." Lin Xinyan stood up while Zong Yanchen bade goodbye to her. She waved to him before putting on her shoes and left. She didn't bring anything with her when she left back then, so her stuff was still there.

The driver opened the door for her, asking, "Where are you going today?"

Lin Xinyan thought for a second before answering, "The company."

The driver closed the door behind her and drove her to the company.

Soon, the car stopped in front of the company. Lin Xinyan didn't leave at once because she hadn't made up her mind yet. Besides, Zong Jinghao might not be in his office, too. She whipped out her phone and decided to call Shen Peichuan since he was more reliable than her husband.

Lin Xinyan knew Zong Jinghao didn't want her to worry, but she thought of Qin Ya as her closest relative. Plus, Qin Ya had been kidnapped in the first place because of them.

After dialing Shen Peichuan's number, she waited for him to pick up. Right then, another car stopped beside her car. Her eyes widened in shock when she saw the man who stepped out of the car. He was walking into the company.

It's him.

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The man who appeared in C City, which I'm guessing is Gu Bei, is right here! Is he here for Zong Jinghao?

Right then, Shen Peichuan answered her call. "Hello?"

As this was a new number that Lin Xinyan got after moving to C City, the man hadn't saved it in his contacts list yet.

Lin Xinyan gripped her phone tight. "What happened to Qin Ya?"

Shen Peichuan was taken aback to hear her voice. It took him a while before he answered, "She's in the hospital."

"Is she hurt?" Lin Xinyan asked anxiously.

"Yes, and she's caught a fever. The doctor is treating her now."

However, Lin Xinyan immediately misunderstood his words.

She's hurt? She also caught a fever?

The thought of the stark naked Number Four whom she saw in the news flashed in her mind, and she instantly assumed that Qin Ya had been sexually assaulted.

She lowered her gaze and choked out, "Does Su Zhan know?"

Shen Peichuan answered, "Yes, he does."

"Which hospital are you at now?" Lin Xinyan continued.

“Are you coming over now?”

“Not now. I’ll be there later.” She had to find out why Gu Bai had come to Zong Jinghao first.

“First People’s Hospital,” Shen Peichuan replied.

“Got it,” she replied curtly before hanging up.

She pushed the door open and informed the driver, “Wait for me.”

She planned to go to the hospital after.

The driver nodded before driving to the underground car park because the weather was too hot.

Lin Xinyan entered the lobby alone. Zong Jinghao didn’t announce her identity to the public, but he had informed everyone in his company about her. Hence, no one stopped her from entering the company and treated her with the utmost respect.

She’d smile politely at all the staff who greeted her.

After getting off the elevator, she saw Guan Jing. The man shot her a smile and inquired, “Are you here for Mr. Zong?”

As Zong Jinghao’s most trusted man, Guan Jing knew everything about his boss even though he wasn’t involved in his boss’ private affairs like Shen Peichuan and Su Zhan.

“Yes. Is he busy now?”

Guan Jing responded, “He’s with someone now.”

“Is it a man in a grey suit?” asked Lin Xinyan.

Guan Jing nodded. “Yes. Did you see Mr. Gu earlier?”

After hearing Guan Jing’s reply, she was certain that the man was indeed Gu Bei. Otherwise, Guan Jing wouldn’t have addressed him as “Mr. Gu.”

She inclined her head. “Yes.”

“Do you want to wait in the waiting room?” Guan Jing offered.

Lin Xinyan shook her head. “No need. I’ll go in and see what they’re talking about myself.”

She headed to Zong Jinghao’s office, but before she could head in, her phone started ringing.

She took out her phone and saw that it was her Uncle Er. Once she answered the phone, she went straight to the point. “Uncle Er, did something happen there?”

There was no reason for him to call her right now.

“No, it’s nothing. We’re doing fine. Some customers wanted to order custom clothing, but I told them we had too many orders to fulfill for now. They would have to wait if they insist on ordering. The factory is operating as usual. Both Qin Ya and you left so suddenly with the kids, so I knew that something must’ve happened. Otherwise, you wouldn’t have left in a hurry. I just want to tell you that I can lend a listening ear if you need me. You need to trust your parents. Wealth isn’t the only thing they left behind, got it?”

Lin Xinyan looked at her toes and answered, “Got it.”

“Mm. How are the kids? I miss them so much.” He had gotten used to them; his life felt so quiet now.

“I’ll ask them to video call you tonight,” said Lin Xinyan.

“Okay. I’ll hang up now,” Shao Yun returned.

After hanging up, Lin Xinyan stood rooted to the spot for some time. Shao Yun had never mentioned her father, but she somehow knew what her father was like after spending some time with him.

Anyhow, she’d remember him as a good person, since that was what Wen Xian had told her in the letter.

She clamped down on her emotions before heading to the office. At the door, she knocked before someone called out, “Come in!”

Straightening her back, she opened the door and strode in.

Zong Jinghao was seated on the sofa with his back to her. Gu Bei was on the sofa across from him. The coffees served to them were both untouched. It was obvious she had interrupted their conversation.

Upon seeing her, Gu Bei blinked awkwardly before shooting her a smile. “We meet again.”

Zong Jinghao turned around slowly before realizing it was her. He furrowed his brows at her sudden appearance before asking gently, “Why are you here?”

As Gu Bei had sent photos to Lin Xinyan, he knew who she was and her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan came over to Zong Jinghao and grinned. “Can’t I come to visit you?”

As she said that, she plopped onto the sofa beside him.

Gu Bei licked at the corner of his lips in amusement. “Are you going to show your affection in front of an outsider?”

“Is there an outsider here?” Lin Xinyan chuckled.

Gu Bei laughed and swept his gaze across Zong Jinghao. He wanted to embarrass the man, so he deliberately said, “Ms. Lin, you mean I’m not an outsider? I think we’re on close terms, too.”

Is she acting this way because I “saved” her back in C City?

“No. I didn’t see you.” Lin Xinyan was still all smiles.

“Ha! Interesting. Ms. Lin, you can’t see me? Am I not a human being?” Gu Bei’s smile faded away.

Lin Xinyan’s smile never wavered. “I didn’t say you’re not a human being. But since you yourself think you’re not a human being, I shouldn’t correct you.”

Gu Bei froze abruptly before a smirk flitted across his lips. “Men don’t like sharp-tongued women. Be careful; your husband might fall for another woman.”

“You don’t need to worry about that.” Lin Xinyan’s lips curved up. “I didn’t know who you were back in C City, so I didn’t get to thank you. I received your present. Thank you, you must’ve spent a lot of effort on it.” As she said that, she met Zong Jinghao’s gaze. They immediately read each other’s minds without talking.

Chuckling, she continued, “Mr. Gu has given us such a big gift. Aren’t you going to return his gesture?”

Zong Jinghao reached out to tuck a strand of hair behind her ear gently before giving her an affectionate smile. "Of course. We should reciprocate his generosity. It would be rude of us to not return his gesture."

He gazed at Gu Bei. "What do you think of my gift in return?"

Gu Bei narrowed his gaze. "You provoked me first."

"Mr. Gu, don't say that. You were the one who agreed to help Wen Qing hire the kidnappers, aren't you? Don't tell me you think the Zongs are pushovers who can be kidnapped anytime?" Zong Jinghao's voice grew increasingly menacing.

"Did I kidnap someone from the Zong family? Everyone knows that Cheng Yuxiu is a mistress. Mr. Zong, you hate this stepmother of yours, don't you? Why are you becoming my enemy because of her death? What benefit will you gain from this?"

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Gu Bei paused before he added, "Don't forget that your uncle isn't able to help you anymore. He has lost his job. No, you should be rivals now. So what if Shen Peichuan is now the deputy chief? If I want to, I can ask my father to remove him from the position. What can you do?"

Can you implicate me for what Number Four has done? Previously, I escaped unscathed. I can do the same this time. As I said, if you're willing to apologize for hurting me, I can forgive you. We can mind our own businesses from now on. But of course, if you want to be my friend, I'll welcome you with open arms."

Apologize to him?

Lin Xinyan parted her lips to say something, but Zong Jinghao grabbed her hand and shook his head, telling her to calm down.

The man looked straight at Gu Bei as his jaw hardened. "No one can touch anyone from the Zong family. Mr. Gu, you might have a powerful backer, but no matter how powerful you are, you should have a weak spot, right?"

He leaned back lazily and scoffed. "You're disgusting enough to send those photos to my wife and kidnap her friend. I believe you should be the one to apologize, am I right?"

Gu Bei gritted his teeth. "You're crossing the line!"

He should be the one apologizing to me!

"Crossing the line? The man in the temple should be your henchman, right? Don't you know what he did to my friend?" Lin Xinyan chimed in as she clenched her fists. It was getting hard for her to calm down.

“If you really want to resolve all the differences, you need to apologize for the kidnapping incident which caused the fatal car accident and bear the consequences. You should also hand over the person who hurt my friend. Well, I think we can forgive you for sending those photos and pretending to save me back in C City.”

“Is this a joke?” Gu Bei was mad at Number Four as he had gone to Qin Ya without informing him. The fool wanted to take advantage of her, but she had escaped instead. Gu Bei wanted to punish this fool, too. No one knew how furious he had been when he saw the news.

However, he couldn't just hand him over just like that. “If I hand him to you, who else will want to work for me? The car accident was an unfortunate accident. I wasn't even the mastermind. The mastermind has paid the price, hasn't he? Why won't you let me off?”

If he handed Number Four over to them, his other men would be utterly disappointed. No one would want to risk their lives for him anymore.

It was important to gain their trust and loyalty.

Even if Number Four made a mistake, he had to defend him. He wasn't only defending the man; he was also ensuring his men's loyalty to him.

The manager had stood out to take the blame, so it was apparent that Gu Bei was well-respected by his subordinates.

Lin Xinyan sneered, “Mr. Gu, you know that well. Why are you acting foolishly? If I ignore my friend's condition now, what will she think of me? We're not refusing to let you go. We just want those involved to bear the consequences of their actions. Is that too much to ask for?”

As Lin Xinyan was right, Gu Bei fell silent.

Indeed, that should be it.

Upon realizing that they weren't going to reach a consensus, Gu Bei was no longer smiling. He looked at Zong Jinghao and the sharp-tongued woman. *Now I know why he likes her*, he mused.

Most of the women he knew would wait for men to solve their problems or cry to gain attention and sympathy.

However, this woman stood beside Zong Jinghao bravely. *Is it because an ignorant person knows no fear?*

He glared at Lin Xinyan. "Don't you know who my father is? You won't win if you insist on going against me."

Lin Xinyan met his gaze without flinching and scoffed, "I don't know who your father is, but everyone is equal in the eyes of the law. You need to bear the consequences of your mistakes, irrespective of your wealth and status. Is your father above the authorities?"

Silence ensued as their vicious gazes met in confrontation. After a long silence, Gu Bei parted his lips and sneered, "Fine. Let's see who will end up being the winner!"

With that, he turned and left.

Lin Xinyan couldn't be bothered to see him off. "Goodbye, Mr. Gu."

Gu Bei spun around and glowered at her. Before he left, his lips curled up. "I can't wait to see you again, Ms. Lin."

After spitting out that line, he grinned and left.

Lin Xinyan was grim. *His father must be someone influential. Otherwise, he wouldn't have acted so arrogantly.*

“You found out?” Zong Jinghao uttered.

She wouldn't have come if it weren't for that.

Lin Xinyan swiveled around to look at him. “It’s all over the news. Why wouldn’t I know?”

Zong Jinghao massaged his temples. “I forgot to cut off the electricity back at home.”

Lin Xinyan was rendered speechless.

What is he saying?

“Come on, stop joking. What are you going to do? He doesn’t seem like a pushover.” That man wasn’t that capable, but his backer was.

Zong Jinghao sighed. He refused to reply to her question as he wanted her to stay at home to focus on her pregnancy. He was able to take care of everything himself. “You naughty girl. Why did you come out? Can’t you stay at home?”

“How could I stay at home after watching the news? Qin Ya...” she trailed off as her lashes fluttered delicately. “I’ll make sure the perpetrator pays for what he did!”

Her voice was firm and confident.

Zong Jinghao said nothing. He knew why Lin Xinyan felt that way. Actually, he wasn’t sure if Qin Ya was sexually assaulted as she was sent to the hospital after being rescued. Shen Peichuan didn’t send him any updates after that.

Gu Bei had arranged for Number Four to go into hiding as he was afraid that Zong Jinghao would nab him.

“Give me your phone,” Lin Xinyan demanded and stretched out her hand.

Zong Jinghao handed her his phone as instructed. “Are you going to save your new number?”

“No,” came Lin Xinyan’s reply. She didn’t even look at him.

Zong Jinghao fell silent.

Then what are you doing?

Checking my phone?

He felt a chill creeping up his spine at her action.

“What are you doing?” inquired Zong Jinghao cautiously.

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She doesn't trust me?

He shifted in his position and settled comfortably on her shoulder before whispering in her ear intimately, "I don't sleep with other women. You're the only one who ignites my desire."

The man had strong survival instincts!

As he was too close to her, Lin Xinyan could feel his breath tickling her ear. She leaned back and shot him a look. "Can you be serious?"

Zong Jinghao was confused. He wasn't joking.

He was seriously explaining to her that he had no interest in other women. He only used his phone for work, so besides some female business contacts, there were no other female contacts saved in it.

Yes, he was afraid that Lin Xinyan wouldn't stop at that.

Suddenly, Lin Xinyan realized what he was trying to explain to her. She smirked at him. "Have I ever told you that if you cheat on me, I'll cheat on you, too?"

Zong Jinghao kept mum.

Well...

Lin Xinyan didn't continue her joke. She put on a stern look and said, "I know you don't want me to interfere in this matter. I'm not capable enough to help you anyway. The only thing I can do is to take care of the kids and myself; you can

focus on dealing with everything. Gu Bei isn't an easy target. I've saved Uncle Er's number on your phone. He can help you whenever you're in trouble."

She met his gaze and continued, "I don't care what you do. You need to punish the man who bullied Qin Ya. Can you give me your word on that?"

Zong Jinghao pulled her into his arms and pressed a kiss on his forehead. He didn't pull back at once and continued nuzzling her. "You have my word."

Once Lin Xinyan got the answer she wanted, she disentangled herself from his embrace. "You should go back to work. I need to go now."

"It's almost noon. Why don't you stay for lunch?" Zong Jinghao tugged her hand and refused to let go.

Lin Xinyan tried to wriggle away, but his grip was too tight. She put on a straight face and informed him, "I'm going to visit Qin Ya at the hospital."

Even though Zong Jinghao was reluctant, he had no choice but to release his grip on her arm.

"I'll go back home right after visiting her," she assured before leaving.

Zong Jinghao responded in acknowledgment.

After leaving the company, Lin Xinyan got into her car and headed to the hospital.

Upon arrival, she called Shen Peichuan to find out where they were.

Shen Peichuan told her that Qin Ya had been sent to the observation room that was on the third floor.

When Lin Xinyan arrived on the third floor, she saw Shen Peichuan talking on his phone along the hallway. He seemed to be swamped with work. The man spotted her and quickly ended the phone call.

“Qin Ya is in the room, resting. Su Zhan is with her,” he explained.

Lin Xinyan nodded in acknowledgment before saying, “If you’re busy, you can leave. I can handle the rest.”

Shen Peichuan was indeed busy, but he hesitated. “Can you really?”

After all, she was pregnant.

“I’m pregnant, but I’m not a patient. Don’t worry. I’ll keep watch here. If anything happens, I’ll give you a call,” Lin Xinyan repeated firmly. Since she said so, there was nothing else Shen Peichuan could add on. With that, he turned and left.

After he left, Lin Xinyan headed to the observation room. Through the window, she could see Su Zhan sitting by the bed, all clad in a striped hospital gown. She stood outside for some time before pushing the door open.

At the sound of the door opening, Su Zhan thought it was Shen Peichuan again, so he sat by the bed, unmoving.

Lin Xinyan glanced at the still unconscious Qin Ya and parted her lips. “Su Zhan, let’s talk outside,” the former uttered gently.

At her voice, Su Zhan spun around. When he saw her, he fell silent for a few seconds before nodding his head.

Standing up, he tucked Qin Ya in lightly before turning to leave. “Let’s go.”

Lin Xinyan left ahead of Su Zhan, and he closed the door behind him quietly. They didn’t go far, stopping not far away from the observation room.

“Are you hurt?” Lin Xinyan asked in concern when she noticed him wearing a hospital gown.

“A little,” Su Zhan answered with his head hung low. His back was hurt, and his clothes were ruined. Hence, after dealing with his wounds, they got him a hospital gown to wear for the time being.

“I’m glad you’re fine.” Lin Xinyan stood in front of the window and gazed at him. “Do you know about Qin Ya’s condition?”

Su Zhan leaned his back against the wall and frowned at the tingling sensation he felt on his wounds. He lowered his head and said, “I don’t care about what happened to her.”

It wasn’t that he didn’t care; it was because he loved her more than her innocence.

Su Zhan had taken Qin Ya’s virginity. After that, she had suffered when she was with him. She was also the victim of this incident.

Hence, he dared not be concerned about those trivial matters.

“Even if I don’t care, she won’t accept me again,” Su Zhan added dejectedly. He was feeling helpless; he didn’t know where to start.

Lin Xinyan knew Qin Ya had been hurt badly back then. She was only able to come to terms with everything because she was a strong woman.

“She needs time,” Lin Xinyan stated gently.

Lin Xinyan wasn’t about to interfere in their relationship as they were already adults who could make their own decisions. The reason she had asked Su Zhan that question was to find out about his thoughts. If he still loved Qin Ya, he’d warm her heart up and beg for her forgiveness.

If he no longer loved her anymore, he should stay away from her.

It seems like he still loves her deeply, she mused.

Sighing, Lin Xinyan inquired, “How is she? What did the doctor say?”

“She’s running a fever, but the doctor gave her a shot. Her legs are also wounded, so she can’t walk for the time being,” Su Zhan replied.

Lin Xinyan nodded. “Does she need to stay in the hospital?”

“The doctor has said that she will recover better at home.” Su Zhan pursed his lips before revealing his thoughts to her. “I want to bring her home so I can take care of her, but I know she’ll reject my offer. Can you help me persuade her?”

As Qin Ya had no relatives and needed someone to take care of her 24/7, he wanted to be her caretaker.

Su Zhan was afraid that Lin Xinyan might have some reservations, so he hurriedly continued, “I’m not asking her to forgive me, and I’m not doing this deliberately. I just want to take care of her. She doesn’t have to be pressured to give me an answer.”

Lin Xinyan knew what Su Zhan meant. He only wanted to take care of Qin Ya. But how would Qin Ya be able to accept his kind intentions after what they had been through?

Qin Ya would only accept his offer when she had forgiven him.

“I won’t persuade her.” Lin Xinyan looked right at Su Zhan as she continued, “You need to be clear with this. She hasn’t forgiven you yet. What will she be if she allows you to take care of her?”

“But who else will take care of her?” Su Zhan fell back onto the wall sorrowfully before sliding to the ground.

He felt his heart constricting in pain and stress.

“I will. I’ll bring her back to my villa once she regains consciousness. There are many rooms there, so she can stay with me. I’ll hire a maid to do the house chores. If you want to visit her, you can come anytime.”

Lin Xinyan had the same thought, too. She would worry if Qin Ya were taken care of by someone else, so she decided to bring her back to her villa.

“Okay,” Su Zhan said in a low voice.

“There’s no need to thank me. I’m not taking care of her because of you.” Qin Ya and Lin Xinyan had been great friends back in Country A before Qin Ya followed her later to help her establish Cloud Corporation. The two were more than friends.

They both admired and supported each other like family.

At Su Zhan’s despondent expression, Lin Xinyan advised, “Cheer up. You can’t salvage your relationship if you act this way.”

Su Zhan looked up at her. “Xinyan, what should I do?”

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He was confused and didn't know what to do.

Squatting down, Lin Xinyan patted him on the shoulder. "I don't know what to do either, but I think you should give Qin Ya more time if you really care about her. Don't be in a rush to beg for her forgiveness. Instead, win her with your actions."

He should make her open up so that she was willing to be with him again.

Su Zhan gave a bitter smile. "I understand what you said. I'm just afraid that I can't do well, and end up pushing her further away"

"As long as you do it with your heart and a clear conscience, she'll definitely feel it." Lin Xinyan didn't know how to comfort him, so she could only try her best to assure him.

She thought, *Su Zhan must have understood what he'd done wrong before.*

In the afternoon, Qin Ya woke up. After receiving an injection for her fever and taking a nap, she was feeling much better.

Su Zhan knew that she hadn't eaten much, so he went to get some food. Afraid that Qin Ya would be unhappy to see him, he gave Lin Xinyan all the food for her to bring inside.

Lin Xinyan took it in and helped Qin Ya to sit up on her bed. Su Zhan bought her some food that was easy to digest. Having not eaten much for three days, Qin Ya's stomach was long empty. Being hungry for so long, she could not eat food that was hard and spicy, nor could she eat too much, thus Su Zhan did not buy much.

Watching her finish the food, Lin Xinyan handed her a glass of warm water and threw the food packaging into the trash can, before she sat on the bedside to talk to Qin Ya.

Knowing that she would definitely not want Su Zhan to take care of her, Lin Xinyan still asked her opinion, “With the injury on your foot, you can’t walk for the time being, and you’ll need someone to take care of you. Su Zhan wants to—”

“I don’t need him to take care of me. Just find me a caretaker.” Qin Ya interrupted Lin Xinyan before she finished speaking. “Besides, it’s not a serious injury.”

Lin Xinyan looked at her without trying to persuade her, because what the latter needed was not persuasion, but the feeling of heart throbbing in the chest after being pampered and loved by someone. It was the only real thing, while persuasion would only put her in a tight spot.

She did not want Qin Ya to feel uncomfortable.

Holding Qin Ya’s hand, she said “I see. Come to the villa with me then. The kids and I will be home, so you won’t get bored, okay?”

Qin Ya hesitated. “Will it be inconvenient for you?”

“No, of course.” Then, Lin Xinyan added, with a stress upon the words, “With your current condition, how can I just leave you to a caretaker?”

Qin Ya did not know what she was thinking, and said, “My injury isn’t that serious, so I really don’t need to—”

“Do you treat me like an outsider?” Lin Xinyan interrupted her.

Like Su Zhan, she had misunderstood that Qin Ya had been assaulted by Number Four. She didn’t dare to say it clearly, and simply kept her distress to herself for fear of putting more pressure on Qin Ya.

After all, no one wanted to let others know about this kind of thing.

Lin Xinyan was worried that Qin Ya would let her imagination run wild if she were left to herself. To Lin Xinyan, Qin Ya was now putting up a brave front, which was why she did not want Su Zhan to take care of her and insisted on bringing her back to the villa.

“No.” Of course, Qin Ya was willing to live with her, but they were not in C City now, where there were only them and the kids at home, as there was also Zong Jinghao now. Considering that they had just reunited, as an outsider, she was afraid of causing them inconveniences by staying at their place.

Lin Xinyan noticed her concern and said, “Don’t worry. There are many rooms in the villa. I’ve asked Aunt Yu to clean the room downstairs for you. You can live in peace of mind, and I’ll take care of you.”

Pursing her lips, Qin Ya did not refuse. Lin Xinyan asked her to rest for a while before she went off to get her discharged. In fact, it was her excuse to go out to see Su Zhan.

After Qin Ya woke up, Su Zhan didn’t dare to enter the room, for fear of making her feel uncomfortable.

Su Zhan was sitting on a bench in the corridor with his elbows resting on his legs, looking a little dejected. Lin Xinyan called him, “Su Zhan.”

“Huh?” He looked over.

“I’ll get the driver to come up to help bring Qin Ya back. Take care of yourself,” said Lin Xinyan.

Su Zhan nodded, and then soon cast his eyes down.

Sighing, Lin Xinyan said nothing, turned around, and walked outside to call the driver. Then, she helped Qin Ya sit on a wheelchair borrowed from the nurse's station with the help of the driver, and left the hospital with her.

When they reached the car, she and the driver worked together to help her into the car. Standing by a window ventilator at the end of the corridor on the third floor, Su Zhan watched Qin Ya being helped into the car, which then drove off.

Soon, the car disappeared from view, while he turned to leave the hospital as well.

When Lin Xinyan took Qin Ya to the villa, she helped Qin Ya lie on the bed in the room that Aunt Yu had cleaned up. Although it was summer, many trees that were planted around the stand-alone villa were lush during summer, so they blocked out most of the sunlight.

Lin Xinyan asked her if she felt warm.

She shook her head. "No."

She had a fever, while the air was too dry and uncomfortable in the air-conditioned room, so Lin Xinyan walked to the window and said, "I'll open the window."

"Okay," replied Qin Ya.

"When you're thirsty or want to go to the bathroom, you can ask Aunt Yu to help you. I'm going out to get you some clothes."

Qin Ya was wearing a hospital gown and had nothing with her as she was kidnapped here. She would need to change every day under this kind of weather. Although she could wear Lin Xinyan's clothes—considering that they were about the same size—she would still need new undergarments.

Therefore, Lin Xinyan thought that it was better to go and get some new ones for her.

Qin Ya smiled and joked, "I wonder if your man will scold me for making you, a pregnant woman, running around if he finds out."

Lin Xinyan put the medicine brought back from the hospital on the bedside table and glanced at her. "He doesn't scold others."

Pouting, Qin Ya told her in advance, "I know that the two of you haven't been together for a long time, so you surely can't get enough of each other now. But don't be lovey-dovey in front of me. As a single woman, I'll be jealous."

Sometimes, Lin Xinyan found Qin Ya and Su Zhan to be very compatible, as they both spoke in the same way.

"Rest well. I'm leaving."

"Alright. Imma gonna take another nap. See you." Qin Ya lay down on the bed.

Seeing that she really wanted to sleep, Lin Xinyan closed the door behind her. Zong Yanxi was still mad at Lin Xinyan, so she had not spoken to her since she came back, and just played with Baymax on the sofa. While Zong Yanchen spread his hands, as he somehow did not manage to coax her as well this time.

Having no time, Lin Xinyan did not coax her and said to Aunt Yu, "Qin Ya is sleeping in the room. You can go in later and check if she has a fever."

"Okay," Aunt Yu responded in acknowledgment.

Lin Xinyan then said to the kids, "Don't make too much noise. Aunt Qin Ya is resting. She's not feeling well. You have to behave yourselves."

"We will," Zong Yanchen replied.

Whereas Zong Yanxi acted like she did not hear it, as she continued to play with Baymax on the sofa.

Lin Xinyan sighed. *She's actually begun to act out.* After glancing at her daughter, she turned and walked out of the house. As she instructed, the driver was waiting for her in the car.

Seeing her coming out, the driver got out of the car and opened the door for her. She bent over and got in. "Take me to the mall."

Responding in acknowledgment, the driver ran to the front to get in the car and drive.

Before long, the car pulled into the parking lot at the mall, and the driver followed her in after parking the car.

With a clear goal in mind, Lin Xinyan headed directly to the womenswear section.

"Lin Xinyan?"

Lin Xinyan was about to enter a women's clothing store when someone called her.

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Hearing the familiar voice, she soon realized whose voice it was, and her body stiffened.

She didn't know if she should turn around or pretend not to hear the person, as she did not know what to say after seeing the person.

At this time, the same person called her again while also scrutinizing her.

Unable to pretend that she didn't hear it, she had no choice but to turn around.

As expected, Li Jing was standing not far away from her. It had not been long since their last meeting, but Li Jing had changed a lot and became much older. Her appearance, which was initially well maintained, had become older than her age, with a lot of her black hair turned gray.

Li Jing forced a smile. "I thought I've got the wrong person."

When she was speaking, she cast her gaze on Lin Xinyan's belly. Her bump was very obvious by now as her lower abdomen was slightly bulging. "It's almost the fifth month, right?"

"Yeah," replied Lin Xinyan.

"Are you here to get something?" Li Jing asked.

Lin Xinyan nodded in agreement.

"Are you in a hurry? If you're not, we can have a talk at a cafe on the sixth floor," she suggested.

Lin Xin pursed her lips and said nothing, twisting herself up not knowing what she could talk with her.

“I don’t mean anything. I just want to talk to you. I’m the only one at home, so I’m quite bored,” Li Jing added with a smile.

Since she had said so, it would make Lin Xinyan look heartless if she turned her down. Even if she didn’t want to talk about the relationship with the Wen family, this woman did nothing wrong after all. Moreover, she used to talk to her and have meals together like a family.

“Find a place to wait for me,” Lin Xinyan said to the driver.

Nodding his head, the driver replied, “Okay.”

“There’s an elevator here.” Li Jing pointed at an elevator.

Lin Xinyan walked over and waited for the elevator with her. The two of them then took the elevator to the sixth floor. Li Jing chose a table close to the window inside the cafe that was very quiet, as there were not many customers at this hour.

A waiter came over, and Li Jing ordered a cup of coffee. Then, she looked at Lin Xinyan and asked, “What do you want?”

“Juice, please.”

Li Jing handed the menu to the waiter and said, “A cup of coffee, and a glass of juice.”

“Okay.” The waiter took the menu and asked, “What kind of coffee would you like?”

“Anything is fine,” replied Li Jing.

“Okay.” The waiter left.

The two of them did not speak for a while, and Lin Xinyan didn’t know how to start the conversation either. *Do I ask her how she’s doing?*

Obviously, she’s not doing good.

She could not seem to find a suitable thing to say at this time.

In the end, Li Jing was the first to find the topic. “When you move on to the later trimesters, the more tired you’ll be. Do you find it tiring?”

“It’s fine, but I’m feeling more lethargic than before. It seems that others start to feel lethargic in the beginning, but I get lethargic later,” replied Lin Xinyan softly.

Li Jing smiled. After all, she was a mother too, so it was relatable. “When I had Ji, I also got more lethargic toward the end of the pregnancy. You still look like you don’t gain weight at all, but I gained a lot of weight back then, so much so that I was weighing 140 pounds before giving birth.”

Lin Xinyan smiled. “It’s probably because it’s hard for me to get fat.”

Li Jing was about to say something when the waiter walked over and brought the coffee and juice to her and Lin Xinyan. “Please call me anytime if you need anything.”

Lin Xinyan responded in acknowledgment and took two sips of her juice after the waiter left.

Li Jing held the cup of coffee but didn’t drink it, as she was thinking about how to talk to Lin Xinyan about Wen Qing.

However, it seemed that this would only get awkward no matter how she brought it up.

In the end, she gave up.

“Are you still keeping in touch with Ji?” Li Jing put down the cup of coffee and asked.

“No,” Lin Xinyan replied honestly.

After she left, she did not contact anyone because she didn’t want to know how things went. After she returned, she also never discussed this with Zong Jinghao.

Everything about the Wen family was a topic from which the two of them shied away.

“He went to serve in the army.” Li Jing cast her gaze down and turned the coffee cup. “Have you heard about your uncle?”

She did not look at Lin Xinyan while asking the question.

Upon hearing the word “uncle”, she clenched her fists under the table but did not respond to her question.

Knowing that she had heard it, Li Jing said with a smile, in a somewhat ironic tone, “I think everyone would have known about it as it’s all over the news.”

She paused before adding, “I really hated you at the time. No matter what, you should’ve persuaded Zong Jinghao to let go for your sake.”

Lin Xinyan did not agree with what she said, but she didn’t say it out loud, as she didn’t care what Li Jing thought.

She didn’t want to dwell on the past too much and just wanted to focus on what was right in front of her.

It was even more impossible for her to get into a fight with Zong Jinghao over such a matter.

“But I soon figured it out. It was indeed your uncle’s fault. Whether he knew it or not, he shouldn’t have done that, and even killed Cheng Yuxiu. At the end of the day, he just cares too much about Wen Xian.” Li Jing raised her head and looked at Lin Xinyan. “It was your uncle who surrendered himself. You don’t have to feel burdened while being with Zong Jinghao. You don’t owe him anything anymore. Your uncle did this for the sake of your relationship with him. In fact, he has always wanted to see you.”

Toward the end, Li Jing was a little choking up. She once had a perfect family, but now she was the only one left at home. Because of Wen Qing, there had been a lot of rumors and gossips going around, so she rarely went out.

This was the first time she came out after Wen Qing went to jail. As her cousin’s child was getting married, she came out to buy gifts.

Something in Lin Xinyan’s heart stirred, but she ignored it. However, some things still existed even if she could choose to ignore them, just like her relationship with the Wen family.

This relationship still existed no matter how she refused to admit it.

Li Jing wiped the corners of her eyes. “I’ve talked too much. By the way, Ji is doing very well now.”

This was also the only thing that she considered a blessing.

“I’m not asking you to do anything by telling you all this. I just thought that when your uncle is freed, can you see him in person?” Li Jing said in a slightly pleading tone.

This was Wen Qing’s wish.

As a wife, this was the only thing that she could do for her husband now.

Lin Xinyan looked at Li Jing with her mind in chaos. Her feelings were so overwhelming that she could not remain calm.

She couldn't turn Li Jing down, but she didn't want to be in any way related to the Wen family.

After all, Wen Qing was directly related to Cheng Yuxiu's death.

"Is it so difficult?" Li Jing didn't understand it. *Can't she just go and meet Wen Qing?*

Suddenly, she found that Lin Xinyan was a stony-hearted person.

"Do you only care about your husband and not your relatives?" Li Jing tried to suppress her emotions, but her words still carried a questioning tone.

Lin Xinyan stared at Li Jing for a few seconds, and gave her a brief explanation, not because she was afraid that Li Jing would misunderstand her, but to let her know the reason why she had to draw a line with them.

"She was still alive in the car accident, but she died because she wanted to protect me. She used her life in exchange for my safety. How do you want me to face your husband?"

Because of Wen Qing, her kids lost their grandmother, while Zong Jinghao lost his mother, whom he would never have the chance to call 'Mom'.

This was one of his life's greatest regrets.

Nothing could make up for it.

Li Jing was stunned. She did not expect things to be like this.

“Umm—”

“Let’s not talk about it. I don’t want to talk about the past as I just want to live a peaceful life with him.” After speaking, Lin Xinyan stood up. “I gotta go.”

Li Jing also got up. “Hold on...”

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Lin Xinyan stopped in her tracks and turned around.

Li Jing was silent for a moment before she said, "Is there really no turning back? You and Ji had a very good relationship previously. Are you really going to forgo it and stop contacting him?"

Lin Xinyan didn't know either, so she couldn't answer this question.

"I gotta go." She turned around once again.

Let's leave all these things to time. If everything fades away with time, I hope that all the bad memories will be lost in the torrent of time.

Li Jing was aggrieved. Her husband and son cared about her, but she was so indifferent toward them. Even if Wen Qing was wrong, he had surrendered himself. *Can't her heart soften even just a little?*

"Every time Ji calls me, he will ask about you. I don't know how you're doing, but I'll still lie and tell him that you're fine, and ask him not to worry. He asks you only because he cares about you as his relative. When I visit Qing, he'll also ask me if you have come back and if you have reconciled with Zong Jinghao. Everyone cares about you, but you don't care about them at all. I'm really disappointed."

Lin Xinyan didn't give her any response in the end as she directly left.

She had heard what Li Jing said. Having a heart that was not made of stone, she was a sentient and thoughtful person, so of course, it stirred the emotions in her.

It was just that she hadn't figured out how to get along with these people, as there was something in her heart that she couldn't let go of.

She could not give a clear answer now. Even if she said it out loud, she would not mean it, and the forgiveness or acceptance would not be sincere.

The driver was waiting outside the cafe as he was afraid that Lin Xinyan could not find him, so he dared not go far.

Seeing Lin Xinyan coming out of the cafe, he walked over immediately. Noticing her pale face, he asked, "Are we going back now?"

"Let's go downstairs."

Although Li Jing had disrupted her mood, she did not forget what she came here for.

The driver gave a reply of acknowledgment and walked out with her.

After spending so much time with Qin Ya, Lin Xinyan knew very well what size of clothes she wore and what style she liked. She bought several sets of clothing after visiting a few stores, as more changes of clothes were needed in summer.

The driver had been following Lin Xinyan around with the shopping bags. As she wanted to buy undergarments for Qin Ya, it was not convenient for the driver to follow her, so she asked him to wait outside.

She walked into a lingerie shop alone. Thinking that Qin Ya had no pajamas, she went inside to look at the ladies' pajamas. There were other guests nearby who were also looking at pajamas.

"What do you think of this, Chunchun?" A woman showed Zhou Chunchun a set of sexy pajamas.

Zhou Chunchun flushed. "Mom, this is showing too much skin. How can I wear this?"

Hearing this voice, Lin Xinyan looked over. The face of the talking girl confirmed her guess of her identity. She had only looked over because she found the voice familiar, and the girl had indeed turned out to be Bai Yinning's newly wedded wife, Zhou Chunchun.

Why is she in B City?

Is she from B City?

She didn't seem to recall Bai Yinning saying that his wife was from Baicheng, so she might be from B City. Baicheng was not a very big city, and the Bai family was already the leader in the city. According to Bai Yinning, the Zhou family could help his career, so the Zhou family must also be a wealthy family with a powerful background. Otherwise, Bai Yinning would not have chosen to form a familial union with the Zhou family.

"There's no such thing as showing too much skin. Men like this type of pajamas." The woman grabbed her daughter and asked, "Tell me the truth, have you two slept together?"

Her daughter was not mentally mature enough, so she was afraid that Bai Yinning married her daughter only because of her family background.

Bai Yinning was just disabled in the legs, but he was a high-caliber and good-looking man. Many able-bodied people were not necessarily better than him.

She knew very well that Bai Yinning might not be willing to marry her daughter if her daughter did not have such a good family background.

Zhou Chunchun's face turned even redder. "What are you talking about, Mom? We're married, so we sleep together of course."

She cast her eyes down and did not dare to meet her mother's gaze. Bai Yinning had told her to give that exact reply if anyone asked, as though he had expected someone to ask her this question.

The woman was obviously surprised. "Really? You didn't lie to me?"

Zhou Chunchun took the sexy pajamas from her mother and hung it back in place, taking the opportunity to turn her face to the side. "Why should I lie to you?"

Upon turning her face, she saw Lin Xinyan standing on the side.

"Oh, hi." Zhou Chunchun greeted Lin Xinyan after seeing her. She still remembered that Bai Yinning introduced this woman to her at their wedding.

Bai Yinning seemed to have a very good relationship with her, as he even touched her belly that day.

Lin Xinyan smiled back at her, saying, "Hi."

"You two know each other?" The woman walked over and sized Lin Xinyan up.

Nodding her head, Zhou Chunchun replied honestly, "Yes, she's a good friend of Yinning. She was at our wedding too."

The woman stared at Lin Xinyan's belly for a few seconds, and finally fixed her gaze on her face. Lin Xinyan was not the type of woman who looked stunning at first sight, but rather, her beauty became more prominent the more one looked at her. Each of her facial features fits the common standard of beauty as well.

Moreover, she was very friendly and had an attractive air about her.

The woman secretly tightened her grip on Zhou Chunchun's hand, as she knew very well that her daughter was innocent. "Are you and Yinning friends?"

Seemingly noticed the guard the woman had put up, Lin Xinyan didn't know how to explain it, so she replied dully, "Yes, but we don't know each other very well."

"But you look like you're quite close. Yinning even touched your belly that day. Did you forget?" Zhou Chunchun blinked and said.

Unlike her mother, she had no other thoughts.

She was just pointing out what she saw.

Originally, the woman was already wary that Bai Yinning had such an attractive female friend. But Zhou Chunchun's words made her feel that there was more to the relationship between Lin Xinyan and Bai Yinning than met the eyes.

Looking at Lin Xinyan, she immediately pulled a long face. *They're so close that he could touch her body. How is it possible that there's just a regular friendship between them?*

The woman obviously didn't believe that Lin Xinyan and Bai Yinning were just friends, as she snorted and asked, "What exactly is the relationship between you and Bai Yinning?"

Having bumped into Li Jing, and then Zhou Chunchun, Lin Xinyan felt that she shouldn't have gone out today.

Do I really have to check the almanac before I go out?

Being able to fully understand what the woman meant, Lin Xinyan frowned and explained, "You've misunderstood—"

The woman interrupted Lin Xinyan with a cold snort. "Do you think I'm a fool? My daughter is innocent and gullible, but I'm not stupid. How can he touch your belly if you're just regular friends?"

The woman's face grew gloomier. "Don't tell me you're pregnant with his child."

The look on Lin Xinyan's face had also clouded over. "You've misunderstood! I have a husband."

"What's wrong with you, Mom? Why are you angry?" Zhou Chunchun pulled her mother's hand, wondering why she got into a fight with Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan didn't want to talk to her anymore, as she had misunderstood, and any explanation would not get through to her. She thought that saying more would only make things worse.

Therefore, she turned to leave, but the woman grabbed her in the arm to stop her. "Don't try to run away. Tell me clearly, is the baby in your belly related to Bai Yinning? Don't you know that he's already married? Why do you want to be his mistress? Or is he paying you?"

The woman was going overboard with her words, making Lin Xinyan's blood boil. The latter said with emphasis, "Let go of me now, or I'll call the police!"

"As a mistress, how can you still have the face to call the police?" The woman tightened her grip on Lin Xinyan's wrist, and said forcefully, "Explain it clearly or you can't leave."

Lin Xinyan took out her phone. Seeing that she was about to make a call, the woman slapped the phone out of her hand, and said angrily, "What are you doing? Getting help? Let me tell you, don't ever think of leaving if you don't explain it clearly today!"

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The phone fell to the ground with a loud thud, and the screen cracked. Glancing at the phone with its broken screen, Lin Xinyan's face turned grimmer, as she turned to look at the woman and said coldly, "I've explained to you, but you don't believe me. What else can I do? Are you going to keep grabbing me like this?"

The woman still did not let go of her hand. "How am I supposed to trust you?"

After all, only those with very close relationships could physically touch each other. Considering that her daughter was so naive, she was of course afraid that her daughter would be bullied.

Lin Xinyan pointed at the phone on the ground. "I'll call my husband to come over. Is that enough proof?"

The woman hesitated, still feeling worried. "What if you simply ask someone to pose as your husband?"

Lin Xinyan was rendered speechless.

Finding her totally unreasonable, Lin Xinyan was on the brink of a meltdown, as she could not get through to this woman at all.

Judging from the way she dresses, she's also a person of some standing. How can she act like some unreasonable shrews?

Meanwhile, Zhou Chunchun tugged at her mother's arm. "Mom, don't be like this. People are staring."

The woman didn't look around as, compared to the embarrassment she suffered, she thought that the happiness of her daughter was more important and could not be destroyed by another woman.

As Zhou Chunchun couldn't stop her mother, she secretly sent a message to Bai Yinning.

"Are you going to just keep your hold on me like this?" Lin Xinyan's clenched fists were trembling slightly, while her chest was heaving heavily. She would have violently pushed the woman away if it weren't for her current physical condition.

She's simply unreasonable!

"Why did you still want to marry your daughter to Bai Yinning when you don't even trust him? How can you just suspect any woman you meet? Won't you feel tired? How long can you watch over your daughter? Can you watch over her forever? What should she do one day when you're gone?"

Calming herself, Lin Xinyan tried to suppress her anger, and said, trying to talk some sense into the woman, "I think there must also be something about Bai Yinning that you like when you marry your daughter to him. Since your daughter is already married to him, you should try to have faith in his character, instead of being so suspicious all the time. If Bai Yinning knew what happened today, what would he think of you?"

The woman was bereft of speechless. When she married her daughter to Bai Yinning, she really liked him, while her husband was extremely satisfied with him.

She was also very pleased that her innocent daughter was able to marry Bai Yinning. Indeed, marrying her daughter to Bai Yinning meant that she had to believe that he could take good care of her. She could watch over her daughter now, but not forever.

If Bai Yinning were a fickle man, she could not hold him still either.

The woman began to show signs of relenting. “You really have nothing to do with Bai Yinning?”

Lin Xinyan looked at the woman with a very calm expression. “I can ask my husband to bring along the marriage certificate to show you, is that okay?”

The woman straightened up her neck and let go of her wrist. “Make the call then.”

Lin Xinyan sighed. When she was about to bend over to pick up the phone, Zhou Chunchun first stooped to pick up her phone and handed it over, “I don’t think it’s very convenient for you.”

She looked at the broken screen and said a little apologetically, “My mom didn’t mean it. I can compensate you.”

Lin Xinyan looked up at Zhou Chunchun. She was really a very good girl. She was so well protected by her parents that she had never seen the darkness in the world, and seemed to be kind to everyone she met.

She reached out to take the phone that Zhou Chunchun handed over, and said, “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome. My mom is so excited because she cares about me, but I believe that Yinning will not lie to me, and I also believe that you’re a good person,” Zhou Chunchun said seriously.

Lin Xinyan previously thought it was a pity that Bai Yinning married Zhou Chunchun. Now it seemed that it was his blessing instead.

If he treated this girl badly, she wanted to berate him and even beat him up.

She’s such a good girl. If he’s just taking advantage of her family background to achieve the purpose of growing his career, he’ll be too despicable.

“Why don’t you make the call? Are you lying to me?” urged the woman after seeing Lin Xinyan did not make the call, and thinking that she was lying to her.

Lin Xinyan didn’t look at the woman. Although she liked Zhou Chunchun, she really couldn’t bring herself to like this woman. It was not wrong for the woman to care about and protect her daughter, but she couldn’t accept that the woman stopped her from leaving indiscriminately.

The woman was too difficult. If she didn’t explain clearly today, she might not be able to leave. Although she didn’t really want Zong Jinghao to come, she still slid to unlock her phone screen to call him, but the phone screen was broken, which made it a little hard for her to use her phone.

However, Lin Xinyan didn’t know that the driver who was waiting for her outside saw her being pestered by a woman through the glass window, and had already contacted Zong Jinghao.

A black car stopped in front of the entrance of the mall, and the car door soon opened. A tall man with a pair of slender legs in trousers stepped out of the car and walked into the mall.

At the same time, another car stopped and Bai Yinning got out of the car with the help of Gao Yuan.

Seeing Zong Jinghao, he greeted first, “Mr. Zong.”

Zong Jinghao stopped in his tracks, and looked back at Bai Yinning, but did not respond, as he continued to walk steadily toward the place the driver said.

Bai Yinning also followed inside, and soon arrived at the lingerie shop.

The staff in the shop was just watching on the sidelines, and did not come forward to dissuade the women, nor did she ask them to leave. She thought that this would attract customers.

Seeing Zong Jinghao approaching, the driver greeted him and said, “Mrs. Zong came to buy something, but she’s pestered by a woman.”

“Because of what?” Zong Jinghao asked as he walked.

The driver replied truthfully, “I was not there at the time. I didn’t know exactly why. I just saw the woman grabbed Mrs. Zong’s arm and refused to let her go.”

With a cold look on his face, Zong Jinghao walked into the lingerie shop and saw Lin Xinyan standing inside looking at the phone. Actually, Lin Xinyan was trying to call him, but her cracked screen made it a little harder to use her phone. He walked over and asked, “What’s going on?”

Looking up and seeing that it was him, Lin Xinyan was so happy that she wanted to rush up and hug him as if she had seen her savior.

Yet, she controlled her impulse and didn’t step forward to hug him. Instead, she held his arm affectionately, as if she were doing it for the woman, so that she could see clearly that she had a husband.

Lin Xinyan leaned on Zong Jinghao and said weakly, “I’m very tired. Please explain to this lady about our relationship.”

Zong Jinghao was perplexed.

Why do I need to explain our relationship?

What is happening?

Although the woman didn’t go out to socialize much, everyone in B City knew Zong Jinghao, and she was no exception, but she had never heard of him being married.

She started to panic, realizing that she might have really misunderstood Lin Xinyan.

She was at a loss for words for a while.

“Yinning.” At this time, Bai Yinning came in. Zhou Chunchun ran over to push him in his wheelchair. Before Bai Yinning asked her, she started to say, “Mom seems to have misunderstood the relationship between you and Xinyan, so she stopped her from leaving. You should go and explain to my mom.”

Hearing Zhou Chunchun’s words, Zong Jinghao had also figured out why Lin Xinyan was pestered by the woman. His face clouded over as he scoffed, “How annoying.”

Knowing the reason, Bai Yinning also wore a displeased look on his face, and asked in a low voice, “What’s the matter?”

Otherwise, Mrs. Zhou would not have misunderstood Lin Xinyan’s relationship with him for no reason.

Zhou Chunchun recalled what had happened and replied, “It seems that my mom is upset since I said that you’ve touched Xinyan’s belly.”

Bai Yinning instantly understood what was going on.

After he came over, he first apologized to Lin Xinyan, “I’m sorry to cause you trouble.”

Lin Xinyan didn’t look up at him, as she was really upset deep down. No one would still be in a good mood after being accused of being a mistress, stopped from leaving, and getting judged by the crowd.

“You don’t need to say sorry to me. You should explain to your wife and mother-in-law first.”

“Mom, this is Mr. Zong’s wife, Ms. Lin. We know each other and have a good relationship. I was rude last time and made you misunderstand.” Bai Yinning was expressionless on the surface, but he was also very displeased deep down. Obviously, Mrs. Zhou didn’t trust him.

Otherwise, she would not have accused Lin Xinyan of being a mistress and pestered her so relentlessly.

Mrs. Zhou was a little embarrassed. She didn’t expect Bai Yinning to come. She turned around and glanced at her daughter, knowing that it must be her daughter who had informed Bai Yinning. She couldn’t help but sigh, finding her daughter foolish.

But it was her daughter’s personality, and she was reluctant to scold her, so she could only put up with it.

She did not expect Lin Xinyan’s husband to be Zong Jinghao either.

She forced a smile. “I’m sorry that I’ve misunderstood.”

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Not wanting to continue the topic, Lin Xinyan said, "Since we've clarified it, can I leave now?"

Mrs. Zhou swiftly waved her hands. "I'm sorry. You can go."

Lin Xinyan raised her head to look at Zong Jinghao, feeling tired. She murmured, "Let's go."

Zong Jinghao lowered his gaze to look at her. She looked exhausted and in a daze. It seemed like this mess had gotten to her.

He held the hand that Lin Xinyan had hooked in his arm and narrowed his eyes. Shooting a grim look at Bai Yinning, he warned, "Stay away from my wife. This is your last warning. I won't be as nice of a man to talk to the next time." At that, he swept his icy gaze across Zhou Chunchun and Mrs. Zhou before leaving with Lin Xinyan.

Only after they walked out of the lingerie store, then did Zong Jinghao asked, "Why are you here alone?"

Lin Xinyan sighed before teasing, "Then should I have brought you along for shopping?"

She did not have many friends, and the only person whom she was more familiar with was Qin Ya, who was resting at home due to injuries. At the thought of Qin Ya, Lin Xinyan's heart sank.

Zong Jinghao turned to look at her. "What do you want to buy? I'll accompany you."

Lin Xinyan was not shopping alone; she was just teasing him earlier. She knew he was busy, and she knew he could not accompany her for shopping like other husbands.

Lifting her head, she smiled and sweetly said, "Will you really keep me company?"

Zong Jinghao leaned down to peck a kiss on her lips. He chuckled, "Do I not sound serious enough?"

Right then, Bai Yinning, who just came out of the clothing store, saw them. His expression remained calm, but an odd emotion flashed past his eyes. It was clear to him that Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao adored each other.

Mrs. Zhou did not notice Bai Yinning's expression; she was still stunned by the fact that Zong Jinghao was married and his wife was pregnant. "I can't believe the most eligible bachelor Zong Jinghao is already married."

Bai Yinning glanced at Mrs. Zhou before he quietly wheeled himself away. Zhou Chunchun hurried after him, and when Mrs. Zhou saw her daughter's panicking look, she sighed.

It was one thing for her daughter to be innocent, but she was also too concerned with Bai Yinning; she listened to every word he said. *If Bai Yinning is to leave her one day, what will she do?*

It was not that Mrs. Zhou was hoping for the worst for her daughter, but her daughter was too naïve. She did not know how the world work, and she did not know how to appeal to a man's heart. As time went by, she feared for her daughter's inability to keep her man to her side.

She called out, "Chunchun, slow down."

Then, she went after them.

On their way back, Bai Yinning was silent, as though he was quietly complaining about his dissatisfaction.

He could see that Lin Xinyan was angry.

After all, no one could be in a good mood after someone else accused them of being the third wheel in a crowd.

He had never thought of a day where Mrs. Zhou would stop Lin Xinyan from leaving, despite how embarrassing it was.

It's absurd.

The Zhou family lived in a neighborhood beside B City's governmental building. In front of the governmental building was a large park, so their house was in a pleasant environment. The neighborhood was to the right of the park, and the trees concealed most of the houses there. The neighborhood seemed average, but those who lived in it were not; only civil servants were allowed to live here.

Furthermore, it had various facilities and a good security system.

Soon, the car came to a stop. With Gao Yuan's help, Bai Yinning came down from the car before Mrs. Zhou and Zhou Chunchun did.

This was the first time after their marriage that Bai Yinning brought Zhou Chunchun to B City to meet his parents-in-law. At the same time, he planned to talk to Zhou Huaihou about work.

Zhou Huaihou was not involved in the corporate world; he was a civil servant, and he held quite a substantial amount of influential power in his department.

His wife, Gu Huixin, was the Gu family's third daughter. However, she was not raised in the Gu family; she grew up in her aunt's family. That was why she was not close to her parents.

After her marriage with Zhou Huaihou, they became even more distant.

Furthermore, her husband did not like the Gu family, especially Gu Bei, who often did shady things. Zhou Huaihou was a righteous man, so they did not have a fantastic relationship with each other.

However, Gu Huixin and her husband were in a loving relationship. They only had one child—Zhou Chunchun. Although their daughter was not the smartest, and she was innocent, neither was upset by it. They tried their best to protect and love her, and they had never thought of having another child.

Bai Yinning had gone out earlier after receiving Zhou Chunchun's message. When Zhou Huaihou saw them returning together, he asked, "Why did Chunchun ask you to go out?"

Bai Yinning did not answer him. He was still upset about Gu Huixin's actions. Although he did not love Zhou Chunchun, and he wanted to use the Zhou family for his own goals, he never thought of hurting Zhou Chunchun. He truly wanted to let the innocent girl stay by his side.

He did not enjoy the feeling of someone questioning and suspecting him.

With one glance, Zhou Huaihou realized Bai Yinning was unhappy. He turned to look at his daughter. "Tell me what happened, Chunchun."

Zhou Chunchun then told him what had happened at the lingerie store. "I couldn't persuade Mom, so I told Yinning about it."

The moment she said those words, Bai Yinning uttered, "While I did pay attention to her family background when I married Chunchun, but I truly like her. She's not smart, but she's the kindest woman I've seen. I want her to stay by my side forever, and I'll do my best to take care of her for my whole life."

Bai Yinning had no love for her; he only liked her innocence.

He was not a man of conflict. If he was not fated to be with the one he loved, then he would spend the rest of his life with someone whose company he enjoyed.

Bai Yinning raised his head to look at Gu Huixin. "After what happened today, I can sense that you don't trust me. I thought you let Chunchun be by my side because you understand and trust me. But that doesn't seem like it. I'm uncomfortable with this knowledge."

Gu Huixin wanted to explain, but she could not find the words. It was true that she had suspected Bai Yinning's character.

"All right. I was rash this time. It won't happen again. You can't hold a grudge against me forever because of this ." Gu Huixin was an open-minded person; she was not adamant in denying her mistake and refusing to apologize just because she was his elder. "I'll apologize to Mrs. Zong another day. After all, I've embarrassed her in public."

At that, she sighed, "Who knew that woman was Zong Jinghao's wife?"

Bai Yinning was not a man who held onto unreasonable grudges, and he was respectful of the Zhou couple. After a moment of contemplation, he muttered, "Don't look for her. You're her elder. Let Chunchun do it. She's around the same age as... Mrs. Zong. She's more suitable for the apology."

Bai Yinning had a personal motive. He wanted Zhou Chunchun and Lin Xinyan to become good friends.

It was not a plan to get close to her; he just wanted to see her.

After giving some thought to his words, Gu Huixin nodded. It was embarrassing for someone like her to apologize to her. Her daughter would be able to represent her. However, she was afraid that Zhou Chunchun would not be able to do it; the young woman was not good with courteous words.

Noticing Gu Huixin's worry, Bai Yinning reassured, "Mom, don't worry. That... Mrs. Zong is a kind woman. She won't make things difficult for Chunchun."

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Every time he called Lin Xinyan “Mrs. Zong,” his heart felt as though it was stung by a bee.

Unable to control that feeling, he did his best to hide it from others.

Gu Huixin nodded again, hearing the sense in his words. She took out some money from her purse and handed it to her daughter, but her words were for Bai Yinning. “Buy a phone with it, Chunchun. I... accidentally ruined her phone. We’ll have to be sincere in the apology.”

Now that Gu Huixin thought back on her actions, she realized she had been unreasonable.

The agitation had taken over her mind back then; she feared others were bullying her daughter.

It was really embarrassing to have done those things she did earlier.

Taking the money from Zhou Chunchun’s hands to give it back to Gu Huixin, Bai Yinning said, “Mom, I have money with me. You don’t need to give us any. Tell me if you need any money next time.”

Zhou Huaihou was an honest man, and he was not rich; the only earnings he got were from his wage.

Gu Huixin did not move to take the money immediately. Now, she felt guilty for suspecting him earlier.

“You know my history. Bai Hongfei isn’t my biological father. He’s nice to me, and he was my father figure. But I’ve never had a mother figure, and neither do I

know how to love a mother. I'll do my best to be good to Dad and you. Thank you for entrusting Chunchun to me."

While Bai Yinning was sincere with his words, he was also indirectly telling Gu Huixin to stop being suspicious of him in the future.

He was good with his words; his words struck a chord in the Zhou couple's hearts. Gu Huixin and Zhou Huaihou only had a daughter, Zhou Chunchun, and they had never expected their son-in-law to take care of them. All they wanted was for someone to take care of their daughter when they no longer could.

Bai Yinning's words moved them.

"All right." Zhou Huaihou patted Bai Yinning's shoulder. "We only have one daughter. That's why Huixin is so worried about her. Don't take what happened today to heart."

"I won't. I just hope you'll believe that I'm sincere when I say I'll take care of Chunchun from now on. I hope this won't happen again."

Right as Bai Yinning's words left his mouth, Gu Huixin replied, "I was too agitated today. It won't happen again."

"Hurry and go so you'll be able to make it home for dinner," she added.

Bai Yinning laughed, "If we're late, I'll eat with Chunchun in a restaurant. Don't wait up for us."

Gu Huixin smiled and agreed before watching her daughter and son-in-law left the house.

At the mall.

Although she was not done with her shopping, Lin Xinyan was not planning to force Zong Jinghao to keep her company. She knew he was busy; he should be busy with searching Number Four's whereabouts right now.

"Why don't you head home first?" Lin Xinyan realized she still could not stop herself from selfishly keeping him to herself.

Zong Jinghao ran his fingers through her hair before he pulled her into his arms. He then steered the two of them toward another lingerie store. "Peichuan is on it. I can make time to shop with you, you know?"

She gave a faint smile and accepted his company.

Only after entering the store did Lin Xinyan come to her senses. She inquired, "How did you know what I wanted to buy?"

"Weren't you at the lingerie store earlier?" As he spoke, he leaned closer to her. Women's lingerie was something private, and he thought Lin Xinyan was buying them for herself. His lips were a hair's breadth away from her ears, and they were too intimate in public. Lin Xinyan pushed him and murmured a reminder, "People are watching. Control yourself."

Zong Jinghao hummed, "Then I'll let lose my restraints at home."

His words rendered Lin Xinyan speechless.

Realizing she had to tell him about Qin Ya's presence at home, she voiced, "I have something to tell you."

"What?" Looking at her serious expression, Zong Jinghao's heart skipped a beat.

"I've brought Qin Ya back home. She needs someone to take care of her, but she doesn't want Su Zhan to do that. I'm worried about the others taking care of her, so I brought her back. I forgot to discuss with you about that." Although it was no

major matter, she felt that she should have discussed the matter with him before she did it.

There were some inconveniences that came with Qin Ya's presence—he wanted to spend more time with her and the children—but he would not disagree with it. He knew she was good friends with Qin Ya.

He could not say no due to both Lin Xinyan and Su Zhan's relationship with her.

“You'll decide for our family.” He took a piece of black sexy lingerie and showed it to Lin Xinyan. “Do you like this?”