

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 601

Shen Peichuan shook his head and said no.

Sitting across the table, Captain Song took a quick glimpse at Shen Peichuan and then at Song Yaxin. He knew his wife's words would have affected his daughter, but there was nothing his daughter could do to undo the past, no matter how much she regretted it.

As people always say—never force anything that was not meant to be, because one would never have to force anything that was truly meant to be.

It was true that Captain Song really hoped Shen Peichuan could marry his daughter at one point, but he knew love could not be forced.

That was why he invited Shen Peichuan and Sang Yu over.

It was time he buried his unfulfilled wish, and it was also time his wife and his daughter got over the past.

Now that Song Yaxin had divorced, all Captain Song wanted was for her to get over the hurt and start anew with someone else who would truly cherish her.

Looking at the four of them, Captain Song let out a sigh and collected himself. "Come, let's dig in. Make yourself at home; there's not a need to be so constrained. I remember you being quite an eloquent girl," he said, looking at Sang Yu.

Captain Song really admired the girl. From his first impression of her, she was energetic and courageous.

Upon hearing that, a small and innocent grin spread across Sang Yu's lips. "I was really worried that you would punish him back then."

Captain Song chuckled as he thought about how Sang Yu had defended Shen Peichuan last time. "I bet you're the one who pursued him."

Captain Song knew Shen Peichuan inside out. He knew that the man would never initiate something like that when he first saw the news.

But Shen Peichuan had quickly interjected and came to Sang Yu's rescue. "No, it is I who liked her first," he said softly but surely.

He did not want people to have the wrong idea about Sang Yu.

After all, she was the one who had helped him out.

Captain Song widened his eyes in surprise and laughed heartily. "Ha! I didn't expect that!"

He had always thought Shen Peichuan to be an honest and dull man.

It never occurred to him that Shen Peichuan would go after any girl. That said a lot about how much Shen Peichuan liked Sang Yu.

It was completely understandable, though. Sang Yu was a beautiful girl in her prime, and she had a fine character. Captain Song could tell that she was someone who had a mind of her own, although she was much younger than Shen Peichuan.

He shifted his gaze to Sang Yu and told her, "Peichuan does not have his family with him here, so you must take good care of him."

She smiled and nodded her head vigorously as she stole a look at Shen Peichuan.

Sang Yu knew that this was the man she wanted to marry one day.

But Song Yaxin begged to differ. She eyed the couple and said sourly, "Peichuan, look at how nice my dad is to you. Why not you be his son? I'm sure he'll look out for you at work too."

Her intention was so obvious that the atmosphere turned awkward around the table.

Captain Song's piercing glare sank through his daughter the moment he heard what she said. "You may leave if you're not here to enjoy a meal. Do you think everyone should let you have your way just because you recently went through a divorce?"

Beside him, Mrs. Song shot a quick look at her daughter and figured that she should try placating her husband. "Come on; she's still recovering from a broken marriage. Understandably, all she can see is her own misery. Don't be so hard on her."

But Captain Song still pulled a long papaya face, shooting daggers at his daughter. All he wanted was for her to get over Shen Peichuan. Yet, not only was she refusing to let the past go, but she was also making a fuss and dragging other people into the mess.

Although Captain Song had reprimanded his daughter, Shen Peichuan still felt that it was not a good time to dine with the family today. He felt that he should allow each side some time to recover and readjust. Having made up his mind, he held Sang Yu's hand and stood up. "I'm sorry, Captain. I still have some work to attend to. I'm afraid Sang Yu and I can't stay any longer."

Captain Song nodded quietly as if he expected Shen Peichuan would take leave. "I'm sorry if we made you uncomfortable. I hope you don't take it to heart."

"I won't, Captain. I owe my promotion to you, and I'm altogether grateful for what you've done for me," Shen Peichuan replied cordially with a bow. Regardless of

what Song Yaxin said, he knew Captain Song was a kind person, and he appreciated everything Captain Song had done for him.

Nothing would change how much he respected his captain.

“You’re one capable man yourself, else you wouldn’t have gotten promoted. Why don’t we have a meal another day? You should treat me the next time around,” Captain Song suggested.

Indeed, there was no way Captain Song and Zhou Huaihou would agree to promote Shen Peichuan if not for his caliber.

They knew he was a man who took his job seriously.

But still, Shen Peichuan appreciated Captain Song’s kindness. “You should come over to my place next time. I’ll cook you something delicious.”

Captain Song raised his brows in surprise. “I didn’t know you knew how to cook!”

“Well, I’ve been staying alone for a while, so I know how to cook a thing or two. My cooking is not particularly good, but I’m willing to cook you something nice if you don’t mind trying,” Shen Peichuan answered as he clasped his hand nervously with a smile.

“Of course I won’t mind. Till I get to try your cooking then. See you,” Captain Song waved him goodbye as he gestured to send them off.

“We’ll see ourselves out. See y’all around,” Shen Peichuan greeted the captain and Mrs. Song before leaving with Sang Yu.

Right after the couple disappeared around the door, Captain Song turned around and eyed his daughter coldly. “What do you think you’re doing?”

Over at the table, Song Yaxin grabbed her hair in agony. She did not know why she had blurted out such insensitive words either. All she knew was that it surely did not feel good to see Shen Peichuan together with Sang Yu.

“You’re the one who refused to get together with Peichuan last time. I’m pretty sure he cared for you deeply. I knew he would be a good son-in-law, but you didn’t want to listen to us. There is literally nothing you can do no matter how much you regret your decision now. What you just said is so unabashed. I feel ashamed as your father. Also, Shen Peichuan was promoted because he deserves it. It’s not like I show him special favor. Yes, I did nominate him to be the deputy chief, but that’s purely because of his capability. Now that you put it that way, it sounds like I do have an ulterior motive,” Captain Song berated her in a harangue.

Again, Mrs. Song tried interjecting to appease her husband. “But you need to understand her pain too...”

“So you’re saying her pain is a legit excuse for her to inflict pain on others?” he questioned his wife before she could even finish her sentence. To Captain Song, there was no way he would condone such a selfish attitude.

Hearing this, Mrs. Song zipped her lips and stopped talking. Deep in her heart, she knew her husband was right. Shen Peichuan was a good and reliable man—it was their daughter’s fault the two never made it to the end.

Mrs. Song let out a sigh and asked, “Why didn’t you tell me he already has a girlfriend?”

“It’s not like I have to report everything to you, right?” Captain Song replied impatiently.

Now that he was no longer in the mood for food, he left the table without saying another word.

Seeing her husband leave in a foul mood, she turned towards her daughter and questioned her. "I thought you didn't like Shen Peichuan? What was with that reaction just now? Look at what you've done. Your dad is so pissed because of what you said."

Song Yaxin knew she should not have said such a remark. She smacked her lips and grunted, "I'm so sorry, mom. I really don't know what's gotten into me."

She had always thought that Shen Peichuan was where he was today because of her dad. She thought that he had come today because he wanted to show his gratitude. That was why she thought that they still had a chance. But to her dismay, Shen Peichuan came with his girlfriend, and that devastated her.

"Don't tell me it hurts you to see him have a girlfriend?" Mrs. Song probed.

She was not sure if her daughter still liked Shen Peichuan at this point. If she did, there was no reason for her to reject him last time; if she did not, there was no reason for her to be so prickly now.

Mrs. Song really could not wrap her head around what Song Yaxin really felt.

"No. Him having a girlfriend doesn't mean anything to me," her daughter replied.

Mrs. Song shook her head as she eyed her daughter carefully. She knew that was probably not the case, but she decided to let the matter off. Song Yaxin had just divorced, and Mrs. Song did not want to add to the pain her daughter was going through.

"Whatever. Just go and apologize to your dad. I'm sure he'll forgive you," she told her daughter.

"Seriously, mom, why is dad so nice to him? It's like Shen Peichuan is his illegitimate child," Song Yaxin joked with a smirk on her face.

“What are you talking about? You’d better not let your dad hear this,” Mrs. Song rebuked.

She knew her husband was a man of principle; he would never do something like that.

“Come on, mom. It’s just a joke. What I mean is he’s way nicer to an outsider than he is to his own daughter. He made things so difficult for me just now,” she complained.

“You know your dad loves you. He was so worried about you he didn’t sleep a wink when you got a divorce. He’s good to Shen Peichuan because he adores that young man. Anyways, go on and apologize to him now. Ask him to come back and eat,” Mrs. Song reminded her daughter.

Song Yaxin stood up obediently and headed for her dad’s room.

Meanwhile, Shen Peichuan started the engine and sped off right after Sang Yu got in the car without saying a single word.

Sang Yu tilted her head and shot him a questioning look. “Are you guys really close?”

At least that’s what I felt back there. But she did not say it out loud.

Shen Peichuan took a glimpse at her and replied shortly, “Kind of.”

“Does she like you? Is that why she’s so…”

“No, she doesn’t. Captain Song and his wife once wanted to matchmake us, but she did not have eyes for me,” Shen Peichuan interrupted before Sang Yu said anything else.

He really did not know why Song Yaxin had been behaving like that just now.

“Really?” Sang Yu replied suspiciously. She had a gut feeling that Song Yaxin liked him.

“Why? You don’t believe what I say?” Shen Peichuan asked.

Sang Yu shook her head and smiled quietly. After all, it was not worth it to make a big fuss out of this. “Where are we going?”

“I’m sending you to school,” Shen Peichuan answered without turning his head.

“You’re not buying me a meal? I played your girlfriend this whole afternoon, and I didn’t even get to eat anything. Don’t you think you owe me a favor?” Sang Yu teased.

“I’m sorry, I totally forgot about that. What would you like to have?”

“I’m fine with anything. You’re the one who’s paying anyways,” Sang Yu teased with a gleeful smile.

“Alright. I’ll choose then,” Shen Peichuan answered. He did not usually frequent fancy restaurants unless he was with Zong Jinghao and Su Zhan. After all, he was just a working-class employee, and those two were way out of his league.

But since Sang Yu had done him a favor today, he decided to pick an expensive restaurant.

He took a turn and headed for the restaurant he had in mind. After parking the car, they made their way into the restaurant and sat down. “Feel free to pick whatever you like; it’s my treat,” Shen Peichuan stated.

“Sure!” Sang Yu was excited to eat some nice food.

“I should treat myself to something nice too,” Shen Peichuan uttered, assuring Sang Yu to order ahead.

This was the first time Sang Yu had come to such a posh restaurant as a customer instead of a waitress.

A waiter came over and handed them the menu as he waited patiently for Shen Peichuan to take a look through it.

“She’ll be ordering,” Shen Peichuan told the waiter as he looked at Sang Yu.

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Sang Yu perused the menu, and she could not help but gasp. A plate of tofu was priced at 68, although she was sure the only thing special about that dish was its name—White Jade with Special Royal Signature Sauce. But to Sang Yu, it was just a common tofu dish.

To her, everything on the menu was unreasonably priced. The only thing posh about the dishes were their names.

They named a normal cabbage soup French Chou Sweet Chowder and priced it at 108.

A roast duck was 266 just because they named it French Charcoal Roasted Stuffed Duck.

They even had the audacity to price a sugar roasted pork tenderloin at 88 because they named it Soft Pork Tenderloin with Honey and White Vinegar.

Everything was so overpriced that Sang Yu could not bring herself to continue browsing through the menu.

She closed the menu and gave it back to the waiter, saying, “We’re not ordering. Sorry for the trouble.”

A slight frown settled on Shen Peichuan’s brows as he looked at her, confused. “You don’t like the dishes?”

“I’d prefer something else,” Sang Yu said as she stood up to leave.

Shen Peichuan followed suit and stood up. “Alright then. You can choose any restaurant you like.”

Stuck in between the two of them, the waiter took the menu from Sang Yu and stole a look at them rigidly. Judging from the age gap between the two, it was totally expected for Shen Peichuan to spoil Sang Yu, which the waiter thought was unacceptable. However, the waiter dared not say anything because he knew Shen Peichuan was a police officer from the uniform he was wearing.

The two made their way out and Sang Yu finally told him the truth. “Everything is so expensive! There’s no way a plate of tofu costs 68! That’s absurd!”

“I can’t believe you just gave a pass on ripping me off. You won’t come across such a chance like this anymore,” Shen Peichuan joked. To be honest, he was surprised that that was the reason why she wanted to eat elsewhere.

“True that. Should I just make full use of this opportunity?” Sang Yu considered the idea carefully.

“It’s not too late to change your mind,” Shen Peichuan reminded her.

He meant it when he said he wanted to treat her to something nice.

“I think I know a better place,” Sang Yu said as she wrapped her hands around his arms and pulled him towards the car.

Beside her, Shen Peichuan’s gaze landed on her hands – they were coarse. *It must be because she has been doing a lot of chores.*

It must not be easy for a freshman student to earn a living.

“Let me know if you need any help in the future. I promised your mother I would be there for you,” he said.

But he realized his blunder the moment he saw the smile on her face faded away and quickly apologized.

“It’s okay,” Sang Yu replied softly. She knew Shen Peichuan did not mean it. But still, her mind could not help but wander back to those horrible days.

“There’s nothing we can do about it anyway. I wanted to get her out of that house once I was able to fend for myself. But she was sentenced to imprisonment for murder before I can do anything,” she said with a resigned sigh.

Shen Peichuan walked beside her without saying a word. He knew she needed someone to listen to her stories.

“My dad was a gambler. He always hung out with his bunch of toxic friends. He would extort money from my mom every time he lost a game, and that usually ended brutally. My mom was not an educated woman, to begin with, so she could only sell lilies from our garden and do some odd jobs to put food on the table. She was the one making money, and my dad was the one who spent it all. The fact that he would come home in a foul mood and beat my mom up if he lost his money made things worse, and I had to grow up watching all of it without being able to do anything. The only hope I held onto to help me go through those dark days was the hope that I would graduate from a good university and get her out of her misery when I could afford to do so. But of course, such a time never came,” Sang Yu recalled.

Although her dad was gone and those days had finally ended, thinking about it still made her shudder. One of the many confrontations that left a scarring impression was when her dad had struck her mom with a long wooden bench. After the atrocious attack, she saw her mom lying motionless on the floor. Even after her mom regained her strength, her whole back was covered with bruises for months.

There was another time when her dad pushed her mom and locked her against the floor between his legs. He had grabbed her hair with one hand and slapped her incessantly with his other hand until blood came spilling out of her mouth. Sang Yu went up to her dad and tried pulling him away, wailing and begging him to have mercy, but her dad had simply booted her and sent her flying against the wall.

“My dad was worse than an animal. I felt no pity for him for his death. To be honest, his death was an easy way out. Sometimes I really do resent the law. I don’t see justice in what happened to my family. My dad had only gotten what he deserved, but my mom was punished for serving him justice.”

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Sang Yu knew full well that the law was necessary to maintain social order.

However, her heart ached every time she thought of her mom.

Shen Peichuan did not know how to console her because he had never walked her journey. Yet as someone who worked at the police station, he had had his fair share of the tragedies and evils of life.

Domestic violence was a pervasive problem in society. But different people reacted differently under such circumstances because everyone was entitled to their own opinion and reaction, and they would have to be responsible for whatever they did.

The only thing Shen Peichuan could do for Sang Yu was to give her a shoulder to lean on and be there for her when she needed it.

He had previously not been aware of the back story. When he went through the case file, it only said that her mom was jailed for murder. He had never tried finding out why she committed the crime. But now that Sang Yu had told him about what happened to her family, he finally understood why her mom had killed her dad. She had suffered at his hands for too long – she could no longer endure it. But a crime was still a crime, and she had to be held responsible for what she did.

Because ultimately, justice should be dispensed in an orderly manner – through the legal system. If people could take vengeance into their own hands, society would end up in chaos.

Sang Yu did not mean to spoil the mood by bringing up such a heavy topic. It just so happened that she thought about it and badly wanted to talk about it with

someone. "I'm sorry to burden you with my past," she said, shifting her gaze towards Shen Peichuan.

"It's okay. I understand. You should remember that there's a reason why things are going haywire in a lot of countries," Shen Peichuan reminded as he looked into her eyes.

"I know. The law is needed to keep everyone safe and to keep everything in place in a country," she replied.

"The law has an essential role in our society. A functional and comprehensive legal system guarantees the people's safety and sustains a country. I do sympathize with your mom's encounter, but in front of the law, the guilty have to be punished," Shen Peichuan explained.

"I understand. It's just difficult for me to reconcile the fact to my emotions, especially after seeing what happened to my mom." If she had known there were better ways of seeking help, things would have been different. Back then, she was unaware of domestic violence centers that could intervene in her family's problem. She was glad that there were now better laws and a more accessible system to uproot domestic violence in society.

"So where are we heading?" Shen Peichuan asked after they got in the car.

"Hm, I'm not sure how we should get out of this area. But that restaurant is in the West City," Sang Yu commented as she took a look at the surroundings.

"Alright then. Let's go," Shen Peichuan replied as he started the engine.

The familiar shops in the West City soon appeared before their eyes as they reached the area after a ten-minute drive. Sang Yu knew this area well since she did a few part-time jobs in West City.

"Go straight after you turn right at the junction," she said, pointing at the traffic light.

Shen Peichuan spared her a glance as he took a right turn. “What are we having?”

“You’ll know when we reach. I don’t want to spoil it for you,” Sang Yu replied as she eyed him cheekily.

Shen Peichuan raised his brows and agreed to keep the element of surprise. He was glad to see that Sang Yu had grown up into a cheerful and optimistic woman despite her problematic childhood. He could tell that she was trying hard to live a good life and be happy although she was alone in the city.

“Oh, there’s a slot over there. In front of the red signal board,” Sang Yu pointed out when she spotted a parking slot.

Right after Shen Peichuan parked the car, Sang Yu hopped off eagerly and surveyed the area.

“This is a restaurant I used to work at. They serve really good roast duck. The shop owner is very kind,” Sang Yu told Shen Peichuan as he walked towards her.

The location of the restaurant was not entirely strategic, but it was spacious and clean with a unique interior design.

“It’s usually very crowded in the afternoon, so I think we have come at the right time,” Sang Yu said as they walked in.

Shen Peichuan followed her lead and entered the restaurant before they sat down at a table right beside the French windows.

As Sang Yu expected, there were not a lot of customers. A waitress came over not long after they were seated. “Hey, Sang Yu. It’s been a long time!” the waitress greeted, smiling from ear to ear.

“It’s nice to see you again. Don’t forget to give me a discount,” Sang Yu replied with a playful wink.

“Of course. I’ll make sure you get a discount since you used to work here. Who is this gentleman?” the waitress inquired with a hint of mischief in her eyes.

“My uncle,” Sang Yu replied briefly as their eyes met.

“I see. I thought he was your boyfriend.” The waitress put on a disappointed face as she passed them the menu.

Sang Yu took the menu and started going through it. “Leave it to me. I know all the nice food over here.”

It did not take long for Sang Yu to look up at the waitress again. She made her order before passing the menu back to the waitress.

“Alright, got it. We’ll serve the dishes in no time.” The waitress scribbled their order and went towards the kitchen, humming a soft tune.

After she left, Sang Yu went over to the counter to get a glass of water for each of them. “I’m sure you’re thirsty,” she remarked, putting a glass down before Shen Peichuan.

“Thanks.” Shen Peichuan took a sip of water. Before long, the waitress reappeared and served the dishes. “The extra dish is on the boss. He’s glad you brought a guest over today. Enjoy the food,” she said before making herself scarce once more.

Meanwhile, Sang Yu eyeballed the food eagerly and got ready to dig in. The restaurant’s roast duck was their signature dish. The skin was crispy, and the meat was puffy and juicy. Sang Yu took a piece of flour tortilla and carefully wrapped a piece of meat in it. “Do you prefer it sweet or spicy?” she asked Shen Peichuan.

“Hm, I prefer it spicy. I bet you like it sweet. Girls usually do,” Shen Peichuan replied.

“Not really. A lot of girls like taking spicy food these days,” Sang Yu explained as she spread some spicy sauce on top and held it close to his mouth.

Shen Peichuan’s gaze dug into the food held before him and thought that the gesture was a little too intimate. “You can have it yourself. I’ll make some for myself.”

However, Sang Yu was adamant. “Why? Do you think my hands are dirty? I washed my hands just now when I went to get water. Come on, don’t be a killjoy,” she urged.

Shen Peichuan had no other choice but to let her have her way. Seeing he had finally budged, Sang Yu stuffed the food in his mouth, and her fingers inadvertently brushed his lips when she fed him. She quickly retracted her hand and rested her hand on her lap.

“What do you think? Is it good?” She looked at him, anticipating an answer.

Shen Peichuan nodded silently as he munched away. He might look calm and composed on the outside, but deep down, his heart was fluttering because of the brief and unintentional touch. “Not bad. It’s not too oily,” he said shortly.

Indeed, the roast duck was tasty like no other. Roast ducks were usually oily, but this one was crispy, and the flesh was tender. The sauce complemented the meat well; the two blended into a perfect combination without a greasy aftertaste.

“Try it with the sweet sauce,” Sang Yu suggested as she passed him the sauce. Shen Peichuan did exactly as she did and wrapped a few slices of meat in a flour tortilla after dipping them in sweet sauce. This time around, the meat tasted slightly different from the first bite he had.

“I can tell you’re a foodie,” he said as he chewed and nodded approvingly.

“Well, I’m not someone who splurges on food. I just happened to know about this restaurant because I used to work here,” Sang Yu replied with a shrug. “By the

way, what do you look for in a woman? Someone from an established family? Or perhaps someone with a good job?"

Sang Yu asked this because she felt like Song Yaxin was under the impression that Shen Peichuan owed everything he had to Captain Song.

In Sang Yu's eyes, however, Shen Peichuan was the deputy chief because he deserved it. He had worked hard, and he had earned that title.

He was an inspiration to her. She wanted to be a worthy helper that could assist him in the future.

Shen Peichuan furrowed his brows and sunk into deep thoughts. He was not looking for anything in particular in his future partner as marriage was something that came naturally to him as he aged. "Well, I guess I would want to marry someone my age. She just has to be kind. She doesn't have to have a strong family background. It'll be okay as long as she's someone I can get along well with."

Although Shen Peichuan's expectation was not high, Sang Yu still felt that it was unattainable because of their age gap.

She pursed her lips and picked up her chopsticks as she served him some vegetables. "I'm thinking about changing my major and apply for the police academy."

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Across the table, Shen Peichuan's chopsticks froze in his hands. "You don't like what you're currently studying?"

Sang Yu's gaze lowered as she toyed with a piece of flour tortilla with her chopsticks. "Of course I like what I'm studying. That's why I chose this major in the first place. It's just that..."

Shen Peichuan dug his scrutinizing gaze into her face. "What's the matter then? Are you regretting your decision?"

"Not really. I just decided to change my mind." A sweet smile broke across Sang Yu's face as she looked back up at him.

"Tell me about it."

Sang Yu finally picked up the battered piece of flour tortilla and dipped it in the spicy sauce before eating it in one go. She chomped down on it and swallowed hard before saying calmly, "I already told you, but you didn't get it."

"Huh? I didn't get what you said?" Shen Peichuan looked at her, confused. Everything she said was as plain as day, and he was sure that he understood her perfectly.

Sang Yu decided to change the topic and said, "Why not you try this dish?" She knew he was not someone who was good at reading in between the lines. But all of a sudden, she felt that she was not ready to let him know how she felt either.

As anticipated, Shen Peichuan simply nodded and dropped the topic without thinking any further.

After the hearty meal, the two left the restaurant and headed for the car. “This meal was really a good deal. You only spent a hundred, and the food was delicious,” Sang Yu said with a bright smile.

She felt that it was a good bargain compared to the earlier restaurant.

The only reason why everything was overpriced at that restaurant was because of the atmosphere—and she did not see the need to pay for that.

“I’ll send you to your uni,” Shen Peichuan offered.

“It’s fine, I’ll just see you off. My uni is nearby so I’ll just take a cab,” Sang Yu rejected. She figured he must be busy.

“It’s okay, I still have some time. Let’s go,” he replied.

Since he insisted on sending her over, Sang Yu thanked him and got in the car.

“You don’t need to thank me. You’re the one who’s done me a favor today.”

Shen Peichuan knew his way to her university, but instead of stopping right in front of the school, he pulled over at a distance.

“I’ll drop you off here. See you,” he bid.

Shen Peichuan had learned his lesson after what happened last time. He did not want Sang Yu to go through the whole ordeal again.

After all, she was a girl, and he took it on himself to protect her.

Sang Yu understood where he was coming from. She unbuckled the safety belt and waved him goodbye. “Drive safe,” she said before opening the door.

“Sure. Call me if you need anything,” Shen Peichuan said with a firm nod.

Sang Yu got off the car and waited as he drove off before walking into the school.

But no matter how wary they were this time around, someone had still caught them red-handed.

Across the road, Song Yaxin sat in the car, watching them. She had found out from her dad that Sang Yu was a student at Huaqing University. It so happened that Song Yaxin was best friends with the chancellor's daughter, and she had always visited them.

After getting a long lecture from her dad, Sang Yu still felt something was off. She knew Shen Peichuan was a dense and conservative man. It was impossible that he would fall for a university student. She thought that it must be Sang Yu who had seduced him.

Song Yaxin released the parking brake and whooshed by Sang Yu as she headed into the university.

But Sang Yu changed her mind and decided to go back to her dorms and wash her clothes before heading for class. She still had some time before her class started at 3 o'clock.

Sang Yu even had some spare time to take a nap after washing her clothes. By 2 o'clock, she got up and went to class. But before she could even step into the lecture hall, her professor called her over to his office.

"Did you offend anyone by any chance?" the professor asked.

"I don't think I did," Sang Yu replied with a clueless look.

"Someone has been raking up the scandal over at the chancellor's side," the professor pointed out.

“I thought we’ve already solved that matter?” Sang Yu blurted out in a questioning tone. She really had no idea who would try to bring that incident up again.

“I don’t know what happened either. Just write me a reflection essay,” the professor said, shaking his head helplessly. There was nothing he could do since this was what the chancellor wanted.

“Just a reflection essay?” Sang Yu probed. She felt as if the issue was not as simple as that.

The professor let out a sigh and decided to tell her everything. “You’ll have to read it out loud in front of all the faculty members and students at the university. Your reflection will also be put on the blackboard to serve as a cautionary tale for everyone.”

Sang Yu clenched her fists in anger at the ridiculous punishment. “Why are they doing this now? We’ve already settled everything last time. I don’t mind writing a reflection essay, but to read it out in front of everyone and even have it pinned on the blackboard? I don’t think that’s fair!”

Her professor thought such a request was unreasonable as well, but he was only taking orders from the higher-ups. “I understand how you feel. But I’ll advise you to do as they ask if you want to graduate as planned.”

Sang Yu evaded her professor’s imploring gaze and stared at the ground. She was still trying to come to terms with the humiliating punishment.

“You should think of your future. Just do it. Alright, off you go. Don’t let it affect your studies,” the professor consoled her.

But it was not like this was the first time Sang Yu had been trampled all over. She knew the world was unfair, and those who had the power and money could do whatever they wished.

She knew Lu Wanwan was the one behind this.

The woman had done it once – she would do it again.

Sang Yu would not budge this easily. She had her eyes fixed on what was really important—her studies. And she would do everything she could to earn a degree.

She had to be someone who matched Shen Peichuan.

This small obstacle was nothing compared to the goal she was working towards.

The professor patted her on the shoulder and urged her to return to class. “Go on; you don’t want to miss your class.”

Sang Yu clenched her jaw and nodded silently as she turned to leave. She knew it was not going to be easy—but she would survive.

The professor knew Sang Yu was a smart and diligent student. That was probably why she aroused others’ jealousy and was given such a severe punishment.

The professor was actually relieved that Sang Yu was someone who had never lost sight of what she wanted and was willing to put up with whatever came her way.

Over at home, Zong Jinghao came back early because he wanted to avoid Bai Yinning. He was thinking about bringing his daughter to the pet shop, but it turned out that she had already gone over there in the morning. Now that he had some time to himself, he decided to spend some time with Lin Xinyan.

Besides, he also wanted to talk to her about their wedding arrangement.

Lin Xinyan was lying on the bed when he brought up the matter. She spared him a lazy look and said unenthusiastically, "You can make whatever arrangement you want."

Zong Jinghao went over and rested her head on his lap as he stroke her stray hairs. "What's the matter?"

Lin Xinyan found it ticklish and blinked her eyes hard. "How about you tell me a joke?"

Hearing her request, Zong Jinghao was at a loss for words.

He thought about it for a moment before he moved his hands towards her waist, wanting to tickle her. But Lin Xinyan stopped him and said, "Tell me a joke."

"This is unfair. It doesn't matter as long as I'm able to put a smile on your face," he replied as he lowered his body and leaned closer. But Lin Xinyan pushed his face away and shook her head. "Stay away. You haven't told me a joke yet."

"This is too difficult for me," Zong Jinghao complained. He was not a humorous person, to begin with. "How about I get on my knees and beg you to smile?"

To his surprise, a smile broke across her face as she chuckled.

"Was that even funny?" Zong Jinghao looked at her, bewildered.

Just as Lin Xinyan was about to reply to his question, a sharp ringtone came from his pocket. Zong Jinghao reached for his phone. "It's Su Zhan," he said while looking at her.

"Go on, pick it up," Lin Xinyan said as she hurried him.

Right after he picked up, a woman's voice came from the other end.

“Who are you?” Zong Jinghao asked in an alarmed tone.

What does he think he's doing? I thought he wanted to get back together with Qin Ya?

Sensing something was wrong, Lin Xinyan sat up and moved closer to the phone, trying to hear who was it on the other side.

“I’m calling from Tong Yu Bar. Your friend just drank till he dropped. I’m calling you to come over and pick him up,” the lady said.

Zong Jinghao rolled his eyes when he heard that. He finally got to have some alone time with Lin Xinyan, and Su Zhan just had to ruin it.

Lin Xinyan shrugged and told him, “I guess you’ll have to make your way there.”

Zong Jinghao hung up and asked, “Have you asked Qin Ya if there’s any possibility of them getting back together?”

Zong Jinghao was sure Qin Ya was the reason why Su Zhan had gotten himself so drunk.

He was thinking of asking Su Zhan to get over her if there were no chance of them getting back together.

“I bet Su Zhan has no one to take care of him at home. Why don’t you bring him over? I’ll ask Qin Ya to talk to him herself,” Lin Xinyan suggested.

Zong Jinghao thought it was a good idea to let them talk things out on their own.

Thinking of it, he cupped her face in his hands and planted a kiss on her forehead before leaving. “What a smart wife I have. See you!”

Lin Xinyan shot him a satisfied smile as she watched him leave. Not long after he departed, she headed downstairs and bumped into Aunt Wang, who was helping Qin Ya out of her room.

Qin Ya spotted her instantly and said, "It's too boring to stay in my room the whole day. It's better for me to come out to get some fresh air."

Lin Xinyan nodded and smiled. Everything was going just as she planned. Qin Ya would be able to see how devastated Su Zhan was when Zong Jinghao brought him back.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 605

“I’ll go with you.” Lin Xinyan walked over and took out some fruits from the refrigerator. After washing and cutting them, she placed them on a plate and put them on the table. When she sat down next to her, he saw that the injury on her leg was already scabbing. “It’s almost recovered.”

Qin Ya said, “It better be. I’m bored to death.”

“You don’t seem bored.” Lin Xinyan fed her a piece of honeydew. “How is your Uncle’s business doing?”

After closing for a long time, it was only natural for the company to start losing customers. Their popularity would also gradually decline after the exhibition. They had been forgotten by the public after they stopped operating for a long time. Hence, she came up with an idea. In the time that they couldn’t return to C City, Qin Ya had taken on online clients and helped them draw designs according to their requirements. Then, she sent it to Shao Yun, who got the tailors to make it into clothes.

“He currently has a few customers.” Qin Ya replied as she ate the fruits. “I can handle it alone. Previously, when I was free, I managed to draw two designs for two clients. Luckily, they liked it. So now, there are only two clients left. To be honest, this is a good idea. It solves the problem of not being able to return to the shop and helps to retain customers. Also, I can’t possibly stay at home the whole day. I’ll be bored out of my mind. At least now, I have some time to occupy my time.”

As she spoke, she turned towards Lin Xinyan. “Isn’t your husband coming back at noon? Where is he? He should be with you to a point where you have no time to seek my company.”

A strange look crossed Lin Xinyan's face. Eating the fruit, she avoided Qin Ya's gaze and said, "He left after receiving a call. I don't know where he went."

She didn't dare to be too direct, in case Qin Ya was not emotionally ready yet. If she still had feelings for Su Zhan, she must be very emotional when she saw him. If she didn't, then she must be really over him.

Qin Ya pursed her lips. "Aunt Yu deliberately brought the children out so that you could spend time with each other. Rich people are indeed another breed altogether."

Lin Xinyan stuffed a piece of fruit in her mouth. "Eat your food."

Qin Ya shot her a sheepish smile.

After chatting for a while, Qin Ya asked Aunt Wang to show Lin Xinyan the draft she had drawn. Since the client had asked for green fabric and red flowers, it was easy for the design to look old-fashioned. So, she wanted to discuss this with Lin Xinyan.

"A fifty-year-old lady in C City ordered this. Do you think a suit or a dress would be better?"

After looking at two of Qin Ya's drafts, Lin Xinyan felt that each piece both had their own strengths and weaknesses. "What's her background like?"

"She's the wife of an entrepreneur. From the video, she seems rather elegant."

"A suit then." Lin Xinyan pointed at the design. "Make a three-piece, with white on the outside. The green and the red are already very striking. With more colors on the outside, it will look rather messy."

Qin Ya nodded. "I thought so too. That woman seems rather tasteful. I don't know what she was thinking by wanting green and red together. Why is she so weird?"

Lin Xinyan didn't think it was a big deal. "Everyone has their own preferences. Don't judge them. I heard that some people like the smell of nail polish and paint. Aren't they even weirder? So, we shouldn't judge if others look different or like different things."

Qin Ya agreed with all the suggestions she made.

Just then, the doorbell rang. Lin Xinyan got up to open the door. Thinking that it was Aunt Yu and the two kids, Qin Ya turned around.

But when Lin Xinyan opened the door, it wasn't Aunt Yu and the two kids. Instead, it was the chauffeur and Zong Jinghao, carrying a seemingly unconscious Su Zhan.

Qin Ya's first reaction was one of shock. *What happened to him?*

Why does Su Zhan need someone to carry him in?

In that instant that Lin Xinyan turned around, Qin Ya didn't manage to control her emotions. Her eyes shone with worry.

"He seems to be drunk," Lin Xinyan said to her.

Qin Ya turned away. "So what if he's drunk? It doesn't concern me."

She continued eating the fruits in silence.

It was as if she didn't care at all.

Lin Xinyan sighed. "Send him to the guestroom."

"I still want to drink." Su Zhan was so heavily intoxicated that his eyes were barely open.

Lin Xinyan brought a cup of honey water over. "Let him drink this. He seems to be very drunk. Ask the chauffeur to go buy some hangover medicine."

"He'll be fine after sleeping." Zong Jinghao passed him over to the chauffeur. Carry him in."

Aunt Wang came over to help. "Let me cook some hangover soup."

Lin Xinyan nodded. "Thank you."

Aunt Wang took a glass of honey water from her and helped the chauffeur bring him into the room.

"Do I reek of alcohol?" Zong Jinghao stuck his arm in front of Lin Xinyan's nose.

He did smell of alcohol, but the scent wasn't very strong.

However, this could be just because of her heightened senses as a pregnant woman.

"I'll go bathe." Zong Jinghao didn't like the feeling of being dirty and was worried that his wife would smell the alcohol on him.

Lin Xinyan knew him well. Even though her husband wasn't a clean freak, he didn't want to smell bad, so she grunted in agreement.

Since there was someone else around, Zong Jinghao didn't act inappropriately, swiftly heading upstairs to bathe. When he was done, he looked for Aunt Yu, hoping to play with the kids. Lin Xinyan was still downstairs with Qin Ya.

Aunt Yu had brought the two kids to the bamboo forest in the mountain. A picnic mat was laid out with some snacks on top. Baymax lay nearby. Zong Yanchen was reading a book about chess while his sister was busy drawing.

Seeing him come over, Aunt Yu wanted to wave to him, but Zong Jinghao stopped her. He gestured at her to return to the villa. He would stay here to look after the kids.

Aunt Yu swiftly left at his instruction. It wasn't often that he had time to spend with the kids, so he was sure that they would be glad to spend time with their father.

After Aunt Yu left, Zong Jinghao walked towards his daughter. Zong Yanxi had never learned how to draw professionally; she had only been taught by Lin Xinyan and Qin Ya. Since both women were fashion designers, they were experienced artists who knew certain techniques. So, they taught the girl some skills in their free time.

Zong Yanxi liked drawing and picked up the skills quickly.

Since she was in the bamboo forest, naturally, she was drawing bamboos. She was so focused on drawing that she didn't notice when her white skirt had been stained with pigment. Neither did her father notice it.

Even though it was summertime, the weather was very cooling in the forest.

Zong Jinghao stood behind his daughter and looked down at her drawing. Even though the final product wasn't finished, the outline looked pretty good, so he didn't disturb her. He watched her from afar, patiently waiting for her to finish up her artwork.

Not realizing that there was someone behind her, Zong Yanxi suddenly asked, "Yanchen, if Daddy betrayed Mommy, what would you do?"

Zong Jinghao was at a loss for words.

What on earth is this child thinking about?

Just like Aunt Yu, Zong Yanchen had caught sight of his father as soon as he arrived. However, the young boy had remained silent. Glancing at Zong Jinghao, he asked his sister in return, "If it were you, what would you do?"

Zong Yanxi tilted her head and thought for a moment. Recalling a line from a TV show, she said to her brother, "If it were me, I would pluck all the hair off the mistress. That way, she won't be attractive anymore."

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Zong Yanchen stifled a laugh. "All her body hair?"

"Of course. I want to pluck off all her hair. A person with no hair will be very ugly. No one would like a person who looks like that," Zong Yanxi said seriously.

Zong Yanchen coughed softly. *So she only cares whether a person with no hair is ugly or not?*

"Wouldn't Daddy be very angry if he heard this?" Zong Yanchen hid his smile. Even though he could only see his father's back, he knew that Zong Jinghao was frowning.

"If you don't tell him, how will he hear about this?" Zong Yanxi stated confidently as if she knew Zong Jinghao very well.

Zong Yanchen held his stomach tightly to stop himself from laughing out loud. "What makes you so sure?"

"He's so busy all the time. He doesn't have time to spend with us. I'm wondering if we really are his children or not." *What kind of father doesn't spend time with their own children?*

In the end, Zong Yanchen failed to control himself and burst out with laughter.

Zong Yanxi turned around. "What are you laughing about..."

In that instant, she saw the person behind her, and her expression changed. "Dad... Daddy."

Zong Yanxi was so anxious that she stammered.

Sternly, Zong Jinghao asked, "Where did you learn all that from?"

"You... You heard everything?" Zong Yanxi didn't know when her father had come.

How did I not notice?

If she had noticed, she wouldn't have said what she just said.

"Daddy." Zong Yanxi hugged his leg. "When did you come? Why didn't I hear you arrive?"

"If you had heard me come, would I have heard you say all those inappropriate words?" Zong Jinghao questioned sternly.

Zong Yanxi continued to be all smiles and squeezed his leg tighter. Pinching her throat, she whined in a childish voice, "Daddy, I really love you. I don't want to lose you. I'm just afraid that someone else will snatch you away."

Even though he was feeling rather angry, all feelings of anger dissipated when he saw his daughter's pretty face. But to drive the point home to his daughter, he demanded coldly, "Tell me. Where did you hear that from?"

Zong Yanxi bent her head down and fidgeted with her fingers. Pouting, she said, "From the TV."

"You're not to watch those shows in the future then," Zong Jinghao ordered solemnly.

"Okay, okay. I won't watch them next time. Daddy, don't be angry." Zong Yanxi reached out her arms. "You haven't carried me in such a long time. Daddy, I miss you."

Zong Jinghao didn't know whether to be angry or to laugh. "Don't we see each other every day?"

"Even so, I miss you. Daddy, wait for me to finish my drawing. After that, I'll give the drawing to you," Zong Yanxi said seriously.

The serious expression on her face removed all minor traces of Zong Jinghao's anger.

Bending down, he picked his daughter up and patted her back. "Don't watch so much TV in the future."

"Can I watch cartoons?" Zong Yanxi asked softly.

"If I say no, will you listen to me?"

"If you say no, I'll listen to you. Even if I watch them, I'll do it secretly, so that you won't know. Haha!" Zong Yanxi said cheekily as she kissed her father's face. "You can't bear to hit me, can you?"

Zong Jinghao chuckled. "You're getting more mischievous by the day."

"Daddy, put me down. I haven't finished drawing." She was insistent on finishing the drawing today.

Pinching his daughter's cheeks, Zong Jinghao put her down.

Zong Yanxi ran back to the canvas and continued her drawing. Zong Yanchen put down his book and said, "Daddy, shall we play a game of chess?"

With his hands behind his back, Zong Jinghao glanced at his son. "I'm worried you'll cry if you lose."

Zong Yanchen scratched his head embarrassedly. Indeed, he had gotten angry because he had lost before.

But now, the young boy was more mature.

Even though his skills were lacking at the moment, he would only get better because of this.

“I won’t cry,” Zong Yanchen uttered firmly.

Zong Jinghao walked over and sat down next to him. “Let’s play then.”

Happily, Zong Yanchen opened his newly bought chess set, and they started to play.

As usual, Zong Yanchen lost. However, he had improved and could at least last several rounds.

The sky began to darken. Zong Yanxi finished her drawing, and it was soon dinner time. Pausing the game of chess with his son, Zong Jinghao packed up their things and brought the kids home.

The dishes were ready and Aunt Yu was about to call them back for dinner. When she saw them return, she hurried over and took the things from Zong Jinghao. With a smile, she said, “Wash your hands first. You can eat then.”

The dinner had been prepared by Aunt Wang and Lin Xinyan. Qin Ya hadn’t returned to her room the whole day. Su Zhan hadn’t awakened yet, so some food was kept in the kitchen for him. Additionally, Aunt Wang had also cooked some hangover soup for the man.

Zong Yanxi showed her drawing to Lin Xinyan, asking her mother for her opinion.

Her daughter's drawing skills had indeed improved, so Lin Xinyan showered her with praise. "It looks just like the real thing. You're brilliant. Go wash your hands. Let's eat."

Zong Yanxi was very happy to hear such praise. She put down the drawing, went to wash her hands, then sat on the chair and waited to have her meal.

Lin Xinyan had especially stewed some soup and poured a bowl of her son and daughter. Looking at the soup his children had, Zong Jinghao asked, "Don't I have any?"

He wasn't hungry; he simply wanted to have the soup that had been made by Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan had just been about to get some soup for him. Hearing his words, she rolled her eyes and placed the bowl in front of him. "How could I forget about you?"

Zong Jinghao smiled.

Qin Ya's leg was much better now. She was also sitting at the dining table. However, she seemed to be rather unsettled. Placing a bowl of soup in front of her, Lin Xinyan asked, "What are you thinking about?"

"Nothing in particular." Coming back to her senses, Qin Ya was about to drink the soup when Lin Xinyan stopped her. "It still hot. Wait till it cools down first before drinking it. Why are you so unsettled?"

"I'm not."

Lin Xinyan shot her a knowing smile.

After dinner, Aunt Wang cleaned the table up while Aunt Yu bathed the children. Zong Jinghao followed Lin Xinyan upstairs, wanting to spend some time with her.

In the middle of the night, Su Zhan groggily woke up. Mouth dry, he went to pour himself some water. After drinking a glass of water, he seemed to be much soberer and became aware of where he was currently at.

Quickly, he realized that Qin Ya was around, too, and his gaze swiveled to her room. Putting down the glass, he subconsciously headed over. Since it was so late, he knew that Qin Ya must be asleep by now and that if he went to see her now, she wouldn't notice. Silently, he pushed open her door.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 607

It was very quiet at night. The lights in the room were not on, so the only source of light was the moonlight that streamed in through the window. It illuminated all the furnishings in the house.

Su Zhan softly padded over.

Qin Ya had just laid down on the bed. As she couldn't fall asleep, she sketched for a while. Only when her neck started aching did she stop. She was aware that someone had opened the door of her room, but she didn't make any noise and just shut her eyes, pretending to be asleep.

Su Zhan didn't notice her small movements as the light was rather dim. He couldn't see Qin Ya's expression.

He placed the chair next to the bed and sat down, gazing at her quietly.

He had many things he wanted to say to her, but he didn't know where to start.

He didn't know how to express his feelings.

Wrapping his hands around hers, Su Zhan lay on her body. Everyone else was already deeply asleep. Only he was wide awake as he listened to her breathing and gazed at her.

He was filled with endless regret, and it left him without even a moment of peace.

Quietly, he just imagined how she looked like in his heart.

Even though her looks had changed, he was sure that deep down, she hadn't.

Everyone made mistakes sometimes. I am no exception.

I don't wish for your forgiveness. As long as I'm able to see you, I am happy.

Qin Ya, I'm so sorry. I hurt you and made you sad. I caused you to lose your child. I'm very upset about this too. If I hadn't been such a rascal, I would have been a father soon.

Every night, I wish I could forget all of this. That way, it wouldn't be so painful.

I wasted the opportunity that was given to me.

If there's a chance to start over, I'll definitely take care of you and not let you come to any harm.

I'll stay with you forever.

It's alright if you hate me. I just hope that you'll remember me for as long as you can.

Qin Ya, you made me realize what true love is. Even if you hurt me, I still want to win you back.

Even if you scold me, my heart still feels warm.

Qin Ya, I've never fulfilled any one of my promises to you.

Qin Ya, I feel so sad. I'm really so sad.

No words can describe how I feel.

He sat there until five o'clock in the morning. His eyes were shut, but he wasn't asleep. Instead, he kept thinking about many things.

Worried that she would notice him, he reluctantly let go of her hand upon realizing that his own was full of sweat.

Gently, he kissed her forehead. "I love you. Forever."

He stood up, then waited a few seconds to check that she was still asleep. Then, he put the chair back and left silently.

When he closed the door, the woman that Su Zhan thought was fast asleep opened her eyes. She flexed her fingers slowly – she could still feel the warmth of his hand.

Opening her eyes, she stared at the ceiling as tears started to fall, trickling down her face.

It had been a difficult night for her too. But no matter how much pain she was feeling, she could only endure it alone.

She couldn't change the situation she was currently in. The only thing she could do was to overcome it.

However, she had no courage to face her feelings.

She had previously told Lin Xinyan that she still believed in love, but that was only to pacify the woman.

Where could she find the strength to face her fears?

After she lost her child, it constantly felt as if something was missing from her body. Her heart had turned to stone.

The sky gradually brightened. The night was over, and it was now the start of a bright, new day.

Qin Ya slowly shut her eyes. She didn't want anyone to know that she hadn't slept a wink the whole night.

At around six in the morning, Aunt Yu and Aunt Wang woke up. The latter was very good at cooking, so Aunt Yu let her do most of the work while she stood at one side and advised her on the family's dietary habits.

Zong Yanchen woke up early while Zong Yanxi woke up much later. Even after sleeping in, she would lay in bed for a while.

Upstairs, Lin Xinyan had already woken up. Thinking that Su Zhan would still be around, she quickly got out of bed. Just as she was about to lift the blanket, someone stopped her and pressed his leg on her. "Sleep for a while longer."

Lin Xinyan turned to look at him. "It's already morning. Move your leg."

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Pretending he couldn't hear her, Zong Jinghao continued to hug her and sleep.

Lin Xinyan frowned. "I should take a photo of you right now and show it to your company's employees."

Zong Jinghao leaned over and said in a raspy voice, "Would you want me to take off my clothes first?"

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

He's so shameless.

"Stop fooling around anymore. I really want to get up now," Lin Xinyan stated seriously. "I'll go down to see how Qin Ya is doing. Since Su Zhan drunk the whole night, I don't know if she managed to fall asleep or not."

Previously, Qin Ya seemed to be pretty firm in her decision, but after seeing her gaze yesterday, the woman didn't seem to be as ruthless to Su Zhan as before.

Lin Xinyan sighed. She didn't know how to help them in a mutually beneficial way.

"Why are you sighing?" Zong Jinghao looked up at her. Her sighing so early in the morning wasn't a good sign.

"I was just thinking whether Qin Ya's not telling me something. It seems like she hadn't given up on Su Zhan yet. Ouch! What are you doing?" Just then, Zong Jinghao bit her.

“Can you stay out of other people’s matters?” Zong Jinghao stroked her stomach. “For the sake of our daughter, please don’t worry so much.”

Lin Xinyan hurriedly checked under her clothes. Luckily, there were no obvious bite marks. Zong Jinghao pinched her cheeks. “I know how to control myself.”

“I thought you... Forget it. Wake up now.” She pulled the covers off the bed, but Zong Jinghao sat there, unmoving. “What were you about to say? Were you about to scold me?”

As she looked for the clothes she planned to wear, she said without turning back, “Yes, I was going to point out how childish you are.”

Staring at her back, Zong Jinghao rested his chin on his hand and admired his wife’s beautiful figure. Even though she was pregnant, she was still very slender. Her nightgown revealed her pale shoulders, which her black hair cascaded over.

He told Lin Xinyan that Zong Qifeng would be coming back from Baicheng soon in order to attend the wedding and that he was expecting them to have children soon.

Lin Xinyan asked if Cheng Yuwen would be coming, and Zong Jinghao said that he would be.

“That’s good. Otherwise, there will be no one to take care of him. Next time, we will take care of him.” Lin Xinyan selected her outfit and turned toward him. “Must we really do it?”

Zong Jinghao nodded. “I’ve already chosen the location. You don’t need to do anything. I’ll make all the arrangements.”

Lin Xinyan could only nod at that. “I’ll invite Uncle.”

Zong Jinghao got off the bed and walked over to hug her. “We’ll invite anyone you want to invite.”

Lin Xinyan pushed him away. "I'll go freshen up."

Zong Jinghao kissed her. "Go on then."

After washing up, Lin Xinyan went to change out of her pajamas, knowing that there were others in the house. When she came out of the toilet and passed by the cloakroom, she saw Zong Jinghao adjusting the cuffs of his shirt. She walked in, took note of the color of his pants, and picked out a matching tie for him. "Let me help you."

Tiptoeing, she reached out to pass the tie through the collar of his shirt, then tied his tie. Bending his head down, Zong Jinghao looked at her serious expression and said, "Your daughter complained that I don't spend enough time with her."

Lin Xinyan raised her head and asked, "When?"

"Yesterday." He reached out and stroked his wife's belly. "I wish he'll be born soon. After the wedding, we can then go on a honeymoon together."

Lin Xinyan looked down too at her large belly. "Never mind about the honeymoon. Just spend more time with the kids."

She already had two kids and was currently bearing her third one. At this age, she wasn't excited about marriage anymore.

"I'm still young. Why am I talking like an old woman?" She laughed self-deprecatingly.

Zong Jinghao didn't like her comment and used his hand to lift her chin. "What nonsense are you saying?"

Lin Xinyan pushed his hand away and picked out a suit. "Here, wear this."

Putting his arms into the sleeves, he thought about what his daughter had said earlier that day and asked, "What are the kinds of shows your daughter is watching?"

"School hasn't started yet. She can't attend pre-school anymore. She seldom goes out. Other than taking Baymax out for a walk, she stays at home and watches TV." Lin Xinyan adjusted the collar of her husband's suit. She then looked up and asked, "Why? What did she say this time?"

"Don't let her watch so much TV in the future. It's not educational. She seems to have an interest in drawing. Why don't we enroll her in an art class?" He was still upset over what his daughter had said earlier.

Lin Xinyan responded, "I'll think about it. I'll go downstairs now."

Zong Jinghao grunted in acknowledgment.

Downstairs, everyone was already awake. Even the lethargic Zong Yanxi had been dragged out of bed by Aunt Yu.

When Lin Xinyan headed down, she saw Su Zhan about to leave.

"Why don't you eat something before leaving?" Lin Xinyan called after him.

Su Zhan stood at the door, saying, "I'm sorry to have troubled you last night."

"No problem. But for the sake of your own health, you really should drink less," Lin Xinyan said in concern. Binge drinking was bad for one's body.

Su Zhan lowered his head. "I will take note of that."

"Come and have some breakfast before leaving." Lin Xinyan asked Aunt Wang, "Is breakfast ready?"

“Yes. Do you want to eat now?”

“Okay. Serve the food,” she instructed Su Zhan to come in. “I’ll go see if Qin Ya has woken up yet.”

Qin Ya was already awake when Lin Xinyan knocked on Qin Ya’s door. She was busy freshening herself up. She deliberately put on makeup to hide her dark eye circles.

Lin Xinyan went over to help her. “You’re awake so early. Did you sleep well?”

“I slept very well. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have woken up so early.” Qin Ya smiled.

Lin Xinyan didn’t respond to that as she didn’t want to question her dear friend so early in the morning.

Aunt Wang brought the breakfast to the table, then helped Qin Ya to a chair. Seeing that Su Zhan hadn’t come over, Aunt Wang asked, “Why haven’t you come in? Aren’t you hungry?”

“I haven’t changed. I still reek of alcohol.” Su Zhan couldn’t stand the smell on his body himself and was reluctant to go closer to them.

“We don’t mind.” Zong Yanxi tugged at his hand. “Quickly, come and eat breakfast.”

So, Su Zhan followed the little girl to the dining table.

Zong Yanxi looked up at Qin Ya. “Aunt Qin, do you dislike Uncle Su?”

Su Zhan subconsciously looked up at Qin Ya too.

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 609

Qin Ya didn't return his gaze, calmly resting her head on her hand. "I'm not familiar with him."

That was her way of making it clear that she didn't want anything to do with him.

Su Zhan felt a sense of bitterness in his heart, but he remained smiling. "Are we familiar strangers then?"

Qin Ya smiled too. "Are we familiar with each other? Why don't I remember?"

Su Zhan couldn't match Qin Ya's coldness. Pursing his lips, he sat down. "If hurting me can make you happy, feel free to hurt me then."

"You're not worth me hurting you. You don't mean anything to me. I don't care about you. I don't hate you. I simply dislike you."

As she spoke, Qin Ya balled up her hand under the table and squeezed it tightly, digging her nails in her palm in an attempt to force herself to maintain calm.

She actually really wanted to slap him.

When Lin Xinyan was going to take the milk, she happened to take note of this small action. Even though she didn't say anything, it was evident from Qin Ya's actions that the woman wasn't as calm as she claimed to be.

If Qin Ya really doesn't care about Su Zhan, she wouldn't need to control herself.

What on earth is she hiding? If she has really given up on him, then why is there a need to hurt him?

Sighing, Lin Xinyan pretended that she didn't see anything and just poured the milk. When she reached for Su Zhan's glass, she asked, "How's Grandma doing?"

She wanted to change the topic to ease the tension.

"She needs someone to care for her." The elderly woman couldn't take care of herself – she wasn't even able to talk now.

Lin Xinyan nodded. "Take good care of her."

Su Zhan nodded. "I will. She's my only family left. So, of course I will take good care of her."

Zong Jinghao walked in and pulled out a chair. He glanced at Su Zhan but didn't say anything.

Su Zhan smiled. "I'll look for Peichuan next time. I won't disturb you anymore."

Zong Jinghao picked up the glass of milk that Lin Xinyan had poured him and looked at his friend. The man seemed to have deliberately chosen to come here.

Undoubtedly, it was because of Qin Ya.

Zong Jinghao didn't expose Su Zhan's intentions and asked, "Did you get drunk yesterday?"

Su Zhan paused. He had drunk a lot, but his mind had still been clear. Indeed, he had intentionally asked the bar staff to call Zong Jinghao's mobile phone.

Otherwise, it wouldn't have been so coincidental either. There were so many contacts on his phone. What were the odds that the staff called was Zong Jinghao?

“Could I have faked it?” Su Zhan refused to admit the truth.

Zong Jinghao glanced at him meaningfully. “Well, only you know the truth.” He didn’t ask any further. Reaching his hand out, he picked up an egg, then peeled it and handed it to his daughter. “Do you want to learn how to draw?”

Zong Yanxi immediately nodded. “Yes.”

She was really interested in drawing. Seeing her life-like drawings, she felt very accomplished.

“Shall we go to an arts school today?”

“Do you mean that?” Zong Yanxi asked in disbelief.

Of course, she would agree. She was so delighted that her busy father actually had time to bring her out.

“Of course.” Zong Jinghao had already called Guan Jing, informing him that he wouldn’t be going to the office today and not to contact him if there wasn’t anything important.

He wanted to spend time with his daughter today.

“Yay! I’m so happy.” Excitedly, she leaped off the chair and ran over to hug his leg. “Daddy, you’re so great!”

Zong Jinghao stroked his daughter’s head. It was easy to satisfy this kid. In the future, he would surely make an effort to spend more time with her.

Zong Yanxi was so happy to know that her father was bringing her out.

After breakfast, Su Zhan drove one of Zong Jinghao’s cars and left.

“Let’s go together.” Zong Jinghao leaned against the door and looked at his wife.

Lin Xinyan was busy helping the children put on some sunscreen. She looked up at him, saying, “Go by yourself. I’m a little tired. I don’t feel like going out today.”

Once the kids were gone, she would finally have time to talk to Qin Ya.

Now that the baby in her womb was growing larger and larger, she was beginning to feel tired more frequently. Even though Zong Jinghao wanted her to tag along, he did not want to force her into doing anything if she was feeling tired. “Do you want me to buy anything? I’ll bring it back for you.”

Lin Xinyan thought for a second before answering, “I want to eat watermelon.”

“Anything else?”

“No.” She shook her head. “Since you’re free, you should spend more time with the kids.”

So, Zong Jinghao just took the two kids. After sending them off and seeing the car leave, Lin Xinyan turned and headed back in.

Aunt Wang and Aunt Yu were busy with the housework. The house was rather big, and there were many surfaces to be cleaned frequently to avoid dust accumulating. Since it was inconvenient to speak in the guest room, Lin Xinyan helped Qin Ya back to her room.

As she sat on the bed, Qin Ya asked, “What do you want to talk to me about?”

Otherwise, she wouldn’t have stayed alone at home when the whole family was going out.

“Tell me. What’s going on with you?” Lin Xinyan looked at her seriously.

Qin Ya hugged the covers. "What could possibly be going on?"

"Look into my eyes and say that again," Lin Xinyan stated solemnly. "If you're not hiding anything from me, look into my eyes."

She didn't want to force Qin Ya into telling her. She was just worried that it would be bad for the woman to suppress this any longer.

Perhaps Qin Ya would feel better if she were to let it out.

Qin Ya didn't dare look at Lin Xinyan as she insisted, "I'm really alright. You're thinking too much."

"I hope I am, but you're really making me worried." Lin Xinyan reached out and held her hand. "Don't you trust me?"

Qin Ya lowered her head.

Her eyes were red, and the words she wanted to say were stuck in her throat. She didn't know where to begin.

The pain she felt now was still as fresh as ever. Back then, when she had first heard about the news, she was devastated. She had felt as if life had lost its meaning.

After experiencing such heartbreak, Qin Ya had learned how to be more resilient. That was how she could face Su Zhan with such calmness and control.

Though Su Zhan believed her, she couldn't deceive Lin Xinyan.

Slowly, she looked up. Her eyes were filled with pain and suffering.

"You know that I was previously pregnant..." she began hoarsely.

Lin Xinyan nodded. "Yes."

"I... have lost the qualifications to be a woman... I..." She couldn't bring herself to say it as the weight of that incident was still too painful to bear.

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Seeing her trembling out of anxiousness, Lin Xinyan went over to hug her and pat her back. "I won't ask you about this anymore."

Lin Xinyan couldn't bear to see her like this.

"I just don't want you to have to bear this alone. If telling me makes you feel worse, I'd rather you not tell me." Lin Xinyan could roughly guess what this was all about. *By saying she can't be considered a woman anymore, is she implying that there's something wrong with her body?*

But the doctor had never mentioned anything like this to her.

"I wasn't afraid of you finding out." Qin Ya hugged Lin Xinyan and buried herself in the latter's embrace. "It's so painful just to think about it."

Every time she brought it up, her heart felt like it was being ripped apart again, filling her with a sense of helplessness.

"I can't get pregnant again in the future. I'll never have kids. Do you know how much I hate him? He caused me to become like this..."

Lin Xinyan was in disbelief. *Why can't she get pregnant again?*

How can that be?

"How... How can this be? The doctor didn't tell me anything about that. Could you have been mistaken? A miscarriage doesn't mean that you can never get pregnant again..."

“I asked the doctor not to tell anyone. It’s true. My body isn’t normal anymore.”
Qin Ya mustered up her courage to tell her the truth.

“How can this be?” Lin Xinyan asked hoarsely. As a woman, she knew how important being able to have children was.

“Did it affect your uterus...”

“No.” Qin Ya let go of her and wiped away the tears on her face. “I don’t have a uterus anymore.”

Lin Xinyan looked at her in shock, her heart breaking into a million pieces.

She didn’t know what to say to comfort her beloved friend. All along, the woman had been bearing this pain by herself, pretending to be alright in front of others.

Even though she had never personally experienced this before, Lin Xinyan knew how difficult it must be to deal with such a loss.

“How can I help you?” Lin Xinyan blinked her eyes rapidly, trying to stop the tears from falling. “Seeing how upset you are, I’m very upset too.”

“Don’t cry.” Qin Ya wiped away her tears. “You’re still bearing my godson.”

Qin Ya didn’t feel the pain as intensely as before. Even though it was still painful now, she could still endure it. Wiping away her tears, she sniffled, “Please keep this a secret. Don’t tell anyone.”

“I won’t.” Lin Xinyan would never tell anyone about this.

“It must be so tough for you. My heart aches for you.” She didn’t want to be upset in front of Qin Ya, but she couldn’t help it.

Those who were not parents would never know how sacred the feeling of motherhood was. Even if she didn't have feelings for the person who made her pregnant, she would love her baby no matter what.

She was aware of how Qin Ya had not hesitated in choosing to give birth when Qin Ya and Su Zhan were facing struggles in their relationship. Lin Xinyan evidently thought the same way as her friend.

But now, Qin Ya had lost her child.

Not only that, but the woman had also lost her ability to be a mother as well.

Some people might say that it wasn't a big deal since many people chose not to have children anyway.

But there was a big difference between not being able to give birth and choosing not to give birth.

Only those who were pregnant knew how it felt to be a mother.

Many people now say that it's good not to have kids as raising children requires a lot of time, money, and effort. To make life easier, many choose to not have children.

Several people began to regret this decision when they were middle-aged, and many even risk advanced maternity to be parents.

People's mindsets often changed as they got older.

As a woman and a daughter, one would only truly understand the meaning of life and legacy after giving birth to their own daughter.

Some people also say that children were a testament to the love between the couple.

Even though raising children was no easy feat, watching them grow up and call you “Mom” was one of the most emotional moments one could experience.

Lin Xinyan couldn't imagine how Qin Ya had coped with the fact that she couldn't give birth ever again.

If this were to happen to her, she would be utterly devastated too.

“I'm alright. Don't worry about me.” Qin Ya forced a smile, but her eyes were still red.

It was so heartbreaking for Lin Xinyan to see her pretending to be alright.

But she didn't want to let Qin Ya see how upset she was. Otherwise, the woman would only feel worse.

Controlling her inner turmoil, Lin Xinyan reached out a hand and stroked her cheek. “You're about to be a godmother. You must look nice.”

“Of course. I will be the most beautiful godmother,” Qin Ya muttered with a smile.

Lin Xinyan swiftly changed the topic, asking about work instead.

“It's Monday. Uncle must be very busy working alone,” Qin Ya noted.

Other than running the company, the man still needed to look after the store and keep an eye on the Tea Silk manufacturing factory.

“Yes.” Lin Xinyan wanted to go there, but she knew that Zong Jinghao wouldn't be happy if she did so.

“Look at the drawing I drew yesterday.” Qin Ya passed her the drawing and changed the topic, suppressing all her emotions.

At Huaqing University's teachers' meeting, the issue between Sang Yu and Sang Yu was used as a warning for everyone else not to do anything immoral. Otherwise, it would harm the school's reputation.

This matter had already passed long ago. Everyone was confused as to why this matter was being brought up again.

There were also a few of them who were rather excited to watch this. After all, it was only human nature to be curious.

Sang Yu sat in the classroom with the teacher sitting opposite her. Neither of them spoke. Outside, many students were peeking in through the window, trying to catch a glimpse of what the teacher was saying to Sang Yu.

When the clock showed eight-thirty, the teacher stood up. "It's time. Let's go."

Revealing no emotion on her face, Sang Yu stood up, holding the apology letter she had written in her hands.