

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 641

It was a common occurrence to handle troubles caused by drunkards here. The bouncers here were an experienced lot. Hearing the manager's order, the two tried to grab and twist Su Zhan's arms at the same time. As for Su Zhan, he wanted to fight not because he was looking for a beating, but rather wanting to vent his pent-up frustration. As they tried to pounce on him, being the more agile one, he sidestepped and slid around one. Avoiding one of the bouncer's outstretched hand, Su Zhan proceeded to send a kick flying from behind him.

The bouncer lost his balance and fell into the arms of the manager.

The manager pushed him away as he grunted with disgust, "Damn, two of you can't even handle him?"

Apologizing profusely, the bouncer felt ashamed, "I'm sorry, manager."

"Stop the nonsense. Just beat him up!" the manager angrily shouted.

During this time, another bouncer was fighting with Su Zhan. Seeing him occupied, the previous bouncer took the advantage and strangled his neck from behind.

Su Zhan tried the break from the bouncer's hold on his neck. Meanwhile, the bouncer in front found his opportunity and swung his fist towards the former's abdomen. Having been on the receiving end of Su Zhan's few fistfuls of punches, with his swollen nose and face, he was eager for some payback.

*Grunt!*

Su Zhan frowned and snorted a few times. Finding the opportunity to retaliate, he arched his arms and elbowed repeatedly to the abdomen and chest of the person behind him who was currently strangling his neck.

Retaliating repeatedly one after another, the bouncer behind him finally loosened his grip. Su Zhan immediately grabbed his assailant's hand and gave it a twist. Bending his body slightly, he threw his assailant off his shoulder forward.

Coincidentally, there was a table in front of him with bottles of wine on top. As the bouncer fell, the bottles were swept off the table and fell on the ground, shattering and cracking into pieces one after another.

The unfortunate bouncer clutched his abdomen which were pierced by the bottle fragments and gritted his teeth in pain.

Su Zhan continued to provoke, "Get up!"

The man struggled to get up as the whole place was filled with the strong smell of evaporating alcohol.

Both the bouncers looked at one another and signaled to encircle their opponent.

Launching their attacks at the same time, they were facing Su Zhan who was in a bad mood and unrestrained in his moves. He was looking for trouble purely to vent his heartbreak frustration.

As a saying goes "the weak are afraid of the strong, the strong are afraid of the reckless".

And Su Zhan was the reckless one.

Neither of the two bouncers was Su Zhan's match, even when they ganged upon him.

The manager, who was standing by the side, looked on at the mess anxiously. Without sparing a thought, he grabbed the vase on the shelf, took out the flowers, and threw them away. Holding the vase, he found the opportunity to slam it onto Su Zhan's head.

Su Zhan's eyes were fixed on the two bouncers, red with frenzy. So fixated was he that he did not notice the manager approaching. As the vase was slammed down, it broke in an instant. Stunned by the smash, Su Zhan felt dizzy and a fainting sensation. He could feel a warm liquid flowing from the back of his head down to his neck.

The manager yelled, "Now! Take this opportunity to slug him!"

The looks of eagerness were upon the faces of the two bouncers. Now that they had the opportunity for a payback, they naturally would try their best.

Su Zhan was knocked to the ground as the two bouncers pulled no punches. Even as he was down, both of them continued to kick him madly.

While all this was happening, Lin Xinyan was strolling with Qin Ya for more than two hours. She had calmed down quite a bit and Xinyan had said that they were going to host a welcoming banquet for Shao Yun. Both of them went to the supermarket and bought a load of groceries back to the villa.

In the evening, as the preparation of the dishes was still ongoing, Zong Jinghao came back. He had finished handling the company's affairs. Since he knew that Shao Yun would be dropping by, he had come back early.

Seeing Aunt Yu tidying the table and placing some flowers for decoration, he walked over and asked, "Where is she?"

Aunt Yu looked up and informed, "In the kitchen."

Jinghao nodded, glanced at the shiny tabletop that was showing his reflection, and raised his eyebrows.

In the kitchen, Xinyan wore an apron and was cutting vegetables, while Aunt Wang was by the sink washing some vegetables.

“Can you leave us alone for a minute?” Jinghao asked as he approached Xinyan.

Aunt Wang obediently nodded, turned off the water, put down the lotus root in her hands, and walked towards him.

Xinyan looked at him and asked, “Why are you back so early today? You have something to tell me?”

*Otherwise, why did you ask Aunt Wang to go out?*

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Zong Jinghao smiled cheekily, “Even if I have nothing to talk to you about, can’t I spend some time alone with you for a while?”

Lin Xinyan stopped what she was doing.

She was both speechless and helpless. “This is the kitchen, what do you think you can do? Can you do the cooking or cut vegetables?”

“Are you underestimating my ability?” Jinghao unbuttoned his cuffs, pulled the sleeves up his arms, washed his hands in the sink next to him, and said, “Give me the knife. Let me do the cutting.”

Xinyan looked at him incredulously, “You? Cutting veggies?”

Taking the knife from her hand, he retorted, “And what’s the problem with that?”

Xinyan let him have the knife, stood aside, and untied her apron, then tied it to Jinghao’s waist. “Shall I leave the food prep for the night to you?”

Looking down at her hands wrapped around his waist attempting to tie the apron, he chuckled and quizzed, “Do you dare to eat if I do?”

“Why not? I don’t see the problem. No matter what it tastes like, whether it is cooked or still raw; I will just eat them.” She moved to the side as she said that.

Jinghao could not help but laughed, “If that’s the case then I’ll have to learn how to cook then. I can’t afford to starve my daughter.”

While speaking, he stole a glance at Xinyan’s tummy.

She was baffled. *Why must you feel that I'm pregnant with a girl? Also, are you learning to cook only for your daughter?*

"In that case, you'll be the one cooking for tonight." Saying that she turned to step out of the kitchen. Jinghao quickly grabbed her wrist and pleaded, "Stay with me."

Xinyan shot him a nonchalant glance and said, "Let your daughter accompany you."

Jinghao was at a loss for words.

He was stunned for that moment, thinking that her words did not make much sense. However, he quickly grasped her meaning behind those words and could not help but smirk, "Are you jealous?"

"Who's the one jealous?" Xinyan was not envious, and even if she were, she would never admit it.

"Since that's the case, then why are you walking away?"

"Simply just because I don't want to stay in the kitchen." Tilting her head, she replied, "Hurry up and let me go. I want to out."

Jinghao smiled and pulled her into his arms, "You're the person I'm closest to. The one who shares my bed with me..."

Xinyan quickly cusped his mouth. After all, they were in the kitchen, and there were still people out in the living room. How could he speak like this without taking the situation into consideration?

Wouldn't it be bad to be overheard by others?

“Quick, take out the phone from my pocket.” He could feel it vibrating, indicating there was a call coming in. And his hands were dripping wet.

Xinyan reprimanded him, “Don’t spout your nonsense outside nor blabber anything inappropriate. It won’t be good if anyone were to hear them.”

Jinghao was puzzled.

*What is she talking about?*

*Shouldn’t couples who are sharing the same bed be closer? After all, children will marry their loved ones in the future no matter how reluctant a father may be. In the end, only the husband and wife themselves would keep each other company till death do them part.*

Xinyan asked, “Which pocket?”

“The right one,” answered Jinghao.

She reached out into his trouser pocket and felt the vibrating phone. Taking it out, she saw the name “Su Zhan” being displayed on its screen.

Remembering what had happened today, Xinyan’s smile disappeared. Her face turned serious as she looked at her husband and informed, “It’s Su Zhan.”

“You take the call,” Jinghao suggested.

Xinyan mumbled a response and slid the answer button across the screen, “Hello?”

She could feel a stiff silence at the end of the line as if the caller were pausing awkwardly to hear her answer the phone. “Xinyan, it’s me.”

“Ah?”

“I’m now at the police station, can you please ask Jinghao to come to bail me out?” came the embarrassed tone.

Xinyan frowned with curiosity, “How did you end up in the police station?”

“I fought with someone,” came Su Zhan’s curt reply.

“Alright.”

The caller at the other end of the line hung up with a beep.

“What’s the matter?” Jinghao queried upon seeing her face drained of color.

“Su Zhan got into a fight with someone and is now at the police station. He needs you to go bail him out.” Xinyan told him.

After placing his mobile phone back into his pocket and taking off his apron, she offered, “I’ll go with you as well.”

Jinghao stopped her, “Don’t go. The police station is not a good place anyway.”

“I want to go and check it out myself. Otherwise, I won’t be at ease. Why did he suddenly start a fight? I’m eighty percent sure it’s related to Qin Ya. She was mentally prepared for the breakup and even though it may be unbearable at first, time will heal everything. However, it is different and difficult for Su Zhan. The shock must have been too sudden for him to handle.”

Jinghao nodded in agreement.

The two walked out of the kitchen. Xinyan asked Aunt Wang to do the cooking instead. Since Aunt Yu had finished her chores outside, she hurried into the kitchen to help in the preparation for dinner as well.

“We’ll be back real soon. I’ll leave you all with your work,” Xinyan informed.



Aunt Yu assured, "Don't worry. Aunt Wang and I will look after things. Everything will be fine, don't you worry."

Xinyan smiled with gratitude.

Taking the car key, Jinghao went out with her, and drove straight to the police station after getting into the car.

Feeling hesitant, Xinyan asked, "Isn't it bad to hide the real reason from Su Zhan?"

"If the person involved doesn't want to say it, then we shan't intervene." After all, no matter how close one's relationship with the other is, one should never meddle in matters concerning the other's relationship. For better or for worse, one should not take other's emotional affairs as our own.

He did not want Xinyan to intervene too much in this matter.

Xinyan understood his intention and sighed slightly.

Jinghao reminded her, "You worry and sigh every day caring for other's affairs. When the child is born, there will be more worries for you. Don't concern yourself too much with other's matters. Everyone has to live their own life, one way or the other."

Feeling amused, Xinyan teased, "Since when you become such a philosopher?"

"Just listen to me." Jinghao expressed with dominance.

Knowing his good intention towards herself and their child, she gave in, "Okay, I'll listen to you."

The journey soon ended as their car stopped at the entrance of the police station. Zong Jinghao got off the car with Xinyan in tow. Just like him, she was curious and wanted to find out what happened too.

Holding her hand, they both entered the building.

Originally, the matter would not have escalated to the point of involving the police. After all, it was not uncommon for fights to break out in such a place. However, a customer who saw how Su Zhan was beaten so badly called the police.

Right now, the manager, along with his two bouncers as well as Su Zhan were all being questioned and having their statements taken.

When they walked into the office, they saw Su Zhan sitting there with dried blood on his body. The injury on his head had been treated simply, bandaged with gauze. Xinyan grimaced at the sight. *The injury must have been serious since he has bled.*

She turned her head up at Jinghao.

He held her hand and walked over.

Su Zhan looked up and saw them coming. He quickly turned his head away, not wanting them to see his injuries.

Little did he know that the moment he looked up, the wounds on his face had long been seen clearly. Jinghao went to deal with the matter while Xinyan didn't ask him why he fought and ended up at the police station.

She merely asked if he was seriously injured.

Su Zhan brushed it aside, "It's not serious at all. Just some minor injuries."

*Your bruised eye won't heal for a long while, and yet you still say you're okay?*

“Just be patient. After this, we'll take you to the hospital for a checkup,” Xinyan offered.

“No matter. It's all taken care of.” Su Zhan brusquely replied.

“Even if you feel fine, you still need to get your injuries checked,” Xinyan seriously said with a somber tone.

Su Zhan lowered his head and said nothing, perhaps feeling embarrassed.

Since both parties were responsible for this fight, both parties decided not to hold each other accountable after mediation. Both sides considered the affair settled amicably. As long as the guarantors signed the letters, those involved would be allowed to leave.

Right as they exited the police station, Xinyan bravely asked, “Is it because of Qin Ya?”

“Don't mention her name to me. From now on, we have nothing to do with one another.” Su Zhan hurried off alone and did not get into Jinghao's car.

“Where are you planning to go alone?” Xinyan called after him, feeling worried.

In the end, the whole fracas happened due to emotional problems.

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Su Zhan did not know. He did not have a place to go and he did not know where to go looking like this.

“Go to the villa with us,” Xinyan invited.

Since he ended up looking like this, perhaps Qin Ya might have softened if she were to see him. If that happened, then both of them might have a chance to have a heart-to-heart talk.

In case he was able to accept the fact that they would not have children together, both of them would not have to suffer further from this conflict.

Su Zhan looked down and kept quiet.

He did not know Xinyan’s intentions. Would his current appearance make Qin Ya take pity on him?

He decided that he did not want Qin Ya to see him in such a pitiful state.

“I’m not going. There are too many people over at the villa. I’ll head over to Peichuan’s and stay there for a few days before going back to my own place. Also, don’t tell Qin Ya about what happened to me. I don’t want her to think that I can’t live a single day without her. I... After today is over, I’ll still be the Su Zhan that you know.”

With that, he left.

Xinyan wanted to call out for him as his current state was rather worrying.

Jinghao grabbed her hand and shook his head at her, “Just let him go. He’ll be fine after this. I’m sure of it. We just need to give him some time.”

Deciding to take her husband’s advice, she did not continue to persuade Su Zhan nor stop him from leaving.

However, he looked like an abandoned child – lonely and helpless with visible injuries.

That would make anyone worried.

Over at the Zhou family.

Captain Song had just given Shen Peichuan a call as part of his investigation. Since Gu Bei and Old Master Gu were deeply in trouble and were unable to protect themselves, they no longer had any time to meddle in Peichuan’s affairs. Taking advantage of this situation, Captain Song used his connection to help resolve Peichuan’s predicament.

Originally it was an act of futility. If Old Master Gu had not been arrested because of the incident that happened he might have been able to frame Peichuan and dragged him along in his suffering using some forged evidence of bribery.

Fortunately, the Gu family fell fast like a line of dominoes, and that gave a lot of room for Peichuan’s plights to be dealt with.

Therefore, the matter was quickly resolved.

To celebrate this, Captain Song had called Shen Peichuan over for a drink.

After three rounds of drinks, Captain Song asked, “When are you planning to get married with your girlfriend?”

Peichuan stopped drinking midair, before raising his head and taking a gulp of the drink and replied, "We broke up."

He was too lazy to regale him with the twists and turns of his tale. Due to that incident, the rumor about his romance was spread.

The last visit to the Song family was a farce as well.

Captain Song furrowed his brows, "Is the lady not good enough for you? Or are you the one bullying her?"

Song Yaxin who was bringing out the food, overheard her father's words and interjected, "Is Peichuan that kind of person? His breakup only means that they're not fated to be together."

Captain Song glared at his daughter, "Don't interrupt when we men are talking."

"It's okay. Yaxin is right." After all, Peichuan himself was not clear with his own feelings. He was not sure if he liked Sang Yu in the first place.

It just felt like she had suddenly disappeared from his world. That made him feel rather uncomfortable as he felt that he had lost a lot of things.

Sitting down next to him, Yaxin advised him, "Peichuan, don't drink too much." She peered at Captain Song and with a strange tone and said, "Dad, even though you are joyous, you can't force him to drink."

Captain Song scowled and said, "I wonder if I am I your father?"

Nodding, Yaxin answered indignantly, "Of course."

"Why do I feel that you're treating Peichuan better than your own father? Do you not care about me?" Captain Song glared cheekily at his daughter.

He could read his daughter's mind very well.

This was also the reason he was so dedicated in helping to solve the problems for Shen Peichuan.

He knew full well that his daughter was a divorcee and therefore the chance of her getting together with Shen Peichuan was slim. Therefore, he had resolved to treat the latter better.

That way, even Shen Peichuan was willing, he would not feel ashamed whenever he met him.

Or maybe, Peichuan would fall in love with his daughter for his sake.

That was purely his own selfishness.

No matter how selfless and just a person could be, when it involved the affairs of their loved ones, they would definitely be biased.

After all, this matter involved his daughter. He would like to give his daughter's matter a little push in the right direction.

He was a father and Song Yaxin was his only daughter.

Meanwhile, Shen Peichuan had drunk quite a lot; he did not think much of the underlying meaning behind Captain Song's words.

Even if he had not been drinking much, Peichuan might never have guessed that Captain Song wanted him to be his son-in-law.

"Come, let us drink together. The incident this time can be turned into a blessing, therefore it is worth celebrating. As the saying goes 'one is bound for good fortune after surviving a great disaster'."

Yaxin looked at Captain Song, "It's not as serious as you've said. Shen Peichuan is a worthy man whom the heavens will help. He has always been a good and upright person in the first place."

"Who cares? It doesn't matter. Come, let us enjoy a toast!" Captain Song raised his glass.

Shen Peichuan picked up his glass in front of him too. Since it was not easy to refuse Captain Song, he felt that he had drunk too much.

After giving Captain Song a toast, Peichuan told him honestly, "I can't drink anymore. I've drunk too much, methinks."

Mrs. Song, who was at the side, smilingly said, "It's okay. You can rest here tonight after drinking. There's a guest room available here anyway."

After knowing that Peichuan had 'broken up' with Sang Yu, they were treating him with much enthusiasm. After all, he was a good man and they were fond of him.

She was glad to see that her daughter had hope again.

*I want Peichuan to be my son-in-law.*



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Shen Peichuan had drunk quite a lot, but his mind was still clear. *Even though I have a good working relationship with Captain Song, how can I impose upon them by staying the night?*

He wanted to refuse but did not know how to reject Captain Song's hospitality.

After all, the man himself had helped him with his problems.

No matter what the reasons were, he had to accept this favor.

"Peichuan, you seemed troubled. Is something bothering you?" Captain Song looked at him meaningfully and asked.

The former's expression had looked so conflicted that even Captain Song, who already had one too many drinks, could notice it.

Just when Peichuan was struggling to find an answer for Captain Song, the mobile phone in his pocket rang. He immediately responded, "Let me take this call."

Saying that, he took out his mobile phone. Yaxin, who was sitting next to him, deliberately swiped a curious look at his phone screen, worried that Sang Yu would look for him again.

Consequently, the word "sister-in-law" was displayed on the screen of the mobile phone, and she was relieved. Howbeit, since he was not from B City, he had no relatives here. How in the world did he have a sister-in-law here then?

Yaxin gave Shen Peichuan a strange look.

In the meantime, he promptly answered the call after seeing the caller ID.

“Hello.”

“Is this Peichuan?” Xinyan’s voice could be heard through the phone.

After witnessing Su Zhan walking off alone, Xinyan felt uneasy. That prompted her to give Peichuan a call to request him to look after Su Zhan.

Shen Peichuan replied, “Yes.”

“Su Zhan said he’ll go over to your place. Please look after him, alright?” Xinyan informed.

Sensing something was amiss, Peichuan frowned and asked, “What happened to him?”

“He broke up with Qin Ya and he was in a bad mood. We had just bailed him out of the police station.” Xinyan tried to summarize the whole chain of events.

Shocked to hear that, Peichuan asked nervously, “How did he land himself at the police station?”

*Da\*n, man! What did you just do?*

*How did you end up at the police station?*

“He got into a fight with someone. His injuries looked quite serious, methinks. I have invited him to come to the villa with me but he rejected me outright. Since I still have something on today, I’ll need a favor from you to look after him for a while. I’m just scared that he would do something stupid again.”

After all, they had agreed to throw a welcoming party for Shao Yun. Both Jinghao and her had to be at the villa. After all, they had planned to introduce Shao Yun to Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen.

Hence they could not follow and accompany Su Zhan all the time.

Peichuan somewhat understood the situation as he replied, "I know. I'll go look for him now."

Xinyan breathed a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, Shen Peichuan had found a reason to go back to his own place. Turning to Captain Song, he said, "I have something to attend to so I need to go back tonight."

Captain Song did not force him to stay either. After all, he could see that something had cropped up. "Sure, go ahead. But you've drunk just a wee bit too much, right? You can't drive..."

"Dad, I'll give him a lift." Yaxin cut her father off before he got the chance to finish his sentence.

Captain Song glanced at his daughter, knowing full well what she was thinking. He sighed slightly and said, "Since Peichuan can't drive under the influence of alcohol, you'll be the one to send him back."

Peichuan offered, "I can take a taxi."

As usual, he did not want to trouble others. In fact, he was so worried about Su Zhan that he could not see Yaxin's good intentions.

Then again, even without the matter regarding Su Zhan to occupy him, this dull-brained dullard could never read Yaxin's thoughts.

Taking the car keys, Yaxin advised, "It's not easy to take a taxi from here. Let me send you back. You have drunk so much that if I let you go off alone, my dad will definitely be worried. We'll feel guilty if something happens to you on your way home. So please don't refuse me since you're drinking in our home. We're no strangers after all. So what if I offer you a ride? Are you afraid of me? Are you afraid that I'll swallow you?"

Yaxin had reasoned in such a way that Peichuan could not refuse but to agree to her offer.

On the way back, he gave Su Zhan a call, but there was no answer.

Remembering that Xinyan had mentioned that Su Zhan was in a bad mood, his worry peaked. He dialed yet another call but again no one answered.

Twice his calls were left unanswered. That made him even more anxious and unsettled.

Yaxin, who was driving the car, comforted him and said, "Don't worry. Wait a while longer then give it another try."

Peichuan mumbled in agreement.

Trying to perk up the atmosphere in the car, Yaxin chirpily asked, "Where are we heading to now?"

Peichuan asked her to send him home.

Xinyan said that Su Zhan was going to look for him. Since it was impossible to go to the police bureau at this hour, his residence was the only place left.

After a ten-minute drive, the car stopped at the entrance of the neighborhood where he lived.

As Yaxin parked the car, he got out and reminded her, "Please drive slowly on your way back and pay attention to safety."

Winding down her side of the car window, Yaxin joked with him, "Since I've arrived at your place, aren't you going to invite me in for a cup of tea?"

Peichuan did not know how to reply to her question.

Sensing his reluctance, she smiled and dismissed him. "I am just joking. Go look for your friend. I'll be going now."

With that, she wound up the window and started her car to leave.

Looking at Peichuan through the rearview mirror as she drove further away, the corners of her lips gently evoked a certain arc, like she was saying with a smirk. *You can't escape me.*

Shen Peichuan turned and walked into his neighborhood. He took the elevator to the floor where he lived. The elevator door opened upon reaching the floor. The moment he walked out, he saw Su Zhan sitting slumped in front of the door of his house.

Walking over quickly, he found his friend fast asleep. He did not know if it was due to excessive drinking or the injuries he sustained.

Anyway, his friend slept while leaning against his door.

Opening the door, he helped him in and dragged him onto a bed.

During the whole process, Su Zhan did not show any reactions nor were there any signs of him waking up.

Seeing all these, Peichuan frowned and pondered, "How does he end up in this state? Does that mean that he doesn't want to live on anymore?"

Xinyan had mentioned that he was brokenhearted.

*Isn't he always heartbroken in love, one way or the other?*

Sigh. Heaving a long breath, Peichuan stripped off Su Zhan's bloody clothes along with his pants and shoes. The smell was incredibly bad – it reeked of blood intermingled with sweat and alcohol.

Covering his friend with a blanket, Shen Peichuan saw that there were still some bruises on Su Zhan's body. Standing by the bed, he wondered who his friend had gotten into a fight with.

*Who's the h\*ll has beaten him up so brutally?*

There were medicines stocked in his house due to his profession. Rummaging through the cabinet and first-aid box, he took out some medicines for treating minor injuries and rubbed them all over Su Zhan's body, face, and head. Throughout the whole process, Su Zhan did not even move.

After finishing, Peichuan sat on the sofa. His house was not big with only a bedroom and a study. There was also a kitchen, but he rarely did any cooking at home.

He poured himself a glass of water and chugged it down, and that quenched his thirst and hydrated his dry mouth. After that, he got up and took a shower before resting on the sofa.

Even though the night was still young, he felt like turning in early due to his consumption of alcohol.

It was actually the time for dinner usually.

He started drinking with Captain Song on an empty stomach and had not had much to eat.

Even so, once he fell asleep, he would not feel hungry anymore.

On the other side of the city, Jinghao and Xinyan had returned from the police station. As they entered the door of their villa, they saw that Shao Yun and the others in the family had gelled together well. They had already gotten to know one another even before Xinyan could introduce them.

In addition, their two kids were already familiar with him from the get-go, hence it was easy for him to integrate into the family and get along well with everyone.

“Uncle, why are you here so early?” Xinyan asked as she walked in after changing her shoes.

Shao Yun smiled and replied, “I thought you said that you have a welcoming dinner prepared for me? If I show up too late, I’m afraid I won’t get a taste of it.”

This was his true nature, always a chipper, with chirpy jokes and a cheerful character, a good-natured chap through and through.

Xinyan laughed and assured, “I will always wait for the protagonist to show up. Let me get the meal started.”

Looking at Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen, she introduced Shao Yun to them. “Dad, Uncle Yuwen, here’s my Uncle...”

“Right, right. I’ve already introduced myself before. I’m your Uncle. You’re my niece. Your father is my eldest brother.” Interrupting her, Shao Yun jovially introduced himself to everyone once more, repeating the very same script he had read out before, albeit with a tinge of satirical jest.

Xinyan could not help but laugh. *My uncle certainly has the skill to fit in anywhere with ease. I certainly don’t have to worry about him not fitting in here.*

“Let us sit down. I’ll go have a look if the dinner is ready.”

With that, she went into the kitchen to check if she could get the dinner started.

Jinghao did not go upstairs either and sat down on an empty sofa downstairs. Seeing him, Baymax scuttled over and laid on his feet obediently.

Meanwhile, Shao Yun was playing a game of riddles with the two kids, and Yuwen, who 'did not want to be left out', also ended up joining the fun.

On the contrary, Qifeng showed no jovial spirit. After learning about Shao Yun's identity, he reminisced about the people and things of the past. Be it Wen Xian or Cheng Yuxiu, both were important women in his life. However, both had passed on, leaving him all alone.

Qifeng could not help but feel sad for himself, it was sort of wallowing in self-pity.

Contrasting to Qifeng's silence, there was a lot of fun amongst the group on the side.

Shao Yun, whose education level differed from that of Cheng Yuwen's, found that the riddles posed between them varied greatly as well.

Being the higher-educated one, Yuwen's riddles involved mostly wordplay.

Meanwhile, Shao Yun's questions were weirder as they involved mind-boggling and interesting riddles.

In the previous round, Cheng Yuwen had come up with a riddle: *What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?*

"Can you guess the word?"

Zong Yanchen was the one who managed to guess it. *Short.*



It was now Shao Yun's turn for a riddle. After pondering for a while, he came out with one.

*Voiceless it cries,*

*Wingless flutters,*

*Toothless bites,*

*Mouthless mutters.*

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He added immediately, "Name something in nature."

Zong Yanxi had no clue at all. *This is so difficult.*

"Uncle Shao, give me an easy one this time. I haven't gotten even one right," she whined with a pout on her face.

"This one's already pretty easy," Shao Yun patted her head. "You need to think."

"All she thinks about is food. She's such a pig," Zong Yanchen said while fanning the flame.

Zong Yanxi's anger rose immediately. "You're the pig! Your family is full of pigs!"

The silence in the living room was deafening. Suddenly, waves of laughter rang out, with Shao Yun and Cheng Yuwen laughing the most heartily.

This was because they were the only ones in the living room who were not of the Zong family.

Zong Yanchen shook his head and sighed. *My sister is really a fool.*

Zong Yanxi had only said that because she was provoked by Zong Yanchen. She regretted it as soon as those words left her mouth. Looking around at everyone's expressions, she felt embarrassed and tried to hide behind her father.

Zong Jinghao patted her back. "It's okay."

She still had her head buried in him, silent.

“Shall I help you with the riddles?” He asked in an attempt to comfort her.

Hearing this, she immediately lifted her head. “Really?”

*Her mood sure changes quickly.*

He smiled, exasperated. “Yes.”

“Then tell me, what’s the answer to ‘voiceless it cries, wingless flutters, toothless bites, mouthless mutters’?” Being a determined kid, Zong Yanxi wanted to get at least one riddle right.

Zong Jinghao tried to give her a hint. “I know it sounds like an animal, and while animals are part of nature, you have to think outside the box.”

“I know!” Zong Yanchen got the answer with just a single hint. “It’s wind!” He grinned.

Zong Yanxi glared at Zong Yanchen. “I hate you!”

*He’s always stealing everything from me!*

“Uncle Shao, give me another one.” Zong Yanxi whined while climbing onto her father’s shoulders. She whispered to him, “Daddy, you have to help me. I have to win this time.”

Zong Jinghao smiled, exasperated. He could not turn down the request from his precious daughter.

*Guess I have no choice.*

Shao Yun understood what Zong Yanxi was trying to do. To appease her stubbornness, he thought of another riddle. “I help engines spin and pants stay up, what am I?”

Zong Yanxi blinked in confusion.

*What kind of stupid riddle is this? It's so difficult.*

“Hey, Daddy! Your belt’s digging into me!” She complained.

Zong Jinghao was in fact doing this on purpose. He was hugging his daughter tightly precisely so that his belt would dig into her.

Zong Yanchen saw the sly look on his father’s face and asked, “Is the answer a belt?”

It clicked in his head as soon as he said it. “Oh, it is! Haha, I got it right again!”

Zong Yanxi glared at him. “How could it be a belt?”

Shao Yun enlightened her. “It is. A belt goes around the various part of the machinery and allows everything to spin in sync. And you wear belts to keep your pants from falling.”

When Zong Yanxi heard that ‘belt’ was indeed the correct answer, she immediately added, “I was the one who said it first, so I should be the one who got it right.”

“It’s not like you knew it was the answer,” Zong Yanchen protested.

“I said it first so I’m the one who got it right!” Zong Yanxi repeated in a shout as if that would make her more convincing.

Cheng Yuwen laughed and whispered to Shao Yun, “Ruixi’s temper is really bad, huh?”

Shao Yun laughed too.

Lin Xinyan poked her head out of the kitchen to call everyone to dinner.

Zong Yanxi got down from her father's shoulders and ran towards her. "Mommy, Yanchen's always bullying me."

Lin Xinyan patted her head. "What did he do this time?"

"Fine, you got it right, okay? Stop being such a tattletale. You're almost old enough to go to elementary school, yet you're still such a child." With that, Zong Yanchen sat down at the dining table with a huff.

"You're immature, too. Don't just harp on Yanxi," Lin Xinyan coaxed. *He's still young, yet he's so eager to grow up.*

"Hehe." Zong Yanchen getting a talking to made Zong Yanxi secretly delighted, and all her anger from earlier dissipated as if nothing ever happened. Now that her anger was gone, she went and sat next to Zong Yanchen.

"Yanchen, it's not like you're that much older than me. It's only by a few minutes."

Zong Yanchen glanced at his sister. "So what? That still makes me older than you nonetheless. You still have to show me respect as my younger sister."

"I'm willing to do that, but you have to give in to me sometimes. Do you know the story of Kongzi and the pears? I learned that in preschool in C City."

Zong Yanchen had nothing to say to that. *She is indeed quite smart.*

Dinner was sumptuous. When Lin Xinyan walked into the kitchen, she saw Qin Ya doing the dishes.

She knew that Qin Ya was not in a good mood. Even though she insisted that she had already gotten used to her new life, Lin Xinyan knew that it was not possible for her to have recovered that quickly.

*No matter how hard one tries to restore broken China, the cracks will never fade.*

Lin Xinyan had originally asked Qin Ya to go rest in her room, but she insisted that she needed to do something to take her mind off her trouble.

Lin Xinyan agreed, so she let her to continue to help in the kitchen.

After bringing dinner to the table, Lin Xinyan went to get wine.

*We must have some wine for such a special occasion.*

While that was true, she took the red wine instead of the liquor. *Liquor will get us drunk way too fast.*

*I just want something to lift the mood.*

The wine glasses had already been washed. She opened the bottle and placed it on the table.

Zong Qifeng suddenly said, "Let's hold the wedding at Century Tower."

Century Tower was a famous landmark in B City, spanning more than five hundred meters tall with a hundred and eight floors. If one stood on the one-hundred-and-eighth floor, they could overlook the entire B City.

More importantly, it was a seven star hotel.

There were seven such hotels in the country, spread amongst the more developed cities.

B City was one of the cities.

"Wouldn't that be too extravagant?" Lin Xinyan asked. *That's too wasteful. It will definitely be very expensive.*

*Even those jewels cost a fortune.*

“You’re only going to get married once in your life, aren’t you?” Shao Yun asked.

“Yes, of course,” Lin Xinyan replied with no hesitation.

She had never thought about getting married a second time.

Zong Jinghao looked at her with a slight smile on his face.

Her words made him extremely happy.

*She’ll be mine forever.*

“Since it’s only going to happen once, why not make it grand?” Shao Yun felt that there was nothing wrong with this. After all, it was not as if they were not well off. He was even prepared to foot the bill if needed. After all, the money was left to Lin Xinyan by her father.

*Xinyan is Guo An’s only child, so it goes without saying that her wedding should be extravagant.*

Zong Qifeng felt regretful for not giving Cheng Yuxiu a wedding, so now that his son was getting married, he wanted to go all out on the wedding as a way to make up for his regrets.

“Just focus on your child and leave the wedding planning to us,” Cheng Yuwen said.

He had even gone to go look at potential wedding locations with Zong Qifeng. After all, Zong Jinghao was his precious nephew, so of course, he would want the wedding to be lively and, as Zong Jinghao had said, extravagant.

“There’s no need for us to worry about anything. We should be happy that our elders are planning it for us,” Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan’s hand.

Even though many people could not make it to the wedding, the fact that the elders of the family were there was already a blessing.

Lin Xinyan looked into Zong Jinghao’s eyes and nodded as she understood what he meant.

Preparations continued as the day of the wedding drew ever closer. Shao Yun was originally just there to attend the wedding, but he ended up being roped into the preparations.

Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan did not need to worry about anything and left everything to their elders.

Very soon, the day of the wedding arrived.



# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 646

The day before the wedding was spent on the wedding gown fitting and makeup trial. At night, Lin Xinyan could not fall asleep as Zong Jinghao was not by her side, and so she ended up sleeping past eight in the morning.

There was a custom that, on the day before the wedding, the bride and the groom were not allowed to see each other. Therefore, Zong Jinghao had not been home the previous day and had stayed in a hotel instead.

The makeup artist and stylist had already reached the villa long ago. Qin Ya ran upstairs to Lin Xinyan, who was still deep in slumber, and dragged her out of bed. "How can you sleep in on your wedding day?"

Lin Xinyan sleepily opened her eyes. "It's not time yet, is it?"

"So do you plan to show up to the wedding hall in your pajamas? Get up quickly, everyone's waiting for you!" Qin Ya said, exasperated.

Lin Xinyan rubbed her eyes. "What time is it?"

"It's almost nine. You haven't gotten your makeup done nor have you changed. If you don't want to get married, I'll give your husband a call," Qin Ya teased.

Lin Xinyan went to wash her face. It was only then that she finally felt awake. Qin Ya dragged her out of the room. "Let's go, the makeup artist is waiting."

"There's still time- there's no need to rush. It's not like he'll be able to escape," Lin Xinyan joked.

Qin Ya stopped in her tracks. "Who?" She asked, confused.

“Jinghao,” Lin Xinyan replied matter-of-factly.

Qin Ya placed her hand on her forehead with an exasperated smile. “You’re pretty confident, huh?”

Lin Xinyan laughed. “I’m just kidding. Let’s go.”

She went back to brush her teeth and went downstairs.

Qin Ya observed her quietly. *If only Zong Jinghao could see her now.*

*I wonder what he would say if he saw how nonchalant she is about this whole affair.*

Zong Yanchen and Zong Yanxi were the flower boy and flower girl, so they had to dress up and get their makeup done as well.

Zhou Chunchun had also come to help. While the makeup artist was working on Zong Yanxi, she was helping Zong Yanchen into his tuxedo. The suit was tailored perfectly according to his measurements and everyone said he looked like a cute gentleman with his white shirt and black bow tie.

“Hi, Xinyan.” Zhou Chunchun greeted Lin Xinyan when she came downstairs.

She smiled in response.

“Go get your hair done first.” The makeup artist was busy, so Qin Ya got the stylist over.

He had been ready since long ago and was just waiting for Lin Xinyan. As soon as she sat down, he got out the curlers and started working on her hair.

First, he gathered all her hair and put it up, leaving a few locks at her temples and curling them. Then, he braided her hair with skillful braiding techniques and finished it off in an updo.

Qin Ya got the crown out from the secret box and handed it to the stylist.

His eyes shone. "I've worked with many brides before and I have seen many crowns. While many of them were made with real diamonds, this is the first time I've seen one made with this many and they are so big and of such high quality. It's simply gorgeous," He gushed. "It doesn't look like it was made locally. With this quality, it has to be made overseas."

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 647

“There’s no need to gush so much over it. Let’s pick up the pace. She hasn’t even gotten her makeup done yet,” Qin Ya urged impatiently.

The stylist laughed and gingerly placed the crown on Lin Xinyan’s head. He held off from putting the veil on her for now as it would get in the way of her makeup.

After ten minutes, the makeup artist was done with Zong Yanxi and began to work on Lin Xinyan’s makeup.

While this was happening, the makeup artist remarked, “You have such beautiful features. Individually, they’re all delicate, and when they’re put together, it doesn’t result in the kind of beauty that would stun the crowd; instead, it results in the exquisite kind that appears more beautiful the more one look at you.”

Lin Xinyan smiled bashfully.

The makeup artist had already mentioned it the previous day, but she could not help repeating herself. “You don’t look like a mother of three at all; you look so young.”

Lin Xinyan just smiled politely.

She was at a loss as to how to reply because it was true. She was indeed young. At her age, most people would have only just gotten married. When she was eighteen, most girls were still in school, but she was already a mother.

After about an hour, her makeup was done. Even on ordinary days when she did not wear makeup, she was beautiful with a fresh and pure look. When she wore makeup, however, her beauty was greatly enhanced and she exuded a unique feminine charm.

Qin Ya sighed. "You look stunning. I think you should wear makeup more often."

"Is that a compliment or are you saying that I look bad without makeup?" Lin Xinyan asked, teasing her.

"You're pretty even without any makeup. It just enhances your beauty," the makeup artist explained.

Lin Xinyan went to go put on her wedding dress. Zong Yanchen was the last to get his makeup done. It was almost eleven when everyone was finally ready.

As part of the finishing touches, Qin Ya smoothed out Lin Xinyan's wedding dress and the stylist put the veil on her.

Since Lin Xinyan did not have many friends, she wanted Qin Ya to be her maid of honor. However, she refused due to her own circumstances.

There were many traditions that one needed to observe when planning a wedding. Those who were married or those who were in unhappy marriages were not suited to be maids of honor. While Lin Xinyan did not mind, Qin Ya did not want to take the risk of passing her unhappiness unto others.

While Zong Jinghao had many candidates in mind for his best man, he decided not to choose one since Lin Xinyan did not have a maid of honor. Hence, the wedding did not have a maid of honor nor a best man.

Once all the preparations were done, Lin Xinyan sat on the sofa awaiting the entourage that would bring her to the groom's house.

Qin Ya and Zhou Chunchun helped hold her train while Aunt Yu and Aunt Wang got the dowry ready.

The dowry was prepared by Shao Yun, as he felt it was his duty to do it since Lin Xinyan's parents were no longer with them.

He had the money, and furthermore, that money was from Lin Xinyan's father, so it was only natural that he spent it with no reservations.

The dowry consisted of jewelry, artifacts made of jade and gold, property, and cash. In addition, it was said that one's dowry had to include a blanket, so he prepared one with gold embroidery.

Shao Yun went to great lengths to procure these items. While he originally knew nothing about these customs, he decided to go all out after he heard about them from the wedding planners.

The dowry was so extravagant that it took up half the living room.

Because many media companies came to Zong Jinghao's aid during the previous incident, he agreed to do exclusive interviews with some of them.

Aunt Wang and Aunt Yu organized the dowry and specially arranged it so that the red leather boxes in which the cash was kept could be clearly seen. There was so much cash that it took up three whole boxes.

Shao Yun's intentions were simple. While Zong Jinghao's family was wealthy, Lin Xinyan's was not far behind either. He would not allow any rumors that she married Zong Jinghao for the sake of social climbing.

He wanted everyone to know that her family was wealthy too and that she and Zong Jinghao were not only an ideal couple, but even their family status was well-matched.

The reporters gathered around, taking numerous pictures of the dowry.

Aunt Yu stood in front of the window, waiting for the entourage.

They arrived at exactly twelve noon. There were so many of them that the black limousines driving down the street resembled a giant dragon. "They're here!" she announced excitedly.



# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 648

Qin Ya ran over. "Let me see."

Aunt Yu pointed outside. "Look!"

Qin Ya looked in the direction Aunt Yu was pointing towards.

At this point, the limousines were almost reaching the entrance of the villa.

Qin Ya did not know just how many limousines there were, but given how extravagant the wedding was so far, she knew that there had to be many of them.

Soon, she saw the door of one of the limousines open. What followed were slender legs and the slim body of a man.

The man was dressed in a well-tailored suit which gave him a sleek silhouette, making him stand out amongst the crowd.

That man was Zong Jinghao, he walked to the villa with steady footsteps. While he did not have a best man, he still had his friends accompanying him.

They were all dressed in black tuxedos and were lined up behind Zong Jinghao, approaching the villa in neat files.

Seeing that the front door was about to be opened, Qin Ya ran towards it and locked it. "Even though we don't have a maid of honor, we can't let the groom take the bride so easily," she said to everyone in the room.



“That’s right,” Aunt Yu agreed wholeheartedly. “I’ve seen many clips online where they gave the entourage a hard time. What say we do the same?”

“Sure, let’s do that. I’ll stay here to stall them, and you, Chunchun, and Aunt Wang can go make the preparations,” Qin Ya said.

“Alright,” Aunt Yu replied ecstatically.

At this moment, the entourage reached the door and knocked on it.

Qin Ya opened the door by a crack. “If you want to come in, give us red packets.”

On the other side of the door, someone asked, “Isn’t there no maid of honor? Why is someone trying to hassle us?”

“Even so, they didn’t say that they would let us have the bride easily,” Guan Jing said. “It’s impossible for us to bust the door down, so let’s just do as they say and hand over the red packets.”

The front door was made from copper that was fire-proof and anti-theft, so it was indeed impossible for a few men to bust it down.

However, since they were told that there was no maid of honor, nobody had prepared any red packets.

“Fortunately, I was given some by the wedding planners.” Shen Peichuan walked over and took out the red packets from his pocket.

Guan Jing sighed with relief. “As expected of the wedding planners, they predicted this would happen.”

Shen Peichuan nodded. He recalled the wedding planner urging him to prepare some red packets just in case.

Zong Qifeng was there as well, so he got someone to withdraw some money to leave in the car.

It turned out to be a sound decision, because just as the wedding planner had predicted, they came into use.

“I won’t open the door if the money inside isn’t up to my standards!” Qin Ya shouted through the door.

Shen Peichuan knocked on the door. “Qin Ya, we’re old friends. Come on, just open the door,” he begged.

“I won’t fall for that. Hand over the red packets,” Qin Ya replied.

Shen Peichuan laughed. “How heartless of you.”

“Yeah, just think of my heart as having been eaten by a dog. I won’t let you in so easily.” Qin Ya had already made up her mind and would not give in to anyone.

“Okay, okay.” Guan Jing relented and handed a red packet to Qin Ya.

Qin Ya took it through the crack beneath the door. “How could one be enough? There are so many people in here.”

She beckoned the stylist and makeup artist over. “Come here, you’ll get red packets too.”

Qin Ya took more red packets and passed them to Aunt Yu, Aunt Wang, and Zhou Chunchun. Everyone was in a jubilant mood.

“Aren’t we making things too difficult for them?” Aunt Yu asked while stuffing the red packet into her pocket.

She and Aunt Wang had taken all the chili powder and alcohol in the house to make a mixture for the entourage to drink.

“This is nothing,” the makeup artist said. “I’ve seen people place durian shells onto the floor and get the entourage to step on them on to get in.”

Qin Ya covered her mouth in shock. “Isn’t that too harsh?”

“That’s still not the worst for the entourage to step on an egg without breaking it,” the makeup artist replied.

“But how did they get in though?” Aunt Yu asked. “Surely that’s impossible.”

“Fortunately, there was one sole egg that wasn’t broken out of over three hundred,” the makeup artist replied.

“I’ve also seen people add wasabi into alcohol,” the stylist added.

Everyone was speechless.

“So this means we’re not being too hard on them, at least compared to what others have done.” Qin Ya smiled, satisfied.

Everyone agreed.

*Knock, knock.*

A voice called from the other side of the door. “We’ve given you the red packets, so open the door now!”

Qin Ya helped Lin Xinyan up. “Go wait in the room. We’re all women, so we’re definitely not as strong as them. We won’t be able to do anything when they try to snatch you away, so we have to hide you somewhere first.”

Lin Xinyan smiled. She had no choice but to do what Qin Ya said since it was rare that everyone was so happy. Their cheerful mood was contagious.

Zhou Chunchun went with her. "Xinyan, I'll be here with you."

"Okay. Lock the door and don't open it until I give you the signal," Qin Ya instructed.

"Sure, leave it to me," Zhou Chunchun replied.

Qin Ya nodded and went to unlock the door.

As soon as the door opened, the members of the entourage flocked into the villa. However, they were stopped in their tracks upon seeing the durian shells on the floor. "Didn't we already give you the red packets?" Guan Jing asked.

"I only said I'll let you in if you give us red packets; I didn't say anything about letting you go any further," Qin Ya replied smugly.

"Hehe, as if you could stop us." Shen Peichuan knew that there were not many people in the house, so they could easily force their way in.

Qin Ya had already predicted this would happen. "If you barge in, you won't get to see the bride."

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 649

Shen Peichuan glanced about the room but saw no glimpse of the bride. “Alright, you’re the best! Now quit being a bully and hand her over to me!” he said cheekily.

Qin Ya crossed her arms and retorted, “Hand her over that easily? Certainly not! You need to pass this test so that we can trust you!”

Shen Peichuan blinked at them wordlessly.

“Well, hurry up, or you’ll miss the auspicious time!” urged Qin Ya.

Shen Peichuan said, “Alright! To help my buddy claim his beloved, I’ll take on your challenge!”

He took off his shoes tentatively and looked at the path ahead. He gingerly tested one step on the durian skin with only his socks before suddenly withdrawing in pain. *F\*cking hell, this hurts! This is the kind of test Su Zhan should attempt instead.*

If he’d known about this, asking Su Zhan to attend might’ve been a better idea.

Guan Jing bit his finger and looked at Shen Peichuan. Warily, he asked, “Does it hurt?”

“Not at all,” replied Shen Peichuan, shaking his head. “The durian must’ve been pretty ripe, for even the thorns are soft.” *Did he seriously just ask me that? F\*ck’s sake, of course, it hurts!* thought Shen Peichuan exasperatedly.

He could not tell the truth. If he hadn’t lied about the pain, how else could he encourage Guan Jing to take the plunge with him?

Guan Jing looked incredulously at Shen Peichuan, not believing a word he said. "I usually prick myself when carrying these b\*stards. Imagine stepping on these!"

"Well, if you're not willing to let your own boss be happily married, don't help me then!" said Shen Peichuan facetiously.

Guan Jin held his tongue. *Empty threats, that's all they are.*

Sighing, Guan Jin removed his shoes. "Why, you're just as bad as Su Zhan! I used to think you were a good person, but now you're just being mean."

Shen Peichuan chuckled. "What of it? As long as someone suffers through this with me, anything goes!"

Guan Jin tutted. "You're inhumane."

Soon after he said that, he stepped on the durian skin and yelped in pain.

It felt as if the pricks had gone from his soles straight into his bones. This was the kind of torturous pain that made people scream in agony.

Fortunately, he only had to endure it for a short while because there were only a few of them.

Aunt Yu and the makeup artist were at the table explaining the rules. "You're to alternate between this glass of chili water and that glass of liquor."

Guan Jing grimaced. "I only want the liquor."

He would rather drink liquor than the awful-sounding chili water.

"Absolutely not!" said Qin Ya as she approached him.

Guan Jing made a face. "If only you were the maid of honor. I'll make your torment even worse than mine!"

Qin Ya smiled. "Unfortunately for you, I'm not the maid of honor."

Secretly, Qin Ya was relieved. Since she was not a bridesmaid, she didn't have to go through the same ordeal as Guan Jing.

"I'll go first," volunteered Guan Jing. He gathered his wits about him and downed the glass of chili water.

The grimace that followed was a comical sight. Not only was the chili water spicy, but it also hurt his throat. It tasted of torment much worse than liquor.

Guan Jing silently vowed never to become anyone's best man in the future. If he were already being subjected to this even without the role, wouldn't his treatment as the best man be even worse?

Fortunately, due to the high number of groomsmen, both men didn't need to drink much.

Qin Ya grinned. "On the account of your sincerity, I present to you the bride!"

She went to the door and knocked. "Open the door, Chun."

Soon, the door was opened. She stepped aside, allowing them to enter and see the bride.

The room was decorated traditionally, save for the roses on the bedside table. Lin Xinyan sat at the edge of the bed clad in a white wedding dress with her train spread out. Zhou Chunchun had sprinkled red rose petals over it, giving it a very romantic effect.

Everyone consciously moved out of the way to let the groom take a look at his betrothed.

Zong Jinghao stood at the door and stared. They were no strangers to each other, but he was stunned by how beautiful she looked.

The white wedding dress wrapped her slender body in all the right places. Her exposed neck and collarbone looked pale and delicate, like nephrite jade.

Her eyes had a gentle sparkle in them, and her scarlet lips turned upwards in a charming smile. Both elements gave her a regal, elegant air.

She was quite a stunner.

Lin Xinyan also looked up at her groom, who was dressed in a suit. He exuded maturity and stability, something she thought suited him well.

He stepped over the threshold and gently brushed a strand of hair off her forehead. "My bride is very beautiful today." He grinned.

*She's so beautiful that I want to hide her away and keep her to myself.*

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyelids, seemingly coquettish and shy.

Zong Jinghao smiled, captivated by her beauty.

Qin Ya brought over the bride's wedding shoes.

"Since I've taken the initiative to bring these over, don't I get a thick red packet for my efforts?" she asked mischievously.

Zong Jinghao received the shoes and said, "Peichuan, give her a nice big one!"

It was his wedding day and he was feeling elated.



Shen Peichuan handed Qin Ya the remaining red packet after stuffing in a few more banknotes. “You’re buying me a drink later!”

“No, I’m saving this up!” replied Qin Ya gleefully.

“How stingy of you,” Shen Peichuan huffed, feigning annoyance.

“Haven’t you noticed that from the start?” retorted Qin Ya playfully.

Shen Peichuan smirked wordlessly and let the conversation die down. Instead, he took out his phone and started to photograph the scene—Zong Jinghao had gotten down on one knee to help Lin Xinyan into her shoes.

The heels on her shoes were about five centimeters. They were not too high due to her pregnancy. Lin Xinyan might be tall, but even she could not pull off a wedding dress in flats.

Her dramatic-looking wedding dress would have made her seem shorter and a little unflattering. To counter this, she decided on mid-height heels for the ceremony. After all, she didn’t need to move around much and she could wear something more comfortable after the ceremony.

The silvery-white pair of wedding shoes were rhinestone-studded and glimmered in the light.

Lin Xinyan had slender and delicate feet, with fair-looking toes. Even her toenails hadn’t needed much work.

Zong Jinghao picked up one foot gently and slid on her shoe. Lowering his eyes, he said, “You had been wronged in the past.”

That year, she had become his wife under more muted circumstances. There was no grand wedding, and they didn’t even register their marriage together.

Lin Xinyan had no intention of crying, but the thoughts of her past made tears stream down her face beyond her control.

Zong Jinghao looked up and noticed her crying. He reached over to wipe her tears away and asked, "Today is our special day, so why are you sad?"

She smiled. "Sad? These are tears of joy."

"If you keep crying, you'll ruin your beautiful makeup. Do you want to look like a ghost on your wedding day?" asked Zong Jinghao playfully as he wiped more tears off.

"Zong Jinghao! Are you calling me ugly?" she asked in mock indignance. "Fine, I won't marry you then!"

Zong Jinghao leaned over to hug her. "Too late for that, I'm afraid! You have to marry me, like it or not!"

Someone in the crowd yelled for the ceremony to begin, and the bride was ready to leave her home.

Immediately, the air was filled with festive cheer. Qin Ya and Zhou Chunchun lifted Li Xinyan's train and the whole bridal party left the villa.

Just then, a loud bang was heard and colorful confetti descended from the sky.

The leading wedding car was a white Rolls-Royce Phantom, decorated with flowers and ribbons.

It really stood out among the other black cars in the wedding entourage.

Zong Jinghao placed her in the car and sat next to her. He picked up her hand and put it to his lips, leaving a gentle kiss. "With me by your side," he said, "There's nothing to fear."

Lin Xinyan turned misty-eyed and murmured softly in response.

She wouldn't have to be afraid of anything with him there.

Qin Ya and the kids were sitting in the car behind them.

Soon after the leading car departed, the rest slowly followed suit.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 650

The journey from the villa to the wedding venue took roughly an hour. The heavy traffic slowed them down in such a densely populated city, but it was all accounted for. Zong Qifeng's inquiries about an auspicious time were narrowed down to ten minutes past three. He was not concerned that they would be late.

The wedding entourage stood out like a sore thumb. Soon, the major media outlets had caught wind of this.

Everyone was curious to see Zong Jinghao's betrothed and wanted to confirm if it was the woman they had spotted at the mall with him. After all, the news had made them seem quite intimate with each other.

The presence of this woman intrigued them.

Everyone realized she wasn't a gold-digger based on what little they knew about the leaked news involving her extravagant dowry.

There had been other speculations as well. Some had claimed that the woman was planning on using her child to gain the upper hand.

They obviously couldn't say that now, since she was proven to be from a rich and powerful family. There was no need for such tactics in the first place.

An extravagant wedding where both parties were a good match for each other naturally garnered blessings from the public.

Since the bride was beautiful and came from a good family, everyone was envious of her.

If Lin Xinyan had been a nobody from a normal family, the rumors about her alleged marriage of convenience would have been worse. She'd have been accused of marrying into money and power. Who wouldn't want their own Cinderella story?

It would be impossible for the public not to feel jealous about this.

An incident similar to this had caused quite a stir a while back. A younger student from a prominent university had married an old divorcee twenty years her senior. To the public, it didn't matter how good she was. They only assumed that she had married for money and not love. All this because that gentleman was rich.

Upon their arrival at the venue, Zong Jinghao brought Lin Xinyan to the lounge to rest. Some things needed his attention, so he left to sort them out.

Lin Xinyan sat on the sofa with sweaty palms. Throughout the ride there, Zong Jinghao had clasped her hands too tightly. Previously, she hadn't even given the wedding much thought.

But the day had now come, and she was left with a plethora of different feelings ranging from longing to excitement, and even nervousness.

*I don't even know why I'm nervous. I just am!*

She was a mess of emotions when Zong Jinghao held her hands and she thought of all that had happened in the past. *It's supposed to be a happy day, damn it. Why am I sniffing in front of him like this?*

Qin Ya noticed her unease and tried to soothe her. "Don't worry, we're all here with you."

Lin Xinyan looked up at her and said, "You know what? I thought I'd be used to this, but who knew I'd be this anxious now?"

Qin Ya said, "That's understandable. Women are sentimental creatures after all."

Marriage was an important rite of passage for women, akin to a rebirth of sorts.

“You should feel lucky,” said Qin Ya as she squeezed Lin Xinyan’s hand. “Most people get married first and then experience married life. You, however, got to experience married life first, and now your marriage is such a grand affair. Isn’t it less risky that way? If things hadn’t turned out so well, you’d not marry him again. This is a blessing.”

Lin Xinyan gave Qin Ya a faint smile, seeing the sense in her words.

Just then, a knock came at the door.

Qin Ya went to see who it was and found that it was one of the hotel staff. “Is Ms. Lin Xinyan here?” she asked.

“Yes, how can I help you?” replied Qin Ya.

Seeing as the other person had a staff member’s uniform, Qin Ya did not dwell on the matter.

“Well, I have a gift here intended for Ms. Lin,” said the staff as she extended a parcel.

Before Qin Ya could respond, a man’s voice rang across the room.

“Who told you to send it?” asked Shen Peichuan as he walked over.

With no news pending the incident with the Gu family, Zong Jinghao was worried that someone would intentionally stir up trouble. Shen Peichuan was put in charge of security for Lin Xinyan, and other security personnel had been contracted to help with surveillance throughout the event.

Knowing that Zong Jinghao put his trust in him, Shen Peichuan vowed to ensure everything went without a hitch.

Qin Ya was initially curious, but Shen Peichuan's tone of voice stopped her from saying anything. Instead, she looked at the girl expectantly for an answer.