

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 671

“Really?” Plain disbelief was written on Qin Ya’s face.

Almost immediately, Su Zhan raised his arm and swore, “If I lied, I’ll never be a real man my whole life. What about this, is this cruel enough?”

Qin Ya stood up. “I don’t believe even a punctuation mark in your words.”

Su Zhan was speechless.

“I still need to work later. I’ll give you a blanket since you haven’t slept all night.” With that, Qin Ya paced toward the bedroom and Su Zhan went after her immediately while he protested, “I’ve come all this way to see you, are you going to just give me a blanket? Where should I sleep?”

Qin Ya turned around with a serene expression and signaled with her lips. “The sofa.”

Su Zhan was speechless again.

I’ve sacrificed a whole night of sleep to come all the way here to see her and that’s the treatment I get? Sleeping on the sofa?

“Ya...”

“There are only three bedrooms altogether in this house. You should know very well to whom the other two bedrooms belong, right? Now tell me, whose bedroom do you want to sleep in?” Qin Ya looked at him with her arms folded.

It was where Lin Xinyan used to stay. Therefore, other than Qin Ya's bedroom, the other two bedrooms belonged to Lin Xinyan and her two children. Surely, he could not be sleeping in Lin Xinyan's bedroom even though she no longer stayed around here. As with the children's bedroom, he could make do.

Nevertheless, he did not want to sleep in the kids' bedroom either. To him, Qin Ya's bedroom was still the most suitable one. With a flattering smile, he pleaded, "I suppose yours is the most fitting for me."

Qin Ya reached out her hand to stop him. "You wish!"

"I don't get what you mean." Su Zhan feigned ignorance and outmaneuvered from under her arm. He flopped onto the bed immediately after and grabbed the blanket. "I'm so exhausted; I need to sleep."

Burying his face under the blanket, he could even smell Qin Ya's scent and fragrance. *Even though her face has changed, the scent on her is still the same.*

He clung yearningly to the blanket.

Qin Ya bit her lip in irritation. She wanted to pull him up but considering that her strength was no match for his and if he refused to get up, there was no way she could drag him out from the bed. Hence, she retracted her arm, stood by the bedside, and said, "Su Zhan, I didn't expect you to be the same scoundrel and sly fox as you were. Fine, sleep tight as you wish. I'll move first thing in the morning and never let you find me again."

Su Zhan got up at once. *No—*

He took Qin Ya's hand and put on an aggrieved expression. "My kindest and prettiest Ya, do you really have the heart to see me sleep on the sofa after an all-night drive?"

Qin Ya gave him a cold stare. "I don't buy this."

Su Zhan looked like a miserably wronged man. He got up from the bed and stood aside with his head bowed.

“Don’t pretend to be woeful.” Qin Ya’s voice toned down a little. “Take a shower before you sleep.”

Su Zhan nodded obediently on the outside but laughed secretly within. *Acting pitiful is actually more useful in front of this woman who yields to soft approaches rather than force.*

If Qin Ya knew what was in his mind, he would have been kicked out immediately.

“Leave the room for now.”

Su Zhan was unusually meek and left the room right away. He knew all too well that playing it forcefully with Qin Ya would not result in any favorable outcome.

It was almost six in the morning. He went to the kitchen to see if there was anything to eat. Qin Ya had just bought some groceries the day before. She lived alone there and did not feel like going out to eat so she bought some ingredients home for simple cooking.

Su Zhan rolled up his sleeves to wash his hands. Then, he took out some eggs and bread. He did not know how to prepare delicate dishes but frying eggs and toasting the bread were still within his reach. The ingredients in the refrigerator were also an indication to him that Qin Ya was preparing to make her own breakfast.

After preparing the eggs and bread, he served them on the plate and took out the glasses. He then poured two glasses of milk.

Qin Ya came out of the room after washing up and dressing neatly. When she saw that the breakfast was ready, she raised her eyebrows. Then, she walked

toward the kitchen and asked with surprise, “So you actually know how to prepare breakfast, huh?”

Su Zhan replied, smiling, “I’m willing to do anything for you.”

Qin Ya snorted and uttered, “You think a meal is enough to buy me off? What? Does this meal grant me immortality after having it?”

Su Zhan was rendered speechless.

He brushed his nose lightly and smiled. “Let’s sit down and eat.”

Qin Ya pulled the chair out and sat down. “I’ll be going to the shop later...”

“You go ahead and do what you need to. Don’t worry about me. Just let me know what time you’ll be off work in the evening,” Su Zhan replied with a smile.

Qin Ya took a sip of the milk. “Hmm... that’s uncertain.”

“Well, then is it okay if I go and see you?” Su Zhan asked with a grin.

Qin Ya did not reply. It was a silent agreement.

After Qin Ya left, Su Zhan washed up and lay himself on Qin Ya’s bed, fantasizing about time alone with Qin Ya at night. He planned to have dinner at a restaurant with a relaxed ambiance first and take a stroll afterward. *Maybe we would even have the chance to hold hands, and dripping soft pecks on each other’s cheeks.*

Su Zhan dozed off in his fantasy and was awoken by a series of ringtones. He grabbed his phone and looked at the time. *It’s three o’clock in the afternoon.* He sat up in an instant. *Whoa, have I been sleeping the whole day?*

Also, why is Zong Jinghao calling me?

Confused, he took the call. “Hello? What’s the matter? I’m pursuing my wife now; I have no time to give a d*mn about Shen Peichuan’s matter...”

“It’s me.”

“Xin— Xinyan.” Su Zhan pulled himself together upon hearing the voice. “Is there anything?”

“Su Zhan, Peichuan has gone missing...”

Su Zhan was rooted to the ground. It was a long pause before he came back to his senses. “What— What happened?”

He got up to change simultaneously as he was talking over the phone.

The voice on the line was even trembling. “He drove Jinghao’s car and fell from the Xixin Creek Bridge. Up till now, he was still nowhere to be found. Jinghao has been searching for him, but I’m still very worried. Please help him in the search, the longer it passed, the more dangerous it would be for him, so...”

“Xinyan, don’t get too worked up. I understood and I’ll go now.” Su Zhan hurriedly went out. “How did it happen?”

“Jinghao has been occupied with looking for him and doesn’t have the time to investigate the matter yet.” At that moment, Lin Xinyan was carrying Zong Yanxi and her heart was trembling with chills.

When it happened, Zong Yanxi and Aunt Wang were inside the car. Lin Xinyan did not know exactly what happened. She only knew that Zong Yanxi was rescued by others whereas Aunt Wang was killed and Shen Peichuan went missing.

Zong Yanxi was terribly horrified. She lay in Lin Xinyan’s arms silently.

Lin Xinyan kept patting her back, comforting her. "It's okay. It's okay now, Mommy's here."

"Water, there's a lot of water." Zong Yanxi grabbed her collar and added, "Mommy, I'm so scared, so so scared."

Kissing her forehead, Lin Xinyan tried to calm her down. "Mommy's here. Mommy's holding you so you don't need to be scared anymore, alright?"

At that moment, fear was gripping Lin Xinyan's heart and she was in intense dread that horrible things would happen to Shen Peichuan.

"How did things turn out this way?" Aunt Yu was frantically pacing up and down in the living room. "Captain Shen was here to deliver the car key and Yanxi wanted to go out with Aunt Wang to buy cakes but it so happened that the driver was on leave. So, Captain Shen drove them out. How did the car go off the track and fall off the bridge?"

Lin Xinyan asked, "What made her think about having cakes?"

She usually prefers ice cream in the summer and there're a lot of them in the refrigerator at home.

It turned out that Aunt Yu was having a casual chat with Aunt Wang and the subject shifted to Aunt Wang's age and birthday. It was then that they found out it was actually Aunt Wang's birthday today. Zong Yanxi heard that and insisted on buying a cake for her.

The driver was on leave and Shen Peichuan came just right then so he took them out. No one had expected something like that to happen.

Then, the villa was left with only Lin Xinyan, her two children, and Aunt Yu.

Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen had both gone out to search for Shen Peichuan.

What really did happen during the accident was unknown. One of the only persons present was dead, while another was petrified and lying in Lin Xinyan's arms, trembling in horror.

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Zong Yanxi did not sleep, neither did she talk. She just lay there in Lin Xinyan's arms while Zong Yanchen sat across from them on the sofa, pursing his lips and watching Zong Yanxi. Suddenly, he got down from the sofa and walked toward Lin Xinyan, patted on his sister's head lightly, and asked, "Are you hungry?"

Zong Yanxi did not respond.

He heaved a sigh. *Yanxi is really terrified this time; she doesn't even talk.*

It was nighttime already. Lin Xinyan asked Aunt Yu to take Zong Yanchen to sleep but he refused. "What about you?"

"I'll wait for your Daddy to come home." Lin Xinyan looked at her son. "Good boy, listen to Mommy and go to sleep."

Zong Yanchen sat beside her and said, "I want to accompany you."

Lin Xinyan patted his head and held him in her arms. It was with them around that the waiting didn't seem so tormenting.

They did not sleep the entire night. When the early morning light shone in, Aunt Yu said, "Let me prepare some food for you. You haven't eaten anything since last night. You can't keep skipping your meals. With your current condition, your body can't handle it."

"You prepare some then."

Zong Jinghao had not come back. This showed that Shen Peichuan was still not found. How could she have the appetite to eat?

Nonetheless, even if she did not eat, the children needed to. With some food ready, Zong Qifeng and Cheng Yuwen would also have something to eat when they returned home later.

Therefore, it was a good idea to have some food prepared.

Despite that, the food prepared ended up for nothing. An entire day had passed and they had not come back.

The children could not hold it anymore and fell asleep on the sofa. Lin Xinyan carried Zong Yanxi upstairs while Aunt Yu carried Zong Yanchen to the room downstairs to sleep.

Lin Xinyan sat on the bedside with her daughter in her arms and pulled the blanket over to cover her. She was reluctant to put her down because she might awaken abruptly and look for her even if she was asleep.

She had been clearly frightened.

In the meantime, Aunt Yu put Zong Yanchen down on the bed and made sure that there was no trace or possibility of him waking up. She then left for the kitchen, served a bowl of soup, and brought it up to Lin Xinyan. "Drink the soup."

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "I have no appetite for it."

"You have to drink it even if you don't feel like it. You're not drinking it just for yourself now." Aunt Yu placed it in front of her and scooped up a spoonful. "Here, let me help you."

"There's no need. Put it on the table; I'll drink it later." How could Lin Xinyan let Aunt Yu feed her? She really did not want to drink but she did not want to make Aunt Yu worry either.

Just then, the sound of the door clicking open came from downstairs. Lin Xinyan went uptight immediately. "Have they come back?"

Aunt Yu replied, "Let me go check out."

After a while, there were sounds of footsteps coming upstairs. They were not Aunt Yu's. She quickly turned around and saw Zong Jinghao coming into the room.

"How's it going? Did you find him?" Lin Xinyan asked anxiously.

Zong Jinghao remained silent but jerked at his collar. His face was exceedingly gloomy.

Lin Xinyan went quiet following that. *They have not found him. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so moody.*

Zong Jinghao saw the bowl on the table which was still filled with soup. He frowned and asked, "You didn't eat anything?"

"I lost my appetite." Lin Xinyan lowered her head.

Zong Jinghao sat down at the bedside and looked at their daughter. "It's Gu Bei. It was still unknown how he got out but he was arranged to be sent abroad initially. It was the day of Old Master Gu's execution and he was seeking revenge on me."

During these two nights when he was searching for Shen Peichuan, he had also started investigating the accident. There was a CCTV on the bridge which had captured everything that happened.

Gu Bei knew that it was Zong Jinghao's car but he had no idea that it was not driven by Zong Jinghao. He was in a four-wheel drive which kept crashing madly toward the car Shen Peichuan was in. It was a peak period with a lot of vehicles on the bridge and Shen Peichuan did not manage to ditch him. In addition, there was a child in the car which made his situation even more pregnable.

When the car was forced against the railing of the bridge, he dropped Zong Yanxi off from the car window, who was later rescued by others on the road. But he and Aunt Wang didn't manage to get off and fell off the bridge together in the car.

There was a dam underneath Xixin Creek Bridge with a raging torrent. Falling into it was severely hazardous.

When the car was found. All the doors were closed and windows were intact without any trace of being broken. There was no sight of Shen Peichuan, only Aunt Wang who was dead from drowning inside the car.

Lin Xinyan was trembling a little. "Then where is Gu Bei now? Did he escape?"

"No, he tried to get away after that but missed the boarding time. We found him at a nearby motel and he has been sent to the police station."

He took the bowl of soup from the table and fed Lin Xinyan while he comforted her. "It's a good thing he was not found yet. That means he might be safe. Su Zhan and Captain Song are still searching for him. I've come back to check on you and I'll be going out again later."

Lin Xinyan was still worried. The bank on both sides of the river was full of abraded stones that formed the embankment. Without any help, he could hardly be rescued.

"How did Gu Bei escape?" Lin Xinyan could not get her head around it. *His dad was already on the brink of death; who else was capable of helping him out?*

Realization suddenly dawned on Zong Jinghao. Gu Huiyuan, the youngest daughter in the Gu family suddenly showed up in front of Lin Xinyan and had exposed her identity for easy investigation by Shen Peichuan. *What is her motive?*

Was it really to sabotage the relationship between Lin Xinyan and me?

It is still not evident by now but if it were really to instigate conflicts between us, she couldn't have disappeared after showing up only twice without causing any actual damage. She must have done that to distract me. Even though the Gu Sisters are dissatisfied with the Gu family, Gu Bei is after all the only son in the family. Now that Old Master Gu has been sentenced to death, it is reasonable for them to save Gu Bei from imprisonment to preserve the only bloodline of the family.

“Alright, let’s eat something first.” Zong Jinghao brought the spoon to her mouth and added, “Listen to me, be good, alright? What will become of our child if you’re ill?”

Lin Xinyan could not resist so she opened her mouth.

It was unsettled in the Song family these two days as well. Captain Song had been in constant search of Shen Peichuan. Meanwhile, Mrs. Song was sitting on the sofa at home. “How could something like this happen? You just got together with him and now he has met with such an accident.”

“Enough with that, Mom. Don’t say anything inauspicious.” Song Yaxin was still very jittery and did not want to listen to her mother nagging.

“I’m just worried about you. Now when you’ve just got together with Shen Peichuan, he went missing. Why are there so many hardships in your life?”

Fumed upon hearing that, Song Yaxin got up from the sofa and walked toward the door.

Mrs. Song called out in concern, “Where are you going at this hour?”

“I’m going to find Dad and see if there’s any trace of him.” With that, she left the house, escaping from Mrs. Song’s babbling.

She made a call to Captain Song. “Dad, where are you?”

Captain Song was at the downstream of the river, searching for Shen Peichuan together with other police officers.

Knowing that his daughter wanted to come, he sent his location to her, thinking that she should come since she had got into a relationship with Shen Peichuan.

Now that Shen Peichuan has disappeared, she should be concerned and come looking for him.

Su Zhan was standing in the boat with his entire body still completely soaked. It was dark at night and their search depended fully on laser lighting to avoid any delay in progress. However, after searching for so long, there was still no trace of Shen Peichuan. *It was exceedingly perturbing.*

After an hour, Song Yaxin arrived and with the help of Captain Song, she got on the boat.

“Is there still no clue about his whereabouts?” The expression on her face was panicky.

Although it was in hindsight that she realized how good Shen Peichuan was, the few days’ time she spent with him made her appreciate this fine man a lot.

Hence, what happened to Shen Peichuan made her anxious and genuinely distressful.

Su Zhan looked at her without saying a word.

Song Yaxin’s impression of Su Zhan was equally bad so she did not greet him either.

“Dad, can’t you arrange for more people?” Song Yaxin asked.

“I’ve sent everyone available here.” He was as tensed as they were but there was nothing else he could do.

They were already out of the city and this stream was so long. He was very downhearted at the slim chance of Shen Peichuan staying alive.

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The first forty-eight hours were almost up. *Could a person even survive that long, or would we end up with a corpse?*

Captain Song took his hat off and sighed deeply.

“Don’t lose hope, dad.” That was all one could muster to say like that. Despite saying those words, she still couldn’t help sighing when she saw the sun rising from the East.

They reached a crossroad soon after. The route to the West was broader and would be further split into different routes down the road. It would be more difficult to search that region.

Su Zhan offered, “I’ll take some men and take that route.”

Captain Song nodded before assigning extra men to Su Zhan. That didn’t discourage Su Zhan from walking down that route several times and exhausting himself. He later sat on a plank with his feet bare while water dripped down.

Zong Jinghao headed over when morning rolled by. He asked Su Zhan if the latter found any clues.

Su Zhan shook his head and braced himself for the worst. “Maybe...”

“No,” insisted Zong Jinghao, “We haven’t found his body yet, but that doesn’t mean that he drowned. Someone could have rescued him. When we pull the car out of the water, we saw that the window was intact, and the door was closed. As I’m sure you know, the pressure of the water would’ve kept the door closed. His corpse wasn’t in the car, so my guess is that he jumped out of the car before it fell into the water. I don’t think he ever sunk with the car in the first place.”

Zong Jinghao's words made perfect sense, but there was still one question that was bugging Su Zhan. "If he had survived, why haven't we found him despite the fact that we've expanded our search to this extent and covered so much ground?"

His question left Zong Jinghao speechless.

Su Zhan was right. *If he had survived, why haven't we found him?*

Just then, the phone in Su Zhan's pocket rang. He fished it out and saw that the call was from Qin Ya.

Su Zhan picked it up. "Hello, Ya."

"Have you found him?" asked Qin Ya.

Su Zhan was in a hurry when he returned, so he never went to see how Qin Ya was. He simply called her to tell her about Shen Peichuan's issue. *She must be calling because she's worried sick.*

"Not yet," replied Su Zhan.

"Maybe I should head over..."

"Don't. You won't be able to help, anyway. I'll call you once I have any updates. Don't worry. We'll do everything we can," said Su Zhan. *She'd just end up worrying with the rest of us, anyway, so it's better for her to keep her distance.*

"Okay. Remember to call me as soon as you have any news," said Qin Ya.

"I will," promised Su Zhan, who later tilted his head down. "I probably won't be able to visit you for the time being."

"It's fine. There's no need to visit me. Just focus on the search."

Su Zhan murmured a reply.

On the other end of the call, Qin Ya gripped her phone before adding, "I better hang up now so that I don't disrupt anyone."

With that, she ended the call as soon as she finished speaking.

Su Zhan put his phone back into his pocket. After that, he got up and walked to Zong Jinghao before asking, "This is going nowhere. We have to find another way."

Just then, Zong Jinghao scanned the surroundings and saw a boat by the river. "What's that boat for?"

Taking a look at where Zong Jinghao was looking, Su Zhan shook his head and replied, "I don't know."

Without another word, Zong Jinghao had the men pull the boat ashore. Meanwhile, Su Zhan followed closely behind and asked, "What's on your mind?"

Zong Jinghao didn't answer because he wasn't sure if his guess was right.

He later had Su Zhan get into the boat with him before getting the other men to continue the search.

The boat floated down to a reclaimed farm. An elderly man was harvesting the vegetables on the farm when Zong Jinghao walked over.

The elderly man placed his harvest in his basket. When he stood up, he saw the two men walking over so he asked, "What are you two doing here?"

"I saw a boat by the river. May I know why it's parked over there?" asked Zong Jinghao.

“Why are you asking?” asked the elderly man suspiciously.

Su Zhan lied, “We’re here to inspect the river and make necessary arrangements to prevent floods.”

Only then did the elderly man answered, “Old Man Li used to keep geese there. The authorities later banned him from doing so, and the boat had been abandoned since.”

“This boat was for keeping geese?” blurted Su Zhan.

The elderly man pointed at the blue net some distance ahead, then said, “Yeah. See those nets in the middle of the river over there? They are fixed in place. Old Man Li had to toss the geese’s food there, so he got a boat to do just that. However, the head of the village later said that it’d pollute the river and banned Old Man Li from raising geese. Everything was abandoned after that.”

“And no one has ever used this boat since?” asked Su Zhan again. At that point, he had more or less guessed what Zong Jinghao had in mind.

Shen Peichuan was nowhere to be found near the river. *Could it be that he happened to get ahold of the boat and got on the land? Or maybe someone stumbled upon him and rescued him?*

The elderly man sounded certain when he answered, “Nope. Didn’t you see the moss growing amuck on the boat? No one used it in a while. Hell, it’s been idling for so long that it can’t even stay still anymore. No one in their right mind would use a boat under these circumstances.”

Zong Jinghao shifted his gaze. He saw a small village at some distance ahead. Despite its small size, the houses there were mostly three to five-story buildings.

“Are there any strangers who dropped by your village lately?”

“Almost everyone is a stranger. Quite a few villagers rent their place out to foreign workers,” said the elderly man.

Zong Jinghao was disappointed to hear that. It seemed that Shen Peichuan wasn't rescued.

However, what Zong Jinghao didn't know was that his judgment and guesses were right. It was only that he found the wrong place.

It was true that Shen Peichuan had jumped out of the car before it crashed into the waters. He didn't get dragged underwater with the car, but the water was running too quickly. He wanted to save Aunt Wang after he fell into the water, but the water pressure made it impossible for him to open the door. As he struggled, he accidentally slipped, and the running water washed him downstream.

After traveling for a long distance, he stopped when some weed tangled his feet. He drank and choked on the water a lot. In fact, he almost drowned at the bottom of the river, but fortunately, he broke free of the weeds before that happened. He was exhausted by then, and in his daze, he saw a boat. Although he didn't know what the boat was for, he swam earnestly towards it as if his life depended on it. The man on the boat never noticed Shen Peichuan. Hence, when the man turned the boat around, he ended up knocking on Shen Peichuan's head, and the latter fainted.

When Shen Peichuan came around again, he saw that he was in an unfamiliar room.

The small room was dark and humid.

He could hear others talking.

The one who spoke was the man who accidentally knocked into Shen Peichuan. The man was tall and a little plump. His skin was tanned, and his facial features showed that he was a rather crude man. He collected scrap metal and harvested clams for a living. Never in his life would he thought that he'd accidentally knock

into someone else in that river. Thus, he was tempted to flee when he first knocked into Shen Peichuan, but he was worried that Shen Peichuan might die from that incident. And because he didn't want anyone to find Shen Peichuan's body and trace his death back, the man took Shen Peichuan home. The former was stupefied when he saw the blood on Shen Peichuan's head.

The man later sat on the ground and hesitated for a long while before reaching out to check if Shen Peichuan was still breathing. After confirming that Shen Peichuan was alive, the man hurried to get a doctor over. He didn't want Shen Peichuan to die because he didn't want to be a murderer.

A doctor from the community clinic went over and examined Shen Peichuan. After a while, he suggested that they take Shen Peichuan to a proper hospital.

"I don't have the money for that," complained the man, who was unwilling to pay for the medical fees. He later asked, "Can he survive without going to the hospital?"

"I can't say for sure. He hurt his head, so it's best if he goes to a proper hospital and does an x-ray," answered the doctor.

"It's fine as long as he survives."

The doctor couldn't force the man to get Shen Peichuan to the hospital and could only leave after giving his medical advice. Still, when the doctor reached the door, he turned around and asked, "By the way, who is this guy?"

The man stiffened. He shifted his gaze away and lied, "He's my cousin."

The doctor nodded before turning around to leave.

At the same time, Shen Peichuan had a splitting headache, but he could still make out what the men said. He leaned against the wall and walked out of the room before asking, "Are you the one who knocked into me?"

Shen Peichuan remembered how he lost consciousness after a boat knocked into him.

“Y-you’re awake?” blurted the man as his eyes bulged with fear.

Shen Peichuan scanned the house. He saw countless pails of different sizes on the floor and several plastic bags all around. Water and mud were all over the floor, and there were a few pails filled with scrap metals.

“Do you have a phone?” asked Shen Peichuan. He needed to make a call, and his mobile phone was long gone.

“What are you trying to do? You can’t pin this on me. You’re the one who suddenly showed up in the water,” insisted the man nervously. He was worried about being held responsible, so he was quick to deny everything.

“I just want to make a call,” informed Shen Peichuan weakly and wearily.

“Hah, you can’t fool me!” said the man, who obviously didn’t think that Shen Peichuan was simply making a call. The man was certain that Shen Peichuan would call the authorities and complain.

Shen Peichuan could tell that there was no talking to the man, so the former decided to leave on his own. He needed to find someone else to help him because he needed to get back as soon as possible. He had to warn Zong Jinghao about how Gu Bei had escaped. *Gu Bei intends to seek revenge by harming Zong Jinghao. I have to warn Zong Jinghao.*

Unfortunately, Shen Peichuan had just reached the front door when he felt a sharp pain in his head. He turned around to see the man holding a wooden plank in his hand. The man was trembling at the time, but he forced himself to seem calm and glared over. “I know you’re trying to make a fool out of me. You’re leaving to complain to the authorities, aren’t you?”

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Shen Peichuan's vision darkened, and he fell.

The man tossed the wooden plank aside. Fear was getting to him. He worried that his assault had killed the man. *There are so many hooligans in this time and age, and he must be a villain because he showed up in the water for no reason.* The man came up with that excuse to pacify himself. After that, he dragged Shen Peichuan to a secluded spot and abandoned him.

When the man was finally satisfied with the location he chose, he went home to pack up and leave.

He didn't want to face any charges and was worried about being sentenced to prison, so he decided to flee while he still could.

That village was secluded and was located over a hundred kilometers away from B City. Besides, the villagers weren't rich, and most able youngsters had ventured into the city to work. The only ones left in the village were the elders and the kids.

Meanwhile, Sang Yu lost her drive to succeed in life after her mother had passed away. She thought about returning to her village to lead a simple life after her mother's funeral, but the villagers still discriminated against her after all those years. Hence, she left the place once more.

Sang Yu once volunteered in the secluded village, so she knew about the poor condition of the village. She also knew that no one was willing to be a teacher there because of the low pay. Therefore, after she left her village, she went to the village located over a hundred kilometers away from B City and took a job as a teacher there.

Back then, Sang Yu used to be poor, and she knew just how difficult it was for children from poor families to get their education. Even though she lost all hope after her mother's death, hanging out with the children had renewed her faith in life.

The school had five classes and three teachers. One of the teachers was Sang Yu, another was a middle-aged man, who doubled as the principal, and the last one was a young local who was also a college student. The young local would only work temporarily during his school break, and he would leave after his break was over.

Sang Yu was responsible for teaching language classes to Year One and Year Two students. She would also teach arts and singing lessons to Year Three, Year Four, and Year Five students.

That morning, she was scheduled to teach Year Two students a language class. The kid with good grades, Wang Haonan, who was usually punctual, was late that day.

The moment he walked in, he shouted, "Ms. Sang, something bad happened..."

Sang Yu was focused on writing on the blackboard when she heard the boy. She didn't turn around, but she instructed calmly, "Take your seat and settle down. You can tell me everything afterward."

Wang Haonan stood by the door and panted instead. He ignored his teacher's words and informed, "I saw a dead man on my way to school today."

Sang Yu put the chalk down and frowned before asking, "What did you say?"

"I said I saw a dead man," repeated Wang Haonan in a clear and crisp voice.

"Where did you see it? Take me to it," said Sang Yu as she headed over.

“Okay, follow me,” replied Wang Haonan as he gripped Sang Yu’s sleeve. The other students were curious as well, and when their teacher walked towards the door, they stood up. However, Sang Yu ordered them to stay in their seats. “No one is allowed to leave the classroom.”

Sang Yu wasn’t sure what Wang Haonan saw, but if it really was a dead man, then it would not be appropriate for the kids to see it.

“Lead everyone to read page five of the textbook, vice-class prefect,” added Sang Yu.

The vice-class prefect stood up and replied, “Yes, miss.”

“Ms. Sang, hurry and follow me over,” urged Wang Haonan as he dragged Sang Yu ahead.

The path was uneven, so Sang Yu reminded, “Slow down.”

“I’m worried that the guy would suddenly disappear,” shared Wang Haonan.

Sang Yu shook her head exasperatedly. “As you said, he’s already dead, so he’s not going to get up and walk away, is he?”

Wang Haonan scratched his tiny head and agreed, “Oh, right. Good point.”

Sang Yu thought the boy was cute, so she stroked the kid’s head. She followed him all the way to the back of the school and down a narrow path before she saw a man lying on the ground.

The mere sight of it got Sang Yu nervous, and she asked, “When did you see it, Haonan?”

“I saw it when I was on my way to school. I was so scared,” replied Wang Haonan as he tapped his own chest to comfort himself.

Even then, he could still recall how the guy was bleeding a lot from his head and was lying on the ground. That memory frightened him.

The closer Sang Yu got, the more familiar she found that figure to be. However, she couldn't quite recall where she saw that man from.

"Ms. Sang, should we call the police?" asked Wang Haonan.

Sang Yu inched closer. "Yes, we should definitely..."

Sang Yu hadn't even finished speaking before she saw the man's face.

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Sang Yu dashed forward and reached out to part the man's hair. As suspected, she saw Shen Peichuan's face hidden underneath. *How did he end up here?*

"Captain Shen." Sang Yu called out and softly tapped his face, but he showed no signs of waking up.

"Haonan, go get help right away," ordered Sang Yu nervously.

"You know him, Ms. Sang?" asked Wang Haonan as he stared at Sang Yu with a stunned expression on his face.

"Go get help now!" instructed Sang Yu sternly. She was too worried, and she ended up raising her voice.

"Okay, I'll go right away," said Wang Haonan. He finally regained his composure and ran ahead. There were pebbles on the ground, and he slipped and fell a little. However, he didn't waste any time before he got back up and hurried.

Sang Yu wanted to carry Shen Peichuan up, but the latter was too heavy. She couldn't even get him off the ground. When she saw the dried blood on his head, her heart ached like an invisible claw was tightening its grip on her heart. Her eyes instinctively reddened with tears.

"Ms. Sang," said the college student, Wang Wen, who was also a teacher at school.

Most villagers there shared the surname of Wang.

Sang Yu acted like a desperate drowning woman who had just gotten ahold of a floating straw. She requested in a worried and anxious tone. “Quick, help me take him to the hospital.”

Wang Wen crouched down and offered, “I’ll give him a piggyback ride to the village.”

With Sang Yu’s help, Wang Wen managed to get Shen Peichuan onto his back. Wang Haonan, on the other hand, said, “I’ll get the principal to ride his tricycle over.”

Upon finishing his piece, Wang Haowen ran back to the school.

Wang Wen was dripping sweat as he asked, “Sang Yu, you look extremely anxious. Do you know the guy well?”

Sang Yu murmured an affirmative reply.

Wang Wen’s gaze shifted downwards as he continued pushing forward. The principal showed up with his so-called tricycle soon after. “Get in,” said the principal.

The vehicle the villagers nicknamed a tricycle was basically a small, three-wheeled truck with a carriage attached to its back. The villagers used carriages like that to carry their harvest into their storage space during harvest seasons.

A few people could stay in the front seat, but it would not be spacious. Sang Yu got to the back where the carriage was and suggested, “Let’s place him in the carriage.”

After that, Sang Yu sat down and let Shen Peichuan use her lap as a pillow.

Wang Wen got into the carriage as well. He offered, “I’ll help you.”

Sang Yu nodded in agreement.

The road was uneven, and Sang Yu was worried that Shen Peichuan would be further injured by the bumpy ride. Hence, she asked Wang Wen, “Can you help me support his body?”

Wang Wen nodded. He later sat closer to Shen Peichuan and locked the unconscious man with his arms to lessen the impact of the bumpy ride.

Eventually, the bumpy journey ended, and the path became much more even after they got onto the main road. The car almost moved faster without the rocks disrupting the ride.

Over an hour went by before they reached the Second Branch of the People’s Hospital. The medical experts there rushed Shen Peichuan into the operating theatre immediately after.

“Ms. Sang, who is that?” asked the principal.

They were in a hurry all that while, so the principal never got the chance to ask any questions. However, he caught Sang Yu’s face turning pale with worry when they were getting out of the car.

“He’s a good friend of mine,” replied Sang Yu as she had her head down.

“Why did he show up near the school? Did he come to look for you?” asked Wang Wen hesitantly.

Wang Wen fell in love with Sang Yu at first sight, so he felt terrible when he saw how worried Sang Yu was.

Sang Yu shook her head and replied, “He’s a police captain. He’s probably here for a case.”

That was the only explanation Sang Yu could think of.

Why else would he show up there?

“Thank you both so much,” said Sang Yu to her colleagues. She wouldn’t be able to get Shen Peichuan to the hospital that quickly if they hadn’t helped.

Who knows what terrible condition Shen Peichuan would be in if not for the two of them?

“You don’t need to thank us. We’re friends, after all. Besides, you’re teaching the students for free too, aren’t you? We’re the ones who are supposed to thank you,” replied the principal with a smile. His wrinkles were everywhere, and it was clear that he had struggled in the past. Despite that, he remained kind.

“It’s true. You don’t have to be so courteous towards us,” agreed Wang Wen. He had gone to buy everyone bottled water. Sang Yu accepted the bottled water while thanking him.

She never opened the bottle or drank any water, but instead, gripped it tightly as her gaze repeatedly shifted towards the operating theatre.

“Don’t worry,” comforted Wang Wen as he patted her arms.

Sang Yu nodded.

Two hours later, the door to the operating theatre opened, and the doctor walked out. “Who’s the patient’s family?” asked the doctor.

The three adults turned to one another before Sang Yu stepped up and informed, “I’m his friend.”

“Where is his family?” asked the doctor.

Sang Yu replied, "I am unable to get in touch with them at the moment. You can tell me everything instead."

"I see. The patient's head is injured, and we've examined him closely. His life is not threatened, but the medical facilities we have here are limited. We cannot say, for sure, if he had a concussion. We'd have to transfer him to a hospital in the city to run more tests. You guys will have to decide whether you want to do that," said the doctor.

Sang Yu didn't hesitate. "Please transfer him..." said Sang Yu.

"Doctor, when will the patient regain consciousness?" asked Wang Wen in time to interrupt Sang Yu.

Wang Wen thought that the patient himself should be the one to decide whether he wanted to be transferred to a better hospital.

After all, Sang Yu had already paid for the medical fees for coming to that hospital. Transferring to a better hospital meant that Sang Yu would have to spend even more money. *Sang Yu won't consider her own wellbeing, so I'll have to.*

"If everything goes right, he should wake up tomorrow or the day after tomorrow," replied the doctor.

Wang Wen turned to Sang Yu and suggested, "Let's ask for his opinion when he wakes up then. You're not a family member, after all, so let's avoid causing any trouble."

Sang Yu hesitated.

"You're just a university student. How much savings do you really have?" added Wang Wen.

Sang Yu was running out of money, and Wang Wen's words made a good point. She was not Shen Peichuan's family, so it wasn't right for her to decide on his behalf. Fortunately, he would wake up on the following day, and she could ask for his opinion then.

"The patient needs to be under constant observation for the next forty-eight hours. Please fill in the forms for that," requested the doctor.

Sang Yu replied, "I'll head over right away."

"Hang on. I'll go. You should wait here," said Wang Wen while stopping her.

Sang Yu didn't want to trouble the guy, but he was persistent, so she could only say, "Thank you."

Wang Wen gave her a gentle grin and said, "You're welcome."

Shen Peichuan was taken to his room soon after. The room was shared with three other patients and their families. They had some dirty clothes and leftover food packages lying around, and the stench of disinfectants reeked. Still, that was one of the better rooms the hospital could offer.

After everything was taken care of, Sang Yu asked the two of them to go home. "You guys should head back. I can stay here on my own. Besides, the students are still waiting in their classrooms, and they need someone to keep an eye on them."

"The principal can go back. I'll stay here and keep you company," suggested Wang Wen.

Sang Yu felt bad about that, so she pointed out, "It's fine. You should head back. I can handle everything on my own. Besides, there isn't enough space for the two of us to stay here."

Wang Wen deliberated. It was true that there was insufficient space, so he agreed, "Okay. Please call me if you need any help."

"Okay," replied Sang Yu.

A chair was placed beside every patient's bed, but there was no extra bed for visitors to rest on. Sang Yu stared at Shen Peichuan's bandaged head and noticed that there was some dried blood on his neck that hadn't been cleaned. She then went out to buy a basin and a towel before she got some warm water to clean the blood off. She already had everything ready anyway, so she cleaned his face and hands as well.

She never left his side after that.

That night, Sang Yu didn't have any appetite, so she got herself some water before she continued staying by Shen Peichuan's bed.

With that, she spent the rest of her night there.

The streets were quiet early in the morning, and the first glimmer of sunlight broke through the clouds and woke everyone up. More and more people showed up on the street, and the hawker selling breakfast had started working.

Shen Peichuan opened his eyes slowly and saw that he was in an unfamiliar room.

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Shen Peichuan wasn't used to the blinding light just yet, so he closed his eyes again. He tried a couple of times before he finally woke up. He recalled how he fell into the river and got knocked out by a boat. He was hit in the head again after that.

After some time, Shen Peichuan moved around and struggled to get up. He finally figured out where he was, but he remembered how the man was worried about being held responsible for knocking Shen Peichuan out in the river. *That was why he hit me with a wooden plank. Why would he take me to the hospital after that? It doesn't make sense...*

Shen Peichuan was about to move his leg when he realized that something was on it. He tilted his head and saw a familiar face right in front of him.

Sang Yu? What is she doing here?

Shen Peichuan thought that his heartbeat had quickened because he was surprised by her sudden appearance.

In the meantime, Sang Yu gradually woke up. The first thing she saw was Shen Peichuan staring at her. She rubbed her eyes and spoke in a delighted tone, "You're awake!"

Shen Peichuan stared for a long time before he asked, "W-what are you doing here?"

"You fainted, and one of my students saw you. I took you to the hospital after that. Also, I should be the one asking that question. What are you doing here?" asked Sang Yu as she sat up. She massaged her numb arm before adding, "Does your head still hurt? Are you hungry?"

However, Shen Peichuan didn't say anything. He simply stared at her before ignoring her question and demanded, "Why did you drop out of school?"

Sang Yu avoided his eyes and answered, "I just don't feel like continuing my studies."

At first, she worked hard for her mother's sake and to be a woman worthy of Shen Peichuan. However, her mother later passed away, and Captain Song's words made her realize that it didn't matter how hard she worked. She would never be capable enough to help Shen Peichuan.

At that point, Sang Yu no longer knew what she was fighting for. She lost all sense of purpose, and her life felt meaningless.

She was in a daze for a while, but she later realized that she didn't want everything she had learned to go to waste. Hence, she went to the village to be a teacher. She taught for free, and she didn't have much savings, to begin with, so she worked online as well. She tutored high school students via an online platform, and the money she earned from those tutoring sessions was used to buy books and materials for her students in the village. She also used the money to pay for her daily necessities.

She didn't have much, but she was good at accounting and had a habit of spending frugally. Moreover, she had little expenses since she was living in a small village, so she could even save up some money by teaching a few more classes online.

"It's such a pity. You got accepted into a great university, but you're dropping out just like that," commented Shen Peichuan. He couldn't understand her train of thought.

Sang Yu grinned and pointed out, "You're not my guardian, so don't worry about it. How have you been?"

Sang Yu changed her number and cut off all contact with her friends after she left B City.

She thought that she should make a clean break since she had already decided to leave.

Thus, she honestly assumed that she would never see him again.

“Can I...”

“Sang Yu,” said Wang Wen as he walked in with breakfast.

Wang Wen was twenty-one years old. He was in his second year in college and was tall and cute. He had a simple white t-shirt on, and his fair skin shone with radiance and youth.

Shen Peichuan was about to ask to borrow Sang Yu’s mobile phone to call Zong Jinghao and warn him. However, Wang Wen interrupted the duo, and Shen Peichuan forgot all about it.

Shen Peichuan watched as Wang Wen grinned warmly and handed the breakfast over to Sang Yu. Countless questions bubbled up in Shen Peichuan’s mind.

And who is this guy?

“What brings you here so early in the morning?” asked Sang Yu. She never expected to see him in the hospital that early. *How early did he have to wake up to travel all the way over from the village and reach the hospital this early in the morning?*

Wang Wen teased, “Let me guess. You haven’t eaten anything since yesterday. Did I get it right?”

Sang Yu remained silent.

“Haha, you kept quiet! That means I guessed right. I knew you wouldn’t eat on time, so I got up early to get you some breakfast,” said Wang Wen while placing the breakfast on the table. He later noticed that Shen Peichuan was up, so he added, “Hello.”

Shen Peichuan murmured a reply.

“Let’s dig in. The breakfast won’t be as delicious once it’s cold,” said Wang Wen as he opened the food containers. He bought porridge and dumplings and took the initiative to get a dumpling for Sang Yu. Wang Wen recommended, “This is really good. I used to have this every morning when I studied here.”

Wang Wen was an energetic and cheerful guy, and he exuded a pleasant aura. He was especially warm and approachable when he smiled. That got Sang Yu to grin instinctively when she said, “Thank you.”

Shen Peichuan frowned upon seeing Sang Yu grinning at Wang Wen.

“Awh, c’mon. Stop thanking me endlessly,” said Wang Wen. He didn’t like how polite Sang Yu was because it created a sense of distance. After all, only strangers or acquaintances would be that polite and keep thanking each other.

Sang Yu grinned. “Alright, I won’t say it anymore. Have you had your breakfast?”

“I ate when I was waiting for the hawker to pack the food up,” answered Wang Wen.

Sang Yu headed over and offered Shen Peichuan the dumpling. “Wang Wen said this is delicious. Here, try some.”

Shen Peichuan wasn’t in the mood to eat and was going to let Sang Yu have everything. However, he saw the annoyed expression on Wang Wen’s face, and that prompted Shen Peichuan to toss one dumpling into his mouth. He wasn’t sure why he did that, but he still did it, nevertheless.

The dumpling was for vegetarians, but it tasted great. The outer layer was crisp with juicy filling on the inside.

There were bits of egg, chives, and a special sauce that gave it a unique taste.

Sang Yu later opened up the container with the congee and handed it to him. She said, "It's a little dry to only have dumplings. Here, have some porridge as well."

Shen Peichuan stared and asked, "What about you?"

"I'm not hungry. Besides, I can go buy myself some breakfast when I feel like it. I'm not a patient and can leave whenever I want to, anyway," replied Sang Yu with a grin.

"I don't like congee. You have it," insisted Shen Peichuan without accepting the congee Sang Yu brought over.

Sang Yu then placed the congee aside and offered, "I'll pour you a cup of water, then..."

"You don't need to care that much about me. Just finish your congee," interrupted Shen Peichuan.

Sang Yu suddenly realized that she was overly kind and assumed that she must've gotten him uncomfortable. She quickly retracted her hand from the water jug and reached for the congee before taking a sip.

Shen Peichuan handed the dumpling over. "Here, you should have this, too. I don't really have any appetite," lied Shen Peichuan.

"But you can't just skip your meals. You're sick. You must have something even if you don't feel like eating," insisted Sang Yu. She never realized what Shen Peichuan was really doing.

As such, she placed a dumpling right by Shen Peichuan's lips. That stunned the latter, and Sang Yu noticed how inappropriate her actions and words were. She was about to retract her hand when Shen Peichuan reached out for the dumpling. Their hands accidentally touched, and they both snapped back.

It felt as if they were electrified.

Meanwhile, Wang Wen could tell that the two of them were close.

More than that, he saw how caring Sang Yu was towards Shen Peichuan, so Wang Wen stepped up. "Sang Yu, you must be exhausted after spending the night here in the hospital. Head home and rest after you've had your breakfast. I'll stay guard here," said Wang Wen.

"I don't need a babysitter," claimed Shen Peichuan before Sang Yu spoke up. He gulped down the dumpling Sang Yu handed over and kicked his blanket off. Sang Yu put her congee down instantly and informed, "You can't leave. The doctor said you should wait for at least forty-eight hours."

"It's fine. I know what my body can handle," insisted Shen Peichuan. He then poured himself a glass of water.

"Are you leaving? I can call you a cab," offered Wang Wen.

Shen Peichuan turned around and stared at Wang Wen. *He seems eager to get me out of here. Why?*

Shen Peichuan's gaze later shifted to Sang Yu.

Did he do that for her? I-is she in a relationship? But didn't she say that she's in love with me? How did she have a change of heart so quickly?

Shen Peichuan couldn't help feeling gloomy.

“I can’t leave just yet. Her late mother asked me to take care of her, and I will only leave if I am certain that she is leading a good life,” replied Shen Peichuan as he looked into Wang Wen’s eyes.

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Wang Wen was taken aback. *What is this guy's relationship with Sang Yu? He even met her mother?*

Sang Yu had never spoken about her past for as long as Wang Wen had known her. Every time he asked, she would simply say that she no longer had any living relatives before brushing it off. She never even mentioned how she lost them, and she never shared anything specific.

Looks like Shen Peichuan knows all about her past. Still, they may be close, but they are not of the same age group. I'm probably overthinking about their relationship. Besides, if the guy knew Sang Yu's mother, then he must know a lot about her past as well. I may be able to learn more from him.

"You're Sang Yu's friend, so it is understandable that you'd want to see how she's doing. However, the doctor asked you to stay put for forty-eight hours, so you shouldn't leave just yet," said Wang Wen.

"I'm fine. As I said, I know what my body can handle," replied Shen Peichuan. He never intended to ask Sang Yu about her take on the matter before he made a decision.

Sang Yu turned to Wang Wen, then to Shen Peichuan. "What are you boys doing?" asked Sang Yu.

"He's your friend. There's nothing wrong with him checking your place out and making sure you're alright," answered Wang Wen.

"He is my friend, but..." Sang Yu trailed off. It was obvious that she didn't want Shen Peichuan to barge into her life again. *I don't want to go through that again. It's awkward enough as it is.*

Sang Yu wouldn't mind if she had never written that letter and confessed her love for him. Unfortunately, she did, and they were stuck in an awkward situation. *How am I going to face him?*

"What? Am I not allowed to go check your place out? Take me over," insisted Shen Peichuan while standing up.

Sang Yu didn't move a muscle, so Wang Wen nudged her and urged, "Let's go."

Sang Yu was reluctant. She turned to Shen Peichuan and pointed out, "You are not family, and you have no right to check out my living condition. Besides, don't use my late mother as an excuse. She's gone, so you no longer need to keep your promise to her. Also, you should head back immediately if you're fine. There are many who must be worried sick about you."

After saying her piece, she tugged at Wang Wen's hand and added, "Let's go."

Wang Wen's mind blew when he saw her holding his hand. He forgot all about how he should react or if he should move away like a gentleman. His heart was thumping like mad.

In the meantime, Shen Peichuan just stood there in shock. It seemed that he never expected Sang Yu to turn him down like that.

He watched as she disappeared behind the door, and for a moment there, he lost sight of what he should do or where he should go.

Sang Yu let Wang Wen go after they walked out the door. She walked ahead while Wang Wen stared at the hand that was holding hers a moment ago. He clutched his fist with determination burning in his eyes before chasing after her. "Sang Yu, why do you hate him so much?" asked Wang Wen.

Sang Yu paused and turned around. "I never said I hate him," refuted Sang Yu.

“If you don’t, why did you abandon him in the hospital before he recovered?” asked Wang Wen.

Sang Yu was shocked back to her senses. *He’s right! Shen Peichuan hasn’t recovered. How can I leave him all alone in there?*

Sang Yu then headed towards the hospital again. Wang Wen followed closely behind before adding, “Sang Yu, are you heading back in?”

Wang Wen suddenly found himself conflicted. On one hand, he wanted to keep Shen Peichuan around to learn more about Sang Yu’s past. On the other, he didn’t want Sang Yu to spend too much time with Shen Peichuan.

“I know the guy after all, so it’s not right for me to leave him all alone in there. I’ll walk him out after he recovers,” explained Sang Yu. She finally thought things through, so her footsteps were faster.

However, the bed was empty when they returned. *He left?*

“The doctor was just here to do his rounds. Your friend followed the doctor to the office,” shared the patient who was staying on the bed beside Shen Peichuan’s.

Sang Yu nodded politely before leaving the room and heading towards the doctor’s office.

When she got close, she heard the doctor saying, “Your head is injured. We examined your wounds, and it looks like it is just a flesh wound, but it is also possible that you have a concussion. You should go to a hospital with better facilities to undergo some more tests. Do you feel any discomfort?”

Shen Peichuan answered, “No.”

“We can sign you off if you really are that eager to leave the hospital. You just have to sign the disclaimer form for that. However, you must go to the hospital to

check everything out if you have a headache, get drowsy, or feeling nauseous,” advised the doctor.

“Okay, got it,” replied Shen Peichuan.

“Then you may leave to sign the papers,” informed the doctor. Shen Peichuan murmured a simple thank-you before walking out of the office.

Coming out, he caught Sang Yu eavesdropping by the door and was surprised. “Sang Yu,” greeted Shen Peichuan.

Sang Yu grinned and put on a nonchalant expression before saying, “We’re friends, after all, so I feel guilty about leaving you in the hospital while you’re still sick. If you’re leaving the hospital, then let me help you with the paperwork. Wait here. I’ll be back soon.”

After saying her piece, Sang Yu turned around and walked towards the reception.

Shen Peichuan stared at Sang Yu’s back and was momentarily stunned. Right then, Wang Wen walked over and blocked Shen Peichuan’s line of sight. “Hello, what’s your name?” asked Wang Wen.

Wang Wen’s words dragged Shen Peichuan back from his daydream. The latter’s voice was calm when he said, “Shen Peichuan.”

“Yo, Mr. Shen, can I ask you a question?” asked Wang Wen again.

Shen Peichuan frowned. He didn’t like how Wang Wen spoke like the two of them knew each other well, but he didn’t complain. He simply said, “Ask away.”

Wang Wen deliberated for a while before voicing out, “What is your relationship with Sang Yu? Are the two of you close? You seem to know a lot about her past. Will you share them with me? Why doesn’t she have any relative or family?”

Shen Peichuan was surprised to hear that question. He narrowed his eyes and said, "You don't know?" *Did I overthink everything? Is this not her boyfriend?*

"I love her," confessed Wang Wen boldly. He never intended to keep that a secret.

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Wang Wen sat on a stool at the side. He had his elbows on his knees as he interlaced his fingers, and he sounded genuine when he said, "I fell for her ever since I met her. I later learn about how she came all the way to the village to be a teacher for free and realize that she uses her own money to buy study materials for the kids. That's when I know that she is a kind and sweet woman. After spending some time with her, I confirmed that it isn't an act. She is truly nice and has a kind soul."

Wang Wen paused when he reached that part of the story. He took a deep breath before continuing, "She doesn't really talk about her past, but I really want to get to know her. I also want to be there for her and become a man who can protect her and be her family."

Despite hearing all that, Shen Peichuan was only focused on one point, "A-are the two of you dating?"

"To be specific, I am pursuing her. You're her friend, and I'm sure you want her to be happy too, don't you?" asked Wang Wen, who was examining Shen Peichuan's expression closely.

Wang Wen was a pretty decent guy, and he was smart, but it would take a lot more than that to see through Shen Peichuan's poker face.

For some reason, Shen Peichuan found himself relaxing when he heard about how Wang Wen was still courting Sang Yu. *So they're not in a relationship!*

Shen Peichuan might be feeling better, but he had no intention of showing Wang Wen any mercy. The former dissed, "Of course I want her to be happy, but you are just a college student. Can you even afford to support yourself financially? How do you plan on taking care of her?"

“I will graduate in a year and find a job...”

“Talk to me after you have actually graduated and landed a job,” interrupted Shen Peichuan heartlessly.

“As a friend, you shouldn’t say something like that. You really should give her your blessings and be happy about her finding a partner...”

Just then, Sang Yu had dealt with the paperwork and returned at that moment. She asked, “What are you boys talking about?”

Shen Peichuan put on a crooked grin and replied, “It’s nothing. Can we leave now?”

“Yeah,” answered Sang Yu with a smile.

Wang Wen got up and stood beside Sang Yu. The former grinned at Shen Peichuan and said, “You’re a guest, and we should lead the way as the host. This way.”

Wang Wen held Sang Yu’s hand and led the way with her.

Sang Yu was taken aback. She stared at Wang Wen and blurted, “You...”

Wang Wen hushed as he inched closer and whispered, “You held my hand without permission earlier, so I’m returning the favors.”

Sang Yu was a little uncomfortable about it. She explained, “I was just... I mean, the situation was...”

“Regardless of the situation, you still held my hand. You must return this favor and put on an act for me as well,” said Wang Wen with a smile.

Shen Peichuan's heart felt heavy when he glared at the way Wang Wen held Sang Yu's hand. Shen Peichuan kept wondering, *Why isn't Sang Yu pushing the guy away? Does she have feelings for that man? What's so good about a youngster like him? And what's with that expression on her face?*

The more Shen Peichuan thought about it, the more upset he became.

He rushed forward and pried both hands away from each other. Sang Yu stared curiously. "You..."

Shen Peichuan forced himself to put on a calm expression before complaining, "Just walk like normal people, will you? The two of you keep blocking the entire path when you hold hands like that."

After that, Shen Peichuan walked ahead.

Wang Wen clenched his fist. He suspected that Shen Peichuan had feelings for Sang Yu when Shen Peichuan verbally opposed Wang Wen courting Sang Yu. Shen Peichuan's reaction just proved that he indeed was in love with Sang Yu as well.

Still, he is so much older than Sang Yu. If I am not good enough for her, then he is definitely a poor suitor. Does he not realize that at all?

"Well, come on," urged Shen Peichuan when he realized that the two of them weren't following him.

Sang Yu blinked. Her long, beautiful eyelashes fluttered before she shifted her gaze downwards and walked over to Shen Peichuan's side.

Wang Wen refused to admit defeat, so he hurried to Sang Yu's side as well. The corridor was narrow, to begin with. Hence, when the two men acted up, it became ridiculously cramped.

When they reached the entrance, Sang Yu walked ahead to get a cab. There were a lot parked by the door, so it was easy to get one. Wang Wen wanted to show that he was a capable man, so he led Sang Yu aside and said, "Let me handle that."

"It's fine," replied Sang Yu, who didn't want to trouble anyone.

"Nice ladies like you shouldn't stand under the sun like that. Besides, I told you. You don't have to be that polite to me. We've known each other for a while now, after all," reminded Wang Wen before flashing his beautiful smile.

Sang Yu would seem pretentious if she continued rejecting his offer, so she nodded and said, "Alright then. Thank you."

"It's nothing," said Wang Wen. He later went out to hail a cab and haggled over the price before gesturing for Sang Yu and Shen Peichuan to head over. Wang Wen opened the door for Sang Yu like a gentleman while saying, "Let's leave the front seat for your friend. He's injured and his wound might open if we accidentally knock on him while we're traveling down the bumpy road."

Sang Yu thought that it made sense, and she was about to agree to it when Shen Peichuan cut in, "I'm not a spoiled princess, and minor injuries like these mean nothing to me."

After saying his piece, Shen Peichuan dragged Sang Yu and got into the backseat.

Wang Wen was speechless.

Shen Peichuan and Sang Yu were already in the backseat, so it would be ridiculously cramped if Wang Wen got into the backseat as well. Hence, Wang Wen had no choice but to take the front seat.

During the entire journey, Wang Wen would repeatedly check the backseat, whereas Shen Peichuan remained quiet. The latter only stared out the window.

They had traveled for a while when Shen Peichuan suddenly asked, "Is the village from B City?"

"Not really, it's only about a hundred kilometers away," answered Sang Yu.

Shen Peichuan nodded.

About half an hour later, the car stopped at the entrance of the village. Sang Yu wanted to pay for the cab, but Wang Wen refused to let her do so. "I'll get it," offered Wang Wen.

Sang Yu rejected immediately, "You don't have much spare cash with you, and you'll have to go back to school in a couple of days. You'll need to spend a lot of money then. I taught many online classes last week and have some extra money with me."

Sang Yu paid for the ride as she spoke.

Shen Peichuan, on the other hand, couldn't say anything. The only thing he had with him was a dirty outfit, so he could only watch as the two of them argued about paying the fares.

He was the eldest among the three, but he was also the poorest at that moment. That made it so that he had zero say in the matter.

"Let's go," said Sang Yu to Shen Peichuan.

Shen Peichuan nodded.

The roads in the village had never been constructed, so it really was just a trail of dirt. That being said, the path wouldn't cause any fuss as long as it didn't rain.

Sang Yu pointed at the school up ahead and shared, "That is the village's school. I teach classes over there."

Shen Peichuan traced Sang Yu's finger and saw a building with about six or seven classrooms. A multipurpose field stood behind the entrance.

It's probably break-time since many children are playing on that field.

"Ms. Sang, Mr. Wang!" greeted an observant kid loudly when he saw them. A number of kids hurried over upon hearing those names.

Sang Yu pointed at Wang Haonan and informed Shen Peichuan, "That's the boy who discovered you."

Wang Haonan scratched his tiny head before giggling shyly and saying, "I thought you died."

"The tv showed that we should touch a guy's nose to see if they're really dead. You must've never touched his nose," said another student.

Wang Haonan's face lit up instantly. He blurted, "Oh yeah! Next time, I will touch the nose to check if the body is breathing."

"You silly goose. You're not likely to see another unconscious man, so you won't need to touch anybody's nose. C'mon, let's head to class," said Sang Yu while helping the kids wipe their sweat off.

"We want to take Ms. Sang's class. Ms. Sang, will you teach us today?" asked Wang Haonan. Two other students stared at Sang Yu with big, round eyes as well.

Sang Yu deliberated. "Maybe later, okay? I'll head over if I'm free. Mr. Wang will take the class for now," said Sang Yu.

Wang Wen wasn't happy to hear that. If he went to teach the kids, then Shen Peichuan and Sang Yu would end up spending time alone.

That man seems to be into Sang Yu, but there are times when he acted like a gentleman as well... Wang Wen couldn't figure out what Shen Peichuan had in mind, nor could he be certain if Shen Peichuan liked Sang Yu.

The one thing Wang Wen was sure of was that he didn't like the idea of the two of them spending time alone.

"It's better if we leave the class to the principal. Your friend is still wearing his dirty clothes. I'll go get him some of my clean clothes since we're both almost the same height."

Sang Yu nodded in agreement and said, "Thank you."

Ah, I forgot that Shen Peichuan is still wearing his dirty clothes. He must be really uncomfortable now.

"We'll head back to my place while you get a clean outfit. We'll meet at my place?" suggested Sang Yu.

Wang Wen nodded.

The bell rang up at that moment, so the kids returned to their classroom.

After that, Sang Yu led Shen Peichuan back to her own place. It was just a simple building split into two areas. The one indoors had a cement floor, a foldable table, two stools, and a bookcase which was placed in the corner. The area outdoors, on the other hand, had a gas stove, and that was sufficient for Sang Yu because she could cook. She didn't have much, and her living condition wasn't ideal, but she kept the place clean and tidy.

A bed was placed inside the bedroom where a study desk and a computer were set up near the window. Further into the room was a curtain that separated the washroom and the bedroom. That was where Sang Yu would shower.

“It may not look much, but I am content with my life here,” said Sang Yu as she stood by the door.

Her place had two areas, but one could still examine the entire place with one look.

Shen Peichuan’s lips curved downwards. The place was terrible, and he believed that Sang Yu could have a better future if she continued her studies and graduated.

Hence, Shen Peichuan turned to Sang Yu and encouraged, “Sang Yu, you’re young, and you can have a better future. You don’t belong here.”

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Sang Yu shrugged and replied nonchalantly, "Is my future important, though? I've lost the person I want to take care of, so what's the point of finishing my studies or finding a good job? Would that really make me happy?"

Shen Peichuan turned to Sang Yu. She was still standing by the door and had her back to the sun. The light engulfed her and made her look like a lonesome entity.

Shen Peichuan couldn't see her expression under those circumstances, but he could tell that she had gotten thinner and weaker.

Shen Peichuan clenched his fists in frustration and asked, "Are you really planning on spending the rest of your life here?"

Sang Yu turned around and had her back to him then. She sat by the door and looked into the distance before confessing, "I don't know. Maybe I'll leave this place after I get married..."

"Who are you marrying?" interrupted Shen Peichuan at lightning speed before Sang Yu could finish her sentence.

She's getting married? To whom? Who is she marrying?

"Don't get married," blurted Shen Peichuan. He only realized that he had crossed the line after he had already said his piece. *Ah, I have no right to stop her from marrying anyone.*

"Uh, I mean..." said Shen Peichuan slowly while thinking of an excuse, "Ah! I mean that you're still young, so you don't need to be in a hurry to get married."

“I understand. Thank you for your concern. But don’t worry, I will plan for that myself,” replied Sang Yu as she rested her chin on her hand, “Actually, now that I think about it, this is a pretty decent place. The people here are honest, and they don’t scheme against one another. Living in this environment will be very relaxing.”

Shen Peichuan couldn’t say anything.

Everyone had the right to choose their own lifestyle, and Shen Peichuan had no right to interfere with Sang Yu’s choices.

“Are you planning on getting married in the future?” asked Sang Yu suddenly.

Shen Peichuan couldn’t see her expression at the time. All he saw was her back, but he wasn’t the kind of man who would lie anyway, so he answered, “Yeah.”

Sang Yu knew that Shen Peichuan wouldn’t remain single for the rest of his life. *Plus, he is so wonderful, and someone else is already in love with him. The only downside is that he is a little slow when it comes to the matter of the heart. If he wasn’t, he would’ve already gotten married and have kids by now.* thought Sang Yu. She knew all that, but her heart still stung at the thought of him being with another woman and them having kids together.

She pretended to comb her hair with her fingers so she could secretly wipe her tears off. After that, she commented in an even tone, “That’s nice. Are you marrying Ms. Song?”

Shen Peichuan fixed his gaze downwards and murmured an affirmative reply.

Hearing that, Sang Yu dug her fingers into her palm to suppress the bitterness welling up in her tongue. She took some time to gather herself and only spoke when she was certain that her tone would remain nonchalant. “That’s great. She comes from a great family, is beautiful, and is around your age. She can help boost your career, and the two of you look great together. You’ll lead a happy life after the two of you get married.”

Happy?

Shen Peichuan thought that adjective was something that was way out of his reach. Or rather, it was something he would never experience.

“Do you think I’ll be happy?” asked Shen Peichuan in a daze.

Sang Yu turned to him and complained, “Are you bragging?”

Why is he asking for my opinion when I’ve already shared my thoughts?

Shen Peichuan grinned sadly. “You really think I’m bragging?” asked Shen Peichuan before he put his false grin away and explained, “Sang Yu, I...”

Shen Peichuan wanted to say that he wasn’t happy at all. He wasn’t with Song Yaxin because he loved her.

Unfortunately, a boy interrupted their conversation before Shen Peichuan got to do so.

“Ms. Sang, Ms. Sang...” the boy called out.

“What’s wrong, Keke?”

Lu Keke was a Year Two student.

“Wang Haonan fell, and his knee is bleeding.”

Sang Yu sprang up and asked, “Where is he now?”

“In the classroom.”

Sang Yu hurried over immediately. Wang Haonan was sitting in the classroom with his knees still bleeding. Sang Yu hurried over and saw a deep cut on his knee. Blood was oozing endlessly out of it, and it looked terrifying.

“How did this happen?” asked Sang Yu as she crouched down.

“I fell in a cockfight game,” confessed Wang Haonan. He had good grades, but he was also extremely naughty. When he said cockfight, he didn’t mean actual cockfight where two chickens were put in a cage to fight one another. Instead, he meant the game he played with his friends.

The game’s rules were simple. All players were to lock one leg to their hand and have that leg’s knees touch their opponent’s knee. The one whose hand let go first would lose. Alternatively, the player will also lose if they fell.

The boys loved playing that game.

“Keke, go get the first aid kit from my place,” instructed Sang Yu. She knew that the kids were naughty, so she had prepared everything beforehand.

Lu Keke ran out immediately after. Shen Peichuan had followed Sang Yu over and was looking in from the window.

The classroom was in poor condition, with the paint on the tables almost chipped off entirely. The floor was made of bricks, and the teacher’s table was just as terrible as the students’. That being said, the chalk and duster were arranged nicely by the blackboard, and the children had modified some empty soda cans to make potted plants.

In short, the place wasn’t luxurious, but it was incredibly heartwarming.

Lu Keke soon returned with the first aid kit. Sang Yu opened the box and poured some disinfectants on the cotton swab. She was a little hesitant to apply it on the kid’s knee, though, because she worried about hurting him. Unfortunately, the weather was hot and the cut will probably get infected if it is not treated in time.

“Hold on. It might sting.”

“Ms. Sang, will you leave the school? We don’t want you to go,” said Wang Haonan as his eyes reddened with tears.

Sang Yu frowned. “Who told you that I’m leaving?”

“Mr. Wang did. He said that you are a student from a prestigious university and are smarter than he is. It’s a waste of your talent if you stay here with us,” answered Wang Haonan. His tears welled up in his eyes, and he asked again, “Ms. Sang, will you really leave us?”

“He was lying. I’m gonna start tending your cut, okay? Be a brave boy and hold on,” cooed Sang Yu before she started clearing the blood from the boy’s cut.

Wang Haonan shifted his gaze. He didn’t dare to keep his eyes on his knee, so he chatted with Sang Yu to distract himself. “Ms. Sang, who is the guy you rescued earlier?” asked Wang Haonan curiously, “Are the two of you close? You were so worried back then that your eyes reddened. That was also the first time you ever spoke so loudly to me.”

Shen Peichuan turned to Sang Yu. His dark brown eyes shone with complex emotion, and he felt himself getting excited as he waited for Sang Yu to answer that question.

“We... know each other and are friends. Sorry, I will try to control my emotions and speak nicely from now on,” replied Sang Yu. She had her eyes fixed on the boy’s knee as she cleaned the area surrounding his cut.

Shen Peichuan was suddenly disappointed. *She actually regarded our connection as ‘friends’? What the hell does she take me for?*

Shen Peichuan was depressed.

“Ms. Sang, why do you care so much about him if the two of you aren’t close?” asked Wang Haonan.

Sang Yu frowned and complained, “Why is a kid like you being such a busybody and asking so many questions?”

“Awh, come on. Tell me. I’m hurt,” said Wang Haonan coquettishly with a cute grin on.

Sang Yu hesitated, but she ultimately answered, “I don’t have a choice, okay?”

Sang Yu thought that she wasn’t good enough for Shen Peichuan.

Her father was a gambler, whereas her mother was a murderer. Shen Peichuan, on the other hand, was a high-ranking police officer.

I will just disrupt his career if I stay close to him.

There was a time when Sang Yu thought that she could help him if she worked hard enough, but she later found that she was being too naïve.

He was already a successful man, whereas she would need to struggle for another decade or so to reach his level of success. Even after that, there was no saying if she could reach his level.

Hence, there was no way she could help him.

Only someone as powerful as he was, and whose family weren’t criminals, was worthy of him.

“Ms. Sang, what do you mean?” asked Wang Haonan curiously.

He couldn’t make heads or tails of what his teacher was talking about.

Sang Yu tilted her head up and explained, "I meant that my mind can't control my heart."

It was just like how she couldn't choose which family she was born into.

"Huh? But it's your heart. If you don't control it, who does?" asked the confused Wang Haonan.

"You'll understand when you're older," replied Sang Yu as she stroked his tiny head.

"Ms. Sang, I just realize that talking can really distract a person. I didn't feel any stinging pain at all."

"Uh... That's because I haven't gotten to your cut yet."

"What?"

After that, Sang Yu quickly cleaned the cut before putting some band-aids on it.

"Don't run around too much for the time being," instructed Sang Yu.

Wang Haonan nodded obediently.

Sang Yu later went home with her first-aid kit. That's when she saw Wang Wen standing outside her door. "You brought the clothes over?" asked Sang Yu.

Wang Wen nodded before adding, "He's having a shower, so let's wait out here."

Sang Yu replied, "Okay."

A tree stood beside the window, and it was so big that two adults would have to stretch their arms fully to circle around its trunk. A few chairs were placed under the tree so that people can relax under its shade.

Sang Yu and Wang Wen sat side-by-side.

Soon after that, Shen Peichuan changed into clean clothes. He saw the two youngsters from the window, so he walked over, but he then saw that they were sitting right next to each other. That got Shen Peichuan to frown a little. He was uncomfortable because he thought that the two of them seemed rather close.

He walked over and was about to call out to Sang Yu when he heard Wang Wen asking a shocking question.

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“Sang Yu, is that friend of yours in love with you?”

Shen Peichuan was stunned as he wondered why the guy had asked that question.

Meanwhile, Sang Yu was even more surprised than Shen Peichuan. “What are you talking about? That’s nonsense,” said Sang Yu.

“When I brought the clean clothes over, he asked to borrow my phone, but he only called his family to let them know that he’s alright. He didn’t ask anyone to pick him up. Does that mean he plans on staying? Also...” shared Wang Wen while turning to Sang Yu, “I told him that I like you, but he wasn’t happy about the two of us getting together. If he truly is watching out for you, shouldn’t he be happy for you instead?”

“You’re overthinking it. He probably just thinks that we aren’t suited for one another,” replied Sang Yu.

As she spoke, she stood up, but Wang Wen held her wrist and confessed, “No, don’t go. I mean it when I said that I like you.”

The sudden profession of love turned Sang Yu’s mind blank. She couldn’t speak for a long while.

“Sang Yu, you don’t have a family, so let me be yours. Stay with me. You won’t have to feel any pressure. You know how my family is, and no one will discriminate against you or hurt you...”

“No, please stop. I don’t want to be in a relationship for now,” rejected Sang Yu politely.

“We’re of the same age group, and my family will welcome you with open arms. You can think...”

Clang!

The sound of glass shattering rang up from the house, and Sang Yu pried Wang Wen’s hand away before hurrying into the house. The first thing she saw was Shen Peichuan standing in front of the table while her glass was shattered on the floor.

She went over to check on Shen Peichuan’s hand. “Are you hurt?” asked Sang Yu.

Shen Peichuan couldn’t open his mouth or make himself talk. He simply tilted his head down and stared at her worried expression.

Then Sang Yu looked up and saw that Shen Peichuan was staring at her. His eyes shone an incomprehensible emotion, and that got Sang Yu to realize that she was still holding his hand. She quickly let go of him and explained, “You are injured, and I was just worried about your condition worsening...”

Shen Peichuan suddenly cut her words short. “You said that you love me,” said Shen Peichuan.

Wang Wen froze while standing beside the door.

Sang Yu loves him? Him?

The same question kept swirling in Wang Wen’s mind.

Everything suddenly seemed so clear. Sang Yu was extremely worried and anxious when Shen Peichuan was injured, and that was not the reaction a friend would have.

When Shen Peichuan was unconscious in the hospital, Sang Yu stayed there overnight, and that was obviously a sign of genuine concern.

Wang Wen turned around in a daze and strolled away like a soulless zombie.

“I was joking,” lied Sang Yu.

She only dared to confess her love because she was certain that they would never see each other again.

However, she was too cowardly to admit that in front of him.

“What if I took it seriously?” asked Shen Peichuan. The revelation hit him when he heard Wang Wen asking Sang Yu about whether Shen Peichuan had feelings for her.

Shen Peichuan asked himself the same question and then a bunch of other questions as well. *Why do I get upset when I see her hanging out with other men? She said that she might get married in the future, but I don't want that to happen. Why? Perhaps... Could it be that I feel that way because I love her? Is that why I don't want to see her with other men or marrying someone else?*

On the other side, Su Zhan was delighted after getting a call from Shen Peichuan. The former almost jumped with glee. He called Zong Jinghao immediately to share the good news before heading into the police station to inform Captain Song as Su Zhan didn't want anyone to worry unnecessarily.

Su Zhan was about to knock on the door to Captain Song's office when he heard Mrs. Song saying, “He's been missing for over two days. There's no way he survived.”

No one responded.

Mrs. Song then continued saying, “Thank the heavens that Yaxin hasn't married him yet. Things would've been terrible if they have gotten together.”

She was divorced once. What will others think of her if her second husband died? No one would dare marry her again after that.

“What the hell are you talking about?” scolded Captain Song.

Mrs. Song refused to admit defeat. She refuted, “Was I wrong? He had been missing for so long, so what are the chances of him surviving? Fortunately, not many know that he and Yaxin are dating. Looks like our family really isn’t fated to have him as an in-law. He’s such a capable man, but his lights went out just like that.”

“Stop bullsh*tting! What are you talking about? Stay home if you have nothing to contribute. Stop causing trouble here!” growled Captain Song. His eyes had reddened with fury, and he was glaring at his wife.

“Pfft, my gosh, look at your current state. Why are you so mad? You might want to take him in as an in-law, but that is not your destiny. Plus, he is not as important as our daughter.”

“Enough!” growled Song Yaxin, who had been keeping quiet until that moment. “Stop arguing already. We’ll keep searching. I don’t care if he’s dead or alive. I want to see him, regardless.”

Su Zhan heard footsteps approaching, so he quickly backed away and turned a corner to hide there.

He had never liked Song Yaxin, and Mrs. Song’s words only made him dislike the family even more. *What kind of people are they? Dang, if Shen Peichuan becomes their in-law, his life will be a living hell.*

The wheels in Su Zhan’s mind spun. *Shen Peichuan said that he is fine now, so there’s no need for him to hurry back. If Song Yaxin truly loves him, then she should be willing to wait for at least a few months, right?*

With that thought in mind, Su Zhan checked his surroundings and saw that no one was around. He then quickly fished his phone out and dialed the number that Shen Peichuan had just used to contact him.

Inside the house.

Shen Peichuan suddenly realized that he might have acted a little too impulsively. “Sang Yu, I am much older than you, and I...” said Shen Peichuan.

“I don’t mind,” insisted Sang Yu as she tilted her head up and stared at him. Her big, round eyes shone.

Age didn’t matter to her. In fact, nothing mattered to her. The only thing she cared about was whether he loved her.

“You know what my family’s like. Are you really okay with it?”

“Mr. Shen, someone is calling you,” informed Wang Wen, who suddenly showed up with his phone.

Sang Yu quickly turned around and walked into her house. She didn’t want anyone to see her in that state.

On the other hand, Shen Peichuan took the mobile phone over and pressed it to his ear before saying, “Hello?”

“It’s me. Peichuan, don’t come back just yet,” informed Su Zhan.

“Why? Have you told Zong Jinghao about how Gu Bei is out? I should head back tomorrow to help out,” said Shen Peichuan. He didn’t understand why Su Zhan was asking him to stay away.

Gu Bei got out, and trouble might follow. I must go back to help Zong Jinghao.

“Jinghao had already settled the matter regarding Gu Bei. Just trust me. Don’t come back just yet. Give yourself two months. Come back after two months, okay?” encouraged Su Zhan. *If Song Yaxin truly loved Shen Peichuan, then waiting two months should be no problem for her at all.*

“Why?” asked Shen Peichuan again.

“Just... trust me. It’s for your own good,” insisted Su Zhan before he hung up.

Shen Peichuan was confused. He couldn’t even guess what Su Zhan had in mind, but he was glad and relieved to hear that Gu Bei was dealt with.

Shen Peichuan later handed the phone back to Wang Wen and said, “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome,” murmured Wang Wen after he got his phone back.

He turned around to leave but suddenly paused. Wang Wen glared at Shen Peichuan and reprimanded, “You said that I am not good enough for Sang Yu, but what about you? You are so much older than she is and have been working for years now, whereas she is only...”

“I am the one who fell for him first. Also, what’s wrong with him being older than me?” demanded Sang Yu, who was standing by the door.