

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 351

“What?” said Lin Xinyan as she tensed up. They had just hung out some time ago, so how did Qin Ya suddenly become so sick that she was hospitalized?

“What happened?” asked Lin Xinyan in a worried tone.

“I don’t know the specific either. She’s in the second branch of the People’s Hospital.”

Lin Xinyan started the car and drove over.

Zong Jinghao leaned closer and nonchalantly placed his hand on her thigh. Lin Xinyan was wearing a black shirt, a pair of jeans, and a coat that matched her perfectly. His palm burned as he caressed her and cooed, “Stay calm.”

Lin Xinyan shot a look at his hand before informing, “She’s pregnant, so being hospitalized is not a good thing.”

Zong Jinghao suddenly pinched her leg, and Lin Xinyan frowned as she warned, “I. Am. Driving.”

Zong Jinghao stared intently at Lin Xinyan and claimed, “I want another daughter.”

Lin Xinyan bit her lip. They had never used any protection when they got together, but she still wasn’t pregnant.

When she gave birth to the twins, the doctor informed her that it would be difficult for her to get pregnant again.

At the time, Lin Xinyan thought little of it, because she thought that two kids were enough, but...

"We should get their surnames changed when we're free," said Lin Xinyan in a serious tone.

At least one kid had to have the surname of Zong if she and Zong Jinghao got together, but never have another kid.

They couldn't exactly let Zong Jinghao's bloodline to end with him.

Zong Jinghao's hold on Lin Xinyan's thigh softened, and he caressed her to comfort her instead. He still remembered how Lin Xinyan said that she might never get pregnant again. He thought she was just messing with him.

At that moment, Zong Jinghao realized she was being truthful. They had never used any protection, but she still wasn't pregnant.

The twins were conceived after a single night of unprotected sex. That proved that Lin Xinyan used to be super fertile. However, the couple had gotten together once more and had been sleeping together for over two months, but they still weren't pregnant.

"I don't want another kid," said Lin Xinyan. She was genuinely terrified, and she still remembered what the labor pain was like.

Even thinking about it got her to tremble.

She might be willing to go through that pain again if their relationship was strong, and her body was healthy and fertile.

Unfortunately, being pregnant was no longer possible, so she might as well give him a definite answer. It was worse if he held out for hope and fantasized about it.

*He won't be disappointed if he never held out for hope or fantasized about it.*

Lin Xinyan parked the car by the hospital's entrance, and the two lovebirds were in sync when they stopped talking about that particular topic. Still, it felt a little awkward.

Zong Jinghao quietly got out of the car, and Lin Xinyan walked over. To break the awkward silence, she asked, "Did Su Zhan call to tell you about this?"

Zong Jinghao murmured a simple reply.

*Lin Xinyan thought, Could it be that Su Zhan and Qin Ya got into an argument because he learned she is pregnant? Is that what got her hospitalized?*

That made little sense because Su Zhan definitely won't argue with Qin Ya if he knew she was pregnant.

Lin Xinyan was worried about Qin Ya, so the former walked quickly. Zong Jinghao put his arms around her shoulder and held her without saying a word.

Lin Xinyan's anxious heart slowly settled down, and she followed his pace as they walked to the operating theatre.

Su Zhan was in the corridor. He still had that same wet outfit on, but he had been in the hospital for a while, and the air conditioner had dried it up a little.

He paced around the corridor nervously, and when he saw Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao walking over, he paused.

"Xinyan..."

"What's wrong? Why is she hospitalized suddenly?" asked Lin Xinyan.

Su Zhan replied in a guilty tone, "This is all my fault."

*If I had made things clear with Liu Feifei none of this would've happened, and Qin Ya wouldn't be...*

"I asked you what happened," growled Lin Xinyan sternly.

"Liu Feifei captured her, and an explosion injured her..." explained Su Zhan. He gave everyone a summary of what happened, and that got Lin Xinyan's jaw dropped. She couldn't believe it. *An explosion?*

Lin Xinyan's legs gave way. Luckily, Zong Jinghao was right beside her, so he held her and supported her.

Lin Xinyan's voice trembled when she asked, "Su Zhan, has she told you that she is pregnant?"

*Boom!*

Su Zhan felt as if lightning had coursed through his veins. *Qin Ya is pregnant?*

*Then the blood on her...*

It felt like someone had just clawed a part of his heart out.

Pain... Immense, unearthly pain consumed him.

"You didn't know?" asked Lin Xinyan as she approached Su Zhan. The man's voice had turned so raspy that it was barely comprehensible when he confessed, "No, I didn't..."

*Slap!*

Lin Xinyan was so angry that she slapped him across the face. After that, she growled, "Qin Ya couldn't get herself to slap you, so I will do it for her. I thought

you are an honorable man who will care for her for the rest of her life. I never realized that you are so hesitant!”

*None of this would have happened if Su Zhan hadn't been dragging his feet and being indecisive.*

Su Zhan had no complaints. He even slapped himself across the face as he said, “This is my fault. This is all on me!”

He regretted his actions, hated himself, and was furious at himself, but mostly, he was heartbroken. Even at that last moment, Qin Ya had his best interest in mind and pushed him into the water. But what about him?

What had he ever done for her?

He should've known that something bad would happen. He should've learned his lesson the last time he went to the hospital!

“I deserve to die. I should just drop dead,” said Su Zhan as he fell onto the floor. Tears rolled endlessly down his cheeks, and he looked like a crazy homeless beggar in the streets.

Su Zhan hugged his own head.

Lin Xinyan, on the other hand, stood at the side and never talked to him or comforted him. He was responsible for everything that had happened. He had no one to blame.

Two hours later, the door to the operating theatre finally opened. Su Zhan jumped up and hurried over as soon as he heard the noise. The doctor hadn't even taken his mask off before Su Zhan grabbed the doctor's arm and asked, “How is she?”

Zong Jinghao put his hands on Su Zhan's shoulder and said, “Calm down. He can't talk with you holding him like that.”

Su Zhan knew all that, but he couldn't help it. He was terrified that something might've happened to Qin Ya.

Lin Xinyan walked over and apologized to the doctor, "Sorry, he was too agitated."

The doctor waved his hand and clear his throat to settle down before saying, "It's fine, it's fine. We deal with nervous family members all the time."

Lin Xinyan clenched her fist and asked, "Is she okay? Is the baby...?"

Su Zhan was standing at the side, and he trembled endlessly.

The doctor sighed and replied sadly, "The baby was gone even before the patient arrived at the hospital. Her injuries are grave, and the right side of her face was burned badly. It may not heal, and she may not look the same way she did, but the technology behind plastic surgeries is advance, so you don't have to lose hope. The good news is that the patient pulled through and survived the incident."

Lin Xinyan's eyes stung with tears. *How did she get so hurt?*

"Can I see her?" asked Lin Xinyan in a raspy voice.

The doctor shook his head and replied, "She is being transferred to an isolated room. The surgery was a success. Her life is no longer in danger, but her condition is still bad. We're keeping her isolated to prevent her wound from getting infected. We'll transfer her to the regular ward in twenty-four hours, and you guys can visit then."

"Can I at least see her from outside the room? I won't go in," promised Su Zhan. His eyes were terribly bloodshot at that moment.

The doctor stared. He could sense how Su Zhan's pain. "The door will remain closed, and you can only stay for a moment."

Qin Ya was taken to the isolated room and settled down before the nurse took the others over to visit.

“Only two visitors are allowed,” informed the nurse.

Zong Jinghao wanted to go in as well because he wanted to stay by Lin Xinyan’s side. He was worried about her being too sad.

Lin Xinyan knew how worried he was, so she shook her head and promised, “I’ll be fine.”

In the end, Su Zhan and Lin Xinyan were the ones who went in.

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They couldn't get into the isolated room, so they only saw Qin Ya from behind the glass. Qin Ya was still unconscious and her face was bandaged with only her eyes being shown.

The medical devices beeped steadily all around her.

Su Zhan was leaning against the glass window, devastated. He never made a sound, but Lin Xinyan could see his shoulders trembling. She knew he was sobbing quietly.

"I was surprised when I heard what happened. We met up just some time ago, and she told me she wanted to leave this place. She wanted to find somewhere peaceful to give birth to the baby... Who would've thought that something like this would happen?"

Su Zhan's hands were on the glass window and he clenched them tightly. He spoke between sobs, "This is all my fault..."

"What's the point of realizing all that now?" Lin Xinyan knew she shouldn't risk triggering him at that moment, but she felt like it was necessary to make things clear. Before Lin Xinyan turned and left with a broken heart, she told Su Zhan, "I will get in your way and stop the two of you from being together, even if Qin Ya eventually forgives you."

One's appearance was one's mark. Qin Ya could go for plastic surgery, but she would never be the way she used to be again.

There was a time when Qin Ya was cheerful and led an optimistic life, but she hadn't been happy since she got together with Su Zhan.



Her injuries only made things worse. Lin Xinyan was sad for her friend.

Zong Jinghao walked over and reached out to help Lin Xinyan push her hair behind her ear. "Let's go home."

Lin Xinyan nodded. Qin Ya was still unconscious, so there was nothing she could do at that moment.

Before Lin Xinyan left, she asked the doctor, "When will she wake up?"

She wanted to be there for Qin Ya when the latter woke up. She would need Lin Xinyan for moral support, especially if she learned about her disfiguration when she woke up.

"She should come around in about twelve hours," answered the doctor.

Lin Xinyan made a mental note of that. *Twelve hours... That should be around five o'clock in the morning tomorrow.* Lin Xinyan later thanked the doctor before she left.

She didn't have any dinner after she got home with Zong Jinghao. Instead, she locked herself in her room, so her husband got her a cup of milk.

Zong Jinghao sat by the bedside as Lin Xinyan laid under the blanket with her coat on. Truth was, he didn't like it when his wife was troubled by someone else's issue.

"Are you asleep?"

Lin Xinyan was still awake, but she didn't want to talk.

"I know you're awake. Get up and finish your milk," added Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan turned around and stared at him.

She didn't even know how she felt, but she knew she was in a mess.

Zong Jinghao chuckled and teased, "Why are you staring like that? Is it because I am simply too charming?"

Lin Xinyan scanned him carefully. He was good-looking. His skin was soft, his facial features were amazing, and his dark eyes shone with wisdom. When he smiled, he could drown someone in love.

However, he inspired a completely different emotion when he was grouchy.

The weight on Lin Xinyan's heart was a little lighter when she saw him, so she sat up and accepted the milk that Zong Jinghao brought for her.

She took a sip before she asked, "Su Zhan... had he always been like that?"

Lin Xinyan was referring to Su Zhan's hesitance in deciding.

Zong Jinghao thought about it for a while before replying, "No."

Su Zhan had always known what he wanted, but he was blinded by Liu Feifei.

It hit him hard when Liu Feifei first left. Perhaps that was why he was overwhelmed when she suddenly returned.

Lin Xinyan bit her lip like she was deliberating something. Zong Jinghao had to remind her, "Finish your milk."

Lin Xinyan didn't finish it immediately. Instead, she got her phone and set the alarm because she wanted to get up earlier to go to the hospital.

That night, Lin Xinyan slept in Zong Jinghao's arms. She wasn't sure if it was because he was by her side, but she felt safe and fell asleep soon after.

The alarm rang and woke her up.

Lin Xinyan's mind cleared up quickly when she thought about how Qin Ya was still in the hospital. Zong Jinghao, however, hugged her waist. His voice was groggy. "Where are you going?" asked Zong Jinghao.

"I have to go to the hospital. The doctor said that Qin Ya will be up at around five o'clock. I have to go see how she's doing," replied Lin Xinyan. She actually wanted to head over earlier because she was worried about how Qin Ya would react to seeing Su Zhan there.

"It's still early. Stay in bed with me for a little longer," requested Zong Jinghao as he pulled her back into his embrace. Lin Xinyan pushed him away and reminded him, "Stop messing around. She's disfigured, and I worry that she'd do something stupid because she doesn't have anyone with her. Speaking of, I need you to do me a favor."

Lin Xinyan turned around to face Zong Jinghao and held his face.

"What do I get out of it?" asked Zong Jinghao before Lin Xinyan even said what she wanted.

Lin Xinyan frowned. "I'm being serious."

"Do I sound like I'm not being serious?" refuted Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She leaned in to kiss his lips. It was early in the morning, so Zong Jinghao had a little beard on his chin. It annoyed her a little, but it didn't hurt.

Zong Jinghao frowned. He narrowed his eyes. It seemed like he wasn't satisfied with that kiss. He inched closer again, but Lin Xinyan pushed his chest away and said, "I'd like you to help me find the perfect plastic surgeon."

Lin Xinyan hadn't spoken to Qin Ya yet, but she knew her friend well. Qin Ya wouldn't want Su Zhan's help, or to be more accurate, she wouldn't want to be anywhere near him, especially with the baby gone.

Zong Jinghao tilted his gaze down and stared at the hand on his chest. "Okay, but put your hand down," said Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan's heart thumped quickly. The lights in the room remained closed, but the lamp on the nightstand was on. That set a romantic mood for the couple.

His chest was burning hot, and she still felt warm even though the silk sheets were between them. Her fingers instinctively moved away. Zong Jinghao tilted his head down and kissed her lips after chuckling. "How are you still so shy?"

They had been together for a while by then, but she still blushed.

Afterward, Zong Jinghao handed Lin Xinyan's clothes to her and drove her to the hospital.

It was almost six o'clock when Lin Xinyan arrived at the hospital. The sun was already in the sky. Lin Xinyan had been wearing turtlenecks almost exclusively after she got together with Zong Jinghao. *That man always leaves marks all over me!*

She wore a flowery dress and a black windbreaker that day, though. She tied a red ribbon on her neck to hide the kiss marks.

"Don't wait around for me. I'll grab a cab home," said Lin Xinyan.

Zong Jinghao replied, "Okay. Call me if you need anything."

She murmured a reply and watched as he drove away before she went into the hospital.

Su Zhan was already there when Lin Xinyan arrived. He still had that same outfit on.

“You stayed the entire night?” asked Lin Xinyan as she walked over with her purse.

“I went home for a while,” replied Su Zhan with his head down.

The two men responsible for taking his grandma back didn’t want to get into any unnecessary trouble, so they took her to the hospital. The elderly lady needed some peace to recover, so Su Zhan made the necessary arrangements to settle her down at home. The maids were there at their place. It was also convenient for everyone to take care of Su Zhan’s grandma.

Lin Xinyan asked, “Is she up?”

Su Zhan suddenly shifted his gaze up. He stared at Lin Xinyan, and he was so exhausted that his eyes looked like they were spray-painted with red ink. His voice was coarse when he replied, “She doesn’t want to see me.”

Lin Xinyan wasn’t surprised to hear that.

“I’ll go see how she’s doing,” said Lin Xinyan. She saw how horrible Su Zhan was and her kinder self-took over. She squeezed his shoulder a little before saying, “You’re a man, so it’s a more difficult for Qin Ya to face you now.”

*Losing her baby and being disfigured... Few could handle something like that.*

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“Instead of feeling dejected, why don’t you think of a way to remedy the situation?” Lin Xinyan encouraged him as she didn’t want to see him continue to mope.

*Regret is useless because it doesn’t change anything. Besides, the hardest emotion to get over is regret itself.*

Su Zhan raised his head and looked at Lin Xinyan. “What should I do now?”

He was really confused; he didn’t know what else he could do. All he could think of was the image of Qin Ya’s face being disfigured. It was seared into his mind – he couldn’t escape from it.

“You should go home and clean up first. I’ll look after Qin Ya,” Lin Xinyan replied.

Su Zhan hesitated. “What will happen if she’s willing to see me, but I’m not around?”

*“Do you really think she wants to see you now?” She may be willing to do so if she’s not disfigured. However, she definitely won’t want to as of now.*

*If the same thing happened to me, I would definitely not want to see Zong Jinghao too. That’s how it feels like.*

“Behaving like that doesn’t make things any better. In fact, you’re just torturing yourself. Do you think you will be forgiven just by moping around?”

Su Zhan grabbed onto Lin Xinyan’s sleeve in panic. “In that case, what should I do? How will she ever forgive me?”

“Forgive you?” Lin Xinyan sneered. “What would you do if you were in her place?”

Su Zhan was stumped because if their roles were reversed, he would definitely not forgive himself.

Not admonishing him further, Lin Xinyan consoled Su Zhan, “Go home first, I’ll talk to Qin Ya about it.”

Su Zhan knew how close Lin Xinyan was to Qin Ya. Therefore, he knew he still had a chance if she was willing to put in a good word for him. From the bottom of his heart, he thanked her, “Thanks, Xinyan.”

However, Lin Xinyan didn’t acknowledge him because she sided with Qin Ya more. If Qin Ya chose not to forgive Su Zhan, she would not persuade her to do so.

After sending Su Zhan away, Lin Xinyan checked with the nurse about seeing Qin Ya. The nurse then asked Qin Ya about it. As someone who had her face disfigured, Qin Ya’s emotions would likely be volatile. Therefore, it was imperative to seek her permission before seeing her.

If she agreed, they would arrange it accordingly.

While Lin Xinyan patiently waited, the nurse emerged from the ward. “You can go on in but don’t talk to her for too long. Keep it under ten minutes because her body is still weak.”

Lin Xinyan nodded. “I understand.”

The nurse led Lin Xinyan to a changing room and passed her a medical coverall.

“You will need to wear this inside the ICU,” the nurse explained.

Most people didn't know how to put it on the first time. However, with the nurse's help, Lin Xinyan settled into it in no time.

She was soon wrapped snugly within it. The reason she was required to wear it was to prevent germs from contaminating the ICU.

"Follow me, please," the nurse instructed.

As Lin Xinyan followed the nurse into the ICU, all she could hear was the beep of the medical devices, nothing else. It made the atmosphere feel chilly and mechanical.

"Don't talk too long," the nurse reminded before leaving.

Standing by the door of the ward, Lin Xinyan hesitated for a while. A sense of uneasiness fell upon her as she didn't know how to comfort Qin Ya.

If the same tragedy had befallen her, she knew she would be devastated beyond belief.

"Ms. Lin, why aren't you coming in?" Qin Ya's voice was weak. She couldn't see Lin Xinyan standing by the door. Nevertheless, she still knew it was Lin Xinyan as the nurse had informed her of the woman's arrival earlier. Besides, only Su Zhan or Lin Xinyan would come to see her anyway.

After taking a deep breath, Lin Xinyan walked in, pretending to be relaxed. "Hey, you're awake."

Qin Ya murmured softly in acknowledgment.

Lin Xinyan wanted to hold her hand. However, both Qin Ya's hands were intubated, so she didn't know how to do so.

"I want to leave this place," Qin Ya spoke her mind.



Her soul had died together with her child.

Hence, she wanted to leave the wretched place that had caused her so much grief.

However, she understood that she could only rely on Lin Xinyan, given her current circumstance.

“But your current condition...” Lin Xinyan was more than ready to help, but she knew Qin Ya’s present condition didn’t allow the latter to leave yet.

Qin Ya was firm in her decision. “I can’t have peace staying here.”

*As long as I’m here, Su Zhan will come, and I really don’t want to see him.*

All she wanted was to leave and run away from it all.

“Ms. Lin, help me, please. There’s no one else I can turn to.” Qin Ya was desperate as she tried to raise her hand towards Lin Xinyan, who quickly stopped her. Lin Xinyan replied, “I promise you that I’ll help you. But, you need to give me some time to make the arrangements.”

Qin Ya nodded. “Thank you.”

“Silly gal, there’s no need for any thanks between us.” Lin Xinyan’s nose felt a burning sensation. However, she was all covered up and only had her eyes exposed.

As for Qin Ya, despite pretending to be calm, her sadness didn’t escape Lin Xinyan’s notice.

All Lin Xinyan could do was to agree to all of Qin Ya’s requests. With regards to Su Zhan, she would have to let time heal their relationship.

*If fate will still allow it and Su Zhan really loves her, they may still have a chance. If not, there's nothing much anyone else can do.*

*Who hasn't met a passerby in their lives before? It's just that this passerby has done untold damage to her heart.*

Despite knowing that she couldn't rush things, Qin Ya's resolve to leave was firm. "I want to leave as soon as possible."

"Give me three days." If Lin Xinyan were to take her away, she had to find a new place to treat Qin Ya and make arrangements with the hospital. All these processes needed time.

Qin Ya replied, "Alright."

She was extremely grateful to Lin Xinyan for agreeing to help her and was happy that she would know where she was going within three days.

Lin Xinyan had earlier requested Zong Jinghao to help her look for a plastic surgeon. But now, she might also need his help in looking for a new hospital. It wasn't just a place where Qin Ya would undergo plastic surgery; it would also be a place for her to recuperate.

"The doctor says that your body is weak and that you shouldn't talk too much. Hence, you should rest for the time being. I will make the necessary arrangements, so don't worry. Anyway, I know you don't want Su Zhan to know, right? I won't tell him about it. All you need to do now is rest. Once I have everything prepared, I'll come for you."

Qin Ya murmured in agreement.

"Everything will be alright," Lin Xinyan comforted her.

At that moment, the nurse came by to remind Lin Xinyan of the time. After which, Lin Xinyan reassured Qin Ya again, "I will make the arrangements as soon as

possible. Promise me you will stay strong. Just focus on recuperating and wait for me to pick you up.”

“Alright.”

After taking off the medical gown and leaving the hospital, Lin Xinyan stood at the hospital entrance, planning to hail a cab to Zong Jinghao’s office. Due to her limited network of contacts, she needed to rely on the man to arrange for what Qin Ya had requested.

As the hospital was crowded, there were many taxis available. Therefore, she managed to get a cab easily.

“Where are you headed to?” the driver asked.

Before she could reply, her phone rang, and she saw that it was Cheng Yuxiu calling. “To Wanyue,” Lin Xinyan instructed. With that, she picked up the call.

“Are you free right now?” Cheng Yuxiu’s voice could be heard from the phone.

Lin Xinyan replied, “Yes, is there anything?”

“I’ll meet you at Ro’s Dessert Shop.” Cheng Yuxiu ended the call without saying what it was about.

Looking at her phone, Lin Xinyan figured that Cheng Yuxiu wouldn’t have called her if it weren’t something important. Hence, she instructed the driver, “Head for Ro’s Dessert Shop instead of Wanyue now.”

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The driver proceeded to change directions.

As Lin Xinyan sat quietly in the car, she contemplated Qin Ya's situation. If she sent Qin Ya away, Su Zhan would definitely look for her.

So, she decided to stand firmly on Qin Ya's side. She wouldn't betray her friend no matter what Su Zhan was going to say.

After what just happened, Lin Xinyan saw matters of the heart from a more mature perspective. She knew that both of them needed time to cool down and reevaluate their relationship.

Once she made up her mind, her desire to send Qin Ya away was further reinforced.

At that moment, the driver arrived at Ro's Dessert Shop.

She paid the taxi fee and got off.

Behind the windows, Lin Xinyan saw that Cheng Yuxiu had brought both children – they were sitting by the window eating cake. She pushed open the glass door and entered the shop.

"Mommy," Lin Xichen greeted when he saw her coming in.

Cheng Yuxiu turned and smiled when she saw Lin Xinyan. "The butter cake here is delicious; let me order one for you."

Lin Xinyan sat down and thanked her for the offer.

Cheng Yuxiu smiled. “No thanks needed. You’re just making me feel like a stranger.”

Lin Xinyan smiled as she scooped a piece of butter cake to try. There was a thick milky fragrance that wasn’t overpowering or too sweet. The balance between its milkiness and buttery fragrance made it delicious.

This place was famous for its desserts. Behind the shop, there was also a playground which made it especially suitable for kids.

After finishing their dessert, Lin Ruixi tugged at Lin Xichen. “Xichen, come play with me.”

Lin Xichen sighed, acting as if he had no choice in the matter. All he could do was agree. “Fine.”

Cheng Yuxiu instructed the driver, “Watch them for me.”

The driver nodded and led the kids to the playground.

From the window, it was easy to see them.

Lin Xinyan took a sip of juice and asked, “So what is it you want to talk about?”

“It’s nothing. Must I have a reason to ask you out?” Given that it was the weekend and she had the chance to take the kids out, she decided to invite Lin Xinyan to come along as they had not talked in a while.

Lin Xinyan replied with a smile, “No, you don’t have to.”

Usually, Cheng Yuxiu would only look for her if she needed something, and that was why she asked.

From the window, Cheng Yuxiu couldn't help but break into a smile as she watched the children play happily. "I never dreamed of a day where I'm able to stay with Jinghao and interact with his children. Although I am also a mother, my rights as one were taken away. Therefore, I am really grateful to you."

Cheng Yuxiu held onto Lin Xinyan's hands. "Thank you for letting Jinghao and I live together with the two children."

"It's what you deserve," Lin Xinyan replied in a melancholic tone. "You have missed out on so much. Whatever you have now is just a form of compensation. Is all this enough to make up for what you have lost?"

Cheng Yuxiu shook her head. "I'm very satisfied with what I have now."

She was now very happy with her life as she felt a sense of familial belonging. In fact, she often had the illusion that Zong Jinghao had let go of the past and was living with her in peace.

"Bai Yinning got in some trouble recently," Cheng Yuxiu suddenly said as she turned to look at Lin Xinyan. "Did you tell Jinghao he was responsible for Wen Qing's car accident?"

Lin Xinyan nodded. "I didn't hide it from him."

*He is just too sharp.*

Lin Xinyan knew that once Zong Jinghao found out that Bai Yinning had harmed Wen Qing, he would definitely not let it slide.

After all, this was B City – Zong Jinghao's territory. Hence, it was easy for him to deal with Bai Yinning.

Meanwhile, behind both of them sat another woman with her back facing them. It was Li Jing. She had arrived earlier in the dessert shop. When Cheng Yuxiu entered with the children, she was about to leave.

Because of Wen Qing and Cheng Yuxiu's strained ties, Li Jing didn't plan on greeting her. Just as she wanted to avoid Cheng Yuxiu and leave, she heard her calling Lin Xinyan on the phone.

Hence, she decided to sit and wait.

*I understand the relationship between Zong Jinghao and Cheng Yuxiu. However, why is Lin Xinyan, Zong Jinghao's wife, so close with Cheng Yuxiu?*

Curious, she continued to wait for Lin Xinyan in her seat and finally managed to eavesdrop on what they were talking about.

When she learned that Wen Qing's accident was sabotage, her heart trembled violently.

Furthermore, Cheng Yuxiu and Lin Xinyan knew about it.

*Who is Bai Yinning?*

Li Jing was infuriated to find out that the accident had been deliberately caused by someone.

At that time, she was frightened to death, but Wen Qing, fortunately, survived with just an injured arm.

As she turned around to sneak a glance at Cheng Yuxiu, she realized that Cheng Yuxiu would affectionately mention Zong Jinghao, just like a mother would when talking about their own child.

Cheng Yuxiu was able to marry Zong Qifeng because she had agreed to Wen Qing's conditions. One was to offer the Cheng family's business in exchange, while the other was that she would not bear any children for Zong Qifeng.

*So, is she treating Zong Jinghao as her own child?*

*I too am a mother. No matter how kind-hearted one is, I still think it's difficult to treat the children of others as one's own.*

*And yet, Cheng Yuxiu is speaking as if Zong Jinghao is her own son.*

*Thinking back, Cheng Yuxiu must have been really brave to insist on marrying Zong Qifeng even if it meant losing her inheritance.*

*Love alone isn't enough for one to abandon their family and the chance to be a complete woman.*

*A woman would feel incomplete if she did not have a child.*

*However, if Zong Jinghao is her son...*

She didn't dare think any further as there were just too many secrets involved.

She continued to listen in by pretending to drink some water.

However, Cheng Yuxiu stopped talking about Zong Jinghao and changed the topic to the kids instead. When Li Jing felt that she wasn't going to hear anything of value anymore, she quietly left through the backdoor.

The moment she got out, she gave Wen Qing a call.

"When are you coming back?" She sounded desperate.

Although the doctor had advised him to rest, Wen Qing couldn't sit idly in the hospital. Hence, he got himself discharged by giving the excuse that he had only hurt his arm and had no problems walking.

Meanwhile, he had just finished watching a drill. The moment he returned to his office, he received Li Jing's call. As Li Jing was someone staid, she seldom



called him in such desperation. After unbuttoning his collar, he looked at the time and asked, "Around five. Did your son get into trouble again?"

Whenever Li Jing sounded so frantic, it was usually because of her son. Other than that, there was nothing else that could agitate her so much.

"No, it's not that. We'll talk when you're back. Remember to come home earlier; I'll be waiting for you." With that, Li Jing ended the call and drove home.

Wen Qing furrowed his eyebrows. He was curious as to what else could be so urgent other than her son.

Feeling worried, he left the office before five and saw Li Jing already waiting for him.

When she saw him return, Li Jing helped him out of his jacket. "The doctor told you to rest. And yet, you still can't stay still."

Wen Qing glanced at her and ignored her question. "What was it that you wanted to tell me?"

"Today, I went to Ro's Dessert Shop and bumped into Cheng Yuxiu..."

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 355

Wen Qing was upset to hear the mention of that woman's name as he believed that she had a hand in Wen Xian's death.

When Cheng Yuxiu and Zong Qifeng first got together last time, Wen Xian had just given birth to Zong Jinghao.

If not for the fact that the latter kept Cheng Yuxiu hidden, Wen Xian and Zong Qifeng would have had a few peaceful years together.

It wasn't until Wen Xian found out that he had imprisoned Cheng Yuxiu that she insisted he let her go. Not being able to refuse his kind-hearted sister, he finally freed Cheng Yuxiu.

Hence, after Wen Xian's death and when Cheng Yuxiu was about to marry Zong Qifeng, he set out his conditions which Cheng Yuxiu unexpectedly agreed to.

Until now, he felt that Wen Xian had been cursed by Cheng Yuxiu. Or else, his sister wouldn't have died right after Cheng Yuxiu was set free.

Just thinking about his sister made him feel sad.

He snorted, "Despite living in B City, it's still rare to bump into each other."

Li Jing helped him to the sofa. "She wasn't alone. She was minding two kids and..."

Li Jing was worried that she had read too much into it.

“Who else was there?” Wen Qing stared at her impatiently. *Why did she stop mid-sentence?*

“Lin Xinyan,” Li Jing replied.

“Who?”

“Jinghao’s wife.”

“She was together with Cheng Yuxiu?” Wen Qing asked as he squinted his eyes.

Li Jing firmly nodded. “Also, they seemed to be on good terms from the way they were talking.”

Wen Qing straightened his back and leaned on the sofa. “What did they talk about?”

Li Jing suddenly shot Wen Qing a grim look. “When Cheng Yuxiu agreed to your conditions for marrying Zong Qifeng, did you notice how eager she was to do so? Furthermore, she had to give up her inheritance and not bear any children just for a man.”

“What’s so strange about that? She and Zong Qifeng were already together for a while. Luckily, I found out about it early, or else Wen Xian’s marriage would have been destroyed long ago. Wen Xian was just too kind-hearted. I only freed Cheng Yuxiu because she had insisted I do so.”

Li Jing shook her head. “You know nothing about women.”

Perhaps Cheng Yuxiu could give up the right to bear a child over a man. However, to exchange her whole inheritance just didn’t make sense.

“What did you overhear?” Wen Qing asked.

“The only thing that can make a woman sacrifice everything isn’t love or money. It’s her maternal bond.”

*Once a woman becomes a mother, she is willing to give up a lot.*

*As the saying goes, motherhood makes one stronger.*

Wen Qing frowned. “What are you getting at?” He quickly understood what Li Jing was trying to say. “Do you mean that Jinghao is Cheng Yuxiu’s biological son? Li Jing, since when did you have such a ridiculous notion?”

Wen Qing grew upset. All this while, he felt Zong Jinghao was such an exceptional person because he was Wen Xian and Zong Qifeng’s son.

Hence, he was repulsed by his wife’s speculation.

“When I heard how Cheng Yuxiu talked about Jinghao today, it felt as if she was talking about her own son. She even called him Jinghao! Think about it; Wen Xian and Zong Qifeng didn’t get together out of love. Although Zong Qifeng didn’t love anyone at that time, Wen Xian did. Can it be...”

“No, it can’t.” Wen Qing obviously didn’t believe it.

*How is it even possible for Zong Jinghao to be Cheng Yuxiu’s son? That’s just ridiculous!*

“When you found out that the Cheng family’s silk fabrics appeared in the market, Jinghao said that he would take care of it. Until now, has he gives you an answer?” Li Jing asked.

“He’s busy.”

“How do you then explain his wife having a good relationship with Cheng Yuxiu? She is even close to his two children. Given how smart Jinghao is, I’m sure he knows.”

Li Jing finally managed to plant a seed of doubt in Wen Qing. Despite still finding it ridiculous, he began to have his doubts.

At that time, Wen Xian had had a boyfriend. She only agreed to marry Zong Qifeng for the sake of the two families’ interests.

Wen Qing’s hands clenched into fists. “What do you think we should do?”

Li Jing gave it some thought. “I obviously don’t hope it’s true. Given how exceptional Jinghao is, I too wish for him to be Wen Xian’s son. Why don’t you ask him to come over?”

Wen Qing looked at his wife. “Are you planning...”

“In this world, there’s only one way to confirm if he is Wen Xian’s son or not, and that’s a DNA test.” Li Jing interjected.

Wen Qing wanted to put the matter to rest too. Once Zong Jinghao was determined to be Wen Xian’s son, he would then be able to rest easy.

As his arm was injured, he couldn’t use the phone, so he got Li Jing to call instead. “Just tell him I want to see him about something.”

However, Li Jing didn’t take out her phone. Instead, she sat beside him with an even more solemn expression.

She held her husband’s hand. “The car accident you were in may have been sabotage...”

Wen Qing frowned. "You're thinking too much. Who else would want to harm me?"

He felt that he had not done anything wrong before other than confining Cheng Yuxiu and Bai Hongfei.

Furthermore, Cheng Yuxiu was at fault for being the third party and destroying someone else's marriage. Hence, she deserved to be punished.

Li Jing shook her head. "It wasn't an accident. Someone by the name of Bai Yinning caused it. In fact, both Cheng Yuxiu and Lin Xinyan know about it. Even Jinghao is aware of it too."

However, Li Jing felt comforted with what she was about to say, "It seems that Jinghao has avenged you. However, who is Bai Hongfei? Did you offend him in anyway?"

"Did you hear them talk about it too?" Wen Qing asked.

Li Jing nodded honestly.

*Bai Yinning?*

Suddenly, something clicked in Wen Qing's head. *Since the man's surname was Bai, is he related to Bai Hongfei? Perhaps he knows what happened in the past and has come to seek revenge.*

"I'll get someone to investigate. Also..." Wen Qing didn't speak his thoughts as it related to the Tea Silk. That was another matter he had to get to the bottom of.

"Call Jinghao for me," Wen Qing instructed sternly.

Li Jing held his hand. "Remember not to raise any suspicions. You yourself should know how smart Jinghao is."

“I know,” Wen Qing answered in earnest.

Li Jing then called Zong Jinghao.

At Wanyue Group.

After meeting with Cheng Yuxiu, Lin Xinyan arrived at the company to see Zong Jinghao.

She wanted his help in making the arrangements for Qin Ya.

Zong Jinghao made a call to one of his contacts, who found a good hospital easily.

All it took was one phone call.

“Two days.” Zong Jinghao stood in front of his desk as Lin Xinyan hugged him from behind and buried her face in his back.

“Don’t worry; I have made the arrangements. All you need to do is to send her there.”

Zong Jinghao held onto her fingers that were hugging his waist. “Alright, it’s my treat next time.”

After a bit more small talk, Zong Jinghao ended the call.

He turned to face Lin Xinyan. “Do you know what your son did?”

Lin Xinyan blinked in confusion as she hadn’t noticed anything strange when she was with him earlier.

Zong Jinghao grinned. “Didn’t you see the news?”

She hadn't had time to check the news as she had been busy with Qin Ya. Given what Zong Jinghao just said, she took out her phone to scroll through.

She soon saw a video that was being shared by everyone on the internet.

It had more than a billion comments and likes – it had obviously gone viral.

Even the video of Lu Yuan's wife being stripped was being overwhelmed.

Everything was being replaced by that one video.

Lin Xinyan widened her eyes in shock. "Isn't this..."



# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 356

Lin Xinyan widened her eyes. “Isn’t this the little girl’s parent from the kindergarten?”

She understood what was going on very quickly and turned to look at Zong Jinghao. “Did he film and upload the video?”

Zong Jinghao retorted, “Don’t you understand your own son?”

Lin Xinyan was stumped. *Well, he is capable of doing that.*

However, she looked at Zong Jinghao with a worried expression. “Will it lead to any trouble? After all, the girl’s parents are important people.”

Zong Jinghao replied optimistically, “There’s no need to be afraid if one’s conscience is clear.”

If the deputy mayor weren’t guilty, he wouldn’t be afraid of being investigated. If he had really broken the law and was found to be corrupt, it was then what he deserved.

Whichever way it went, Zong Jinghao felt that his son had done the right thing.

Just by watching how domineering the lady was in the video, he could guess what was going on.

Based on what he knew, the deputy mayor’s wife wasn’t this young and didn’t have a child this little too.

*It might be...*

Lin Xinyan sighed as she wondered who her son was taking after, causing her to worry so much.

She felt that it was better if her son was more innocent.

At just six years old, he was already scheming like an adult. Hence, she wasn't sure if it was a good sign.

Zong Jinghao pinched her nose. "Are you afraid now?"

Lin Xinyan glared at him as she didn't want her son to get into any trouble.

At that very moment, she suddenly realized who her son resembled.

*This man right in front of me!*

*Both father and son are an exact copy of each other.*

"Have you taught Bai Yinning a lesson?" Lin Xinyan asked even though she seemed to already be sure of the answer.

Zong Jinghao's gaze didn't change, but he still emitted a fearsome vibe. "Are you questioning me?"

Lin Xinyan stated slowly, "I'm only asking, not questioning. Despite what he did, it was Uncle who was first at fault..."

"Hence, you're pleading for mercy on his behalf now?" Zong Jinghao interrupted her.

Lin Xinyan kept quiet when she realized that whatever she said would be twisted against her.

“I have nothing to do with him. Why do you need to be so defensive every time you speak?” Lin Xinyan began to feel upset; she didn’t like being suspected of anything, let alone being questioned.

His insistence on chasing shadows made her feel uncomfortable.

Zong Jinghao leaned back slightly and pinched her chin. He then brushed it with his fingertips. “You know that I don’t like you to have anything to do with him. And yet, you keep bringing him up. Are you trying to test my patience?”

Lin Xinyan was dumbfounded as she pursed her lips tightly.

*This man...*

*Ring! Ring!*

At that moment, Zong Jinghao’s phone that was on the table rang.

Glancing to check its screen, he saw that it was from the Wen family.

At the same time, Lin Xinyan also saw it.

As their eyes met, Zong Jinghao released his grip on her and answered the call.

Li Jing’s voice could be heard over the phone. “Jinghao, are you free now? Your uncle wants to see you.”

Raising his gaze to look at Lin Xinyan, Zong Jinghao grunted in acknowledgment.

Given that Wen Qing was still injured from the accident, Zong Jinghao was obliged to visit him.

“Alright, in that case, I’ll prepare dinner for you.” Li Jing ended the call when she finished.

Putting down his phone, Zong Jinghao looked at Lin Xinyan. “Come with me.”

“To the Wen residence?” Lin Xinyan clarified.

Zong Jinghao nodded.

Despite her hesitation, Zong Jinghao didn’t give her time to answer. He picked up his suit and pulled her along.

Lin Xinyan struggled. “We’re in the office.”

Zong Jinghao didn’t seem to care. *So what if we are in the office? Can’t I hold my own wife’s hand?*

As expected, all the busy employees turned their attention to them when Zong Jinghao walked out of the office with Lin Xinyan in tow.

To their knowledge, Zong Jinghao was still not officially married.

There were only a few people who were aware that he was secretly married to Lin Xinyan. Before that, there was Bai Zhuwei and then He Ruilin of the He family. Everyone thought that things would work out between them, but it had gone nowhere instead.

Other than Bai Zhuwei, no one else ever saw Zong Jinghao hold another lady’s hand anymore.

To them, Zong Jinghao was still the most eligible bachelor they knew. Therefore, when he suddenly had a girlfriend, everyone was dying to know who she was.

They were curious to know if she had used her beauty or her talents to captivate him.

Not used to such attention, Lin Xinyan lowered her head. She resented Zong Jinghao for making her feel like she was an endangered animal being watched in a zoo. It made her feel extremely awkward.

Distracted by her thoughts, she didn't realize that Zong Jinghao had stopped in his tracks, and she crashed into his back. *It hurts!* She looked up while rubbing her forehead while Zong Jinghao turned around.

Blinking her eyes, her thick eyelashes fluttered at the same time. Before she could ask him why he had stopped, he pulled her into his embrace in front of all the company's staff on the senior management floor.

Lin Xinyan felt inexplicably nervous as she looked up at him. In her eyes, the ceiling lights and his body had merged. In a dignified and spontaneous manner, he declared, "She is my wife."

*Boom!*

Lin Xinyan was shocked to her core.

Audible sighs could be heard throughout the office. Suddenly, a brave voice sounded, "Mr. Zong, when did you get married?"

*Why didn't we hear about it?*

"That's right; we didn't even get the wedding favors."

"They hid it too well."

Everyone began complaining.

Hugging Lin Xinyan by the waist, Zong Jinghao pulled her in with a tug. "My wife is shy and isn't used to you talking about her. As for the banquet, I'll organize it soon enough."

At that moment, the elevator door opened, and Guan Jing emerged from it. When he saw Zong Jinghao hugging Lin Xinyan, he was stunned. Just as he wanted to greet them, Zong Jinghao walked past him and entered the elevator.

"Mr. Guan." Everyone surrounded him. "Did you know Mr. Zong is married?"

*Huh?*

When Guan Jing turned to check with Zong Jinghao about what to say, all he saw were the elevator doors.

The lift had already left the level.

"Mr. Guan, say something." Everyone tugged at him, given that he was the closest to Zong Jinghao. Therefore, they all assumed that he must know something.

Guan Jing was at a loss. *Can I tell them?*

"Mr. Guan, Mr. Zong just declared that girl as his wife. Is it really true?"

*Girl?*

Guan Jing blinked in surprise. Despite looking young, Lin Xinyan was twenty-five, and her children were already six.

"Mr. Guan, what are you spacing out for? Answer our question. Is Mr. Zong really married?"

Guan Jing nodded. "Yes, he is married. The lady you just saw was his wife."

Since Zong Jinghao had admitted it himself, Guan Jing no longer had to worry about keeping it a secret.

“Since when did this happen? How come we didn’t hear a thing about it?”

Guan Jing’s eyes narrowed. “Must the boss report to you that he got married?”

“Anyway, back to work, all of you!” Guan Jing ordered at once.

However, some were still persistent to know more. “Which rich family is Mr. Zong’s wife from? Why have we never heard of her before?”

Guan Jing raised his eyebrow. “What about it? Must she be from some rich family before she can marry into the Zong family?”

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One of them asked, “Do you mean that Mr. Zong’s wife is just an ordinary person?”

All of them couldn’t believe it, finding it inconceivable that the lady Zong Jinghao liked was from an ordinary family.

“Does she have any special talents?” He asked, “Does she do anything especially well?”

It was reasonable for them to doubt that Zong Jinghao would marry an ordinary woman.

The man was one of the nation’s youngest tycoons and extremely good-looking. Also, the rich preferred to marry someone of the same social status to expand their family’s influence.

Real-life was different from the movies. Cinderella-like stories of rags to riches seldom occurred unless one was exceptionally talented.

One would never be spotted or noticed otherwise.

It was indeed a very rare occasion for ordinary girls to marry into rich families.

Guan Jing stared at the employee from the corner of his eye. “You will have to ask Mr. Zong himself if she has any exceptional talents. I’m just an outsider. How would I know any of this?”

The man shot Guan Jing an awkward smile. “We don’t dare to.”



What started as an innocent question about whether Lin Xinyan was capable ended up with Guan Jing making the question sound personal and intimate.

Guan Jing replied indifferently, "In that case, go back to work."

In truth, he was most afraid of all these people as their never-ending questions might cause him to slip his tongue.

After all, the story behind Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan's relationship could be described as a long and arduous journey.

It was obvious that Guan Jing wasn't going to share the details. Hence, most questions were just a waste of time.

There was still a lot of speculation going on as the workers dispersed and got back to work. After all, given how eligible Zong Jinghao was, the man would never choose to be with someone incompetent.

However, Guan Jing stated that the woman wasn't from any of the prominent families. Therefore, she must have really impressed Zong Jinghao for him to declare her status as his wife in front of the whole office.

Even when he was with He Ruilin, he had never announced it in front of everyone like that.

All he did was admit that they were in a relationship.

There was a big difference between admitting and declaring.

For someone of his status and wealth, declaring his relationship with her in public only showed how much he loved her.

"I can't believe Mr. Zong is married. That girl must really be something."

“That’s right. She looks ordinary, but she still managed to seduce him. She must have some tricks up her sleeve,” someone else added.

“What do you mean she looks ordinary?” A male colleague sneered at his female colleague that just spoke. “Compared to Ms. Bai, she is a lot more gorgeous. On top of that, she has come by the company before. She never threw her weight around despite her status. Hence, she is more down-to-earth than Ms. Bai. Don’t be jealous just because she married the boss. What’s so difficult about admitting she is beautiful?”

The unconvinced female colleague was stumped by her male colleague’s tirade.

“I don’t know how that girl got to know the boss. I wonder how she mesmerized him. And here I was, thinking that I stood a chance.”

“Go away; even I don’t fancy you.”

The female colleague slapped her male colleague in jest. “You? You’re the one that’s not good enough for me.”

By then, Guan Jing was exasperated. “Why are you still talking about this? Do you want me to call the boss and ask him to explain himself to all of you?”

It was as Lin Xinyan expected. Once her status was made public, there would definitely be a lot of speculation.

After all, no one had a clue about anything before this.

By making such a sudden announcement, Zong Jinghao would definitely generate a lot of curiosity.

Furthermore, if they knew about the existence of Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi, the gossips would unfortunately escalate.

In the company's underground car park, Lin Xinyan glared at Zong Jinghao.

"How could you announce it like that without my permission? Don't you know that I wasn't ready?"

Placing one hand on the car, Zong Jinghao bent forward a little as he looked at Lin Xinyan. "Did I say anything wrong?"

"I didn't say that what you said was wrong. Just that you could have told me beforehand so that I would be mentally prepared. But now, I just feel awkward. Who knows what those people in the company are saying behind my back right now." Lin Xinyan placed her hand on her forehead, feeling helpless.

Zong Jinghao laughed wryly as he pinched her nose. "What are you afraid of? You have me. Besides, after sleeping with me for so long, shouldn't you at least acknowledge my status?"

Lin Xinyan suddenly blushed in response. *Why is he saying something so inappropriate in a place like this?*

Relenting, Zong Jinghao carried her into the car. "It's time we head on our way."

Lin Xinyan glared at him. *Since when did he become so brazen?* Only she got to see this side of him, and she hoped that all his employees could see it too.

"Don't worry; he won't die. At most, we are returning an eye for an eye," Zong Jinghao suddenly remarked.

Lin Xinyan didn't respond. It wasn't until after a long while had passed before she understood what he meant.

Lin Xinyan stared quietly at him. *This scheming man is just like Lin Xichen. Like father, like son.*

When she realized that Bai Yinning's life wasn't in danger, her mind was put at ease.

At that moment, their car arrived at the Wen family residence.

Once Zong Jinghao stopped the car, Lin Xinyan opened the car door. When he offered his hand to her, she looked up at him and placed her hand in his palms.

Holding onto her hand, he helped her out of the car and closed the car door.

"Let's go."

It wasn't their first time here. Upon knowing that Li Jing was an approachable person, they didn't feel so uptight either.

Zong Jinghao pressed the doorbell when he arrived.

The door quickly swung open, and Li Jing welcomed them with a smile. "Quick, come in."

Lin Xinyan took the initiative to greet Li Jing and followed Zong Jinghao in.

As Wen Qing's arm was still in a sling, he sat on the sofa reading papers with his other arm. These days, very few read newspapers as most people would read from their phones instead.

No one had the patience to read newspapers anymore – Wen Qing was the exception.

When he realized the guests had arrived, he put down his papers and looked at them.

Zong Jinghao asked, "Are you feeling better?"

Wen Qing waved nonchalantly. "It's not a problem. It's just a small injury."

Zong Jinghao sat down on the sofa. "Is there something you want to discuss?"

Other than during festive seasons, Wen Qing would only invite Zong Jinghao over if he had something to tell him.

That was why the latter had asked.

Wen Qing was stumped for a moment before he regained his composure. He pretended to be angry. "Can't I just be missing you? Now that your mother is gone, are you resenting me already?"

Zong Jinghao hurriedly denied that accusation with a smile.

"Alright, let's talk while we eat. Your aunt has prepared dinner." Wen Qing stood up and led them to the dining room.

Zong Jinghao followed him with Lin Xinyan in tow.

Meanwhile, Li Jing emerged from the kitchen with the dishes in hand.

Lin Xinyan stood up. "Let me help you."

Li Jing waved her off. "There's no need; I'll be done shortly. Just have a seat."

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Wen Qing also signaled to her that she didn't need to help. Li Jing could manage alone.

"Today, I just thought about your mother. So, have a drink with me." Wen Qing poured some wine for Zong Jinghao.

Li Jing interjected, "How can you be drinking when you haven't recovered?"

"I'm not in a good mood. Besides, a little wine won't kill me." Li Jing was stumped by Wen Qing's response.

Wen Qing raised his glass, clinking it with Zong Jinghao's. "Just one glass."

Once a while, Wen Qing would invite Zong Jinghao for a drink whenever he missed Wen Xian. Hence, the man wasn't suspicious of anything as he drank.

Today, Wen Qing was really in a bad mood when he thought about Wen Xian. He was afraid that Jinghao wouldn't turn out to be Wen Xian's son.

Although he wanted to find out the truth, he was also afraid that it would prove his worst fears to be true.

Feeling depressed, he remarked, "Jinghao, do you know that I have always regretted letting your mother marry into the Zong family?"

*If only I didn't prioritize the interest of the two families, perhaps Wen Xian wouldn't have died then.*

Every time he thought about how his sister had died at such a young age, he felt heartbroken.

“We knew she didn’t love Zong Qifeng, and yet we forced her to marry him for the sake of the family’s interest. In the end...”

Wen Qing gulped a mouthful of wine.

As for Zong Jinghao, his expression was calm. He didn’t show any emotion. After so many years, he was able to keep his composure whenever this topic was brought up.

“I really regretted it. Your father disappointed me too. I thought he was someone loyal, but in the end... he betrayed their marriage and caused me to lose my only sister.” Wen Qing banged the table with his fist in frustration.

Lin Xinyan looked at him. *Despite being at fault, his feelings for his sister are true.*

*He just wanted the best for her; what’s so wrong with that?*

*Everyone had their own interests and dilemmas in that situation.*

*If someone must be blamed, it will have to be fate for making the wrong choices.*

“That’s all in the past now. Jinghao doesn’t come often. Why do you have to talk about such depressing matters?” Li Jing took away the wine bottle.

“No matter how much time has passed, it doesn’t change the fact that my sister is dead!” Taking another sip, Wen Qing really felt sad – he wasn’t pretending at all.

“Jinghao, don’t mind your uncle. He is really in a bad mood today. I think you should stop drinking because I’m worried he may get drunk.” Just as she spoke, she took away Zong Jinghao’s wine glass.

Zong Jinghao naturally wouldn’t protest because he knew Wen Qing would easily get drunk given the foul mood he was in.

“Come, let’s tuck in.” Li Jing patted Wen Qing on his shoulder. “We should give the past a rest. Instead, we should focus on living our lives to the best of our abilities. If Wen Xian knew that you still can’t let go, she would be worried about you. Do you want her to feel anxious wherever she is now?”

Wen Qing wiped his face with his hands and looked at Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan. “I’m sorry, I have just embarrassed myself.”

A tough guy’s gentleness could easily move anyone.

Wen Qing was considered someone hardy. Hence, whenever he showed his true emotions, Lin Xinyan couldn’t help but feel melancholic.

She didn’t know what had gotten into her. She had never met Wen Xian and had only seen Wen Qing twice. But, for some reason, she felt especially disturbed.

She stood up to excuse herself. “I’m going to the washroom.”

Since this wasn’t her first time here, she was familiar with the house’s layout. Hence, she made her way to the washroom without any directions given to her.

After closing the door behind her in the washroom, she turned on the tap and splashed her face with water.

The water was freezing cold, causing her to shudder and suddenly feel fully alert.



After drying her face, she opened the door. Just as she was about to return to the dining room, she saw Li Jing at the doorway making a call. While the latter was speaking on the phone, she constantly glanced toward the dining room, as if she were worried about being seen or heard.

Li Jing spoke in a very soft voice. "Will a wine glass from which he drank from do?"

Lin Xinyan furrowed her eyebrows and quickly spotted the crucial element of the situation. Li Jing was holding the wine glass Zong Jinghao had just used.

*She was suddenly jolted. Do they know about Zong Jinghao's real identity and are trying to verify it? Is that why they invited us over for dinner?*

*Was the whole point to obtain Zong Jinghao's saliva so that they can send it for a test?*

Just the thought of it caused frostiness that had just dissipated to return.

*If Wen Qing knows who Zong Jinghao truly is, not only will he break ties with him, but he may also turn into an enemy.*

*Wen Qing will hate Cheng Yuxiu's son as much as he hates her.*

*When the time comes, both of them will definitely turn into adversaries.*

*As for Zong Jinghao, he sees Cheng Yuxiu in a negative light. To suddenly tell him that she is his biological mother, would he be able to accept it or even face it?*

Given the current state of affairs, maintaining the status quo seems to be the best option for everyone.

Steadying herself, she called out to Li Jing, "Aunt."

Li Jing frantically ended the call and shot Lin Xinyan an anxious look. "Weren't you just having dinner?"

Lin Xinyan pretended as if nothing had happened. "I just went to the washroom. Why aren't you having dinner?"

"I was just talking over the phone with my son," Li Jing lied.

As Lin Xinyan walked over, Li Jing hid her hands behind her back.

The latter smiled. "Come, let's go back to the table together before the food gets cold."

Li Jing wanted to refuse, but she couldn't think of a reasonable excuse. Hence, she had no choice but to follow Lin Xinyan into the dining room.

She sat down anxiously because Li Jing was still holding onto the wine glass.

Lin Xinyan served her some food on purpose. "Aunt, try this. They are delicious!"

Knowing that it would look awkward to refuse, Li Jing made an excuse, "I'm going to get a glass of water."

Meanwhile, she used the opportunity to put the wine glass on the kitchen top.

Lin Xinyan watched her discreetly. When she saw Li Jing put the wineglass down, she brought hers in and swapped it while Li Jing poured herself a glass of water.

When Li Jing turned around and saw Lin Xinyan, she was caught by surprise. "Why are you in here?"

"I want to have some water too." Lin Xinyan held up her glass.

When she saw Lin Xinyan's glass, she glanced at the kitchen top. She heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that the wine glass remained untouched. She then replied with a smile. "Let me pour some for you."

Lin Xinyan handed her glass over.

When they were done, both of them returned to the dining room.

Meanwhile, Wen Qing was still feeling emotional while talking about Wen Xian.

Lin Xinyan took her seat beside Zong Jinghao. When she looked at Wen Qing, she understood why he was feeling so upset.

*He must be afraid to find out that Zong Jinghao is not Wen Xian's son.*

From the last time they met, she could feel that his feelings for Zong Jinghao were true.

*He really does treasure their familial relationship.*

Lin Xinyan sighed in her heart.

She lamented the impermanence of this world and how it played tricks on men.

*Luckily, I found out early enough. Nothing will change still.*

As Wen Xian had passed away, the only way Wen Qing could verify the truth was to take DNA samples from the living.

Wen Qing had to compare the DNAs between Zong Jinghao and Cheng Yuxiu.

Now that she had switched the glasses, Wen Qing did not have Zong Jinghao's DNA to compare. Instead, he would be using Lin Xinyan's DNA which would not result in a positive match.

After dinner, Lin Xinyan discreetly switched her cutlery with those of Zong Jinghao's when Li Jing was busy clearing the table.

As the cutlery all looked the same, no one could tell that she had made the switch.

Li Jing held onto her hand. "I can manage from here. You should go to the living hall."

Lin Xinyan pretended to be calm. "Let me help you clean up."

"No, you don't have to." Li Jing ushered her to the hall and didn't allow her to touch anything in the dining room.

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Lin Xinyan sat next to Zong Jinghao while Wen Qing continued filling them in about Wen Xian in the past. “Wen Xian initially didn’t want to marry your dad. She only agreed to do so for the sake of the Wen family. Zong Qifeng was one fine man with capabilities back then. I thought they would bond with each other after they got married, but I was wrong.”

Wen Qing felt himself grow more and more frustrated as endless remorse filled him.

*If I have the power to turn back time, I would definitely stop her from marrying him.*

On the other hand, Lin Xinyan had her full attention on Li Jing despite her being in the living room.

She saw how the latter separated the utensils used by Zong Jinghao to one side.

*I’m glad I changed it beforehand.*

After a while, Li Jing came out as Wen Qing was still babbling about Wen Xian. She approached him and held him close. “Are you drunk?”

Wen Qing swatted her hand away. “No. I only had one drink. How can I be drunk?”

“Then why are you so talkative today?”

“Can’t I let out all my frustrations?” Wen Qing stared at her.

“You can leave if you’re busy. I don’t think he’ll stop talking,” Li Jing said to Zong Jinghao with a smile.

Unlike the latter, who had no idea what Li Jing was up to, Lin Xinyan did.

*She must be planning to make a sample of his used utensils. I just so happened to find a chance to change it. We won’t be this lucky next time, so I might as well let them get his DNA samples now.*

She held Zong Jinghao’s arm. “Let’s go. I have something to do.”

“We won’t keep you here then,” Li Jing stated.

Zong Jinghao got up and looked at Wen Qing, saying, “I’ll get going.”

Unfortunately, the latter was too drowned in sadness that he did not hear him. Li Jing had to answer on her husband’s behalf instead, “Okay. You can go ahead and leave. I’ll take care of him.”

Zong Jinghao glanced at her. He had noticed that she had been acting strange today. Normally, whenever they decided to take their leave, she would hold them back.

*Now she’s asking us to leave?*

Lin Xinyan tugged on his sleeves. “Xichen and Ruixi are waiting for us,” she uttered with a smile.

Zong Jinghao turned around, still deep in his thoughts.

“I won’t be seeing you off then,” Li Jing commented.

“Yeah, no need for that.” Lin Xinyan waved her hand. “We’ll get going.”

Once they were outside, her tight grip around Zong Jinghao's arm loosened.

"What is it that you need to do?" Zong Jinghao asked as he stared at her.

*She's also acting strange today.*

Lin Xinyan paused for a moment to think of an answer. "I promised Xichen and Ruixi I'll be home early today."

"That's it?" He frowned.

Lin Xinyan raised his head and leaned into his arms like a baby. "Yes. Why? Can't I do that?"

Zong Jinghao loved when she did this. He reached out a hand to hold her and buried his face in her neck. "Of course you can. You can do anything you want."

His breath came into contact with her skin, and she gently pushed him away. "Okay. Stop playing around."

Zong Jinghao pecked her lips and smiled lovingly. "I should head back too."

With that, he pulled her to his car without giving her a chance to voice out.

When they were in the car, Lin Xinyan fished out her phone to watch the video Lin Xichen had sent her. She found that China Central Television had responded – they had asked relative departments to investigate the incident.

Lin Xinyan turned serious as she looked at Zong Jinghao. "Look at him."

"Hmm?" He turned to her, and she handed him her phone.

Zong Jinghao had nothing to fear. On the contrary, he thought it would be best if they conducted the investigation.

His son was doing great, after all.

Lin Xinyan took her phone back and inhaled deeply, hoping that no one would find out that Lin Xichen was the one who had uploaded the video.

“Nobody will find out,” Zong Jinghao muttered as he knew what she was thinking about.

He had already erased all traces of Lin Xichen doing the deed as soon as he found out what the latter planned to do.

Lin Xinyan breathed a sigh of relief. At that moment, her phone suddenly rang. The call was from the nurse in charge of Qin Ya. She had left her phone number to the former in case anything happened.

“According to the attending doctor, the patient can be transferred to a general ward, but she’s refusing to do so.”

“Noted, I’m on my way.”

“Please drive me to the hospital,” Lin Xinyan requested after she ended the call.

Hearing that, Zong Jinghao made a turn at the crossroad.

Soon, he parked the car at the hospital’s parking lot. They entered the hospital, crossed the lobby, and rode the elevator to the ICU on the twenty-first floor together.

In the meantime, Su Zhan was persuading the nurse in the corridor, “Please allow me to talk to her. I won’t be long.”

“I have no choice. The patient doesn’t want to see you. She’s in a fragile condition now, so please don’t disturb her. You can talk to her however and



whenever you want when she recovers. Don't make things difficult for me now," the nurse sighed.

Lin Xinyan finally knew why Qin Ya had refused to be transferred to a general ward upon seeing this scene.

She quickened her steps. "Su Zhan."

The man turned to see the woman approaching him. He then let go of the nurse. "Xinyan."

"Don't you know what this place is?" she questioned sternly.

*I know we're in a hospital... I just want to see Qin Ya...*

"I can't control myself."

"You want to apologize to her and repent your mistake?" Lin Xinyan mocked. "She's disfigured and just had a miscarriage. Do you know how hard that is for a woman? If you still care about her, the best thing you can do is not to disturb her. Let her have her peace so she can recover soon. Can you do that?"

"Can I at least catch a glimpse of her?"

"I'm sure she doesn't want you to see her like this." Lin Xinyan took a deep breath. "I'll be honest with you. I've found a better hospital, and I'll be transferring her there. I'll let you know the address once she gets better. Only then can you discuss things with her. But for the time being, please don't disturb her anymore."

Su Zhan instantly panicked upon hearing that piece of news. *She's taking Qin Ya away?*

"Xinyan-"

“It’s what she wants,” Lin Xinyan interrupted him.

Su Zhan’s eyes helplessly shifted towards the other man. “Jinghao-”

“I can’t help you,” Zong Jinghao replied, cutting him off.

He also thought that Su Zhan and Qin Ya should take a break from one another. If they met now, things would only get worse.

Su Zhan’s heart ached profusely. “I just want to have one look at her. Can’t I do at least that?”

“No. Have you ever thought of how she would feel? She’s disfigured now. Do you really think she would want to face you in that condition? Don’t be selfish. Think of her once in a while.”

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Her words silenced Su Zhan as he hung his head. It was a pitiful sight, but Lin Xinyan did not give in. Only her tone had softened a bit. “You should focus on your work. Grandma needs you too. I’ll take care of Qin Ya. Like I said earlier, I’ll tell you where she is when she recovers. Can you promise me not to disturb her for now?”

Su Zhan’s voice was hoarse. “Did she ask for this?”

Lin Xinyan sighed. *Do I really have to answer this? I won’t be this firm if Qin Ya’s willing to meet him. Isn’t the nurse stopping him enough of an answer?*

“I understand,” Su Zhan stated before leaving with his head down.

“Give me a call later,” Zong Jinghao uttered to his wife.

“Okay,” she responded while nodding her head.

With that, the man caught up with Su Zhan, worried that the latter would take things too hard. “He didn’t hurt you, did he?” Lin Xinyan asked the nurse when the men left.

The nurse waved her hand. “No, no. I’ve seen a lot of visitors like him. I can handle it.”

“How is she?” Lin Xinyan asked.

“She’s getting better. She does not need to stay in the ICU anymore.”

“I’ll take her to get treatment abroad within two days. Can she stay here until then?” she questioned, fearing that Su Zhan would return.

“Of course, as long as you pay for it.”

The ICU would cost tens of thousands a day. That was why many people try to stay in that ward for only a short while. After all, most people could not afford to pay such a huge sum of money.

“Can I go in?”

“Yes,” the nurse replied and opened the door.

Lin Xinyan still needed to change out of her clothes even when Qin Ya was no longer in a critical condition.

The latter was lying in bed. She could not move around that much.

Lin Xinyan walked over and lowered her head to look at her friend. When the thought of Su Zhan making a fuss entered her mind, she could not make out the other woman’s emotions as her face was covered. Howbeit, the latter did not seem as calm as she appeared to be.

“Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?” Lin Xinyan asked softly.

“No. I just want to leave this place as fast as I can,” Qin Ya replied.

“I know. I’ve already arranged everything. We’ll leave in two days,” Lin Xinyan reassured. “Don’t worry. Su Zhan won’t come here anymore.”

Her reply soothed Qin Ya. “I really don’t want to see him.”

Lin Xinyan understood.

*I would feel the same if I were in her shoes.*

Unlike the general ward, the ICU did not have any chairs for visitors. The ward was too enclosed and brightly lit; Qin Ya would have no sense of time in there if she did not inquire about it.

“What time is it?”

Lin Xinyan checked the time before replying, “It’s almost midnight.”

“Then you better head home now,” Qin Ya responded a bit apologetically.

“You know, when I get customers in the store, it’s not like I can sleep when I return home. I have to stay up and draw,” Lin Xinyan reminded her friend, trying to make her feel at ease. “I’ll stay here a bit longer. I have to think of the design anyway.”

Qin Ya did not voice anything, but she was secretly grateful to have a friend like Lin Xinyan.

Henceforth, Lin Xinyan stayed until Qin Ya fell asleep.

When the former exited the hospital, she took out her phone to call Zong Jinghao.

In the meantime, the man parked his car at the side of Anchi Bridge. He leaned against the railing with both hands in his pockets as he faced the river while Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan sat on the staircase.

“You need to give her time to let her digest what had happened and accept that she doesn’t want to see you now. Give her some space. At the same time, you should use this opportunity to think of your relationship,” Shen Peichuan advised.

Su Zhan listened silently as he took a sip of beer once in a while.

There were countless unopened and opened cans of beers on the staircase.

Shen Peichuan had been talking all night long, and his voice had turned hoarse. Yet, Su Zhan remained quiet.

“What are you doing, Su Zhan?” the former shouted, snatching the can in his hand. “Are you regretting it now?”

“Yes! I regret it!” Su Zhan suddenly stood up in frustration. He accidentally kicked a can of beer as he stared at the appalled Shen Peichuan. “I had no idea that she was pregnant with my child. I was there. I witnessed how she was covered in blood, and I thought it was because she was injured. I saw, with my own eyes, that she was on the edge of giving up.”

“This.” Su Zhan placed his clenched fist on his chest. “Hurts like hell.”

It was clear to Shen Peichuan how Su Zhan was drowning in miserable pain. It was something he had never go through before. Because of that, he realized that his previous advice did not do much to ease the man.

“I know you’re hurting right now. Here. I’ll drink with you.” He picked up an unopened can and drank a mouthful of beer. After that, he draped his hand around Su Zhan’s neck. “Everything will be alright. Try your best to make it up to her when she recovers. Both of you are still young. You still have a chance.”

Though Su Zhan’s heart was aching, he knew that it was pointless to regret everything now. All he could do was try to win her back.

He lifted his red eyes and stared at Shen Peichuan. “Do I really stand a chance?”

“Yes. You do,” the latter affirmed.

That seemed to relieve Su Zhan. “Keep me company tonight. I don’t want to be alone.”

He was afraid he would lose control over his emotions if he were left alone.

Shen Peichuan agreed to stay with him. Just as he was about to ask Zong Jinghao to join them, the latter's phone rang.

Zong Jinghao fished out his phone and answered the call, immediately hearing Lin Xinyan's voice. "Is Su Zhan feeling better?"

His eyes traveled to the men that were on top of the staircase and hummed a disdain reply.

"Good to know. I'm at the hospital's entrance now. You don't need to come if you're busy. I can take a cab."

"I'm not busy."

*Peichuan's with Su Zhan anyway.*

He straightened up and walked towards the car. "I'll get going."

Su Zhan felt that it was unfair of him to leave. He had just lost his child and refused by the woman he loved. *Now that he has a wife, does he not care about friends anymore?*

"You're ditching your friends for your relationship!" he shouted.

Zong Jinghao's hand paused on the car door as he whipped his head around to look at him. "Do you want Qin Ya to get treatment?"

Su Zhan was instantly disheartened. Of course, he wanted Qin Ya to get treatment more than anything. Right now, the woman only had Lin Xinyan by her side. If the latter could not do everything as planned, only Zong Jinghao could do it.

“I didn’t mean that. Please don’t take what I said seriously.” He beamed a sad smile to Zong Jinghao.

“Of course.” *I’ll definitely find the best doctor for Qin Ya.*

“Thank you,” said Su Zhan chokingly.