

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 421

Li Zhan curled himself up on the couch embarrassedly and didn't utter a word.

As such, Li Jing couldn't help but get nervous. *Is he deliberately keeping me in suspense?*

"Can you spit it out?" Li Jing almost wanted to lash out at him.

Li Zhan dragged her gently to sit beside him. Then, he put his arms around her shoulder and said, "Mom, do you know why I never got a girlfriend?"

"Why?" She scolded him deep in her heart. *I wouldn't have to say you if I have known it all along.*

However, Li Zhan said embarrassedly, "Never mind."

"Hey, how can you behave like this?" Li Jing almost stood up because she was irritated. After calming herself down, she stared at him and continued, "Why are you hesitating? You are a man, but why are you behaving like a woman instead? Are you still my son?"

Once she finished, Li Zhan couldn't help but blink his eyes. *Why did she sound like Wen Qing?*

*Will a husband and a wife have similar behaviors after they live together for a long time?*

"Spit it out. Tell me who she is," Li Jing said impatiently, apparently irritated by Li Zhan.

Meanwhile, Li Zhan decided to stop keeping her in suspense because she was getting increasingly annoyed. He lowered his head, touched his nose, and began to say, "She's not a stranger because you know her too. Besides, she is close to our family and a little younger than me..."

After pondering over it for a while, Li Jing thought of Chen Shihan from the Chen family because she matched all the information he provided.

The next moment, she stared at him as she was stunned and nervously asked, "Are you referring to Chen Shihan?"

She couldn't help but feel anxious because Wen Qing always wanted Chen Shihan to marry Zong Jinghao.

Since Li Zhan could clearly see that she was stunned, he asked, "Why can't I like her?"

However, she turned around to avoid his gaze and replied, "It's not that you two are not a good match."

"In that case, what troubles you?" Li Zhan deliberately looked stone-faced as if he were hurt by her. After pausing for a while, he continued, "I mean, we grew up together as buddies, and our families are close to each other. Besides, she matches all of the criteria you preferred because she is from a prominent family like ours. What more, you know Shihan since she was a kid. So, isn't it wonderful if I can marry her?"

When Li Zhan was on the way home, he made up his mind to stop Wen Qing from separating Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan.

Although he couldn't sway Wen Qing, he was confident about persuading Li Jing. He could turn the tide once Li Jing had a fallout with Wen Qing to fight for his happiness.

Even though it was probably not the best way to solve the problem, it was the best he could do.

Meanwhile, Li Jing never thought that Li Zhan didn't get a girlfriend for a long time because he loved Chen Shihan.

"Why don't you tell me earlier?" Li Jing asked helplessly.

"Is it too late to say it now?" Li Zhan pretended that he wasn't aware of Li Jing's doubts and continued, "Do you think we are not a good match?"

Li Jing immediately explained, "It is not what you think?"

"In that case, what troubles you? I have investigated it and know that Chen Shihan doesn't have a boyfriend yet. So, I think now is the best chance for me to confess my love to her. So, mom, are you going to help me?" Li Zhan pretended to look disappointed as he asked.

As a matter of fact, she wished for her son to be with his loved one. However, Chen Qing and Wen Qing wanted to let Chen Shihan marry Zong Jinghao.

*Since he suddenly said that he loves Chen Shihan, what should I do now?*

"Ji, this is rather complicated. Shihan is engaged." At this moment, Li Jing felt that she got into a difficult position because she always prioritized her son's happiness.

Hence, she was racking her brain to think of a way to stop Wen Qing and Chen Qing so that her son could be with Chen Shihan instead.

On the other hand, Li Zhan frowned slightly as he thought to himself.

*Well, why is she engaged to Zong Jinghao in the first place? Isn't it because they deliberately broke up Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan in order to make this happen?*

He sneered quietly and disdained the despicable act.

Li Zhan looked increasingly upset in front of her. He lowered his head, covered his face, and said in a deep voice as if he was depressed, "I know she doesn't have a boyfriend because I have done some investigation. How is she engaged to someone else? Besides, I met her first..."

As an actor in many TV dramas, it was as easy as ABC for him to act and deceive Li Jing.

After a while, she comforted her son, "Let Mom will think of a solution."

The next moment, Li Zhan suddenly looked up at her and asked, "Who is she engaged to? Why didn't I know it?"

She lowered her eyes and replied, "I don't know. I only heard it from Mrs. Chen."

Given that Li Zhan was close to Zong Jinghao, she could foresee that he would be shocked to know the truth. Besides, she had the selfish idea of giving the best to her own son. She didn't want him to give up merely because Wen Qing wanted Chen Sihan to marry Zong Jinghao.

Considering that Li Zhan would really sacrifice his feelings for Zong Jinghao, she decided to keep it from him.

On the other hand, Li Zhan stared at her squarely. He wished to know her stand on Wen Qing's wish to marry Chen Sihan to Zong Jinghao. He hoped that she would be frank with him, but she didn't tell him the truth.

Hence, he was somewhat disappointed. Li Jing and Wen Qing always taught him that Jing Hao and he had to love and respect each other as brothers despite

coming from different families. Besides, the two families had always regard each other as one family.

*Unfortunately, those who planted the idea deep in my mind have changed. Are we still a family?*

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When Li Zhan lowered his head disappointedly, Li Jing thought that he was dejected for the sake of Chen Shihan.

To comfort him, she hugged him and said, "Even though this is complicated, I will do my best to fight for you."

Li Jing turned around to look at her but didn't utter a word.

*Since Wen Qing is stubborn and cares about his late sister, he wouldn't change his mind. Hence, the only possible solution is to try to persuade Chen Shihan and Mrs. Chen.*

After pondering over it for a while, she looked at him seriously and said, "If you can meet Chen Shihan, are you confident that she will accept you?"

*Am I confident? I'm not even fond of Chen Shihan in any way. How can I be confident? I mean, she will be my girlfriend long ago if I'm really fond of her. Why do I have to wait until today?*

However, he obviously couldn't be frank with Li Jing. He pretended to be unconfident and answered hesitantly, "I might have a 50-50 chance."

Once he finished, Li Jing made up her mind and said, "A 50-50 chance is sufficient enough. I will go to the Chen family house and invite her to our house now."

*In that case, he will have the opportunity to confess to her.*

She believed that once Li Zhan and Chen Shihan were together, Wen Qing couldn't force Zong Jinghao to marry Chen Shihan. After all, she was well aware

that Zong Jinghao didn't intend to marry Chen Shihan. Even if he agreed to marry her for the sake of Lin Xinyan, their marriage was destined to shatter sooner or later.

Initially, Li Jing didn't want to keep it from her son that Chen Shihan was engaged to Zong Jinghao. However, as a mother who selfishly loved her own son, she decided not to tell him about it. After a while, she changed her clothes and left the house.

Since the houses of two families were in the same neighborhood, Li Jing soon arrived at the Chen family house. However, her phone rang the moment she wanted to knock on the door.

Once she answered the phone, Chen Qing asked nervously, "Is this Li Jing?"

She could tell his voice and replied, "Yes, speaking."

"Please come to the Second Branch of the People's Hospital now. Wen Qing fainted just now and was admitted to the emergency room..."

At this moment, Li Jing was at a loss. *Why did Wen Qing faint? Did he say Wen Qing was admitted to the emergency room? When she was nervous and unsure about what to do, Chen Qing asked over the phone, "Li Jing, are you still there?"*

Li Jing recollected herself and replied, "Yes, I'll be there right away."

Since they were married for many years, Li Jing cared about Wen Qing. Apart from the fact that he was stubborn, not gentle, and not romantic, he was still a good husband and always treated her sincerely.

*Since he used to be a soldier, he is strong and will undergo medical check-ups twice a year. Besides, he has always been in good health. Why did he suddenly faint and was admitted to the hospital?*

Li Jing caught a cab to the hospital right away and forgot her promise to Li Zhan.

At this moment, all she could think of was Wen Qing.

Since a strong man like Wen Qing was suddenly admitted to the hospital, she couldn't help but worry that something unfortunate would happen to him.

Once the cab arrived at the hospital, Li Jing pushed the door open and hopped out. The driver yelled at her, "Hey, you haven't paid the fare."

Li Jing almost forgot about it because she was deep in thought. She turned around to handed a hundred to the driver and apologized, "I'm sorry. I almost forget about it because I'm in a rush."

Fortunately, the cab driver was easy-going and said smilingly, "I understand."

To the driver, something unfortunate might have happened whenever a person rushed to a hospital.

When the driver handed over the change to her from the window, she said, "Just keep the change." The next moment, she quickly rushed into the hospital.

The driver glanced at the money and smiled. Then, he put the money back into his wallet and left.

Wen Qing was still in the emergency room when she arrived. Besides, Chen Qing sat on the bench alone.

She asked Chen Qing even before she came up to him, "What happened? Why did he faint? I mean, he has always been healthy."

Knowing that Li Jing was anxious, Chen Qing stood up from the bench and comforted her, "Please stay calm."

"How can I stay calm?" Li Jing couldn't control her emotions since her husband was admitted to the emergency room.



“Please tell me why he fainted. After all, he has always been in good health.”

Since Li Jing would get to the truth sooner or later, Chen Qing didn't intend to keep it from her. Hence, he explained honestly, “Wen Qing and I met Zong Jinghao today to discuss his marriage with Han. Zong Jinghao agreed to it on one condition but he would sever his ties with the Wen family. That was why he was irritated and fainted.”

She was well aware that Wen Qing cared about Zong Jinghao very much. Hence, she understood that Wen Qing couldn't accept it when Zong Jinghao wanted to sever ties with him. Nevertheless, she was a little shocked when Chen Qing mentioned that Zong Jinghao agreed to marry Chen Shihan.

It wasn't until now that she finally recalled her promise to Li Zhan.

*What should I do now?*

She took out her phone and dialed the landline number because she didn't have Li Zhan's mobile phone number. As a matter of fact, Li Zhan didn't give his number to anyone in his family to prevent them from contacting him.

Even though the call went through, no one picked up the phone.

On the other hand, since Li Jing didn't come home after quite some time, he went to the Chen family's house right away. He was surprised to find out that she wasn't there as well.

“Your mom didn't come here today. How about giving her a call?” Mrs. Chen said honestly.

Li Zhan replied smilingly, “It's okay. It's not urgent. By the way, is Shihan here?”

Mrs. Chen said, “Yes, she's here.”

As she spoke, she moved aside for Li Zhan to enter the house. Actually, Mrs. Chen liked him because he was about the same age as Chen Shihan, and both of their families were on par with one another. Moreover, since Chen Shihan and Li Zhan grew up together, she knew him very well.

After a while, she gazed at him and asked, “Zhan, please be frank with me. Are you fond of Han?”

After all, he often came to her house recently to look for Chen Shihan. Even though he initially claimed to look for Li Jing, today was no exception. As such, Mrs. Chen believed that he used his mom as a pretext to approach Chen Shihan.

On the other hand, Li Zhan was stunned because he didn’t expect to hear the question from her.

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“I’m sorry for being straightforward.” Since Mrs. Chen felt that he would feel embarrassed, she asked, “Have I scared you?”

Li Zhan shook his head in response. The next moment, he stared at her seriously and asked, “Have I been too obvious?”

In the beginning, she wasn’t sure what he hinted at. After a while, she said as if she found out the truth, “You... Are you really fond of Han?”

Li Zhan scratched his head awkwardly and said, “It’s funny, isn’t it?”

However, Mrs. Chen immediately waved her hands and said, “Not at all. We are not that close-minded. Besides, since you and Han are adults, both of you should have dated someone by now.”

After all, Li Zhan hadn’t had a girlfriend, while Chen Shihan hadn’t dated anyone for a long time because she was choosy.

Even though Li Zhan confessed his love all of a sudden, Mrs. Chen didn’t think that it was too abrupt. Instead, she believed there was a good chance that Li Zhan and Chen Shihan could be together.

On the other hand, he was surprised that Mrs. Chen supported them to be together.

*Doesn’t she know Chen Qing always wishes for Chen Shihan to marry Zong Jinghao?*

As he was lost in thought, Mrs. Chen said smilingly, “Han is upstairs. You may look for her now. Anyway, you know which room is hers.”

Actually, Chen Qing didn't tell Mrs. Chen about his plan because he thought it wasn't necessary to let her know. But still, she was aware of it after overhearing the conversation between Chen Shihan and Chen Qing.

Nonetheless, she didn't wish to see her daughter marry Zong Jinghao.

Although Chen Qing claimed that he wanted Chen Shihan to marry Zong Jinghao for the sake of the Chen family, she could tell that he had an ulterior motive.

It was a secret buried deep in Chen Qing's heart.

After being married to each other for many years, she could sense it once something was weighing on his mind.

Meanwhile, Li Zhan was at a loss. He didn't expect that Mrs. Chen was open-minded enough to allow him to go to Chen Shihan's room directly.

"I..."

As such, he was uncertain whether Mrs. Chen was being sincere or merely testing him.

"Why do you seem confused? Well, I have known you since you were a child. Why shouldn't I trust you?" Mrs. Chen said smilingly as if she could read his mind.

As such, Li Zhan nodded his head and replied, "Okay. I'll look for Shihan right now."

Mrs. Chen waved her hands as a sign of approval. She was deep in thought when he went upstairs. *I will never allow Chen Qing to marry our daughter to Zong Jinghao like some goods.*

As a matter of fact, she had been pondering about the ways to stop Chen Qing for quite some time. Now that Li Zhan happened to be here, she believed that the golden opportunity had arisen.

When Li Zhan reached the first floor, he couldn't help but glance at Mrs. Chen. Since the two families were in a good relationship, their members always met each other. As far as he could remember, Mrs. Chen was a loving and caring wife. She treated Chen Qing with respect but didn't seem to love Chen Qing passionately.

Besides, Mrs. Chen would never say no to Chen Qing's demands. Therefore, Li Zhan believed that she wasn't aware of Chen Qing's plan for Chen Shihan to marry Zong Jinghao. Otherwise, she wouldn't allow him to approach Chen Shihan at this moment.

*Perhaps Chen Qing and Wen Qing don't want to publicize it because they haven't confirmed the marriage proposal yet.*

*So, Chen Qing might tell her only after they have finalized it.*

*Luckily, Mrs. Chen isn't aware of the plan yet. Otherwise, I might not have the chance to approach Chen Shihan now.*

Li Zhan knocked on the door as soon as he reached Chen Shihan's room. Meanwhile, she was still wearing her nightdress and hadn't gotten up yet because Chen Qing prohibited her from leaving the house. Usually, Mrs. Chen would give her some fruits at this hour. At this moment, she lay on the right side of the bed and crossed her legs. Besides, her nightdress only reached her thighs and covered her private part. Since she didn't expect to see any outsiders in the house, she didn't tie her long hair and shook her legs comfortably. When she heard someone knocked on the door, she said casually, "Come in."

*Creak...*

When the door was pushed open, she still didn't glance at the person. Instead, she focused on the screen of her phone and asked, "Mom, is there any pineapple left in the house?"

Since the weather was rather hot, she suddenly had the appetite to have some sour and sweet refreshments.

Meanwhile, Li Zhan stood at the door and stared at her shaking her legs. He didn't utter a word but merely leaned against the door jamb.

They knew each other very well because they grew up together. Hence, he didn't really look at her closely after they became adults.

Even though he could hardly see her face now, he knew that she wasn't the little girl who always followed him in the past.

On the other hand, since Chen Shihan didn't hear Mrs. Chen's voice, she frowned and asked, "Mom?"

Once she looked up, she noticed that the person wasn't her mom. Although Li Zhan was upside down when she glanced at him, she soon recollected herself and turned around nervously to cover her legs with the nightdress. Then, she said nervously, "You... why are you here?"

Nevertheless, Li Zhan still leaned against the jamb when he replied smilingly, "Don't you think it's too late to cover your body now? I have stared at you for some time now."

But before he finished, Chen Shihan threw a pillow at him and yelled, "Get out!"

He didn't dodge but caught the pillow instead. After that, he continued to look at her and said, "I have never realized that you're actually quite pretty."

Meanwhile, Chen Shihan couldn't help but feel joyous since he complimented her. After all, all women would enjoy listening to compliments from men.

She lifted her head and said, "Don't you think it's too late to realize it now?"

As Li Zhan held the pillow, he stared at her face closely. As if he pondered over it for a while, he answered gently, "Yup."

Meanwhile, she straightened her hair and the nightdress with her hands. She was wearing a pale pink silk sling nightdress with a long sleeve silk robe that covered it. However, since she didn't put on the belt, the nightdress hung on her shoulder loosely and revealed her neck and collarbone.

Li Zhan couldn't help but fixed his gaze upon her neck. As Chen Shihan straightened her robe and put on the belt, she asked, "Why are you staring at me? Are you fantasizing about me?"

After getting off the bed, she came up to him gleefully and said, "But you don't have a chance anymore because I am in love with someone else."

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After meeting her gaze, Li Zhan scanned her from head to foot. At this moment, she stepped on the carpet barefoot while revealing her lower legs. Since she felt uncomfortable because of him, she unknowingly retreated and said ferociously, "What are you staring at?"

However, Li Zhan wasn't angry at all and stopped staring at her. Instead, he began to ask teasingly, "You love someone, really? Who do you love? I'm well aware that you are choosy, so who are you fond of?"

He deliberately asked the questions to which he had the answers.

Pretending that she didn't hear it, Chen Shihan turned around and walked to the bedside to put on her slippers.

Besides, she didn't answer him because Chen Qing told her to keep it a secret for the time being.

The next moment, Li Zhan entered her room and closed the door. Although Chen Shihan glanced at him, she didn't think it was inappropriate that only the two of them were in the room. After all, they were always together and even shared the same drink when they were teenagers.

She sat on the dressing table and began to comb her hair. When she looked at herself in the mirror, she began to ask him, "Are you looking for me? Do you have something to tell me?"

"Can I look for you only when I have something to tell you?" Meanwhile, he sat on the side of the dressing table and crossed his hands over his chest.

After pausing for a while, he continued to ask, "Who are you fond of?"



She glanced at him and asked, "Why do you want to know?"

Suddenly, she looked at him with caution and said when she frowned, "Did you find out something?"

*Why does he keep asking the question if he isn't aware of anything?*

"What did I find out? Why are you asking me this question?" Li Zhan asked smilingly.

After a while, Chen Shihan scanned him from head to toe several times and said, "It's because you seldom ask a question repeatedly."

Much to her surprise, Li Zhan looked at her passionately and said, "You seem to understand me very well. Could it be that you are fond of me?"

As much as she was close to Li Zhan, he had never given her such a glance in the past. Hence, she was unknowingly stunned for a while. The next moment, she turned away and said in disdain, "Are you daydreaming? The sun is already up. Why do you think I am fond of you? Don't be kidding. You are not my cup of tea."

Li Zhan laughed and continued flirtatiously, "Since you have never tried it, how do you know that I'm not your cup of tea?"

Although Chen Shihan was a virgin, she couldn't help but blush after hearing that. After all, she could hardly be more thick-skinned than him.

"I'm tired and want to go to bed now. Please get out now." After asking him to leave, she lay on the bed and covered herself, including her head, with a duvet.

Unexpectedly, Li Zhan didn't leave but came up to her bedside instead. He had a habit whenever he went for a shooting, which was to build up his emotions before acting.

He would only ask the director to start filming once he was fully immersed in the character.

It was perhaps his passion and seriousness in acting that he made it to a renowned and recognized actor successfully.

When his preparation was almost complete, he slowly sat on the side of the bed. After that, he said in a deep voice as if to hide his emotions, "Do you know why I haven't had a girlfriend for a long time?"

In the meantime, Chen Shihan could hear his voice even though she hid under the duvet. However, she didn't utter a word.

She didn't throw back the duvet even though she felt hot beneath it.

On the other hand, Li Zhan was aware that she heard him even though she didn't respond.

Perhaps because the house was too quiet and no one was around them, he could put his mind at ease to build up emotions. After a while, he said, "I have never looked for a girlfriend because I have always been fond of a lady."

At this moment, Chen Shihan, who still hid under the duvet, held her breath. It was as if she wanted to know which lady he was referring to.

"She is a little younger than me, and we went to school together. We also witnessed our respective embarrassing moments..." Gradually, an air of melancholy was formed as he spoke. It was as if he tried to suppress his feelings that were buried deep in his heart. After pausing for a while, he continued, "I thought about confessing my love to her for all these years. Perhaps because we are close friends, I found it difficult to tell her."

Chen Shihan felt increasingly hot and almost couldn't breathe. Besides, her heart thumped as she listened to Li Zhan.

At the same time, Li Zhan glanced at the duvet that moved up and down and continued, "Well, she is actually rather beautiful..."

Once again, she held her breath to listen carefully to what he had to say. After all, she met all the criteria that he mentioned.

*Has he always been fond of me?*

"But she is a little bad-tempered and self-righteous. Perhaps because she comes from a prominent family, she is always arrogant and looks at almost everyone in disdain. These are her only..."

"Li Zhan!"

Suddenly, Chen Shihan threw back the duvet and sat up. She pointed at him and said furiously, "Who's the self-righteous lady whom you referred to!"

However, his lips quirked slightly when he stared at her and said, "I said the lady whom I'm fond of is self-righteous, but I didn't say you're the one. Why do you think that I was referring to you? Why are you so emotional?"

At this moment, she was left speechless and blushed with embarrassment.

After falling silent for several seconds, she yelled at him, "Wen Xiaoji, get out now..."

The next moment, Li Zhan unexpectedly stopped her from speaking by kissing her lips.

In fact, Chen Shihan was rather arrogant and thought that the men she met were unworthy of her. As such, she had never dated nor kissed anyone until today.

Hence, this was her first kiss.

She was initially stunned but soon realized what Li Zhan was doing. When she wanted to push him away, he suddenly grabbed her arm and put another arm into her slightly messy and sweaty hair. Then, he held the back of her head and began to kiss her passionately.

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As everything happened unexpectedly, Chen Shihan was stunned didn't move an inch. Hence, he wasn't sure if she was stone-faced or petrified.

Soon, Li Zhan stopped kissing her lips but came up to her ear. Then, he said gently while breathing out hot air near her skin, "I heard from my dad that you wish to marry Zong Jinghao. Is that true?"

*Bang!* His words were like bombs exploded near her ear.

After a while, she turned around stiffly to look at him and asked, "You... You found out about it?"

Meanwhile, he caressed her face and said, "What's so good about him? I mean, he is merely an old man in his thirties. As far as I know, he's bad-tempered and not gentle with women. How can you choose him after staying single for so long?"

"But he doesn't seem like what you described. At least, he treats Lin Xinyan very well..."

"Do you think you understand him better than I do? I know him very well because I have been with him for many years. He pretends to be a gentleman with the help of his gorgeous face. But deep down, he is actually a pervert and even obsessed with torturing women."

"Did you say he is obsessed with... torturing women?" She was totally shocked to hear it.

Li Zhan didn't let go of the opportunity to slander Zong Jinghao for the sake of helping him. As such, he opened his heart to tell her everything that was buried

in his heart. “Do you think it’s impossible? Well, won’t he be stressed for managing a large company? A person who is stressed and depressed for quite some time can easily be a pervert.”

As Chen Shihan listened, she blinked her eyes and felt that his explanation made sense.

“But...”

*Is it possible that a prominent figure like Zong Jinghao is actually a pervert? If that’s so, why would Lin Xinyan choose to be with him?*

Since Li Zhan could tell that she doubted it, he deliberately pinched her face and said, “How can you be so silly? Do you think he really treats Lin Xinyan well? If that’s so, why doesn’t he disclose their relationship but hide it instead? In fact, Lin Xinyan won’t be able to bear it if it wasn’t for her two kids. Hence, she can only stay by his side for the sake of the kids. Besides...”

When he paused, he stroked her cheek and pinched her chin so that she could look at him. Then, he asked flirtatiously, “Don’t you think I’m younger and more good-looking than him?”

Since they sat very close to each other, she could clearly see that his skin was even smoother than many women’s. After all, since he was a popular actor, he had to keep his complexion well at all times.

Besides, Chen Shihan admitted deep in her heart that he was rather good-looking.

However, she soon recollected herself and said, “Well, you told me this so that I won’t marry Zong Jinghao. Do you think I’m that stupid and won’t sniff out your ulterior motive?”

Li Zhan was rendered speechless.

*Why is she not mesmerized? I mean, I even sacrificed my kiss to her to achieve the goal.* During the movie shooting of his first kiss scene, he was reluctant to do it. Since he didn't have a girlfriend, he felt that it was a waste to give his first kiss to a female actress who was older than him.

The director of the movie was a renowned local director who had several highly acclaimed films. It was said that he was rather strange and dared to do anything for the sake of producing a quality movie. There was a time when a female lead wasn't good at doing the paso doble. The director immediately hired a dance instructor to teach her. Surprisingly, the director learned it too and could even dance better than the female lead.

In the end, the director won an award for the movie. During the award ceremony, the emcee mentioned the scene and asked, "It was the female lead who had to take part in the shooting and not you. But why did you learn it anyway?"

Surprisingly, the director answered blandly, "How can I direct her if I don't know how to do the dance?"

The crowd gave him a standing ovation for his answer. He proved that success wouldn't appear suddenly but was built upon hard work, sweat, and tears. To spice up the event, he even demonstrated his impromptu dance before the audience. Even though he was slightly plump and around 165 cm tall, he could still perform the paso doble that perfectly encompassed gentleness and intensity.

Once he mastered the demeanor of a paso doble dancer, he could demonstrate the charm of the dance in a funny but exciting manner.

During Li Zhan's first kiss scene, the director complained that he was overly fussy and said, "The feeling when two persons kiss is no different from the moment your lips touch a piece of meat." Once he finished, he demonstrated it by kissing the cameraman beside him. After that, he looked at Li Zhan and said, "What's the matter? Isn't it just about two pieces of meat touching each other? Close your eyes to kiss her swiftly, and the scene will be completed."

At that time, the cameraman was shocked.

Besides, Li Zhan was also stunned after witnessing the demonstration. He couldn't help but touch his lips and thought to himself. *So, these are actually two pieces of meat?*

Li Zhan was probably brainwashed because he felt that the director's description was rather accurate. The lips were merely two pieces of meat. Hence, when he kissed Chen Shihan earlier, he repeated what the director said by closing his eyes and kissing her swiftly.

In short, he regarded it as a kiss scene.

Nevertheless, he wasn't aware that after the kiss scene was shot, the director hid and washed his mouth with mineral water. He even scolded the cameraman, "Don't eat too much leek My goodness, the smell was really disgusting."

The cameraman was left speechless.

*Why do I have to suffer all this?*

He failed to seduce Chen Shihan because she was rather alert. Hence, he had no choice but to keep building up his emotions to act.

After all, numerous female fans would scream excitedly because they were impressed by his good look. As such, he didn't believe that he couldn't bring her into submission.

"Yes!" His eyes became bloodshot when he continued, "I don't want you to marry anyone. Instead, you only belong to me!"

At this moment, he felt that he acted as an overbearing president of a corporation.



After taking her into his arms, he looked into her eyes passionately and said, "Can't you feel me after I have said all this to you?"

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Chen Shihan was not to be befuddled by him this time, “Are you teasing me now? Are you saying that you like me? Do you mean to say that you do not want me to marry Zong Jinghao?”

Li Zhan refused to give up, so he looked dejectedly at Chen Shihan while he slowly withdrew to put some distance between them before he swallowed hard and said hoarsely, “If you think I am just messing around then be it. If there is anything that I have said which you should find unconvincing, you could just take it that you have not heard them.”

Upon finishing, he turned to leave but paused just as he got ahold of the door handle. Without turning back, he stated, “I was not lying when I said Zong Jinghao has some serious issues.

Even if you were to end up with someone else, I would still give you my blessings, but please know that I would not muster the courage to say what I did, had it not been that he was the one you wished to marry.”

Li Zhan immediately felt disgusted with himself and kept his back towards Chen Shihan in order to shield his contorted face. “I sincerely wish for you to find yourself a good man. However, if you insisted on marrying Zong Jinghao, by the gods, I would stop you even if it means having to crash your wedding as there is no way I will allow you to ruin your life through him.

When we were schooling, we heard of the idiom ‘*Even heroes have a weakness for the charms of a beautiful woman*’. I was disdainful of it until I realized the depth of the feelings I have for you. So do not tell me that I am disregarding our relations by divulging his secrets because I would gladly break a leg for your sake if you asked me to.”

Women were emotional beings and Chen Shihan was no different. Li Zhan's heartfelt confession had left her somewhat rattled.

"Take care of yourself." Li Zhan moved to pull the door open swiftly to not give Chen Shihan any time for consideration with the understanding that people tend to act irrationally when under duress.

His mind games paid off as Chen Shihan came after him and threw her arms around his waist, "You... did you really mean it?"

Li Zhan feigned anger and tried to brush her off, "Everything was false apart from the fact of his twisted psyche!"

Chen Shihan's arms then tightened around him, "I heard you admit that you like me so do not dream of walking back on that. You even went to great lengths to warn me about Zong Jinghao's mental condition so you must be true to me. You know, you are not bad looking but it is just that..."

Li Zhan waited for Chen Shihan to finish.

"Forget it. Regardless, thank you for sharing."

He turned around and clasped her by the shoulders, "But it is just what? Tell me!"

"You are just too green and not appealing to me." Chen Shihan spoke candidly.

The corner of Li Zhan's eyes twitched.

*In what way am I green and not appealing?*

"You... explain yourself! How on earth am I green?"

Chen Shihan strode up beside the bed, sat herself down and sighed, "Even if Zong Jinghao has some questionable quirks, I would still want to marry him."

Li Zhan was stumped. *Had all the effort I have put into that performance been for naught?*

He could no longer keep up the charade and blustered as he thought to himself what a piece of work this woman was, "Have you gone mad, Chen Shihan?"

*His look alone got many young lasses falling head over heels for him, but she felt that he is not appealing?*

Never before had he felt so defeated as he spat angrily, "Damn it all, this is going nowhere! At worst, I will crash your wedding if that is what it is going to take to stop this marriage and should I fail, I shall no longer call myself Li Zhan!"

Deep down, this was what Li Zhan thought. By hook or by crook, he was not going to allow Chen Shihan and Zong Jinghao to get married. Otherwise, what would become of Lin Xinyan, Lin Yichen and Lin Ruixi?

Li Zhan's strong words struck Chen Shihan as his resolve to prevent her from falling in with Zong Jinghao touched her profoundly.

To Chen Shihan, the determination of a man who would walk through fire and hell for her was simply irresistible.

Her eyes sparkled as she said, "Would you really do that?"

Li Zhan's expression had contorted, "I will rack havoc at the wedding and no one shall get in my way!"

"I have no idea how truly madly deeply in love you are with me. Zong Jinghao has no genuine affection for me and this I have had my reservations about, but my father wished for me to marry into the Zongs, so I..."

Li Zhan squirmed.

*Truly madly deeply in love with her?*

*Hmm——*

*Could this not be a little less cringe inducing?*

*Whatever. So long as Chen Shihan relents.*

He made his way over to her and asked, “Have you changed your mind about this whole thing?”

“But I do not have any choice in this,” Chen Shihan responded with a helpless struggle.

Li Zhan’s brain kicked into overdrive and considered what he thought to be a solid plan – that they could approach both their parents and proclaim their desire to be together. But on second thought, Wen Qing and Chen Qing would likely object and then force through Chen Shihan’s marriage to Zong Jinghao anyway.

*What else is there to do then?*

*Should he elope with Chen Shihan?*

*Hmm, that might do the trick.*

He was about to speak but Chen Shihan got in before him, “My father expects much of me and I cannot let him down, so the only solution is to...”

Her face then started to turn red with bashfulness.

For some unfathomable reason, Li Zhan thought about backing off as he felt foreboding about what was coming next.

“And the only solution is?”

Chen Shihan leaned onto his chest and spoke in a small voice, "Should you and I were to do what we must to conceive a child, the die will be cast and our families would have no choice but to approve of our union, or even perhaps be very willing to let us be together."

She fantasied in alacrity about how jealous Li Zhan's entourage of admirers would be if they found out that he was soon to become exclusively hers.

Inside his mind, Li Zhan cursed a million times at this suggestion.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 427

*Was she merely messing with him?*

Chen Shihan stroked his chest and fiddled with the button on his collar. "Since you like me so much, don't you want to dominate me?"

Li Zhan was speechless.

*Can I go now?*

Shihan grinned naughtily, as her fingers raised his chin and she teased, "Don't tell me that for my own sake, you won't have sex with me before marriage. Don't give me such a weak excuse."

Li Zhan stammered, "But... But if we were to do it now, your reputation will be ruined. We should wait it out for your own good."

Shihan pushed him away and sneered, "Li Zhan, do you take me for a fool? That I'm the type to fall in and out of love easily?"

Truthfully, when she heard Li Zhan's bold confession, her heart was set aflutter. Pondering upon it later, she realized that the confession came just as she was about to marry Jinghao. *Is this a mere coincidence? Or mayhap this is a sinister scheme to stop me from marrying Jinghao?*

If it were not for this crucial moment, she would have considered accepting Li Zhan. After all, he was handsome compared to most men and a celebrity to boot. If she really became his girlfriend, she could imagine the throng of his fangirls lamenting and gnashing their teeth. Their envy towards her would certainly fill her with a smug, satisfying sense of superiority.

Her bold seduction just now was deliberately enacted to test his sincerity. As expected, there was something odd about him.

Something was definitely fishy regarding his love confession. She could sense an insincere intent behind it.

“Li Zhan dear, if you really loved me from the beginning, you won’t have waited until this last-minute juncture to confess. Is it because you lack the courage? Nah, you’re not that type. I’ve seen through you. Your game is over... Or will you still like to continue this pointless charade?” having said that snidely, she pointed to the door.

Li Zhan’s expression twitched. This cunning woman knew he was putting up an act all along?

*Wasn’t she testing me just now?*

Squinting his eyes, he gave in. “Chen Shihan, since when have you become such an annoying woman? Why do you keep clinging onto a married man?”

On the other side, she plonked down at the end of the bed and taunted, “Ah. Dropping your act, I see. Didn’t you say Jinghao is mentally ill? Or a sick bastard? A women abuser with a tendency for unnatural fetishes? Come, continue to tell me more! What else you’ve got?”

Losing his cool, Li Zhan rushed towards her, aiming for her neck and wanting to choke her. Surprisingly, Shihan raised her neck as if to welcome his clenching claws. He was nearly driven mad with anger by this cunning woman. However, met with her familiar look, he could not bear to continue.

Even though his heart was still furious, he clasped his outstretched hands midair and stopped.



Shihan calmly looked at him. That split second when he dashed over just now, she felt a shot of adrenaline engulfing her. However, remembering how he had protected her from being bullied back when they were young, her fear dissipated.

That was why she dared to raise her neck to him without fear.

“Wen Xiaoji, your status, and talent as a celebrity are not in vain. Your acting is top-notch; I nearly take it seriously several times. However, don’t bother interfering with my affairs with Jinghao. I will definitely marry him.”

Looking at her face intently, he asked, “What do you like about him?”

Shihan was caught off-guard by the question as her thoughts drifted for a few seconds. *He’s right. What do I like about Jinghao?*

She realized she did not know. Perhaps by being his woman, she would be happy. After all, she felt that Li Zhan did not possess that mature, manly charm like Jinghao.

“Perhaps I’m attracted to his status or his social standing. Mayhap even his stature and good looks. Maybe I’m captivated by his cold indifference towards others, yet gentle to his wife. I really don’t know. I find it hard to describe this gyrating affection towards him. I know I’m guilty of wrecking someone else’s marriage. But if you want to blame someone, blame it all on your dad. He’s the one behind all these ploys. Don’t blame me.”

Li Zhan stared at her silently, almost in disbelief. After a long pause, he finally uttered, “I prefer you when you were a child.”

Having said that, he turned around and left the room in disappointment. Shihan sat down motionlessly and muttered forlornly, “Everybody changes. How can anyone stay the same since childhood?”

*There is a popular saying nowadays that goes, fight for your desire.*

*Is it wrong for me to fight for my desire?*

After leaving the Chen family, Li Zhan did not head home but instead went straight to Zong Jinghao's office. Coincidentally, Fatty Long was waiting for him on top of the staircase to the entrance.

Before this, he had been trying to reach Li Zhan but failed. Fatty Long had also tried searching for him at his place but he was not there. Therefore he made up his mind to try his luck here since he knew of the relationship between Li Zhan and Jinghao. With a stroke of luck, his attempt had been fruitful.

His butt was hurting from sitting for too long. When he finally saw Li Zhan, he was beyond glad. In fact, so overjoyed was he that he immediately rushed over and blabbered, "Where in world did you go? I couldn't even reach your phone! I was worried sick!"

"What's up?"

"Yesterday I received a call from Perfect Cosmetics and they sought your endorsement. As for the fee..." Fatty Long raised his palm excitedly and waved his five fingers. "Guess how much?"

Li Zhan eyed him coldly and rejected, "I won't accept any gig for now. Don't come looking for me either. I am very busy for now."

As he finished explaining, he brushed past his manager and headed towards Jinghao's office. Fatty Long was dumbfounded. *Why would he reject such a good deal?* Catching up to Li Zhan, he quickly added, "I haven't even proposed the price yet and they've already offered fifteen million! I believe there's still some room to negotiate for a little more..."

Before he could finish, Li Zhan cut him off. "I said I won't accept any gig for now. Didn't you hear me?"

Stunned, he stopped in his tracks and stood there, staring at Li Zhan's back. "Do you think that opportunities like this come knocking at your doorsteps every day? A mere advertisement for fifteen million! That is already a sky-high offer! Why are they willing to pay so much? It's because of your current fame and your huge fan following! Remember, you are currently in the entertainment industry. How many celebrities can stay on top of their fame continuously? Why not cash in on your current popularity and earn as much money while you still can? Why do you become a celebrity in the first place?"

Everyone knew that the entertainment industry was not a bed of roses. It was a dog-eat-dog world, and everyone was always racking their brains to be the best. *Isn't it all for money?*

*If he is not interested in wealth, then why on earth has he become a star in the first place?*

As Li Zhan reached the elevator, he looked back at Fatty Long, almost in despair. "I become a celebrity because my dad doesn't like it. It is my way to rebel and spite him, and it has nothing to do with money. If you feel wronged, you may choose to go."

"I'm not going anywhere. I'll be here waiting for you," Fatty Long firmly replied. He had been with Li Zhan for many years and had been treated well. If he had just left him like that, it would be a disgrace to their years of friendship.

Li Zhan gestured at him, indicating his appreciation for Fatty's stalwart friendship, before the elevator door closed.

Fatty Long could not help but turn back and leave in disappointment.

Fifteen million was thrown down the drain just like that.

Looking back, he gazed at the huge reception hall of the company. He envied the glossy marble flooring. It was so polished that it could cast reflections of anyone who walked on it. On the feature wall painted in gold behind the reception desk

were four characters spelling out the Wanyue Group, exuding such dignified majesty, befitting such a glorious conglomerate.

He sighed. “When one is both filthy rich and willful... Oh my, fifteen million is gone!”

As he walked out, the thought of losing the fifteen million deal still weighed heavily on his mind. Such a headache, and a heartache too to boot!

That was a very handsome amount of advertisement fee just for a few minutes of advertising.

“Screw this shit. How dare he treat money like toilet paper...” Mumbling and cussing, Fatty Long left the vicinity.

Meanwhile, Li Zhan rushed upstairs because he was anxious. So jittery he was that he pushed open the door to Jinghao’s office without even knocking. Su Zhan, who was in the middle of a conversation, turned his head and saw him standing at the doorway.

Shen Peichuan was there too, sitting next to Su Zhan.

Li Zhan quickly walked in and closed the door. “I see you are all here.”

No one spoke a word as they watched him took a seat.

Su Zhan continued where he left off, “We can no longer find any information about that Weibo video anymore. So I’m guessing the problem has been resolved.”

The media company instigating and investigating the whole fiasco had posted a public apology, claiming that the video was doctored and therefore was a fake.

The hype around the fiasco had also died down.

Zong Jinghao was seated on his armchair with the windows on his back. He was leaning back lazily the whole time and was keeping his silence. He did not even bat an eyelid even when Li Zhan barged in just like that.

After he had finished with his report, Su Zhan fell silent.

A suffocating silence permeated the entire office.

Breaking the silence, Peichuan spoke up, "The doctor said the situation is under control. The condition was caused by repressed anger. Both Chen Qing and Li Jing are now at the hospital."

Hearing that, Jinghao's heart softened. He asked Peichuan to visit Wen Qing to get an update on his condition.

Li Zhan heard Peichuan just now and felt that he was referring to Wen Qing.

Nudging at Peichuan, Li Zhan asked, "Who are you talking about?"

"Don't you know that your father is in the hospital?" Never mind that Li Zhan was not abroad, did Li Jing not tell him the news?

To keep himself out of reach from his family, Li Zhan had kept his phone number a secret from his own family.

"Let me go check," replied him curtly. Despite the quarrels and misunderstandings, blood, in the end, was still thicker than water. Hearing his dad was in the hospital, Li Zhan yearned to visit him. He took two steps before suddenly stopping. Lowering his head, he said, "This matter is all my dad's fault. The older he gets, the more irascible he is."

"So this matter is all because of your dad..."

"Su Zhan."

Before Su Zhan could finish blurting out his thoughts about Wen Qing, he was interrupted by a deep, bass-like voice.

He immediately shut his mouth.

Jinghao raised his eyebrows and peered at Su Zhan, before turning to Li Zhan and telling him succinctly, “Just go.”

This matter had nothing to do with Li Zhan after all.

Feeling grateful, Li Zhan took a deep breath and walked out of the office.

Seeing the doors closed, Peichuan prodded Su Zhan with his elbow. “Wen Qing is Wen Qing, and Li Zhan is his own man too. You can’t lump both of them together, even though they are family. What do you expect him to do? Tell Wen Qing off? Or throw a few punches at him? Will all that resolve the issue?”

“Can’t I be angry? Why would he stubbornly hold on to past grudges? The enmity of the previous generation should not be imposed on the current generation. I think Li Zhan is right. Wen Qing is indeed a deluded, irascible old man,” vented Su Zhan in frustration.

“Let’s just leave it.” Jinghao stood up, no longer felt like hearing anything about the matter anymore.

He picked up his suit that was on the sofa and walked out of the office.

Su Zhan and Peichuan sat still.

“Is this the only way?” asked Su Zhan.

Eyeing him, Peichuan replied, “He Ruize is dead. And this is a fact. This case is treated as a homicide, still pending investigation. Unless Wen Qing is willing to talk, Lin Xinyan will always be the prime suspect. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that

Wen Qing will talk. Besides, there is nothing wrong with the proposed method. After all, it will just be a bogus marriage. As long as Chen Shihan shows up, I'll be sure to arrest her. Until then..."

If that happened, they would no longer be on the passive side.

Pondering upon that, Su Zhan concluded that would be the best move, for there was no other better way, at least for now.

Jinghao, who had left the company, was driving to the hospital. As he passed by a bookstore, he stopped the car. *Lin Xinyan must be feeling bored being grounded in the hospital ward every day. After all, she is a fashion designer. I may as well buy her a book or two to help her pass the time.*

The bookstore had two floors. In the middle stood a five-meter-wide bookshelf running through the ground floor all the way to the second floor. Expectantly, the musty, musky bibliosmia permeated throughout the whole shop.

Each genre had its own section. As he was searching for books related to fashion, he passed by the childcare section and saw a book entitled "The Nine Months of Pregnancy". Curiously, he took it out and flipped through it.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 428

The first chapter in the book discussed reproduction. The egg and the sperm. How the egg was fertilized.

He raised his eyebrow questioningly. *Doesn't a normal adult know about this kind of thing?*

The second chapter talked about how the fertilized egg entered the uterus.

The third chapter discussed the factor determining the gender of a fetus.

The fourth chapter dealt with the changes in a woman's body during the course of her pregnancy.

The interesting title of the book was the thing that caught his attention because Xinyan was currently pregnant too.

Then, he finally reached the part which he was interested in. However, a few women who were bringing a few children were heading in his direction. Closing the book, he went to the checkout counter to pay before getting into his car.

When he arrived at the hospital, with the book in hand, he walked over to the elevator to go to the ward where Xinyan was.

It was strangely silent.

The bodyguards on the floor saw the person coming out from the elevator and straightened up. "Mr. Zong," they greeted professionally.

Jinghao nodded.



Arriving at the doorway, he gently opened the door, trying not to wake up Xinyan in case she was asleep. As the door opened, he saw a woman sitting by the window.

She was wearing a loose-fitting white satin nightgown – the type with no waistline. Sitting on a chair, a part of her fair legs was revealed. Long and shapely, it was a beautiful sight to behold.

Her gown was long-sleeved and they were sewn with lace. Her wrists were exposed, and she held a pair of scissors in her hand. She was trimming the branches and leaves of a bouquet. There was an exquisite glass vase on the table containing some stalks of flowers.

He remembered that he had thrown away the flowers Bai Yinning sent to Xinyan into the trash can earlier. On his way to his office, he recalled Xinyan saying that she loved flowers. He immediately backtracked and searched for a florist shop instead. Due to him being a man, he had never paid any attention to flowers and did not even know what meaning roses represented.

He was truly ignorant of the language of flowers until the florist owner taught him that roses represented love.

Recalling that Yinning had gifted five roses, he quickly asked, “What do five roses mean?”

The florist told him, “Roses represent love, and five roses mean ‘no regrets’.”

He almost snorted in derision when he heard that. *What does Yinning really mean?*

*To unconditionally love Xinyan with no regrets?*

*Hrmph.*

Jinghao ended up buying a bouquet of lilies because the florist had told him, “Lilies represent a long and happy life together.”

*Well, he would be the one to live a long and happy life with Xinyan.*

*As for Bai Yinning, let him sulk on that and spectate their happiness as an outsider with “no regrets”!*

As he had to go to the office, he requested for the florist to deliver his flowers. Xinyan was sleeping, hence Aunt Yu was the one putting them on the table. When Xinyan woke up, she instructed Aunt Yu to procure a vase for them. Xinyan was, of course, delighted, for she had not expected Jinghao to buy her flowers.

Later, Jinghao came in and stood in front of her. “Do you like them?”

She raised her head, her long dangling hair revealing her pretty face, which showed a surprised look then. After all, Jinghao had been so furious when he threw away Bai Yinning’s flowers. She felt that he was not the kind of man who would buy flowers for any woman. With that, her heart felt warm and she was engulfed by a blanket of joy while she smiled softly. “I love them.”

“Such a cliché.” Zong Jinghao snorted.

*If it’s really such a cliché, why do you gift them in the first place?*

Such was her thought when she uttered the words, “It may be cheesy, but I still love them.”

She stroked the petals gently, feeling the delicate texture as she enjoyed the faint, floral scent.

The rounded neckline of her nightgown was adorned with lace – folded in several layers. As the gown hung loosely on her shoulders, the neckline exposed her fair neck and seductive collarbone.

Jinghao could not resist but felt as if he were possessed by her beauty. He walked over and planted a kiss on her inviting collarbone. His lips felt slightly cold, but tenderly loving. The moment his lips touched her skin, Xinyan felt like an electric current passed through her body, albeit a pleasant one. Immediately she pushed him away gently, and whispered, "Aunt Yu is still here. She's currently cleaning the bathroom. If she walks in on us, it'll be awkward."

Jinghao refused to relent and tried to bite her with his teeth. He fiddled with the skin of her collarbone gently. Although it was painless and perhaps even pleasurable, she still frowned and hissed disapprovingly.

With a wink in his eyes, Jinghao joked, "I'll let you bite me tonight."

Xinyan pushed him away. "Stop playing around and let me finish this."

As Aunt Yu was still in the bathroom, he decided not to continue, but sat down on the sofa instead and flipped through the book he had just bought.

Glancing at him with the corner of her eyes, she noticed that he had actually bought a book to read, and ended up not saying anything.

As for Jinghao, he had originally wanted to buy a book for Xinyan, but he was too interested in the copy he bought that he had completely forgotten to buy one for her.

Meanwhile, Aunt Yu had finished cleaning and emerged from the bathroom. Taking out the towels that needed to be laundered, she left the room and gently closed the door behind her.

She had overheard the conversations between Jinghao and Xinyan, and deliberately sped up her work so she could leave them alone.

The room became quiet, as Jinghao found the content of his book to be engaging and was soon too engrossed with reading.

In the meantime, Xinyan was busy arranging the beautiful flowers into the vase. She seemed satisfied with her masterpiece. Seeking his approval, she asked, “Does it look good?”

“Huh?” Jinghao looked up from his book and saw her flower arrangement. Putting the book on the sofa temporarily, he walked over. “Do you feel tired?”

Xinyan shook her head. “I’m fine. Just going to wash my hands.”

Picking her up in his strong arms, he carried her to the washroom. After she washed her hands, Jinghao carried her onto the bed. “Did you vomit today?”

Shaking her head, she requested, “Bring that book over. Let me have a look.”

“You sure?” asked Jinghao with a curious glance.

“Why? Is there something in it that I’m not supposed to read? Isn’t it just a book about pregnancy?” *What’s there to hide anyway.*

Showing a slight doubt in his eyes, he brought the book over and lay on the bed alongside his wife. Embracing her in his arms, he suggested, “Let’s read it together.”

As Xinyan rested her head on his shoulder, treating it like a pillow, Jinghao opened the pages of the book.

However...

...

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

Below every chapters there were sub-sections. The chapter which Jinghao had turned to outlined the changes to a woman’s body during the course of her

pregnancy. The first sub-section brought up the question of whether a pregnant wife should have sex.

In fact, he did not know that there would be illustrations in the book.

It was advised that for the first three months of the pregnancy, a woman should not have sex. Even if she could, the act should not be intense. After the fetus stabilized three months later, the copulating couple should be careful not to press or exert any pressure onto a pregnant woman's abdomen during sex. To minimize endangering the baby in the tummy, the book suggested a number of safe postures to adopt...

It was followed by many examples with illustrations.

Numerous examples of various sexual positions. Illustrated vividly.

...

"After the fetus has stabilized in you, shall we try these?" Jinghao asked cheekily with genuine interest.

Xinyan's neck was clearly trembling. *He was so engrossed reading all these just now?* She blushed.

Seeing her reddened face, Jinghao pressed on, "If you don't say anything, I'll take it as a yes."

As she nestled in his arms, she did not speak. Without knowing why, her mind wandered...

In the past, she had never thought that she needed sex. Even when Jinghao didn't touch her nor initiate it, the thought would not have crossed her mind. Inexplicably, her mind was full of the notion of sexual intimacy right now.

She tried her best to calm down her wild thought and hypnotize herself to sleep.

Looking at the little frame of his beloved woman cuddling up like a cat in his arms, Jinghao could not help but smile gently.

As he turned to the next page, he reached the chapter which talked about the changes to a woman's body in the first few months of her pregnancy.

As a pregnancy progressed, a woman's body will experience tons of transformations. Her body would feel sore and lethargic. Leg cramps might be normal occurrences during the nights. Both the areolas would gradually darken as the pregnancy advanced...

When he dipped his head, he found that Xinyan's breathing was unsteady. She did not seem to be asleep either. Putting down the book and hugging her, he asked with concern, "What's the matter?"

She calmly replied, "It's nothing. Just haven't fallen asleep."

As he swallowed the lump in his throat, truth be told, he was even more distressed than her. However, remembering the doctor's words, he chose to keep his real emotion from showing and to keep his stoic expression in check.

He turned his gaze onto her collar..

Noticing that, she quickly cupped her hand over her neck and asked, "What are you planning to do?"

He laughed. "Let me take a look."

She was tongue-tied.

His voice sounded a little hoarse, but it was masked by laughter. "The book mentions about body changes. Let me see if yours have changed..."

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 429

Lin Xinyan swallowed hard as she tried to suppress her lustful thoughts. Her face flushed slightly as she fidgeted uneasily under his seductive fingers.

Zong Jinghao unbuttoned her collar and asked in a hoarse voice, "Will you change?"

Lin Xinyan turned around to look at him and stretched out her hands to caress his face before replying weakly, "I will become very ugly."

Her face had turned ashen during the last few months when she was pregnant with Lin Ruixi and Lin Xichen.

"I won't mind no matter how ugly you look."

Zong Jinghao grabbed hold of her hands on his face and held them against the pillow before he planted his lips onto hers.

*No! We can't continue. Otherwise, both of us will feel even more terrible later!*

She tried to stop him in a hoarse voice, "The doctor says that we aren't allowed to..."

Not only was he undeterred by her words, but he continued to pull her in, claiming her lips again, hungry and intense, while murmuring, "You have no idea how much I want you."

Her desire to have him was getting stronger by the minute. Finally, she turned her head away determinedly before she warned, "You stay away from me."

*We may end up committing a mistake if we carry on hugging and touching each other...*

On the other hand, Zong Jinghao was trying his best to suppress his urge too. He pulled down her skirt and lay flat on the bed. A silence fell over them.

Time passed slowly.

Finally, Lin Xinyan spoke up after ten minutes.

“Have you ever blamed me for being too close to Cheng Yuxiu and caused so much trouble?” Although she had heard from Cheng Yuxiu about the close relationship between Wen Qing and Wen Xian before, she did not expect that Wen Qing would go to this extent for Wen Xian.

“No. Initially, I don’t understand, but I know that you have your own ideas.” Zong Jinghao’s voice was no longer hoarse and had resumed its usual calm tone.

Lin Xinyan turned around and buried her face in his chest. “Do you know that I like you? I want...” *To help you take care of those whom you can’t care for personally.*

Zong Jinghao suppressed his joy as he asked, “Are you confessing your love to me?”

“I guess so.”

He turned around, put his hands on her face and looked at her lovingly.

Lin Xinyan batted her eyelashes at him. “You haven’t settled the problem yet?”

He planted a kiss on her forehead before pulling her into his embrace. “I will settle the problem soon. You just rest well and don’t think about other matters.



Don't take others' words to heart. Those are only my temporary plans. You must only trust me."

Although she had no idea what he meant, she was convinced he was devising a plan.

"I trust you."

Zong Jinghao was amused. To lighten the atmosphere and to distract her from worrying, he teased, "How can you trust me so much? Aren't you worried that I will run away with another woman?"

Lin Xinyan pinched him on his waist. "I will break your legs if you dare to run away."

It was rather painful so he winced in pain. "You shall support me if I'm maimed."

"Mm, I will support you. I won't let my kid grow up without a father."

*I will really support him even if he is paralyzed and can only lie on the bed. He's the father of my kids. Only with him around will we have a complete family.*

Zong Jinghao wrapped his hands around her. "I won't run away. I'm content with having you in my life. We will sleep on the same bed when we are alive and in the same coffin when we are dead. I'm much older than you, so I will definitely die first. Don't forget to remind the kids to put us in the same coffin in the future."

Lin Xinyan glared at him. "Don't talk nonsense. I will find another handsome old man after you die..."

Zong Jinghao retorted confidently, "You won't find an old man more handsome than me."

"I'm fine even if he's slightly uglier." Lin Xinyan compromised.

“I will drag that man down to hell if he dares to accept you,” said Zong Jinghao in a vicious tone.

It seemed like the distraction worked. None of them brought up that matter again. That night, Aunt Yu knocked on their door with their dinner in her hands. Zong Jinghao got up from the bed to answer the door. Aunt Yu asked smilingly, “I bet you are hungry?”

*I'm a little hungry indeed.* Lin Xinyan sat up and asked eagerly, “What are we having for dinner today?”

These days, she had a voracious appetite. Having stayed in the ward for so long, she was cut off from the outside world, and her daily activities consisted of eating and sleeping only.

Eyes twinkling, Aunt Yu placed her dinner on the table and said confidently, “I’m sure you will like it.” She had prepared the meals according to the doctor’s instructions. Since then, Lin Xinyan’s appetite and her nausea had improved tremendously.

This time, her meal consisted of cabbage, pumpkin with egg, stir-fried vegetables, fish soup and tofu. Each dish was placed on an exquisite plate.

Aunt Yu turned around to look at Zong Jinghao, “I hear that pregnant women will give birth to beautiful babies if they look at pretty stuff more often. Thus, I purposely buy these beautiful plates for her.” Even the cutlery, with beautiful hand-painted flowers on them, matched with the new plates.

Putting his hands on his waist, which emphasized the deep creases on his shirt, Zong Jinghao looked at Lin Xinyan, “Yes, we must take note of that. Otherwise, the baby will be darned ugly if we leave it to her.”

Aunt Yu chuckled at his joke.

Lin Xinyan glared at him. *You are the ugly one!*

Aunt Yu places the dishes nicely before Lin Xinyan, “Wash your hands before eating.”

Zong Jinghao carried Lin Xinyan to the bathroom before placing her on the chair gingerly. He sat opposite her and scooped some soup for her. “Drink the soup first.”

Drinking the soup before eating would help to work up an appetite.

Lin Xinyan tried the soup. Her meals were prepared without any seasoning and with the freshest ingredients that one could find. Thus, the soup was delicious and flavorful.

In the meantime, Aunt Yu helped to change her bedsheets. She insisted to change the bedsheets every day because Lin Xinyan, in her current condition, could not turn on the air conditioner. Given the hot weather nowadays, Lin Xinyan would inevitably sweat and dirty the bedsheets. Aunt Yu doted on her too much to let her sleep on damp and dirty bedsheets.

She took the dirty bedsheets out and returned to collect the dirty tableware after Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao were done with their dinner. “Shall I return home tonight and come back again tomorrow morning?”

She surmised that Zong Jinghao would not require her help for the rest of the night.

“Mmm,” he agreed and went to take a bath in the bathroom.

Seeing that he went to bathe, Aunt Yu changed her mind. She put down the dirty tableware and explained, “I will leave after cleaning the bathroom. We can’t let the bathroom floor stay wet and slippery.”

There is no separate shower area in the bathroom. Although the bathroom was equipped with anti-slip facilities, Aunt Yu was worried that Lin Xinyan might slip and fall on it accidentally.

Zong Jinghao understood what Aunt Yu was worried about. "I will handle that."

Astounded, Aunt Yu looked at him. "When have you done such a chore before? And you won't be able to do it well anyway."

Zong Jinghao was offended, feeling that Aunt Yu was looking down on him.  
*What's so difficult about mopping the floor?*

"Aunt Yu, why don't you go back and rest first? Just let him do it." Lin Xinyan was eager to see Zong Jinghao mopped the floor for the first time in his life.

Thinking that the adorable pair before her was looking more like a married couple by the minute, Aunt Yu smiled. "Then I will leave first." After that, she took the dirty utensils and left.

Zong Jinghao swept a sideward glance at Lin Xinyan, guessing her thoughts. He remarked, "I have many talents. You will discover them over time."

Lin Xinyan merely smiled sweetly in return.

Zong Jinghao headed into the bathroom and only re-appeared with wet hair and in a bathrobe half an hour later. Lin Xinyan was lying on the bed, looking at him impishly.

He walked towards her and pinched her cheeks. "Are you peeping at me when I was taking a bath?"

Lin Xinyan reminded him, "You need to mop the bathroom."

*How dare she and Aunt Yu look down on me? I'm the President of such a big company and manages projects worth billions. Why do they think that I can't perform a simple household chore well?*

He threw the towel used for drying his hair on the table casually and headed into the bathroom. Sweeping his gaze around the bathroom, he realized there were only a few towels in it. He could not help but frown at this discovery. *All the maids in my house or company use mops to wipe the floor. Why isn't there a mop here? Must I use towels instead?*

He picked a towel up before wiping the floor with it. But it was a futile effort as the floor remained wet.

Lin Xinyan could not help but laughed at his plight, "The towel is wet, so no matter how much you wring it dry, it can't soak up the water on the floor."

"..."

He stood up and gave up on drying the floor. Instead, he lay the towels on the wet floor. *The floor won't be slippery in this case.*

"..."

*This man is so spoilt.*

He got into the bed and wrapped his arms around her. "Sleep. Stop making a joke out of me."

Lin Xinyan snuggled in his arms. *Indeed, everyone has their own strengths. It's normal if he's not good at performing household chores. His forte is to earn money.*

She slept very well that night. The next morning when she woke up, Zong Jinghao was already up and was standing in front of the mirror in the bathroom, buttoning up his jacket.

Lin Xinyan squinted as she used her hands to shield her eyes from the bright sunlight.

It took a while for her to adjust to the light before she took down her hands gradually.

Zong Jinghao strode towards her. "You woke up already? Are you hungry? Aunt Yu should be arriving soon."

"Are you leaving now?"

"I'll wait for Aunt Yu to come first."

*Only then I will feel assured enough to go to work.*

Lin Xinyan shifted her body, signaling her intention to get up from the bed. Zong Jinghao carried her instead. At this moment, they heard shuffling footsteps outside the door.

"You guys cannot come in."

The footsteps were getting louder. It sounded as if there were many people outside the door.

Suddenly, the door slammed open.

The bodyguards, who were guarding the door, bowed their heads in apology and reported, "We can't stop them."

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 430

The intruders, dressed in uniforms, came in a big group. It was apparent that they came prepared. *No wonder those few bodyguards fail to stop them from barging into the ward.* Zong Jinghao tucked Lin Xinyan into bed before standing up and turned his sharp gaze onto the bodyguards. "I will handle this."

The bodyguards left the ward hastily.

The leader of the uniformed pack held up a warrant. "We are only acting according to the law. Ms. Lin is involved in a murder, so we need to bring her back to the police station for an investigation."

Zong Jinghao strode towards them menacingly. He had built up a compelling presence from his years of dealing with people from all walks of life.

The policeman, holding the warrant, swallowed hard, but he did not budge an inch. He was jolly well aware of Zong Jinghao's prestigious status in society. Nonetheless, he held his ground. *I am acting according to the law. Everyone is equal in the eyes of the law, irrespective of their wealth and status.*

He feigned calmness as he convinced himself that he had nothing to fear about. "Mr. Zong, we are acting according to the law. Please excuse us."

*This person isn't Captain Chen. He doesn't look familiar to me.*

Zong Jinghao glanced at the warrant in his hands before smiling at the policeman. "What if I don't 'excuse' you?"

The policeman intended to claim in a self-righteous tone that he was merely exercising his duties as a law enforcement officer. But his voice sounded weak

and feeble as he mumbled, “It’s a crime to stop us from carrying out our official duties.”

“Fine. Handcuff me. I will go back to the police station with you.” Zong Jinghao held out his hands.

He was curious to know these policeman’s identity, who was neither Wen Qing’s nor Chen Qing’s subordinate.

The policeman was flustered. He was only instructed to arrest Lin Xinyan. *I don’t even dare to touch Zong Jinghao, much less to handcuff him.*

Zong Jinghao unbuttoned his shirt cuffs. “If the decision is too difficult for you to make, you can ask the person who gives you the order to come himself. I have a nasty habit of holding grudges against anyone who offends me. Though I don’t have the authority, I’m filthy rich. Tell me, how much does one’s life cost?”

The policeman was so terrified by his subtle threat that his legs almost turned into jelly. He stammered, “It’s... it’s a crime to hire an assassin to kill someone.”

But Zong Jinghao merely smiled sinisterly. “Do you have evidence pointing to me as a criminal? Stop talking about the law. It makes me sick. Are you going to take me in, or will you ask your boss to do that?”

The man was cornered.

Lin Xinyan placed her hands over her belly protectively without saying a word. Zong Jinghao had not told her the latest development of this matter. Thus, she could neither say nor do anything for fear of messing up his plan. *I can only leave things in his hands now.*

The policeman had come with a bunch of other policemen, who were blocking the doorway now. Yet, all of them were too stunned upon hearing Zong Jinghao’s threat to even budge an inch now.



The policeman pondered before saying, "Let me make a call."

He went to the staircase, looked around his surroundings to ensure there was no one near him and whipped out a phone to make the call.

At this moment, He Wenhui was brewing tea in a private room in a deserted tea house. He put a cup before Chen Qing, who was seated opposite him, and said, "The He family has nothing to fear anymore. I have a total of three kids, and two died in Zong Jinghao's hands. I can't take this down no matter how useless I am. Hence, I'm truly grateful to you for helping me take revenge on him as I'm afraid I can't do it on my own. So, please tell me if you need me to do anything, and I will spare no effort to carry out my task. Please drink this cup of tea. It's to represent my gratitude towards you."

Chen Qing held his hands. *He Wenhui has aged a lot over the last two years. His white hair has grown out. Indeed, it must be devastating for him to lose two children consecutively.*

"Please don't mention it." Chen Qing took the cup of tea before he said, "I should be toasting to you instead."

He Wenhui smiled bitterly. "I'm a far cry from my former self now. I'm not fit for you to make a toast to me."

His reputation, which he had built up painstakingly over the years, was in tatters now. Everyone was gossiping about what had happened to He Ruize and He Ruilin. The He family was no longer the prestigious family it once was.

The endless stream of visitors to their house from before had dwindled to zero. *No one will bother about us anymore. What will the other people say of us? What kind of father am I if I can't even protect my children?*

Chen Qing patted his shoulder consolingly. "I know. It's not because you are weak, but it's just that the Zong and the Wen families are too powerful. To be honest, I'm scared of them too."

*Wen Qing is sick now. I can't wait for him to recover before progressing to the next stage of our plan. Otherwise, our efforts would have gone to naught.*

He could not bear to give up halfway, thus he took the initiative to approach He Wenhui.

“I understand that he has turned down your daughter’s engagement because of Lin Xinyan?” Chen Qing shifted the blame onto Lin Xinyan intentionally. After all, Zong Jinghao was his future son-in-law, so he must find a chance to get rid of Lin Xinyan.

Thus, he was only using He Wenhui now to help him achieve his objectives. The latter had no idea that he hoped to marry his daughter to Zong Jinghao and even believed his claim that he was fearful of the Zong and the Wen families.

Although Chen Qing was no small fry, the Chen family was not powerful as the Wen family. Most of the power resided in Wen Qing’s hands. Furthermore, with the Zong family around, Chen Qing was worried that the Chen family would eventually suffer a fate as terrible as the He family.

Hence, he had taken the initiative to persuade He Wenhui to join forces with him. *After all, Zong Jinghao has really killed his children.*

He Wenhui sighed, “Initially, I wanted to form an alliance with the Zongs through marriage, but who would have expected this woman to appear suddenly? Not only had she ruined the marriage arrangement, but she also seduced my son, causing him to fall head over heels in love with her. In the end...”

He sighed again.

“Luckily, we have a chance now...” Chen Qing exchanged meaningful glances with him.

“Yes! Now we only need to wait for news. Once she stepped into the police station, I will ensure that she will not come out alive. She must pay for my children’s lives!”

Chen Qing leaned back in the red chair curved with beautiful flowers. He tapped his fingers on its arms patiently, waiting in anticipation for the good news.

Suddenly, He Wenhui’s phone rang.

He Wenhui cast a glance at Chen Qing before answering the call and putting it on speaker mode.

Someone reported from the other side of the phone. “Zong Jinghao is stopping us from arresting her.”

He Wenhui’s face darkened. “You are a policeman with a proper warrant in your hands. What rights does he have to stop you from arresting a suspect?”

“He asks me to handcuff him instead and to ask my boss to talk to him personally instead.”

He Wenhui paled, and his hands trembled in fear. Having overheard the phone conversation, Chen Qing patted his shoulders and said, “We won’t have another opportunity in the future if we miss this chance. There are only a few bodyguards of Zong Jinghao in the hospital. Our men outnumbered them.”

“You mean that we should arrest her forcefully instead?”

“What other choice do we have? With Lin Xinyan in our hands, Zong Jinghao won’t dare to do anything to you even if he finds out that you are the mastermind.”

“We are the mastermind,” reminded He Wenhui. “Although the policemen are in my pocket, you are the one who got us that warrant.”

*We are in the same boat now. Don't even think of shaking me off.*

Although the He family tried its best to build a strong network during the good times, it was no match for the Wen and the Chen families. Without Chen Qing, there was no way he could obtain that warrant.

Chen Qing smiled faintly. "Rest assured. It's only a slip of my tongue. We are in the same boat now."

He Wenhui looked at him briefly and made up his mind. He commanded the person on the other side of the phone, "What is the use of you bringing so many people there if you don't utilize them? You must arrest her today!"