

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 441

Shen Peichuan told her to wait in the car for him because of the rain. "I'll go get an umbrella."

He braved the rain and grabbed an umbrella from the trunk. With the raindrops pelting down on the umbrella, he walked to the passenger seat and opened the car door. "The rain is too heavy. I'll carry you in if that's okay with you."

When Lin Xinyan stepped out of the car, Shen Peichuan hurriedly covered her with the umbrella.

She held onto Shen Peichuan's arm and reassured, "It's fine. I can walk. It's only a short distance anyway."

Shen Peichuan did not argue. After all, not everyone liked having unnecessary physical contact with the opposite sex.

Hence, they both walked, albeit very slowly, under the cover of the umbrella. When they entered the house, they found that Su Zhan and Guan Jing had already left. The dining room was also all cleaned up, with Aunt Yu currently cleaning the kitchen.

She looked over her shoulder at Shen Peichuan, who was standing just outside the door. The rain was still pouring down from the sky that even the wind held hints of moisture as it blew into the house. "I'm not in a very good mood today, so don't take whatever I said to heart," she said weakly.

"I know." Shen Peichuan pursed his lips slightly. "I should be the one apologizing. I shouldn't have doubted you."

“Tell Su Zhan and Guan Jing not to say a word about me going out today.” When she left the villa with Shen Peichuan earlier, she did not purposefully avoid the two of them. When they came downstairs and did not see them, they definitely would have asked Aunt Yu about their whereabouts.

“I’ll give them a call later. Go on in. You’ve been out for a long time today.”

Lin Xinyan nodded and reminded him, “Drive safe. It’s dark outside and raining too.”

“I will,” Shen Peichuan answered.

Lin Xinyan went into the house after that. When Aunt Yu, who was about to take the trash out, saw Lin Xinyan standing, she put down the things in her hands and hastened her steps towards her. “Let me help you.”

Lin Xinyan held her hand and carefully made her way into the house. “Aunt Yu, don’t tell Jinghao that I went out today.”

Aunt Yu lowered her gaze and said, “Yes, ma’am.”

“Has he been sleeping this whole time? Did he vomit?” She was worried because he drank on an empty stomach.

“He’s quite alright.” Aunt Yu still did not dare to meet Lin Xinyan’s eyes.

“I remember that we have some hangover medicine at home. Bring some for me.”

Aunt Yu hesitated for a moment before replying, “Yes, ma’am.”

After pouring a glass of water, she walked over with the medicine in one hand and helped Lin Xinyan upstairs with the other. “Be careful. Watch your steps. The doctor said not to walk too much.”

“It’s okay. I know what I’m doing.” Once they were upstairs, she pushed open the door to a bedroom which was only illuminated by a bedside lamp. The light was dim, and she could smell the faint scent of alcohol. She took the water and medicine from Aunt Yu’s hand before ordering, “You can go downstairs now. I’ll handle it from here.”

Aunt Yu nodded and reminded her, “Be careful. Call for me if you need anything.”

Lin Xinyan hummed out a response and slowly made her way into the room. When Aunt Yu saw that she reached the bedside without any mishaps, she quietly closed the door and went downstairs.

Zong Jinghao was leaning on his side and concealed by the shadows. She placed the glass of water and medicine on the bedside table, then sat on the bed and reached out to turn him over. “How are you feeling?”

He was heavily built. Thus, Lin Xinyan could not turn him over on her own. She thought he was still fast asleep, so she did not disturb him anymore. All she did was sit beside the bed and watch as the raindrops beat down on the windows outside. Her lashes fluttered slightly as if she was in deep thought.

Zong Jinghao’s eyes were wide open, but he had his back to her and remained unmoving.

One was lying down, while the other one was sitting. Both were buried in their own thoughts.

*Ding.*

Her phone chimed with a message. She fished out her phone and swiped it to unlock it. It was a text message from Bai Yinning. She hesitated for a good few minutes before finally opening it. It was a simple message that consisted of a few words: *I’m leaving. Goodbye.*

*It’s raining so heavily right now, and it’s well into the night too.*

She sighed softly. *Perhaps it's better this way. I just want everything to go back to the way it was.*

She glanced at the man on the bed and found that he was still in the same position. But what she didn't know was that his eyes had clouded over at that moment, and not even a trace of light could pierce through the darkness looming there.

She placed her phone down, then flipped over the blanket before getting into bed. She had just put her arms around his waist intending to hug him to sleep when suddenly, her hands were caught. Before she could react, the man turned her onto her back and pressed her hands above her head, rendering her immobile. He held her legs in place with his own as he lay atop her.

His whole body reeked of alcohol. Lin Xinyan could not help but frown slightly. "Weren't you asleep?"

He did not answer her. Instead, he stared unblinkingly at her lips. Even under the dimness of the light, the frown between his brows was distinct.

He lowered his thumb to her full and rosy lips. Then, he gently traced her lips with it. He looked at her with hooded eyes, with his thick eyelashes obscuring the gloominess in his eyes.

Lin Xinyan could not read him. "What-"

She was just about to speak when he suddenly used his fingers to pinch her lips shut, stopping whatever words she was about to say from coming out. He twisted her lips hard, causing them to contort under his fingertips.

Lin Xinyan was in so much pain that her restrained hands balled into fists. Unfortunately, she could not move an inch.

He looked to be carefully inspecting her lips as he rolled them back and forth. Lin Xinyan could only endure the pain silently.

After a while, his actions gradually gentled, but he still did not stop fondling her lips. He alternated between squeezing and caressing. It was as if he was treating her lips like some kind of exotic object.

Lin Xinyan's lips were numb with pain, and she felt bone-tired today.

What felt like a drop of water fell onto her face, but she was not in time to see what it was before he covered her lips with his own. He switched between kissing her deeply and biting down viciously.

Pain washed over her.

It was an indescribable kind of pain.

She felt like she was abruptly dragged into an abyss. As she struggled against the darkness, all sense of reason was torn to shreds, and a searing pain spread over every inch of her skin – it was a living hell.

He released her hands, then leaned into her ear and whispered in a hoarse voice, "Where did you go? I couldn't find you when I woke up. Do you know how scared I was?"

Lin Xinyan wrapped her arms around him. "I didn't go anywhere. I was here all along."

"Did I hurt you just now?" His chest seemed to rumble when he spoke, and a slight tremor could be detected in it.

Lin Xinyan turned to kiss his face. "No. Are you mad because I made you drink?"

"Mm-hmm. I wanna throw up, and my stomach is on fire. I feel like I might die."

Her voice was gentle even as she castigated him, "Hey, don't say such things. I brought you some hangover medicine. Do you wanna take it?"

“Feed me,” he muttered.

Lin Xinyan readily agreed to his request, because she was the one who got him drunk in the first place. She still felt guilty, and her heart ached at the same time.

“Get up first. How am I going to get the medicine if you don’t?” Lin Xinyan pushed him gently. He cooperated and lay back down on his side, allowing Lin Xinyan to get up. She reached out to grab the medicine and brought it towards his mouth.

He parted his lips, then closed them over the pill as well as her fingers. Lin Xinyan frowned and quickly pulled back her fingers. “Get up and drink some water.”

He lay still on the bed. “Feed me.”

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

*How am I supposed to feed him water? It’ll spill onto the sheets.*

“Use your mouth.” He blinked.

He still had not swallowed the pill in his mouth.

Lin Xinyan stared at him.

“My stomach hurts., and I can’t get up.” Half of his face was pressed into the pillow as he stared back at her with an aggrieved expression.

How could Lin Xinyan refuse him like this? Left with no choice, she drank a mouthful of water but forgot and swallowed it out of anxiety. So, she took another mouthful of water.

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This time, Lin Xinyan kept the water in her mouth. The two of them had already been intimate with each other more times than she could count, but she still felt shy about doing this. However, she quickly shook it off and leaned forward to align her lips with his, then passed the water into his mouth.

All through it, Zong Jinghao gazed at her face whilst a layer of mist formed in his eyes. When Lin Xinyan straightened and looked at him, his eyes were free of moisture and had become dark once again.

His lips tugged upwards as he hugged her. "Sleep here with me."

Lin Xinyan slid down but remained in his embrace. His strong arms tightly enveloped her slender body.

Torrential rain was still wreaking havoc outside the windows as if it would only rest after the whole city was submerged.

It was deep into the night, so Lin Xinyan gradually fell asleep in his arms.

Zong Jinghao, on the other hand, remained wide awake. He stared out the windows and into the infinite darkness.

After a whole night of rain, the air in the entire city was particularly fresh, and the birds could be heard happily chirping away.

When Zong Jinghao woke up, Lin Xinyan was still asleep. Perhaps it was because of her pregnancy, or because she slept too late last night, she was currently sleeping soundly and showed no signs of waking up any time soon.

He extended his hand to caress her face. When his fingers passed over her lips, they paused. His face clouded over, and the warmth in his eyes seemed to diminish. Lin Xinyan shifted slightly in her sleep and subconsciously rubbed her cheek against his warm palm, like how a kitten would. The warmth returned to Zong Jinghao's eyes, and he leaned down to kiss her forehead.

The woman who was fast asleep did not stir at all.

He lifted the blanket and cautiously got out of bed. After washing up in the bathroom, he changed into a suit. Before leaving the house, he glanced at the woman on the bed who was still in dreamland. His eyes fell onto the phone beside her pillow when he recalled that she received a text message last night.

*Who sent it?*

He walked over to pick up the phone. Lin Xinyan's phone did not have a password, so all he needed to do was swipe to unlock. He tapped to open her messages and saw that the latest one was from Bai Yinning.

His gaze darkened. For a moment, his thumb hovered over it before he tapped to see the content. *I'm leaving. Goodbye.*

It was not a flirty message, nor a confession. Hence, he was not angered by it. However, he was still frustrated about what happened last night.

He exited to the homepage and put her phone back in place before going downstairs. Aunt Yu prepared breakfast, which he barely touched. Before leaving, he instructed, "Don't wake her up yet. Let her sleep more. She'll be hungry once she's awake, so leave the food on the table."

Aunt Yu nodded with a smile. "Last night, she..."

"She missed her children, so she went to visit them. It's not a big deal," Zong Jinghao said after giving it some thought.



He did not want to dwell too much on this matter.

Aunt Yu smiled again. "That's good, then."

She had asked only because she was worried. After all, it was not advisable for a pregnant woman to go out so late at night.

"I'm leaving." Zong Jinghao took his car keys and went out.

When Su Zhan and Guan Jing came downstairs last night but did not see Lin Xinyan or Shen Peichuan, they asked Aunt Yu where they had gone off to.

Aunt Yu told them that she did not know, so the two of them did not prod any further. Since no one was home, they saw no reason to stay. Only Aunt Yu knew that Zong Jinghao had gone out last night, and he had also told her to keep it a secret.

Hence, she had no choice but to keep her lips sealed.

Upon walking out the door, Zong Jinghao took out his phone to call Shen Peichuan, and at the same time unlocking his car. Just as he pulled open the door to get in, the call connected. After he got in and shut the door, he spoke into the phone, "Have you found out the cause of He Ruilin's death?"

"The official statement states that she committed suicide, but I found evidence that it was a homicide. I'm at the prison looking for the murderer now." The test results for the stuff they found underneath He Ruilin's fingernails came out. It was human skin tissue, and there were also signs of hair fall possibly due to a struggle. This was enough proof that it was not a simple suicide.

She probably fought with someone before she died. The skin tissue beneath her nails was probably from when she scratched the murderer during their fight. As for the bald patch on her scalp, it was probably the murderer who ripped it off when she struggled.

When Zong Jinghao heard the news of her death, he immediately found it suspicious. If she wanted to die, she would not have waited until this long to kill herself.

“Call me if you find anything.” He was about to end the call, but Shen Peichuan stopped him. “There is indeed someone behind the person you ordered me to follow. It’s He Wenhui. The man I had shadowed him saw them meet up with his own eyes. I can also confirm it. He was able to become a policeman with the help of the He family, and he’s nothing but a sham in B city’s police force. The He family can’t protect him with the little bit of power they have.”

“I got it. Get your guy to pull out.”

“Alright.”

He hung up the call and kept his phone in the car console, then started the engine to drive off.

There were pools of water on the road due to the heavy rainfall last night. As the tires drove across them, water splashed onto the car.

He had long and elegant fingers, with nails that were neatly trimmed. They looked particularly attractive when wrapped around the steering wheel.

He drove fast but steadily. Soon, he reached the company’s basement parking. He walked into the elevator and went straight to his office located on the highest level. When the elevator arrived, he stepped out at a languid pace.

Guan Jing was about to send some documents to his office for him to sign and approve. When he spotted him, he immediately approached him respectfully. “Mr. Zong.”

There was no mention of Lin Xinyan going out last night. Shen Peichuan had called him beforehand to warn him against saying anything, specifying that it was an order from Lin Xinyan.

Hence, he did not dare to say anything that could complicate things.

Zong Jinghao nodded slightly in response. The single button on his black suit was buttoned up. He stuck one hand into his pocket and walked towards his office while instructing, "Bring the information I told you to find on Bai Group to my office."

Previously when he was in Baicheng, he had ordered Guan Jing to investigate Bai Group.

He managed to understand more about Bai Group, but it still was not enough.

Guan Jing refrained from asking any unnecessary questions. It did not matter why Zong Jinghao wanted the information at this exact moment. All he needed to do was deliver it.

Zong Jinghao opened the door to his office and went in with Guan Jing trailing behind. The latter placed the document file in his hand on the table and stated, "I'll get it now."

With that, he swiftly left the office to get the information.

Zong Jinghao unbuttoned his cuffs before pulling out the executive chair behind his desk to take a seat. He went through the documents Guan Jing brought over. After making sure there were no problems, he signed his name on it.

Before long, Guan Jing came back with the information on Bai Group.

Zong Jinghao returned the documents he had signed to Guan Jing.

Guan Jing accepted it, while Zong Jinghao took Bai Group's information from him. Without lifting his head, he said, "Wait."

Guan Jing stood before his desk as he awaited his next orders.

Approximately half an hour later, he fully understood the workings of Bai Group. Bai Group was able to solve problems for so many people because they had physical factories for their door and semiconductor production, which covered a large area with more than 20,000 employees working under them. Their door industry was already well-known both locally and abroad. Most importantly, they had their own team specializing in the research and development of smart door lock cylinders and environmentally friendly materials, which were excellent for environmental protection and preventing theft.

This was also why they could continue developing at such an impressive pace.

He mentally went through the domestic companies and finally selected two. “I seem to recall that Mr. Tang’s brother-in-law also produces semiconductors?”

Guan Jing nodded. “Yes. They are ranked among the best in the country.”

“Arrange a meeting with him, and invite Mr. Wang too.”

“Mr. Wang?” Guan Jing was taken aback. *Why don’t I recall having business dealings with someone by the name of Mr. Wang?*

“The one who came to me previously requesting for an investment,” Zong Jinghao reminded.

“Oh. Didn’t you reject that company? The one that manufactures doors.” *Wasn’t that the company he turned down right off the bat?*

Zong Jinghao leaned back into his chair and tugged on his collar, seemingly a little impatient.

“I’ll see to it immediately.” Guan Jing quickly took the document files with him and left the office, afraid that he had angered his boss.

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The whole Bai Group consisted of three sections – door and semiconductor production, as well as real estate.

The local hotels and shopping malls were all developed by Bai Group. They solved the local unemployment issues but did not accept migrant workers, resulting in only a small population in Baicheng. Thus, all of Bai Group's property development was conducted in other cities. From the information Guan Jing gave him, he could see exactly which cities they were distributed in.

It just so happened that he knew several real estate tycoons who developed properties all over the country. He picked up his phone and made a call.

The call connected quickly, and it was his secretary who answered it. "This is Zong Jinghao. I'm looking for Mr. Xu."

At that moment, Mr. Xu was looking through the monthly sales. He seemed to be in high spirits because their company sales had surpassed his expectations.

Naturally, he would be in a good mood.

He had a cigarette in his mouth when his secretary came in. "Mr. Zong is on the line."

Mr. Xu looked at his secretary with a dubious expression. "Who?"

He thought that he had hallucinated.

"It's Mr. Zong from Wanyue Group," the secretary repeated.

Mr. Xu gave his secretary a flat stare. “Do you think I don’t know who that is? I’m just shocked that he’d find me. Transfer the call to me now.”

The secretary passed the call to him, and he immediately answered with a smile. “Mr. Zong? What a pleasant surprise! To what do I owe this pleasure?”

Zong Jinghao held the phone against his ear and leaned into his chair while fiddling with a pen with his free hand. The tone he used was one people frequently used during business matters; neither enthusiastic nor unfriendly, but just right. He smiled into the phone and said, “Are you saying that I don’t contact you often enough?”

“Of course not! You’re a busy man, Mr. Zong. Also, I heard that the new energy development you invested in some time ago is flourishing. Congratulations!”

Zong Jinghao had completely revolutionized Wanyue. No industry could prosper forever; things would begin to decline after reaching their peak. This fact was unchangeable because the rise of industry would also attract a large number of competitors.

A cake could only be so big. The more people wanted a piece of it, the lesser the profits each of them would receive.

Every industry was also advancing through continuous pioneering and reformation, but these required a sizeable amount of financial funding. Those with weak foundations were naturally eliminated from the competition because they did not have the funds to realize the innovations and reformations at all.

The initial investment for innovation was very large, and those without a big fortune would never dare to venture into that.

Zong Jinghao had known this since a long time ago. Hence, he had already begun the process of reformation in the past few years. Under the premise of continuous innovation in his main businesses and preserving his leadership role throughout it, he recruited talents and valued them as well. He was willing to pay

a generous capital, which benefited him in the end by giving him a group of immensely capable researchers.

He invested in pharmaceutical research and development, new energy, CPU, etc.

Outsiders knew that he and Tang Che had established Superior Investment Bank. In truth, he was the person in charge, while Tang Che was only his partner in name and would receive annual dividends.

Profiting alone would easily bring all kinds of trouble to his doorstep as Tang Che had relevant connections. Moreover, the two of them partnering up, albeit only in name, fortified their stand and ensured that no one dared to cause trouble.

An investment bank would naturally focus on investment. As long as the interest rate was slightly higher than that of ordinary banks, it would be able to attract investors.

He had an eye for investments. Hence, he was able to use the investors' investment to invest in whatever he wanted to develop.

And no one knew that he was the major shareholder in all the industries he invested in, nor that the developers and money all came from him.

Only one-third of the profits were spent.

A new project innovation meant that it had the ability to occupy the top of the industry, and it was also the beginning of an era of huge profits. Of course, latecomers were at a disadvantage.

When the popularity of this industry eventually died down, he would have new technologies in the many other fields that he invested in, shaking the business world again.

It would be an infinite loop – one that he created to his own liking.

And he would be the person with ultimate control over all of it.

His game plan was basically progressing on the right track.

“I have a project on hand. You can join in if you’re interested, Mr. Xu.”  
Businessmen prioritized profits. Thus, they would never willingly do something without getting benefits in return.

Zong Jinghao was well-versed in this aspect.

Everyone in the business circle was sensible enough to know that benefits did not just drop from the sky. “Mr. Zong, please tell me whatever it is that you need.”

Zong Jinghao briefly glanced at the information on Bai Group. The urban areas where Bai Group developed their real estates were all listed. “Do the cities where Bai Group has developed their real estate have any conflict with your company?”

An astute businessman was excellent at saying just enough to make his point. Mr. Xu was not too bad himself either. “Which business doesn’t have competition? There will always be conflicts. Did this Bai Group do something to offend you, Mr. Zong?”

“There’s just one particular person who doesn’t sit well with me.”

“I see. Well, it definitely says a lot about that person. Leave this matter to me,”  
Mr. Xu readily agreed.

If he managed to pull this off, Zong Jinghao would definitely reward him for it. It would be a win-win for both sides.

Besides, it would not hurt to look into a potential competitor and get rid of him before he could cause any trouble.



“Then, I shall await the good news, Mr. Xu. Even though the new energy project has already been developed, if you’re interested, I can offer you a share.”

“Oh my, Mr. Zong. You’re too kind! Of course, I’m interested. I’ll come bearing good news very soon. Just wait for me.” Mr. Xu was grinning from ear to ear.

Joining at this point would only mean receiving dividends. Although he could only have one share, it would still bring a lot of money.

“Contact Guan Jing directly. I’ll let him know to expect you.”

“Sure, sure.”

After exchanging a few more pleasantries, Zong Jinghao ended the call. Just then, Guan Jing knocked on his door and came in. He had found out that Tang Che’s brother-in-law had the surname “Li” and was a rather young lad.

“Mr. Li is here. Do you want to have the discussion here or in the reception area?”

Zong Jinghao replied, “Let’s do it here. Get my secretary to bring in two cups of coffee.”

Guan Jing nodded in understanding and left his office.

Li Qirui was wearing cropped trousers that exposed his ankles together with a pair of casual brown leather shoes. A blue outer coat was worn over a white T-shirt, while his neck was adorned by a silver chain with a skull dangling at the end of it. There was a limited edition Diagono watch encircling his wrist, and he had a head of ash grey hair which seemed to be the recent trend.

Because of Zong Jinghao’s close relationship with Tang Che, he had had a few meals with the former before, and they were considered quite familiar with each other. Before he came here today, Tang Che had said that if Zong Jinghao requested anything from him, he was to do it without asking any questions.

“Mr. Zong,” he greeted with a polite smile.

“Take a seat.” Zong Jinghao gestured with his hand.

“My brother-in-law said to let me know if you need anything. You’re no outsider, after all.” Li Qirui pulled out a chair and sat down.

Zong Jinghao smiled faintly. “Looks like I’ll have to treat your brother-in-law to a meal.”

“Can I tag along too? He never takes me out.” Li Qirui had quite a lot of complaints about that brother-in-law of his.

“Why not.” Then, Zong Jinghao quickly dived into the main topic. “Is Bai Group’s semiconductor business doing well?”

“My direct competitor is a wheelchair-bound crippled man. I have met him a few times, and I have to admit, he’s quite a capable person.”

“We can start a price war with him. I’ll compensate for the price difference.”

With both Mr. Xu and Li Qirui taking action at the same time, no matter how capable Bai Yinning was, he would not be able to handle what was coming for him. Furthermore, he planned to use a three-pronged strategy.

“You don’t even need to ask, Mr. Zong. I never liked that guy anyway. He snatched a major client of mine last time, and I never got the chance to even the score.” When speaking of Bai Yinning, Li Qirui could not help but grit his teeth.

Two of the same trade seldom agreed. This was a very true fact.

Li Qirui leaned forward against the desk with interest. “Is there a specific reason you’re doing this? Or was it because you dislike that cripple too?”

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“I just caught wind that Bai Group’s real estate industry is causing trouble for Mr. Xu.” Zong Jinghao deliberately told only half the story, letting him figure out the rest on his own.

Li Qirui straightened with a serious expression on his face. “You mean-”

*Knock, knock.*

Zong Jinghao’s secretary knocked on the door just then, to which he blandly said, “Come in.”

His secretary came in with two cups of coffee, placing each one in front of Zong Jinghao and Li Qirui, respectively. Then, she retreated and closed the door behind her.

Li Qirui chuckled and said. “Interesting.”

He took a sip of his coffee and pondered. “If Mr. Xu is ruthless enough in his efforts, that cripple will definitely find himself in a sorry plight. With me attacking him from the other side, he’ll definitely suffer a great loss.”

Zong Jinghao picked up his cup without lifting his gaze eyes nor saying a word, allowing him to make his own speculations.

Li Qirui took a huge sip of his coffee and excitedly said, “If my brother-in-law, the president of HSBC, starts a price war with him...”

Firstly, he was loaded.

If he could successfully push Bai Group out of the market, he would then occupy two-thirds of the domestic market.

Originally, he and Bai Group both occupied half of the market, while the other half was by sole proprietors from small companies, all of which he did not pay much attention to.

Suddenly, Li Qirui slammed his hand on the desk. "It's settled then."

He was no fool. He had carefully considered the pros and cons of doing this, and he came to the conclusion that flushing out Bai Group would only bring him benefits.

Besides, his brother-in-law had also repeatedly told him to do whatever Zong Jinghao asked for.

Many did not know, but as Tang Che's brother-in-law, he knew just how much power Zong Jinghao held in his hands.

To outsiders, Tang Che was a joint investor in Superior Investment Bank, but in reality, it was only in name. In fact, Tang Che did not invest a single penny. It was not that he refused to invest, but Zong Jinghao did not allow him to.

The two of them had a good relationship. And when Zong Jinghao took over Wanyue, Tang Che never once caused him trouble.

Tang Che was a smart person. He knew what Zong Jinghao was capable of. Hence, when Zong Jinghao said that it would not be a joint-stock company, he knew that it was because Zong Jinghao did not want others to have a say in it.

Thus, he did not ask for any shares. As the head of HSBC, he had connections, so he proposed to say that it was a joint venture to fend off anyone who might have hidden agendas. Zong Jinghao agreed because firstly, it was good to have some business dealings with Tang Che, and secondly, it would save him a lot of time and trouble as no one would dare to mess with him.

Zong Jinghao had made his decision after weighing the pros and cons.

Thereafter, Superior Investment Bank was established. As Tang Che and Zong Jinghao had planned, everyone thought that they were joint investors. No one knew that it was in fact only Zong Jinghao with full power over it.

That was because Zong Jinghao had been keeping a low profile.

Even so, he did not mistreat Tang Che. He ensured that Tang Che would get dividends every year.

Without doing anything, money would come flowing into his account. Thus, he had no complaints about that.

In the past few years, Superior Investment Bank had matured exponentially. Wanyue Group had an internal elite pitching team that expertly maneuvered the company according to the economic trend. Wanyue branched into many countries, investing with the lowest capital at different windows of opportunity, and maximizing the profits.

He had built an economic network.

However, no one knew much about it, only that he was investing locally.

Li Qirui leaned on the table and looked at Zong Jinghao with a grin. “Do you think I can-”

Before he could finish speaking, Zong Jinghao raised his eyes and gave him a look.

*Cough.*

“Uhm, it’s nothing. Well then, I’ll take my leave first. Don’t forget about that meal you promised me.” Li Qirui almost had a slip of the tongue, but he recalled what

Tang Che had told him and shoved the words back down his throat in the nick of time.

Tang Che had said to him, “A favor for a favor. If you help him, needless to say, he will forever remember it. If you shamelessly ask for something in return, you’ll only be dooming yourself. Perhaps he’ll give you some money, but it would be just to get rid of you. On the contrary, if you’re patient, he’ll automatically call you up whenever there’s a business opportunity. As time goes by, a bond will be established. Friendship would be next. Once friends, it would be much easier to discuss a collaboration, don’t you agree, Rui?”

At that time, he had looked at Li Qirui with an earnest expression. “What’s the use in asking for a small favor? Do you think Zong Jinghao is lacking in money? He literally runs a bank, so think big and think smart!”

Li Qirui was still too inexperienced and could not hold his ground in the face of temptation.

When Zong Jinghao offered to make up for the price difference, he was intentionally tempting him. Zong Jinghao knew how crafty Tang Che was better than anyone.

The moment Li Qirui came in and said what he said, Zong Jinghao could immediately discern their true intentions – they wanted long-term benefits.

He put down his coffee and called for Guan Jing to ask if Mr. Wang was here already.

“He’s been waiting for a long time.” He had been waiting outside since Li Qirui arrived.

“Bring him in,” he ordered while massaging his forehead.

Guan Jing went to do as he was told. Mr. Wang was a middle-aged man with a medium build and common-looking features. He was holding a blue folder and

seemed to be rather tense. He placed the folder on the desk and announced, “Mr. Zong, this is our company’s information. I used to be a door factory manager and started my own company later on. I have many ideas-”

Zong Jinghao raised his hand, signaling for him to stop. He did not want to listen to his entrepreneurial history, nor was he interested in listening to his plans. The reason he was selected was that he could be easily controlled due to his lack of a strong background.

He did not have the luxury to waste time on Bai Yinning, and his top priority was finding out who else was targeting Lin Xinyan.

With that, he evaluated the person before him. He always liked using simple but effective ways to deal with matters.

Mr. Wang had hoped that he would invest in him. However...

“I don’t think stealing employees is very appropriate...”

“Then tell me, how much do I need to invest? How long would it take for you to find a developer, one that can develop a better and more advanced anti-theft locking mechanism and environmentally friendly materials? Without these, how are you going to compete with others in the industry? Please enlighten me.”

Mr. Wang was at a loss for words. This was indeed a serious problem.

“But isn’t stealing talents from other companies a little unfair?”

“The business world is like a battlefield, and the winner takes it all. Decide for yourself.” He lifted his hand and glanced at his watch. “You have two minutes.”

Mr. Wang had initially only wanted to find an investor so that he could start his own business. Now, it seemed that without a background, it would be difficult for him to do so.

Despite his reluctance, he still agreed to it.

Then Zong Jinghao got to his feet. “You handle your side of things. I’ll get my assistant to draw up a contract. You’ll still be the boss. I’ll only be a shareholder.”

Deep down, Mr. Wang knew that he would only be the boss in writing. In the end, he would probably be working for Zong Jinghao.

After that, Zong Jinghao stepped out of his office and called for Guan Jing, who was on the phone. After briefly informing the other person on the line, he ended the call and walked towards his boss.

“Mr. Zong.”

“Draw up a contract and tell him to go to the finance department to get his investment. If Mr. Xu calls you, don’t meet up with him yet. Call me if there’s anything.” With that, he strode towards the elevators.

Guan Jing understood the reason behind that order.

Zong Jinghao ordered him not to meet up with Mr. Xu yet because he wanted the latter to fulfill his end of the bargain before proceeding to the next step.

When Zong Jinghao got off the elevator and was walking towards his car...



# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 445

After getting out of the elevator, Zong Jinghao walked towards his car. Just then, a car sped over and stopped beside Zong Jinghao's car.

The door of the car soon opened, and a guy got out of it before walking over to Zong Jinghao. "Where are you headed?" asked Shen Peichuan.

Zong Jinghao was actually on his way to talk to Shen Peichuan, but the former didn't tell the latter that. Instead, Zong Jinghao simply stared at the man before him quietly. It was as if Zong Jinghao was waiting for Shen Peichuan to confess. Or perhaps Zong Jinghao was just waiting for Shen Peichuan's update on the He Ruilin case.

For some reason, Shen Peichuan felt guilty all of a sudden. *I didn't actually do anything wrong, right? So why can't I get myself to look him in the eye?*

Shen Peichuan never told Zong Jinghao about how he accompanied Lin Xinyan to deal with some matters. Lin Xinyan asked for Shen Peichuan's help because she trusted him, thus he couldn't say anything without her permission.

Shen Peichuan had his head down when he happened to see a tiny pebble on the floor, he kicked and played with it as he informed, "I'm here to tell you that I've found out who murdered He Ruilin, but I haven't got in touch with the murderer, so what do we do now?"

Zong Jinghao's tone was calm when he asked, "Are you guilty of something?"

"Huh? W-what could I be guilty of?" blurted Shen Peichuan, who snapped his head up suddenly.

*D-did he discover something?*

Zong Jinghao chuckled and replied, "Look at you, you're white with fear. I was just kidding. Why are you so nervous?"

Shen Peichuan rubbed his nose a little and insisted, "I'm not nervous. I just thought that you phrased your words rather strangely."

Zong Jinghao simply grinned at that. He then walked towards his car and said, "Let's go."

"Where are we going?" asked Shen Peichuan with a confused look on his face.

"You said you found a lead, so shouldn't we push further? Or are you going to wait until after the holidays and let the murderer flee?" said Zong Jinghao as he pressed a button and unlocked the car with a beep. He then got into the car, and Shen Peichuan hurried in afterward.

"Won't we lose our element of surprise if we go ahead and arrest the perpetrator now?" asked Shen Peichuan. He was a little worried because only powerful figures could afford to bribe those people.

"How are we going to draw the mastermind out if we don't make some noise?" refuted Zong Jinghao as he turned to Shen Peichuan.

Shen Peichuan thought that what Zong Jinghao said made sense, so he replied, "I'll have my people get her somewhere private."

Zong Jinhao frowned. "The murderer is a woman?"

Shen Peichuan nodded. "We can't make too much noise though, lest the murderer gets silenced before we get to interrogate her."

The years he had spent in the force hadn't been in vain. Even though he didn't hold any important or official titles, he had a lot of people on his side.

Zong Jinghao didn't say anything. That was his way of agreeing with Shen Peichuan.

Shen Peichuan fished his phone out and made a few calls to send some instructions. He ended his conversation with, "And hurry. We'll be there shortly."

He only hung up after he received a reply.

After that, he leaned against the backrest casually when he asked, "Did you really have too much to drink last night?"

*Is he testing me?*

Zong Jinghao turned to Shen Peichuan and gave him an ambiguous answer, "What do you think?"

Shen Peichuan was speechless at that.

He wasn't an idiot, and Zong Jinghao's attitude meant that the latter must know at least something about it. "You and your wife will be the death of me," murmured Shen Peichuan before he deliberately threw some shade in his remark. "It makes sense, I guess. You were drunk, but you're not a pig, so it's not like you'd suddenly turn that stupid."

*I can't blatantly point the obvious out and have to endure Zong Jinghao's weird behavior. What the hell is up with this couple? Do they see me as a fool? And who have I offended to be cursed into a crappy social situation like this?*

"You're getting pettier with your old age," commented Zong Jinghao as he parked the car. The two men then got out of it.

The wardens stood behind the tall gates of the prison in B City. There was a small door at the right side of the gate, and everyone went in and out via that door. The gate rarely opened in its entirety. Shen Peichuan walked ahead to lead

the way, and Zong Jinghao stood back because he trusted that the former could do a good job.

Shen Peichuan was familiar with the place, so he immediately headed to the guardhouse and informed, "I'm here to talk to a prisoner."

The guard knew who Shen Peichuan was because he would drop by every now and then. Hence, the guard didn't ask many questions before letting them in.

Zong Jinghao walked to Shen Peichuan's side and glanced at him before saying, "Peichuan, you should get yourself a woman."

Shen Peichuan was taken aback. He paused suddenly and turned to look at Zong Jinghao.

"W-what did you say? No, I mean, what do you mean by that?" asked Shen Peichuan, who thought that Zong Jinghao's words sounded weird.

Zong Jinghao simply kept walking without saying a word.

*What the hell?*

Shen Peichuan quickly chased after Zong Jinghao and barred his path before demanding, "Hey, answer me. What did you mean by that?"

Zong Jinghao frowned at Shen Peichuan's nervous expression, he then pointed out, "Just look at yourself. You can't even stay calm. Don't you think you're acting like a woman who's going through menopause?"

Shen Peichuan was left at a loss for words.

Zong Jinghao, on the other hand, simply walked around him and continued on. Zong Jinghao was already far ahead when he saw that Shen Peichuan was still

stunned in place, so the former paused and called out, “Are you going to stand there forever?”

Shen Peichuan cleared his throat and quickly followed up. By the time he had reached Zong Jinghao’s side, he had calmed down a lot, but he still murmured his complaints, “You and your wife are the reason I’m in such a mess.”

Lin Xinyan knew full well that Shen Peichuan was Zong Jinghao’s close friend, yet she went to Shen Peichuan, anyway. She even told Shen Peichuan every single thing.

The most annoying bit, however, was that Shen Peichuan wasn’t allowed to tell Zong Jinghao anything.

Shen Peichuan put on a serious face and said, “I will say this, though. She truly loves you a lot. Everything she does is for you. In fact, the only reason she contacted Bai Yinning was for your sake.”

Everything Shen Peichuan just said was obvious, and Zong Jinghao would have figure it out even if Shen Peichuan never said it.

Zong Jinghao’s gaze shifted downward to hide the complex emotion he was experiencing at the time.

He knew that he was the center of Lin Xinyan’s secret when she got close to Cheng Yuxiu, yet refused to tell him the truth.

Zong Jinghao didn’t want to look into the matter, but Bai Yinning showing up confirmed his suspicion.

*Cheng Yuxiu... That woman had been a thorn in my heart for over twenty years, but then...*

Zong Jinghao knew the truth, but he didn’t want to say it out loud. He simply couldn’t face the complex emotions in his heart.

Words could not describe how Zong Jinghao was feeling. He was in pain, but the pain he felt was something that could not be verbally explained.

That night, the tears that landed on Lin Xinyan's face were actually the accumulation of pain and despair that he was feeling.

Shen Peichuan seemed to have been thinking about what Zong Jinghao said as he suddenly blurted, "Introduce a nice lady to me, will you?"

*He's right. It's rather strange for me to still be single at this age.*

Zong Jinghao shot a look over and joked, "And here I thought that you're into me."

*Huh?*

Shen Peichuan blinked. It wasn't until he regained his senses that he shot a glare at Zong Jinghao. He growled, "You're the one who's gay."

*I am a straight and extremely manly dude.*

Just then, someone walked over and said in a low voice, "You may interrogate the criminal privately here, but you don't have much time, so please hurry. She is right inside."

The room was a private room, but he told the guards that he needed to interrogate the murderer, so they got her over.

Shen Peichuan murmured a reply to the whispering guard, who then stood by the door and told Shen Peichuan, "You guys go ahead. I'll keep an eye out. Try not to cause too much of a ruckus, though."

The guard was worried about alerting the others.

Shen Peichuan nodded before he opened the door.

The prison had night shifts and the private room was prepared for the night shift guards to rest in it if they were tired.

It was a small, clean room, with a single bed against the wall and a table at the head of the bed with a thermos flask placed upon it. The woman's hair hung loosely as she sat on the edge of the bed. She was wearing a prisoner's outfit with blue stripes and had her head down until she heard the door being opened.

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The woman looked like she was in her fifties, but it was also possible that she only looked that old because she was in a terrible condition. She had short hair and she was a thin and petite woman. Her eyes were in a daze until she saw the two men walking in.

Shen Peichuan stood beside Zong Jinghao and shared the information by whispering, "I've looked into this woman's file. She murdered her own husband, and the file suggested that it was a premeditated murder. She was sentenced to life without parole."

The woman eyed them warily. "Who are you? What are you doing here?" demanded the woman.

She was especially wary about Shen Peichuan because he was there that morning to interrogate He Ruilin's cellmate. It seemed like Shen Peichuan was investigating He Ruilin's death.

Shen Peichuan didn't bother wasting any time and cut to the chase, "You killed He Ruilin."

The woman looked a little surprised, but she defended herself, "What kind of nonsense are you spouting about? What proof do you have?"

Shen Peichuan grinned and replied, "I showed you my credentials this morning when I drop by to investigate the matter, so you must know who I am by now, don't you?"

The woman remained quiet but nodded.



Shen Peichuan continued, “Naturally, evidence is needed to prove if someone is guilty, and I would’ve shut you up with proof even if you never asked for it. When you killed your husband, your fingerprint and DNA were left on the crime scene. I ran some tests on the skin we collected from He Ruilin’s fingernail, and the skin’s DNA matched yours. Your neck is injured, and it is obvious that it was caused by fingernails. You claimed that you did it to yourself, but how itchy would you have to be to scratch so much that you bleed? You lied at the time because you wanted to hide the argument you had with He Ruilin, but I know the truth. You didn’t kill her on purpose. Someone else ordered you to do so, am I right?”

The woman was petrified and she stared at him for a long time before she suddenly knelt down.

Shen Peichuan backed away and growled, “What are you doing? You should know that confessing to your crimes is the only way to lower your sentence. Staying quiet will only make your punishment that much harsher. There is no point in kneeling or begging me. The only way to help yourself is to tell us everything you know. Why did you kill her? Naturally, I would be able to figure everything out, even if you don’t confess. You can only interact with a few people within the prison. I can get to the truth quickly, even if I have to interrogate everyone.”

Shen Peichuan was being both the bad cop and the good cop.

The woman had her head down and confessed between sobs, “I knew it. I knew things would be discovered eventually, but I was blinded by my desire for my freedom. Warden Han asked me to do it. He said that he would help me get my sentence lowered if I kill for him. As you know, my husband is dead, but I have a daughter who just started her first year at the university. She is the only one I care about, and I thought that maybe I could still care for her once I am released.”

Zong Jinghao’s face was hidden by the darkness, so no one could read his expression.

Shen Peichuan, however, seemed surprised by how quickly the woman confessed to everything.

It seemed to him that she was a pitiful person.

The woman wiped her tears and continued, "I was incarcerated when my daughter was still in high school, and she was just a teen at the time. My husband gambled, so we didn't leave any money for her. On top of that, she was burdened with heavy debts. She had been working hard all these years to raise herself. Moreover, when she dropped by to visit me, she would even give me some money because she was worried about my life here."

As the woman spoke, the more heartbroken she became. She knew she hadn't done right by her daughter.

The woman added, "I really, really want to go out and care for my daughter. That is the only reason I... I know I was wrong, and I know I shouldn't have committed a sin like that..."

Shen Peichuan understood how that woman felt. She simply couldn't let her daughter go.

"It is tough for a young lady to survive in this city without any support or power. She will have to work harder than anyone else just to survive. If you step forward and tell the judge everything you know, I will help your daughter get a job as soon as she graduates. She will have no trouble making ends meet. I can promise you all that, and I am willing to sign a contract with you, so long as you can make me honor those words."

The woman stared at Shen Peichuan. Her heart wavered at his words. The woman wanted to help her daughter by keeping her daughter away from their village. Everyone there knew about how she had killed her husband, and if her daughter had to stay there, everyone would discriminate against her for having a murderer as a mom.

Shen Peichuan had the evidence to prove the woman's guilt, so it didn't matter even if the woman never confessed. The woman thought that Shen Peichuan didn't seem like a bad person, and she didn't actually have a choice, so she agreed to his terms.

"I trust you, so there's no need for a contract. All I want is for you to help my daughter out if she ever gets into trouble. Please, don't let her get onto the path of self-destruction," said the woman. She knew just how hard it was to survive in a society like that, and she knew just how easy it was to lose one's way.

The woman trusted her daughter, but no one could predict the future.

*What if my daughter got into some trouble? She wouldn't have any family to help her, so who could she turn to?*

Shen Peichuan was straightforward when he said, "I'm not a local here, and I am thankful that you trust me. I am also grateful for your honesty and your confession. If she ever gets into any trouble, or if she ever needs money to make ends meet, I promise that I will help her out."

"Thank you. Thank you so much," replied the woman and she lowered her head to the ground.

Shen Peichuan stopped her and helped her up before instructing, "Please don't tell anyone about meeting us. Just act like nothing ever happened. Can you do that?"

*It's best if we don't set off any alarms just yet.*

The woman nodded.

Shen Peichuan turned to Zong Jinghao and said, "Looks like we were right about the mastermind's identity."

*Warden Han must have been recruited by Chen Qing.*

Zong Jinghao didn't say anything. He simply turned around to leave. Shen Peichuan told the security guard who was on the lookout, "Take her back to her cell, and don't let anyone see the two of you."

Before Shen Peichuan left, the woman called out for him and informed him, "My daughter studies in Hua Qing University and she's a first-year student named Sang Yu."

The woman later walked over and fished a few hundred out of her pocket. That was the money her daughter gave her during visits. The woman didn't have anywhere to spend her money, so she saved everything.

She knew that her daughter must lead a hard life out there.

"Please hand these to my daughter," said the woman as she gave Shen Peichuan the money.

The woman didn't know if she could still see her daughter again, but she knew that the two men who just interrogated her were powerful. Hence, it was likely that her punishment would be dire.

The woman then added with a pleading look in her eyes, "Also, please don't tell her what I did."

Shen Peichuan accepted the money and promised, "Okay, I will hand the money to her, and I promise I won't tell her anything."

"Thank you."

Shen Peichuan nodded then tapped on the person that helped arrange the meeting. "We should go out and have a drink together someday."

"Yeah. Alright, let's hurry out of here for now. It'd be bad if anyone sees us," urged Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao had already gotten into his car when Shen Peichuan got out. The latter opened the door and got into the passenger seat before asking, "So what do you plan to do now?"

Given the evidence they have gathered, it was likely that Chen Qing was using He Wenhui to break Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan up.

"Blinded, huh?" murmured Shen Peichuan before he turned to Zong Jinghao and teased, "Being handsome is not always a good thing. Look at the mess you made. She knew that you are married, but she was still eager to get her daughter to you. My, what a mess."

Zong Jinghao ignored Shen Peichuan and started the engine.

"Honestly, though, what's your next move?" asked Shen Peichuan in a serious tone.

The whole matter was a grave one, and they couldn't afford to relax.

Chen Qing might not have any actual authority like Wen Qing did, but Chen Qing's position was not just for show either.

The difference between the power that Wen Qing and Chen Qing held would be best described in military terms. For Wen Qing, he would be the general who could actually command the army, whereas Chen Qing would be the politician behind them.

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In other words, Chen Qing might be ranked higher, but Wen Qing was the one who held real power. He even had his own subordinates to command.

“I don’t know yet,” replied Zong Jinghao. He hadn’t come up with a solution to deal with the matter at hand.

Wen Qing was the mastermind behind everything, so it didn’t matter if they had dealt with Chen Qing. The problem would persist unless Wen Qing was stopped.

Zong Jinghao didn’t want to drag it out, so he would not attack unless he was sure that he could end it in one strike.

Shen Peichuan gave it some thought before pointing out, “I think it would be easy to deal with Chen Qing since we have evidence on him, but Wen Qing...” He paused before adding, “Xinyan had given birth to two of your kids and is now pregnant with your third child. The murder case is burdening her, and that can’t be healthy. I don’t think you should overthink this.”

What Shen Peichuan had wanted to say, however, was that Zong Jinghao didn’t need to show any mercy because Wen Qing wasn’t his biological uncle anyway.

And Wen Xian wasn’t Zong Jinghao’s biological mother either.

Zong Jinghao didn’t turn to Shen Peichuan, nor did he show any change in emotion on his face. It was as if he never heard a word Shen Peichuan said.

In actuality, Zong Jinghao heard and registered every word, he simply didn’t react to them. He wasn’t hesitating because he still cared about Wen Qing. In fact, Zong Jinghao had made things clear with Wen Qing the last time the latter went to the office.

The problem now was that their evidence was against Chen Qing, not Wen Qing, and there was nothing Zong Jinghao could do if Chen Qing remained loyal to Wen Qing.

The only way to get to Wen Qing was if Chen Qing confessed and claimed that Wen Qing was the mastermind.

Zong Jinghao narrowed his eyes as if he were deep in thought.

Shen Peichuan understood that some things were easier said than done.

*Zong Jinghao is human, after all, and he has his own emotions and thoughts. It's normal for him to hesitate to go all out and battle against the man he used to call his uncle.*

*Besides, he doesn't even know that Wen Qing is not his biological uncle, so he must be struggling a lot,* thought Shen Peichuan.

Both men were completely out of sync.

“Go talk to He Wenhui,” instructed Zong Jinghao all of a sudden.

Shen Peichuan's eyes bulged, “Did you figure out a solution?”

“Don't reveal the truth about He Ruilin's death, and look into He Ruize's death. I want to know if he made a deal with Chen Qing or Wen Qing.”

Zong Jinghao had a plan, and it didn't matter who He Ruize talked to before he died, the one thing that Zong Jinghao needed to know was what role He Wenhui played in He Ruize's death.

Zong Jinghao's guess was that He Wenhui never knew the whole truth and that the latter was just a pawn in Chen Qing's game.

After all, no father would be okay with sacrificing his son unless the father was a psychopath to begin with. He Wenhui might also help Chen Qing if the former was offered something ridiculously grand, but that was not likely. The He family was a family of business tycoons, and there wasn't much Chen Qing could offer him.

Moreover, what could Chen Qing possibly offer to get He Wenhui to sacrifice two lives?

It was likely that there were still a lot of details that even Wen Qing didn't know about.

"Okay, stop the car. I'll get off here," said Shen Peichuan.

Zong Jinghao parked the car at the side and requested, "Call me if you learn anything."

Shen Peichuan got out of the car and closed the door before he said, "I will. You go on ahead, I'll grab a cab from here."

Zong Jinghao nodded to Shen Peichuan before driving away.

Zong Jinghao later checked his watch and noticed that it was already afternoon, so he didn't go back to his office. Instead, he went straight home.

Li Zhan was leaning against the railing of the garden when he saw the car heading over. He stood up and waved Zong Jinghao's car down.

"What are you doing here?" asked Zong Jinghao as he got out of the car.

"I have something for you," replied Li Zhan as he fished a pen drive out of his pocket and added, "This is the footage from the bar that day."



Even though Wen Qing was discharged from the hospital, he was still in a bad shape, so he was resting at home. Li Zhan took that opportunity to steal the password for Wen Qing's computer and saved a copy of every video related to Lin Xinyan. After that, he deleted the videos in the computer.

That being said, he wasn't sure if the videos that were in the computer were the original copies or if there were other copies out there.

"Either way, this can prove that Xinyan is innocent. At the very least, it was clear that she wasn't responsible for the shot that ended He Ruize's life. The first shot, the one she fired, was obviously fired in self-defense," informed Li Zhan, who had seen everything in the video.

Zong Jinghao shifted his gaze to Li Zhan and asked, "You stole this?"

Li Zhan nodded.

*Zong Jinghao's eyes twitched. Wen Qing is military personnel and he holds actual power, so how could his computer be locked with only one layer of security?*

*I know that Li Zhan knew a little about hacking and can trace a person's I.D., but to be able to access the computer of someone in the military? That's a bit suspicious to me.*

"You unlocked it after inputting one password?" asked Zong Jinghao.

Li Zhan nodded and replied honestly, "Yeah, and everything is saved on the desktop, so I found the videos straight away. I did check the other folders and found there aren't any copies. If he does have a copy, he probably keeps it on the computer in his office. Why? Are you suspecting something?"

Zong Jinghao shook his head before simply instructing, "You should go back."

Zong Jinghao didn't invite Li Zhan in because the former didn't want anyone bothering Lin Xinyan at that hour.

As for Li Zhan, he didn't enter the house earlier because the security guards kept him away. Zong Jinghao obviously instructed the guards to do so. Li Zhan understood that Zong Jinghao had been busy dealing with Lin Xinyan's issues and was in a bad mood. Hence, he walked away without saying anything.

He put his hands in his pocket before he walked towards his car, which was parked at the side of the road.

Just then, Zong Jinghao called out, "Tell your dad I will meet him tonight at eight o'clock in Lotus Park."

Li Zhan turned around in astonishment. *Why does he want to meet up with Wen Qing all of a sudden?*

Zong Jinghao had no intention of explaining himself, though. He simply walked into the house without saying a word.

Lin Xinyan missed her children, so Cheng Yuxiu brought the two kids over that day.

Cheng Yuxiu had been suspecting that Lin Xinyan was pregnant because the dishes that Aunt Yu had been making were all ideal for pregnant women. As such, Cheng Yuxiu dropped by that day to ask Lin Xinyan about it.

Lin Xinyan didn't keep anything from Cheng Yuxiu. After all, the latter was her baby's biological grandma.

The driver left after dropping everyone off, so Zong Jinghao didn't see the car. He only realized that his kids were there after he had already gotten into the house. One of them was lying on the sofa in the living room and reading a book, while the other was staring at the piano in the corner.

Zong Jinghao got closer and realized that the one sitting on the sofa was his daughter. She was reading poetry, and she was so focused that she didn't even know that someone was standing behind her.

Zong Jinghao took off his suit jacket and put it aside before sitting on the edge of the sofa. He leaned closer to his daughter to read the book that she was holding. It was then that the little girl finally noticed that someone was there, and she turned around to see her father, Zong Jinghao's face right beside her. She smiled happily and planted a wet kiss on his cheek. Her saliva was everywhere as she greeted in a sweet voice, "Daddy."

The little girl felt bad about the saliva, so she reached out to wipe his face afterward.

Zong Jinghao seemed intrigued by the fact that his daughter was reading poetry on the sofa, so he commented, "You're starting to learn about poetry, huh?"

The little girl was excited to hear that question, and she boasted, "Yeah, I'm going to elementary school soon, so I need to know about poetry now."

"Is that so? How many poetries have you memorized then?"

Lin Ruixi became ecstatic upon hearing that. She bragged, "I've memorized this one."

Zong Jinghao traced his daughter's finger and saw that she was pointing at a poem named *Goose*. That got him to grin.

He stroked his daughter's head before scooping her up and setting her on his lap. His tone was filled with adoration when he praised, "My daughter is so smart. You even memorized a poem that complicated."

"It's complicated, right? I think so too, but Xichen said that it's only complicated to me because I am dumb. The way I see it, he's the dumb one," said Lin Ruixi happily because she finally found someone who agreed with her. She laid in her

dad's arm and requested, "Daddy, can you tell Xichen to stop bullying me like that?"

Lin Xichen was utterly speechless upon hearing his sister's words.

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Lin Xichen frowned. He shifted his gaze from the piano to his sister.

He shook his head exasperatedly as if he didn't know what to do about that sister of his.

"I am truly worried about your future," said Lin Xichen. *She thinks she's smart just because she memorized the Goose poem? That kind of low-level intelligence worries me.*

"See, daddy? Xichen is looking down on me again," complained Lin Ruixi while pouting her lips. She was hugging Zong Jinghao's neck at the time.

Lin Ruixi was wearing an adorable dress and a pair of white socks. Because it was summer and it was getting hot, the material of her dress was soft and silky to counteract the heat. She had a ponytail on, and she looked upset as she sat on Zong Jinghao's lap with her hands wrapped around his neck. Lin Ruixi looked like she wouldn't let go until Zong Jinghao gave her a satisfactory reply.

Zong Jinghao chuckled. He couldn't say no to his daughter, so he asked, "Alright, tell me what you want me to do. I'll do whatever you ask."

"Did your brother look down on you again?" asked Lin Xinyan as she stood by the stairs and stared at her daughter.

*That kid's getting more and more spoiled.* Lin Xinyan walked down the stairs, and Zong Jinghao set his daughter down on the sofa before hurrying over to Lin Xinyan to help her. Lin Xinyan refused his offer. "There's no need for that. I'm getting better already," said Lin Xinyan. She had her hand on his arms when she reminded him, "You can't keep spoiling her like that, or she will get used to it."

“It’s fine, she’s still a kid,” replied Zong Jinghao. He thought that daughters were different from sons and that it was alright for girls to be a little spoiled.

He could afford to spoil his daughter, anyway, and he loved doing so.

Lin Xinyan glared at him. She didn’t agree with him. “That is how someone gets spoiled. It starts when they’re young. She’s about to start elementary school, and there will be many kids in her new school. Conflicts will inevitably arise. What’s she going to do then? Complain to her teachers every day? Then come home and continue complaining to us? Will that be good for her?”

Lin Xinyan wanted her kids to grow up instead of remaining as immature as a baby.

“Isn’t it right for her to complain if she is wronged?” refuted Zong Jinghao, who thought that Lin Xinyan was exaggerating, “Besides, it doesn’t matter if she doesn’t go to school. I can afford to pay for all of her expenses for the rest of her life.”

Lin Xinyan was speechless as she stared at Zong Jinghao. She frowned and pointed out, “And what happens when you grow old? Who’s going to spoil her then?”

Zong Jinghao was stumped.

“Mommy’s right,” chimed Lin Xichen. His baby sister had always like to act spoiled, but as she grew up, she became a bellyacher too. She especially liked to whine in front of Cheng Yuxiu and Zong Jinghao.

Lin Ruixi was sitting on the sofa, and she seemed to know that the discussion was not benefitting her now. Her big, round eyes blinked as sadness filled her heart. “Mommy is so mean. Now that you have a tiny baby in you, you don’t want me anymore,” protested Lin Ruixi.

After that, she jumped down from the sofa and head into the kitchen while calling out, “Grandmother, grandmother, I want to go home. I don’t want to stay here anymore.”

Cheng Yuxiu and Aunt Yu were busy preparing dinner at the time, so Cheng Yuxiu still had her apron on. When she heard the kid calling out to her, she turned to the kid who soon hugged her leg. Lin Ruixi said, “Grandmother, let’s go home. Mommy only wants the baby in her tummy and Xichen. She doesn’t want me anymore, so I don’t want to stay here either.”

Lin Ruixi had been terrified ever since she learned that Lin Xinyan was pregnant with another baby. She was worried that her parents would abandon her for the baby.

When Zong Jinghao set her down on the sofa to go to Lin Xinyan, Lin Ruixi felt like she was abandoned because it seemed like her daddy cared more about the baby in her mommy’s tummy.

Lin Ruixi felt wronged, and her eyes reddened as tears welled up in them. It only took a while before Lin Ruixi’s tears rolled down her cheeks.

Cheng Yuxiu washed her hands and was about to pick Lin Ruixi up when Zong Jinghao walked over. He never even glanced at Cheng Yuxiu. He simply said, “I got her.”

However, Lin Ruixi refused to let Cheng Yuxiu’s leg go and insisted, “I don’t wanna. I want grandmother.”

“Maybe I should hold her for a while,” suggested Cheng Yuxiu, who couldn’t bear to watch her granddaughter bawling like that. The child’s pink cheeks were puffy from her crying.

Zong Jinghao didn’t reply. He simply pried Lin Ruixi’s arms away from Cheng Yuxiu before taking the kid out of the kitchen. Lin Ruixi kept struggling and crying, “I want grandmother, I want grandmother.”

Cheng Yuxiu's heart ached upon that sight, so she followed along. She watched as Zong Jinghao carried Lin Ruixi into the study room. She didn't dare to tell Zong Jinghao to put the kid down, so she turned to Lin Xinyan instead and said, "She's still young, she's only acting up because she's worried about being neglected after the new baby comes along..."

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. She was surprised by what Lin Ruixi said earlier as well. Lin Xinyan didn't realize that Lin Ruixi thought she would be abandoned once the new baby came.

"I know. I'll go check on her later," replied Lin Xinyan before she sat down and rested on the sofa. Lin Ruixi was still mad at that moment, so it was better if Lin Xinyan waited a while before going in.

Cheng Yuxiu nodded in agreement.

Inside the study room.

Lin Ruixi bawled like there was no tomorrow, but Zong Jinghao didn't comfort her. He simply held her and let her cry it all out.

After a while, Lin Ruixi became exhausted from all the crying. She ended up sobbing quietly as her tiny shoulders trembled.

Only then did Zong Jinghao wipe her tears off. His movements were gentle as he brushed his fingers against the side of his daughter's eyes. Zong Jinghao asked, "You don't like the baby in mommy's tummy?"

Lin Ruixi had her head down as she fidgeted with her fingers without saying a word.

"Are you worried that the new baby will steal all of mommy's and daddy's love for you?" asked Zong Jinghao again as he sat his daughter up straight, so she was forced to look into his eyes.



Lin Ruixi lowered her gaze. Traces of tears were still hanging on the little girl's long eyelashes as she remained silent.

Zong Jinghao hugged his daughter tightly while stroking her tiny back with his large palm. He promised, "You are mommy and daddy's daughter, so we will never stop loving you. I will always want to give you the best of everything."

"Really?" asked Lin Ruixi as she tilted her head up.

Zong Jinghao kissed his daughter's cheek and replied, "Of course."

"But what if mommy gives birth to a baby girl? You'll love her more, won't you?" asked Lin Ruixi. Even thinking about the possibility of having a baby sister got Lin Ruixi's heart to break. Her eyes started reddening once more.

"Why would I love your baby sister more? Aren't you my daughter as well?" cooed Zong Jinghao patiently.

"But you acted like you care more about the baby in mommy's tummy earlier," insisted Lin Ruixi, who still didn't buy a word her dad said.

"I care about your mommy, so naturally, I care about the baby in her tummy as well. And do you know why I was being so careful with mommy?"

Lin Ruixi sniffled and asked, "Why?"

"Because the baby is still very, very tiny, and if mommy and daddy aren't careful, the baby might leave us at any moment."

"Leave? Where will the baby go?" asked Lin Ruixi as she blinked. She didn't know what leave meant just yet.

"I meant the baby won't come to this world. We won't be able to meet the baby, and the baby won't meet us either."

Lin Ruixi got lost in her thought. She seemed to understand what her father said.

Just then, Lin Xinyan opened the door and walked in. Lin Ruixi buried her face in Zong Jinghao's chest when she saw her mother walking in. The little girl refused to look at her mother.

Lin Xinyan walked over and held her daughter's hand. Lin Ruixi wanted to pull her arm back, but Lin Xinyan's hold was tight, and Lin Ruixi couldn't break free.

Lin Ruixi's eyes reddened once more.

Lin Xinyan placed her daughter's hand on her tummy and explained, "Ruixi, you used to be in mommy's tummy, too."

Lin Ruixi clenched her fist because she didn't want to touch the baby.

"Did you know? You and Xichen weren't welcomed when you were both babies."

Lin Ruixi cried upon hearing that. She didn't make much noise, but she sobbed quietly in Zong Jinghao's arms.

"Despite all that, both of you are still my treasures. I only feel alive after having the two of you. I didn't know what my purpose in life was until I had the two of you. My world turned bright and colorful because you and your brother are here..."

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 449

Zong Jinghao turned to look at Lin Xinyan, and his eyes shone with inexplicable heartache.

He wasn't by her side when she needed someone to take care of her.

*It must've been tough when she gave birth to the twins.*

Lin Ruixi's tiny fist loosened a little.

Lin Xinyan's voice got even softer as she continued, "Even if I have countless other kids in the future, no one can replace you and your brother, Ruixi. The two of you are the reason I am who I am right now."

Lin Ruixi turned to her mother between sobs.

Lin Xinyan reached her hand out to wipe Lin Ruixi's tears away from her chubby cheeks. She then explained, "Ruixi, you are mommy's most precious treasure, and I want you to grow up to be strong. I want to help you be a brave and resilient child because daddy and mommy can't stay with you forever. This world is full of wonders, and you have so many adventures waiting for you. You will have to experience and face so much on your own. I am only strict with you because I love you."

Lin Ruixi's fist loosened completely and she reached out to touch Lin Xinyan's tummy. Lin Xinyan was only a few months into her pregnancy, so the baby was virtually undetectable. Lin Ruixi sniffled and asked, "Is there really a baby inside?"

Lin Xinyan tilted her head down, and her eyes shone with love as she held her daughter and answered, "Yes, there is. You used to be in my tummy like this as well, Ruixi, but you grew up bit by bit."

Lin Ruixi got curious and moved her hand around, but she still couldn't feel the baby.

"You will be a big sister soon, Ruixi, and the baby will be very tiny. You have to care for and love the baby to help the baby grow up, okay?"

Lin Ruixi placed her head close to Lin Xinyan's tummy and asked, "I'm a big sister?"

"Yes, you will be a big sister soon," replied Lin Xinyan with a smile. She stroked her daughter's hair before continuing, "My dear Ruixi is all grown up and is about to start elementary school. You will also be a big sister soon. I still remember how you looked just like a tiny Minnie Mouse when you were just born. Mommy was so worried then that you won't have enough to eat."

Lin Ruixi hugged her mother tightly and murmured, "Mommy..."

"Do you still remember what you ate to grow to be big and strong?" asked Lin Xinyan as she held her daughter's face and stared into her big, round eyes.

Lin Ruixi nodded, "Yeah, I remember."

"And do you remember what your brother ate growing up?"

"Yes, I remember it well. Mommy is worried about me not being full, so you gave me all the breast milk. Xichen had to have baby formula instead."

"See? That is how much mommy loves you."

Lin Ruixi lay silently in Lin Xinyan's arms, sobbing softly.

“I’m sorry...”

“No, you don’t need to apologize. You did nothing wrong. I understand what you’re worried about, but you are mommy’s and daddy’s precious baby, and no one can replace you.”

Lin Ruixi’s hold on Lin Xinyan became even tighter at that.

*Knock! Knock!*

Cheng Yuxiu knocked and stood by the door as she said, “Dinner is ready. Come on down.”

Lin Xinyan carried her daughter and cooed, “Alright, let’s not cry anymore, okay? It’s not pretty if you cry.”

Lin Ruixi wiped her tears away before saying, “Mommy, put me down. I don’t want the baby to leave us.”

Lin Xinyan grinned and kissed her daughter’s cheek. “Mommy will be careful, but I want to hold you for a little longer. You’re all grown up now, and I can’t carry you like this for much longer. I want to hold you a little more while I still can,” said Lin Xinyan.

Lin Ruixi buried her face in the crook of her mother’s neck. The little girl was elated now that she knew that her mommy still loved her.

Zong Jinghao supported Lin Xinyan’s waist and reminded her, “Slow down.”

Lin Xinyan nodded.

Cheng Yuxiu was nervous as well. Lin Xinyan’s condition wasn’t ideal, and she might have a miscarriage if she was not careful. As such, Cheng Yuxiu followed closely behind Lin Xinyan.

The distance between the study room and the dining room was short, but Zong Jinghao was still nervous. *The doctor already said that she should be on bed rest. And yet, here she is, walking around while carrying a tiny meatball!* thought Zong Jinghao exasperatedly. Even though Lin Ruixi wasn't plump, she had grown up quite a bit.

When they finally reached the dining table, Zong Jinghao took his daughter and placed her on the chair.

Lin Xichen placed the music notebook aside and walked over as well. He climbed onto the chair on his own before asking, "Whose piano is that?"

Lin Xinyan turned to her son and grinned before replying, "It's mine."

"Mommy, you know how to play the piano?" asked Lin Xichen as his eyes bulged.

Lin Ruixi's eyes were glowing with anticipation as well. Her voice was still a little raspy when she spoke because she cried too much earlier. "I've never seen mommy play the piano before," commented Lin Ruixi.

"Mommy will play for the two of you after dinner," replied Lin Xinyan. She didn't want her kids to think that they would be neglected just because she was pregnant again.

Besides, she was also bored because she had been locked at home ever since she got pregnant.

"Yay, we get to see mommy play the piano for us later," cheered the kids.

Zong Jinghao grabbed some tissue to wipe his daughter's tear-filled face.

Lin Ruixi grinned and said, "Thank you, daddy."

In the end, Zong Jinghao could never be stern with his daughter, even though he was starting to realize that she might be spoiled.

Cheng Yuxiu made some bone broth just for Lin Xinyan. The former had made the soup by letting it simmer for over three hours to ensure that all the nutrients had seeped into it. Furthermore, in order to preserve the soup's natural and original flavor, she didn't put any seasoning in it.

Aunt Yu brought the soup over from the kitchen, and Cheng Yuxiu immediately scooped a bowl for Lin Xinyan. "This can replenish your calcium, so drink more of it to prevent your muscles from aching when you are further into your pregnancy."

Cheng Yuxiu then placed the bowl of soup right in front of Lin Xinyan.

Aunt Yu was serving the dishes at the time, and she heard what Cheng Yuxiu say. She grinned and asked curiously, "How did you know that the muscles will ache once a woman is a few months into her pregnancy?"

When Cheng Yuxiu married Zong Qifeng, they told the public that they had never had a child together before and would never have one in the future.

As such, it didn't make sense for a woman that had never been pregnant before to know about the muscle aches that a pregnant woman would go through.

Cheng Yuxiu was stunned. She didn't expect Aunt Yu to suddenly ask a question like that, so she wasn't prepared.

Fortunately, Lin Xinyan reacted quickly and answered, "Because I told her about how my muscles ached when I was pregnant with the twins."

"Oh, I see," murmured Aunt Yu. She didn't think too much about it since the only reason she asked was that she was curious.

Cheng Yuxiu forced out a stiff-looking smile and chimed in, "That's right. Yan told me about that."

Zong Jinghao leaned against his chair as he shifted his gaze down. The emotions burning in him were inexplicable.

At that moment, Cheng Yuxiu placed several dishes that were Zong Jinghao's favorite right in front of him. The way she did it looked so natural as if it were out of habit.

Once all the dishes were placed on the table, Cheng Yuxiu sat down beside Lin Ruixi and got some food for the little girl. "Ruixi is even eating on her own now. It feels like just yesterday when she still needed us to feed her."

Lin Xinyan grinned and said, "Yeah, she's all grown up now."

Lin Ruixi was delighted to be praised, so she said, "I am about to be a big sister, so of course I'm all grown up. I'm gonna feed the little baby in the future."

Cheng Yuxiu chuckled upon hearing that. *The kid was jealous just mere moments ago, but she's alright now.*

"Here, mommy. You should eat more, so the baby can grow up faster," said Lin Ruixi as she transferred a prawn from her own bowl to her mother's.

"Oh my, why does it feel like Ruixi is all grown up in a matter of seconds?" said Cheng Yuxiu as she gently stroked her granddaughter's hair.

"That's because I'm about to be a big sister," replied Lin Ruixi. Surprisingly, Lin Ruixi was starting to anticipate the arrival of the new baby.

She wondered what it'd feel like to hear someone call her a big sister.

The aura of the place was heartwarming, but Lin Xinyan soon noticed that Zong Jinghao never took a bite.



“What’s wrong? Aren’t these your favorite dishes?” asked Lin Xinyan as she placed some food on his plate.

Zong Jinghao checked his watch and answered, “I have a meeting at eight o’clock tonight. You guys eat without me.”

After saying his piece, Zong Jinghao got up from his seat and walked up the stairs.

Lin Xinyan checked the clock on the wall. It was only seven o’clock, and Zong Jinghao should be hungry even if he had a meeting later.

“I don’t think daddy is happy. Did you notice how he kept quiet the entire time?” asked Lin Xichen, who was sitting next to Zong Jinghao. *I think daddy is upset when he heard grandmother tell mommy how her muscle will ache later during the pregnancy...*

With Zong Jinghao gone, Cheng Yuxiu lost her appetite as well, the joy she felt a moment ago when she learned about Lin Xinyan’s pregnancy vanished into thin air. She asked, “Is he upset because I’m here?”

“Mom, that’s not it. He’s probably still stressed out about my issue because it is rather troublesome. He’s actually been like this for a while now. I’ll go check on him,” said Lin Xinyan before she stood up. Dressed in a loose green dress, and wearing a pair of soft slippers, she walked slowly and steadily towards the stairs.

Despite that, Cheng Yuxiu was still worried, so she reminded her, “Be careful.”

Lin Xinyan grinned at Cheng Yuxiu and replied, “Don’t worry. I’ll be fine, you guys carry on with your meal.”

Lin Xinyan walked up the stairs. Because of her body condition, she walked slowly and barely made any noise. When she reached the door, she slowly opened it.

The lights were off inside the room, so the only source of light was from the gap of the open door.

Lin Xinyan saw Zong Jinghao sitting on the edge of the bed in a bent-over position. His lone figure made him seem down and lonely.

Lin Xinyan walked slowly to his side and asked softly, "Are you..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Zong Jinghao suddenly pulled Lin Xinyan into his embrace. His arms tightened around her waist as he buried his face in her tummy.

Lin Xinyan was startled. Zong Jinghao acted so impulsively that it got Lin Xinyan to raise her hands up instinctively.

"Just let me hold you for a little while," requested Zong Jinghao in a soft and sullen tone. It sounded like he was burdened by something.

Lin Xinyan lowered her arms slowly before running her fingers through his hair. She hugged him ever so slightly, making him snuggled into her tummy even more.

# Stealing Your Heart Chapter 450

Zong Jinghao felt that the only way to calm the wild emotions in his heart was by hugging her warm body.

He rubbed his face against the soft and thin fabric of her dress. He could feel the warmth of his wife's skin, and the heartbeat of the baby in her womb. At that moment, he knew that he wasn't just hugging one person, but instead, he had two people in his arms.

One of them was the woman he loved the most, and the other was his flesh and blood.

He wondered whether his life was terrible.

His identity was kept a secret, and his biological mother was right in front of him. Yet, he hated her for over two decades.

Twenty years was a long time, and in all that time, he thought she was the woman who destroyed his parents' marriage.

However, Zong Jinghao also had a happy life. He was with the woman he loved and had twins with her. He had the ordinary family he craved.

His home had everything he ever wanted. His wife, his kids...

Lin Xinyan kept stroking his hair as she asked, "What's wrong? You can tell me. Let me share this burden with you. We're a married couple, after all."

"I feel terrible. Did it hurt a lot when you give birth to the twins?" asked Zong Jinghao with his eyes closed, his face still buried in her tummy.

It had hurt badly. The contraction came in waves and each wave was worse than the previous one. Even after all those years, Lin Xinyan could still remember the excruciating pain she had to endure.

However, that was all in the past.

“You’re upset because of that? Then why not just be nicer to me in the future?” said Lin Xinyan as she lifted his chin. She had her head down and was staring at him with the help of the dim light.

“Don’t I already treat you extremely well? I almost sacrificed my life for you,” reminded Zong Jinghao as his hand slid downwards.

Lin Xinyan frowned and slapped his hand away.

Zong Jinghao chuckled at that before instructing, “Go have dinner. I need to go run some errands.”

“Aren’t you going to eat something?” asked Lin Xinyan.

“I’ll eat out tonight,” replied Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan sensed that Zong Jinghao was still hiding some things from her, so she stood there. Zong Jinghao stood up when he noticed that she was standing still. He offered, “Do you need me to carry you down the stairs?”

“No, it’s fine. Okay, I’ll go have dinner now,” replied Lin Xinyan. Cheng Yuxiu and her kids were still waiting for her in the dining room, and they would worry if she stayed for too long.

Zong Jinghao pinched her nose before saying, “Go on then.”

Lin Xinyan walked down slowly while Zong Jinghao sat on his own for a while. He stayed there until it was almost eight o’clock. After that, he got up to change his

clothes. As he undressed, he heard the piano playing the tunes of *Marriage D'Amour*.

That was the first time he heard Lin Xinyan playing the piano, and he was mesmerized by it.

The beautiful tune danced in the air and stirred every heart and soul it touched. It was as if the melody was showing them their most serene and most beautiful moments in their life...

Zong Jinghao had a black suit on when he walked down the stairs. He saw his kids sitting on either side of Lin Xinyan while listening to her play. He wasn't sure if they could understand the complex emotions expressed by the melody, but he could tell that they were definitely mesmerized.

Their tiny heads danced to the tunes, and they were so engrossed that they never noticed the man standing by the stairs.

Cheng Yuxiu sat on the sofa with her tears blurring her vision.

She knew that song well because she heard Wen Xian played it before.

When Cheng Yuxiu watched Lin Xinyan sitting there, she felt like she had traveled back in time to all those years ago...

Lin Xinyan's fingers stopped dancing on the piano keys after she finished playing one song. It seemed that she was in the zone as well, and the kids' and Cheng Yuxiu's applause brought her back.

"It's been so long since I last played, and I am all out of practice."

Cheng Yuxiu wiped the tears off the corner of her eyes and complimented with a smile, "You played beautifully, and I was completely engrossed."

“Yeah, it’s lovely. Mommy’s amazing!” added Lin Ruixi as she dashed into Lin Xinyan’s arms.

Lin Xichen had spent the entire day trying to figure how the piano works, so he turned to Lin Xinyan and asked with a straight face, “Mommy, please teach me how to play.”

Lin Xinyan agreed to it while stroking her son’s tiny head. She later saw Zong Jinghao standing by the stair, so she asked, “Are you heading out now?”

Zong Jinghao nodded and said, “Yeah. Rest well tonight. Don’t wait up.”

After that, Zong Jinghao turned to leave the house.

Lin Ruixi ran over before he got to do so. She asked, “Daddy, when will you come home?”

Zong Jinghao scooped his daughter up and planted a kiss on her forehead before replying, “Soon. Let’s not go back and stay here tonight, okay?”

It wasn’t ideal for Lin Xinyan to leave the house given her current condition, and with the kids there, they could keep her company.

“Okay,” agreed Lin Ruixi gleefully. Her parents were living in that house, so she was more than happy to stay there too.

“Run along now,” said Zong Jinghao as he placed his daughter back down.

Lin Xinyan turned to him from the living room and said, “Come home soon, okay?”

Zong Jinghao agreed to it before he left the house and went to Lotus Park.

He parked his car after arriving at his destination, and an attendant came up to welcome him. "Hi, you must be Mr. Zong, right? Mr. Wen is waiting for you inside."

Zong Jinghao nodded slightly to gesture the attendant to lead the way.

The private room had a small pond with pink flowers on it. The water plants stood up straight as they floated in the middle of the pond. The water was clear, and the pond's sophistication made the entire place look classy.

Zong Jinghao entered the room, circled around the pond, and headed toward the pavilion where Wen Qing was. The coffee table was right in the middle, and Zong Jinghao strode towards it.

Wen Qing heard the footsteps, and he already knew who those footsteps belong to without even needing to turn his head. "Looks like you are the only one who truly knows me," commented Wen Qing.

*Li Zhan's a fool if he actually thought he pulled something like that off.*

If Wen Qing hadn't deliberately let Li Zhan know about the computer's password, Li Zhan would've never gained access to it.

Zong Jinghao sat quietly on the opposite side.

"I am getting too old," added Wen Qing. His face looked pallid, but no matter how terrible he looked, there was one thing he could never let go of. It was the obsession that had taken root in his heart.

He simply couldn't lose his sister's only son.

Hence, Wen Qing placed a file in front of Zong Jinghao and informed, "The police will announce that the case is solved tomorrow. They will claim that He Ruize escaped from prison and was shot by the police. Lin Xinyan had nothing to do

with his death, and all the evidence previously held against her will be destroyed. There will be no trace of it.”

Zong Jinghao didn't check the file. Instead, he stared calmly at Wen Qing.

The turn of events was too big and too sudden for him.

Wen Qing sighed, “I know that if I were to go through with it, you and I will never have a proper conversation again. She gave birth to your children, after all, and if it were me, I would've gone all out to protect the mother of my children as well.”

Zong Jinghao listened quietly without saying a word.

“Wen Xian had always been beautiful, even when she was a kid. Everyone loved her, and she was the only sister I had, so naturally, I cared for her as well. Our parents were loving, and I was close to my sister. Perhaps it was the way we were brought up, but I have always seen my family as the most important people in my life. I was only a kid when Wen Xian was born, but despite my young age, I remembered how my father told me that the baby is my sister. He told me to take care of her and love her because she and I were related by blood. He also said that we were born from the same womb and that there was no one more important. I remembered his words to this day, and I loved and cared for her as he instructed,” shared Wen Qing.

He then tilted his gaze up to Zong Jinghao and continued, “She passed away when she was so young, and I honestly couldn't bear it. It hit me hard, and I was tempted to carve a hole in your father's head to see if he actually had a brain. Because if he did, then why didn't he treasure her and take care of her? She was so young, so why did he let her...”

Wen Qing was in pain, and he looked haggard.

Zong Jinghao looked up slowly. He stared at Wen Qing without saying a word.



There were too many twists and turns in that story, and Zong Jinghao didn't know most of it. All he could do was wait for his people to report their investigation to him.

Wen Xian, the woman he thought was his mother... *What role did she play in the incidents of the past? Why doesn't Wen Qing know anything about it?*

"I know that we probably won't ever be as close as we used to be, but I still wish that you will forgive me. I still can't let go of Wen Xian's death, and it is likely that this will be the one pain I can never let go of in this lifetime."

Wen Qing stood up after that. He was not as strong as he used to be, but he could still stand up straight.

"Tell me something. Did you come up with this plan? Or did someone give you the idea?"