

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 681

Wang Wen was speechless.

There was nothing more convincing than what Sang Yu had just said.

Age doesn't matter when you like someone.

He pursed his lips, turned around and left.

Meanwhile, Sang Yu went back to the house and sat by the bedside.

Shen Peichuan hesitated for a while, walked in, and sat near her in a distance. However, both of them kept silent.

The sun slowly set, and soon, it was getting dark in the room.

“Sang Yu...”

“Captain Shen...”

Both of them spoke and stopped at the same time. Shen Peichuan continued, “Just call me by my first name.”

Sang Yu smiled sheepishly. “I forgot that you’re no longer a captain. Are you hungry? Let me go prepare some food.”

On her way to the kitchen, she walked past Shen Peichuan, and he grabbed her hand.

Sang Yu turned and was met by his blazing gaze in a dark room.

“You don’t mind that I’m older than you...”

Sang Yu interrupted him, “If you don’t mind me being an orphan, then I won’t mind that you’re older than me.”

Shen Peichuan never cared about these, but he had always felt that he was not suitable for her because of his age.

“Why would I? I know that you’re a good lady.”

Smiling coyly, Sang Yu bowed her head and held on tight to the side of her blouse. Biting her lips, she asked, “Do you like me then?”

He pondered for a moment. “I think so.”

Though it sounded stiff, Sang Yu believed that he was genuine in his feelings.

“Are you hungry then?” She lifted her head and looked at him with her lips curled up to a nice angle.

Shen Peichuan nodded.

Sang Yu felt amused and asked, “Do you plan to keep holding my hand like this?”

Upon realizing the blunder, Shen Peichuan let go of her immediately. However, she quickly gripped his hand and explained, “I like it, but I don’t want to starve you. So I’ll go cook now while you can take a rest on the bed.”

Thereafter, she let go of him and headed to the kitchen.

He looked at his hand and a smirk settled on his face. Shen Peichuan then got up and followed her to the kitchen. At that moment, Sang Yu was cutting some potatoes. “These were planted by the principal. Aren’t they big?”

Shen Peichuan nodded in agreement.

Sang Yu stared at him. *Although his head was bandaged with gauze, his sharp features could still be clearly seen. The way he looks at me right now is so gentle.*

Dressed in a white t-shirt and black Bermuda shorts, he looked exceptionally boyish.

“You look good in these.” Sang Yu smiled sweetly.

Shen Peichuan took a good look at himself. *These are Wang Wen’s clothes, I didn’t expect them to fit me so well.*

“Let’s go shopping tomorrow and get you some change of clothes.” Sang Yu also planned to buy more groceries. *He needs to have balanced meals in order to recover well from his injuries.*

“Buy a new set of clothes to return to the guy who likes you,” Shen Peichuan said, “I’ll pass you some money later.”

He did not wish to owe to his “love rival” anything.

Sang Yu handed a tomato to his mouth. “Are you jealous that he likes me?”

Shen Peichuan said admittedly, “I don’t like him being close to you.”

Although it was just a brief statement said in a straight face, Sang Yu thought he looked cute, just like a teenager falling in love for the first time.

“If you don’t like it, then I’ll stay away from him.” She placed the sliced potatoes into a pot of water and washed away the starch.

Then, she took out some green peppers, washed them, and was about to cut them. “Can you eat spicy food?” she asked.

“Yes. By the way, this tomato is really sweet.” Shen Peichuan was surprised as the tomato was still a tad greenish on the outside.

Sang Yu grinned. “You can never get this type of tomato in the city. The one you’re having now is a ripen one, unlike those sold at the supermarket, which looks red on the outside but is still unripe.”

He rarely cooked for himself and also never noticed how tomatoes were like. Hence, he believed her wholeheartedly.

“Would you like to taste it?” Shen Peichuan took another bite.

Sang Yu was still cutting the green peppers. “Just a small bite...”

Before she could finish her sentence, he handed the tomato to her mouth, with the side he had not taken a bite facing upwards.

Shen Peichuan smiled at her. “Here, have a bite.”

Sang Yu bit her lips. *He didn't say anything sweet or cheesy, but why am I getting teary over his action?*

Was I moved to tears? Was it because this relationship came unexpectedly? Did I feel wronged? Or is this outburst due to the long suppression of my emotions?

She could not comprehend nor describe her feelings as tears streamed down her cheeks.

Seeing her reaction, Shen Peichuan quickly put away the tomato and wiped the tears off her face. “Don’t cry. Let me take care of you from now onwards.”

Upon hearing that, Sang Yu started weeping uncontrollably, sending Shen Peichuan into panic mode. “Did I say anything wrong?”

Sobbing, she shook her head. “No, I just thought about my mother suddenly.”

Lowering her head, she wiped her tears.

Shen Peichuan knitted his brows. *I don't have the words to console her, but if I hug her now, I'm afraid that I'll startle her.*

Right when he was still debating in his own thoughts, Sang Yu hugged him and then buried her face in his chest while sobbing convulsively.

Shen Peichuan stiffened for a few seconds before stretching out his hand to embrace her. She trembled in his arms, making his heart wrenched in pain. He felt very sorry for what Sang Yu had to go through.

“Why did you leave? I was so worried when you went missing. I even searched for you in your hometown but to no avail. I'll go back with you.”

Sang Yu looked at him. “You went to my hometown?”

Shen Peichuan nodded.

“But how did you know about my hometown?” Her glistened eyes widened in disbelief.

“Have you forgotten what's my expertise? It wasn't very difficult to look up your address.”

She finally realized. *That's right. Mom has a criminal record so he could check anything within a click.*

“If we're together, will it affect your...”

“No.” She was interrupted before she could finish her question.

“I don’t have a prominent family background, neither do I have any network that can assist you in your career. I have nothing to offer...” Sang Yu said with disappointment.

Shen Peichuan desired to climb the social ladder but definitely not through the means of depending on others.

“Do you trust me?” He tousled her hair. “Isn’t it too much for a brain like yours to think so much at a young age?”

Sang Yu nodded her head vigorously. “I trust you.”

After opening up to him and sharing her genuine concerns, she felt so much better. *It’s worth delaying dinner for an hour.*

She made a simple meal; stir-fried potatoes with green peppers, stir-fried green beans, sour and spicy radish, and steamed corn. The pickled radish was gifted to her by a student’s grandmother.

“Try this. It’s so soft.” Sang Yu passed him some corns.

Shen Peichuan stopped eating and looked at her with a serious face. He uttered in a low voice, “Sang Yu, I need to tell you something.”

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Seeing how serious Shen Peichuan looked, Sang Yu's heart skipped a beat. She asked cautiously, "What's the matter?"

He did not want to hide anything from her. "I've agreed to be with Yaxin..." he hurriedly explained further, "But I don't like her."

Sang Yu lowered her gaze and continued eating. Casually, she asked, "So, what do you want to tell me?"

Putting down his cutleries, Shen Peichuan held her hands and then looked her in the eye. "I don't want to hide anything from you. I'll take care of this matter in two days' time, then I'll come and pick you up. I hope that you will continue your studies and help more people with your knowledge. It's not easy to get into such a good university that others could only dream about. You should treasure this opportunity."

He did not plan to bring Sang Yu along because he feared that Song Yaxin would channel her anger at Sang Yu if the matter were not dealt with properly. However, he would return to pick her up once everything was settled.

It's better for her this way. Moreover, she should be very safe here.

Sang Yu walked across the table and sat on his lap. With her hands around his neck, she said obediently, "I'll just follow your advice."

A warm, fuzzy feeling filled her heart. Seeing how honest Shen Peichuan was, Sang Yu was very contented and appreciative towards him.

She held him tightly. "Henceforth, you're the person closest and dearest to me."

Shen Peichuan's hand was in mid-air for a moment before he finally decided to land on her back and caress her gently.

Then Sang Yu rested her chin on his shoulder and spoke in a simpering manner into his ear, "I like you so much. What should I do?"

Warm air lingered around his ear, causing his body to stiffen. *It's not only a sensitive area for women, but also a very sensitive area for men.*

Shen Peichuan remained frozen.

On the other hand, Sang Yu thought something was not right and asked softly, "Did I hurt your wound? Is it painful?"

In a hoarse voice, he replied, "No."

"Oh, then you must be starving." She let go of him.

When she stood up, she saw under the light that his face turned crimson, as if he had a lot to drink.

"You..."

Initially, Sang Yu wanted to ask if he was feeling under the weather. Then, she discovered that other than a blushing face, his body was as stiff as a board. *Could it be that I was too close to him?*

She could not contain her smile. *How can a guy in his thirties be so shy and innocent?*

Hence, she deliberately grasped him in a tight hug, leaving no gap between her chest and his. With an alluring smile on her face, she teased, "There's only one bed, so how should we sleep tonight?"

His heart started to beat fast while his hands remained clasped onto his body. Pressing his voice lower, he replied, "I'll sleep on the floor."

Sang Yu deliberately put him on the spot. "The floor is too cold at night, and it's not good for your health."

Nonetheless, Shen Peichuan pursed his lips and kept quiet.

He felt that all the blood in his entire body was concentrating in a certain area as if it were about to swell up and then gush out of his body. Yet, he remained respectful towards her. "Sang Yu, get back to your seat, and let's have dinner, shall we?"

However, Sang Yu declined and hugged him even tighter. "I want to keep hugging you. Don't you like it?"

Shen Peichuan rolled his Adam's apple up and down. "I like it, but you're still young..."

"I'm already an adult." Sang Yu planted a kiss on his neck. At that moment, she realized that she liked him very much. *He's a righteous and trustworthy gentleman to the core. If it was another man, that person might not have been able to control himself.*

Sang Yu was confident of her charms. *How many men can suppress their desires so well in a situation like this?*

At the same time, Shen Peichuan shut his eyes and tried very hard to endure the gentle torture.

Even so, Sang Yu was still reluctant to let him go. "You haven't answered me. How should we sleep tonight as there's only a single bed? You can't sleep on the floor because it's too cold, and it won't be good for your health. Do you want to sleep with me?"

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Panting, Shen Peichuan said, "Don't you worry, I won't do anything to you before getting married."

Even if we share the same bed, I won't touch her.

He actually felt pressured by it. *She just seems so young to me, and it makes me feel guilty as if I'm a pedophile if I ever do anything to her.*

Soon after that, Sang Yu stopped teasing him. *He's such a rare gem. I must cherish this relationship with him.* She then got up from Shen Peichuan's lap and went back to her seat. "What dishes do you prefer? I'll cook them for you next time."

After being single for a long time, it made Shen Peichuan feel good to have someone caring for him. He felt belonged and was looking forward to having more of such moments.

Thus, he finished everything Sang Yu cooked for him.

After dinner, Sang Yu asked him to relax in the living room while she washed the dishes, but he followed her into the kitchen instead.

"Is it that entertaining to watch me wash dishes?" Sang Yu joked.

"I'm learning from the best so that I can do it for you in the future," Shen Peichuan answered firmly, and it made Sang Yu grinned from ear to ear.

"Ms. Sang... Ms. Sang..." Lu Keke walked in with a watermelon. "Grandpa asked me to bring this to you." When she saw Shen Peichuan, she added, "For the both of you."

Sang Yu washed her hands and accepted the watermelon. "Please thank your Grandpa on my behalf."

"Grandpa said this is nothing compared to all the stationeries that you've given me. He also said that you're a good teacher." Lu Keke smiled widely, showing a row of white teeth. "I'll get going now. Good night, Ms. Sang."

With that, Keke ran off immediately.

Staring at the watermelon, Sang Yu's face dimmed. "I'm going to miss them so much."

She was worried about the students. Not many people were willing to teach here due to its poor living condition. *Who is going to teach them when I leave? Besides, Wang Wen is just a temporary teacher. These kids are so pure and kind, and they deserve a bright future. Studying is the only way to get them out of poverty.*

Knowing what she was thinking, Shen Peichuan stroke her face. "Leave this to me."

Her eyes sparkled with hope. "Do you have a plan in mind?"

He replied with a low hum.

"You're the best!" She wrapped her hands around her neck, tip-toed, and pecked him on his cheek.

After that, she released him almost instantly and continued washing the dishes. Bowing her head, Sang Yu smiled sweetly, whereas the startled Shen Peichuan went blank as if he were savoring the brief kiss.

Thereafter, Sang Yu kept the watermelon in a bucket and filled it with water from the well. "I'm going to take a shower while waiting for the watermelon to get chilled."

“I’ll go outside.” Shen Peichuan responded immediately. He left the room and shut the door behind him while Sang Yu stood still and gave a lopsided grin.

Right outside, Shen Peichuan sat down on a stone bench under the tree. The random night breeze made the place less stuffy and humid.

How should I tell Song Yaxin in a way that won’t hurt her? I’m the one who goes back on my word. Sigh.

“May I sit down?” Wang Wen approached him.

Shen Peichuan looked up and said, “Sure.”

Wang Wen sat down on the other side of the bench.

Staring at the night sky, he asked, “Are you going to date her?”

Shen Peichuan acknowledged.

Feeling rather disappointed, Wang Wen shared his thoughts, “It would have been perfect if you didn’t show up, she might have accepted me then. She’s the first girl that I’ve ever liked.”

Shen Peichuan did not reply to his hypothetical statement. *It’s meaningless to talk about what it could or might have been. I showed up and also sorted my feelings.*

“What do you do for a living? Can you take good care of her?” Wang Wen got worried about Sang Yu’s future.

Curious, Shen Peichuan asked, “Why do you want to know about this?”

“You said that I don’t have a job and can’t take good care of her. Then, what about you? Can you give her a good life?” Wang Wen challenged him since commented about him earlier.

Shen Peichuan thought he was being childish. “I can’t guarantee her an extravagant lifestyle, but I can definitely support her.”

“Are you kidding me? Support? What a superficial statement! Providing insufficiently is also considered as a form of support. If you can’t give her a quality life, then what’s the difference between you and me? You can’t even tell me about your occupation. Is it because you don’t have one. or you’re doing something dodgy?” Wang Wen was very upset that he channeled his anger on Shen Peichuan with harsh words.

Right when Shen Peichuan was about to say something, Sang Yu pushed the door open and walked out in her pajamas and a head of wet hair.

She overheard their conversation and did not like how Shen Peichuan was being interrogated.

“He’s a Deputy Police Chief. Is that good enough for you?” Sang Yu asked in a cold tone.

She respected Wang Wen and treated him as a friend, but she would not tolerate the way he spoke to Shen Peichuan.

Thus, she would not allow others to question him even if he did not have a good vocation what more he had one.

In her eyes, Shen Peichuan was the Mr. Right.

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Wang Wen was stunned by Sang Yu's big reaction. "I... I didn't mean it in a bad way. I'm just worried that you'd be unhappy with him..."

"Do you think that money is the only thing that will make me happy?" she rebutted.

Feeling wronged, Wang Wen explained, "It was Mr. Shen who commented that I can't give you a good life because I have no permanent job; hence, I asked him the same question."

He tried to be polite and explained himself. *Shen Peichuan stole my chance. If he didn't show up, I would have been with Sang Yu now.*

Sang Yu took a glance at Shen Peichuan. *Did you say that?*

Shen Peichuan coughed and owned up his action. "Yes, that's right, I said that."

Unexpectedly, Sang Yu went ahead and held his arm. "Whatever you say or do is always right."

Wang Wen was rendered speechless. His eyes widened. *What gives?*

"Sang Yu, you're being unfair to me. Why is that right when he says it but not me?"

"He's my boyfriend, and I like everything about him regardless of if it's right or wrong. Do you have a problem with that?" Sang Yu was determined to protect her man at all cost, albeit knowing that she was biased.

Just because he's my man. I just like him so much, and I want to cherish everything about this man.

“You're a changed person now. You were never this unreasonable, Sang Yu.” Wang Wen realized that he did not understand her anymore.

She's usually gentle and compassionate. How did she change into a different person overnight? Is this the so-called power of love?

“No matter how much you like him, you shouldn't lose your personality and stance. He'll look down on you sooner or later, despise you, and then leave you.” Wang Wen was extremely worried about Sang Yu getting hurt in the relationship. *If she stoops so low to please him, he will disdain her one day.*

Sang Yu interlocked fingers with Shen Peichuan. *I know he's not that kind of an irresponsible person. I believe in what I see in him, and I also believe in his characteristics.*

“I won't put in any effort if I don't like him. However, when I fall in love, I'll make sure to give it my all. Even if I got hurt and was wrong about him, I'll just accept it as it's my own decision to make.” Sang Yu looked at Shen Peichuan while responding to Wang Wen.

Wang Wen could not comprehend her logic. *Why can't she take precautions, and take it slow instead of plunging all her heart into it?*

“Silly girl. Now I finally get why they say that love is blind.” He turned his head and left but stopped after taking a few steps. “Treat her well; otherwise, I'll come after you. I don't care what position you hold. I'll beat the living daylights out of you!” Wang Wen warned Shen Peichuan sternly before striding off.

Shen Peichuan yelled, “I won't give you any chance to lay a finger on me.”

Wang Wen paused but did not look back nor say a word. After a while, his lonely figure disappeared into the woods.

Heaving a long sigh, Sang Yu muttered, "I wonder if I'll ever regret my decision today to turn down a guy who cares for me."

Shen Peichuan frowned at her. "Will you?"

She pretended. "A little bit."

Feeling uneasy, he set his mouth in a hard line. *Does she not trust me?*

Sang Yu peeped at him and realized that he took it literally.

She sighed again. "You can't even tell if I was joking. I regret loving you so much." After that, she let go of his arm and headed back into the house.

He caught up with her, gripped her wrist, and pulled her into his arms. "How could you break your promise and regret what you just declared moments ago?"

His hug was so tight that her feet were swept off the ground, and it almost suffocated her. Tilting her head up, she intentionally moved her lips close to his chin. "Yes, I regret my choice. So, what are you going to do about it?"

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Shen Peichuan's expression was unfathomable. He gazed at the girl standing in front of him from time to time. She had a pale face with big bright eyes filled with steely resolve. She looked a little mature for her age. *How could I bear to force her?*

Slowly, his arms relaxed. Sang Yu wrapped her arms around his neck and gave him a deep kiss.

Shen Peichuan looked down at her in shock. The kiss caught him by surprise and he froze on the spot.

Sang Yu wasn't disappointed by his lack of reaction. Instead, she deepened the kiss. *He is so cute and silly, even a little naive.*

Shen Peichuan was aroused by the ferocity that Sang Yu was kissing him with. He suddenly wrapped his arms around her petite body and kissed her back fervently.

After a while, Sang Yu released him from her hold. Her lips had turned slightly pink. She blinked and cleared her throat and asked, "I would never regret my decision. I love you. You are so foolish to believe everything I say. Didn't you know I was just lying to you? Let me tell you this: I will never ever regret being with you."

Shen Peichuan gazed at her sincere expression. His heart immediately fluttered involuntarily and was beating at an irregular rhythm.

He wanted to express his love for her but didn't want to be too mushy. Hence, he remained silent as he swept his gaze over her.

He closed his eyes and muttered, "I will never betray your trust in me. Thank you for believing in me, Sang Yu."

I can't believe he didn't tell me that he loves me! Instead, he thanked me for trusting him? How is that possible?

She sniffled and said, "I was about to cry but now you make me want to break out in laughter."

Shen Peichuan kept his face straight and queried, "Don't you agree with what I said?"

Did I upset her by saying something wrong?

She shook her head and replied, "What you said was fine. I'm so touched by it."

He furrowed his brows in confusion and asked, "You just said you wanted to burst out laughing. I don't believe you when you say you are touched. Do you take me for a fool?"

"Of course not. I just think that you aren't very smart," she responded. With that, she ran into the room, plopped herself on the bed, and wrapped the blanket around her.

When he saw her bundled up in bed, his lips curved into a smile and he slowly walked in. As he sat beside the bed and removed the blanket, she gazed at him.

He caressed her face. She looked as beautiful and mesmerizing as a flower in full bloom.

His heart beat rapidly and he placed a light kiss on her forehead. His eyes were closed and he could smell the faint fragrance of her shampoo. *I don't want to leave.*

“Sang Yu,” he called.

“Yes?” she replied softly.

He stood up and said, “Go to sleep.”

“I want you to sleep with me,” she said as she moved to the side of the bed.

Shen Peichuan agreed and lay down next to her.

A ray of light glared through the windows and lit up the room. “Are you hot?” she asked.

He nodded, “Yes, it’s warm in here.”

The type of heat he felt wasn’t from the sun but from the passion between the two of them.

She got up and turned on the fan situated on the bedside table before returning to bed. “Are you still feeling warm?” she asked.

“Not anymore,” he replied and shook his head.

She held his hand and faced him. “Stay with me for a few more days, please,” she pleaded.

“Alright,” he answered without much thought.

“You replied so quickly. Aren’t you going to think about it?” she asked as she gazed at him.

“There’s no need to consider,” he stated.

She laughed and pulled his arm around herself. As she cuddled his arm, she said, "I want you to hug me to sleep."

He froze and lay still on the bed. Although he took a while to warm up to her, he couldn't control his physical needs when he was so close to her.

She knew what he was thinking about and felt that he was extremely attractive. She bit her lips and asked, "Are you afraid I'm going to become very clingy?"

He didn't reply. *She is still a young girl.* "What did you say?" he asked after a while.

"Nothing. Let's go to sleep," she sighed and hugged his elbow, leaving a small gap between them. She wasn't chastising him for not wanting to engage in pre-marital sex. In fact, she didn't feel ready for it, either.

It was a calm night. Both of them closed their eyes and slowly drifted to sleep.

In the morning, Sang Yu was the first to wake up. Shen Peichuan had promised to spend more time with her so she needed to inform the chancellor that she would be missing class. Afterward, she would accompany him on a shopping trip for clean clothes.

She brought out the watermelon that they had wanted to eat yesterday and scooped out some porridge.

She had not finished the eggs that Wang Haonan gave her. In fact, most of the food at home had been gifted to her by her students.

The eggs were organic and produced locally.

She decided to cook two eggs for Shen Peichuan, since he was injured. She also thought of buying some tonic for him later.

As she had lived alone for a long period of time, she had learned how to do most of the housework and cook a decent meal.

As she was pouring water, someone appeared in front of her.

In that moment, she froze on the spot.

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The chancellor was holding a live chicken and smiled. “Isn’t your friend injured? There isn’t much here to help him with his injuries, so I decided to bring him a live chicken.”

She was long used to the warmth of the villagers. However, she was still shocked when she received a live chicken in the morning. She said to the chancellor, “You should keep this for your son instead.”

The chancellor had a son currently living in another city. His son married a local lady, who was currently pregnant and due to give birth. The chancellor had reared chickens to give to his son and his daughter-in-law.

“There is still a lot left; this one is for you,” he said as he passed it over to her.

She didn’t dare to kill the chicken.

“I appreciate your gesture. However, I can’t accept this chicken. Anyway, my friend is strong and healthy. Even his skin is tough—he doesn’t need to nourish his body,” she replied. *Even if he wanted to eat a chicken, I would buy and cook a dead one. I can’t bear to kill and eat a live chicken.*

If I see life perish before my eyes, I will feel horrible.

“I’ve already brought it here. How can I possibly bring it back?” He said as he tied the chicken to a brick and left it at her doorstep.

After hearing what he said, she felt guilty for refusing to accept the gift as it made her seem ungrateful.

“Well, thank you very much then,” she continued.

“You don’t have to thank me. You gave me so much help,” he uttered. Right as he was about to leave, he suddenly thought of something. “You don’t have to rush back to work. Please stay and take good care of your friend,” he continued.

She smiled and replied, “I was just about to tell you that I will definitely make up for the lessons that I’ve missed these past two days.”

The chancellor waved his head and replied, “There’s no rush. Wang Wen and I can take care of things.”

With that, he turned and left.

She glanced at the chicken at the door and furrowed her eyebrows, unsure of what to do. She stepped into the house to check whether Shen Peichuan was awake, and found him staring at her with his brows furrowed.

Sang Yu was befuddled and scratched her head. She asked, “Is there something on my face? What’s wrong with you?”

Why is he annoyed so early in the morning?

He sat up straight and queried, “Do you dislike me because I’m old?”

Sang Yu suddenly thought that he was sick, extremely sick. *Didn’t I already express my feelings towards him? Why is he still asking me about this?*

“Do you want me to write it down on a certificate?” she asked in annoyance.

He had long been awake but stayed in the room. When he heard her describe him as someone with tough skin, he felt that she was mocking him of his old age.

He stroked his face. *It isn’t as smooth as hers, but it certainly isn’t wrinkled.*

“You have such a good life. Someone gifted you a live chicken bright and early in the morning. Time to wake up,” she said as she pulled off his blanket.

He held the blankets to prevent her from pulling them away. “Wait a minute!” he exclaimed.

Sang Yu?

What does she mean?

She hurriedly stretched her hand out to caress his forehead and asked, “Are you still suffering from a fever or a headache?”

He shifted his eyes away from her gaze and forcefully rubbed his face. In the past, he had been too busy to care about relationships. But now, he suddenly felt energized.

Whilst he could control his mind and remain rational, he couldn’t control his body’s reaction to her.

He pulled the blanket because he wanted to hide his bulging erection.

She had no clue that men had such uncontrollable physiological reactions in the morning.

She blinked and queried, “Are you sure you are ok?”

He shook his head. He felt embarrassed and was afraid of scaring her away.

She is so young and she’s never had a boyfriend.

After some time, he got off the bed.

“Are you sure you are fine? Do you want to go to the hospital?” she asked as she gazed at him in confusion.

She was worried about his injury.

When she saw him, his head was sweating profusely.

Although the doctor had said he would be fine, she couldn't help but worry.

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She repeated, "Are you sure you are fine?"

He was so self-conscious when she demonstrated such great care that he wanted to disappear into a hole.

He drank some cold water and reassured her. "I'm fine."

She relaxed slightly upon hearing that. Suddenly, she remembered that there was a new toothbrush that she wanted to pass to him. "You can use my cup," she remarked. With that, she left him to freshen himself up as she cooked eggs. By now the porridge was already done.

As they ate, she asked, "Do you want to eat the chicken?"

She gestured to the chicken tied at the front door. "The chancellor gave it to you. They treat you really well," she said.

Just yesterday, someone had gifted them a huge watermelon, and today, they had received a chicken.

Shen Peichuan knew that the villagers made such nice gestures because of Sang Yu. He began to eye her intently. *She is so kind and genuine. Not only that, but she also isn't scheming at all.*

After they finished their meal, they decided to go to Ning County to purchase some necessities and clothes.

As he was in Wang Wen's clothes, she bought new clothes for Wang Wen based on his size, because didn't want Shen Peichuan to owe Wang Wen any favors.

Although this was a tiny matter, she insisted on doing so.

After they returned home and placed the items in the house, they headed to school to distribute the necessities that she had bought for the students.

Wang Wen was also there, so she passed him the new clothes. “Thank you for lending us your clothes,” she said.

Wang Wen didn’t take the clothes. Instead, he uttered, “It’s just a set of clothes. They aren’t worth much and there is no need to buy me new ones.”

“It is necessary,” she said as she passed him the clothes again. “Although I’m not wealthy, my boyfriend and I do not want to act like freeloaders.”

She wanted to make herself absolutely clear because Wang Wen had a crush on her and she had to return his favor. If he didn’t feel that way for her, she would have returned his favor in another manner.

And she didn’t want Shen Peichuan to owe him, either.

He took the clothes from her and asked, “Is that what your boyfriend thinks? Did you buy these clothes with your own money?”

She rubbed his arm and replied, “He is my boyfriend; what’s mine is his.”

If Wang Wen didn’t know about Shen Peichuan’s real identity, he would have berated him for relying excessively on his girlfriend.

However, Shen Peichuan had a certain status. Even though Wang Wen was a university graduate, Shen Peichuan still outshone him in terms of capability.

Admitting defeat, Wang Wen took the clothes and said, “I have to go for class now.”

She nodded.

“Pass me the bag,” she asked Shen Peichuan as she reached forward to take the bag that he was carrying, which was full of items she had bought for the students.

He didn't pass her the bag. “Let's go in together,” he suggested.

She laughed, “Do you even like kids?”

He wasn't sure about that as he had never interacted with other kids, but he did like Zong Jinghao's two children.

She smiled, “I love kids. If I have kids one day, I will give them the best things in life. I will also love them unconditionally.”

He knew that she had a tough life and that she grew up without parental love. He touched her head lovingly and joked, “You are still a kid.”

She glared at him and rebutted, “You are the kid.”

She then walked towards the classrooms. He laughed and quickly followed her.

She took the bag from him and asked all the students to come to her. Everyone was extremely curious and quickly surrounded her.

She bought small items, such as fruit-shaped erasers, pink notebooks, car-shaped pencil cases, and so on.

Though the items were small, everyone was excited by her gifts.

A little girl who had lost her mother quickly hugged Sang Yu and started wailing. This girl had no idea what her mother looked like, except that she was a foreigner

who looked down upon her dad's poor family and left immediately after giving birth.

Her dad had to work endless shifts, so she was brought up by her grandparents instead.

However, her grandparents were old and frail and had no money. As such, she had never worn a clean set of clothes. The first time Sang Yu met her, she was skinny and decked in musty clothes and her hair was extremely messy. Sang Yu ended up bringing the girl to her own house, gave her a bath, and tried to wash her clothes.

This time, she bought a beautiful dress especially for her.

The little girl had never worn new clothes; all her outfits were hand-me-downs.

When she saw the dress, she was touched but also felt indignant.

She was indignant because her own mother had abandoned her. But she was touched because a lady who was not her mother gave her such love.

Sang Yu patted her back and comforted her, "Stop crying, Ye Zi."

This girl's full name was Ye Xuanxuan, but everyone called her by her nickname, Ye Zi. This was because she was extremely malnourished and at the age of seven, she was only as tall as a five-year-old.

Sang Yu wiped away her tears and gazed at her, thinking back to her own unfortunate childhood.

Sang Yu understood what Ye Zi was feeling, which was why she wanted to provide her with as much help as possible, even with her limited capability.

Shen Peichuan is right. Only when I improve myself will I help others in greater ways.

Sang Yu decided at that moment that she would finish her university degree, in order to better help these children.

“Ms. Sang, are you crying?” Ye Zi asked as she wiped away Sang Yu’s tears.

Sang Yu wasn’t weeping but her eyes had filled with tears when she thought of her own childhood. Her family was much like Ye Zi’s family, as she had also grown up without parental love. Worse still, Sang Yu witnessed her father’s abuse of her mother.

Shen Peichuan walked over and held her by her shoulder. He lightly patted her and comforted her. “Don’t cry anymore.”

Although she wanted to hold back her tears, after hearing what he said, she suddenly launched into his arms and wailed.

Wang Haonan, who came late to class because of his injured knee, saw her crying and immediately interrogated Shen Peichuan, “Did you bully Ms. Sang? Let me tell you. Although we are just kids, we will retaliate for our teacher. Do you know that if we team up, we can take you down?” he shouted.

Sang Yu wiped her tears and reassured Wang Haonan, “No one is bullying me.”

“Then why are you crying?” the boy asked.

“Something got into my eye,” she said as she passed him the pencil case that was designed like a car. “This is for you,” she continued.

He was elated that he had forgotten that his knee was hurting. He immediately ran over and took the pencil case; it was exactly the one he wanted.

“Thank you, Ms. Sang,” he exclaimed, instantly forgetting about his plans to avenge his teacher.

Wang Haonan then looked at her excitedly and questioned, “Are you dating this man?”

He saw her crying in his arms just now.

If she wasn't crying because she was bullied, it must have been tears of joy. Why else would she be hugging him and crying?

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Sang Yu was stunned. She didn't expect such a young child to ask this question.

She patted his head gently and replied, "You are so young but you have such mature thoughts..."

Before she finished her sentence, Wang Haonan gripped her hand tightly and gazed at Shen Peichuan. "Are you dating Ms. Sang?" he asked.

Facing the students, Shen Peichuan replied, "Yes, I am."

No wonder Ms. Sang was hugging him. However, Haonan was worried that Shen Peichuan might mistreat Ms. Sang. The boy questioned again, "Will you treat her well?"

Sang Yu look at Wang Haonan and muttered, "Haonan..."

"Ms. Sang, you have no family so we are your family. We will protect you and ensure that no one will look down on you or bully you."

"Yes, Yes," chorused the students as they surrounded Sang Yu. They all asked, "Will you treat Ms. Sang well?"

Although Sang Yu had already calmed down, she was extremely moved. Her lips curved up into a smile but her eyes filled up with tears once again.

Shen Peichuan looked indifferent but his heart was beating extremely fast. He was also touched by the words of these caring students.

Look at how innocent they are. If someone treats them nicely, they will genuinely be nice to him or her in return.

The best feeling in the world has to be this authentic kindness.

He replied seriously, "Yes, I will treat her well."

"We will all remember what you said. If you fail to live up to your promise, we will not forgive you!" exclaimed Wang Haonan with all the other students agreeing.

Sang Yu patted Wang Haonan's shoulder. "Ok, that's enough. Does your knee still hurt?"

Initially, his knees felt alright. But he suddenly remembered his knees were injured and he was now feeling a throbbing sensation. He quickly sat down and sighed, "I thought that I can marry you when I grow older. I can't believe someone else beat me to it."

Sang Yu, who was touched just a moment ago, suddenly burst out laughing.

"You silly goose," she replied.

"Ms. Sang, will you marry this uncle?" Ye Zi questioned.

Sang Yu choked. She could easily express her love for him and treat him nicely.

However, she couldn't decide on marriage as it was a decision involving two people, not just her.

She could not make this decision alone.

"Well..." she trailed off, unsure how to explain it to the students. Before she could finish her sentence, Shen Peichuan interrupted her, "Yes, we will get married."

He said it without a waver in his voice; he was extremely certain about it.

He planned to quickly finish his matters involving Song Yaxin and then bring Sang Yu back with him.

Sang Yu lifted her head and looked at him, clinging to his shirt. Although she should be delighted, she was unsure of how to react. She felt uneasy and on edge.

Is this all a dream?

When she left him, she thought that she would never see him again. However, he reappeared in front of her eyes and even... gave her hope over something she yearned for.

Her eyes dampened, but she forced a smile and uttered, "You guys are so horrible by trying to make me cry."

Shen Peichuan walked over and wiped away her tears. He comforted her, "Don't cry, or I would think that you don't agree with what I just said."

Wang Haonan blinked in astonishment. *This uncle is so foolish.* "Shouldn't you be hugging Ms. Sang to comfort her? Isn't that what your shoulders are for?" he asked.

Sang Yu lowered her head and chuckled. *Shen Peichuan isn't such a sly person. He always acted in a proper manner. I can't believe he got chided by a little kid.*

I'm so useless. Shen Peichuan lower his head and touched his nose. He had wanted to do so but felt awkward in front of all the children.

"Hug! Hug!" Wang Haonan chanted. Soon, all the students were shouting, "Hug! Hug..."

“Stop acting like such a nuisance,” Sang Yu replied, pretending to be annoyed.

“Sir, you disappointed all of us,” Wang Haonan lamented, “You have embarrassed all men!”

Shen Peichuan held his forehead in annoyance. *Did I really fail as a man?*

Sang Yu understood his personality well. To stop everyone from screaming, she tiptoed and wrapped her arms around him. “It’s fine,” she whispered, “I understand what you are thinking. I can take the initiative to hug you.”

He was moved by her kind gesture and he could feel the warmth of her hands around him. He immediately hugged her petite body. Although he was a man of few words, he was very much determined to spend the rest of his life with her.

When he was with her, his heart would race uncontrollably and he felt an indescribable joy from being with her.

“Sang Yu...” trailed Wang Wen. He had wanted to look for her to ask her about something, but when he saw her hugging Shen Peichuan in front of all the students, he felt lost for words.

Sang Yu let go of his hand. Shen Peichuan felt slightly self-conscious but didn’t want Sang Yu to face Wang Wen alone. He continued to hold her hand tightly and asked, “Are you looking for her?”

He gazed at their tightly clenched hands but quickly refocused his gaze and replied, “Someone is looking for you.”

“Looking for me?” Shen Peichuan asked in a perplexed tone.

I don’t know anyone around here.

“Yes. There is someone looking for you,” Wang Wen replied. At that moment, somebody stepped into the classroom. He gazed at Shen Peichuan and then at Sang Yu. “Shen Peichuan, I am the one looking for you,” he stated clearly.

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Shen Peichuan was surprised. “What are you doing here?” he exclaimed.

Su Zhan finally turned his attention to him and retorted, “Am I not allowed to be here?”

Shen Peichuan replied that that was not what he meant before turning to Sang Yu. “Wait here for me.”

Shen Peichuan then walked out.

Su Zhan stood statuesque, keeping his eyes trained on Shen Peichuan. “No wonder you hang around outside; you have a beauty by your side.”

Shen Peichuan was well aware of Su Zhan’s personality. *Given my relationship with Sang Yu, he’s definitely going to harass me to no end.*

Shen Peichuan pulled Su Zhan away and sternly demanded, “I’m being serious. How did you find this place?”

“You’re the one who called, so it wasn’t hard to figure out your location. Besides, Xinyan thinks you’re having a hard time because of her and Jinghao. She’s worried about you and asked me to come and take a look. Jinghao was supposed to come, but his daughter still hasn’t fully recovered after that incident and is still unable to be on her own. That’s why I came over instead. I thought I would find you beaten to a pulp with no life left in you, but it looks as though you’ve been living it up. How did you get Sang Yu to come?”

Shen Peichuan hastily mumbled a brief explanation. “She came here after leaving B City. We only met by coincidence.”

“Coincidence?” Su Zhan smirked, punctuating the word slyly. “Coincidence or fate? You mean in this sea of people, the tides just happened to have brought the two of you together?”

Shen Peichuan furrowed his brow. “Stop spouting nonsense.”

Su Zhan grinned. “Is it really nonsense?”

Shen Peichuan could not be bothered with him and walked over to take a seat on the stone slab under the tree. Su Zhan followed and continued, “Don’t forget you still have a lady waiting for you back in B City.”

Su Zhan took a seat next to him and gave him a knowing look.

Shen Peichuan had not forgotten about that. “I’m just about to go handle this matter.”

Su Zhan jumped to his feet in astonishment. “What did you just say? You’re going back?” he asked in a shrill voice.

Shen Peichuan nodded.

Su Zhan smiled wryly. “Have you gone crazy?”

He stilled himself and divulged his thoughts to Shen Peichuan. “According to my observations, even if you manage to make it back alive, that woman still won’t let you out of her clutches. She went through much effort to capture you; there’s no way she’ll let you go without a fight.”

Shen Peichuan pursed his lips. *I was the one who made the promise, so I need to be responsible to her.*

Su Zhan knew where Su Peichuan was coming from. *He’s an upright man of responsibility, but he is clueless about women!*

He sat back down and analyzed the situation out loud. “Think about it, Shen Peichuan. You’ve already brought Ms. Song to meet me and Jinghao. This indicates that she’s earned a certain position in your heart and that both of you are now in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship. If you go back and she doesn’t let go of you, what will you do then?”

Shen Peichuan did not think Song Yaxin was such a clingy woman. *But Su Zhan has a point. What if she refuses to break up?*

I can’t betray or hurt Sang Yu in any way.

Sang Yu has nothing other than me now.

“What do you think I should do?” Shen Peichuan queried.

He was out of ideas.

“I’ve already come up with a plan. No offense, but in that family Captain Song is the only decent person,” Su Zhan arrogantly declared.

Shen Peichuan pretended not to have heard those words. He respected Captain Song, after all. However, Su Zhan must have his reasons for hating the Song family all of a sudden.

“I haven’t informed the Song family that I’ve found you; I’m pretty sure they think you’re long dead. My plan is simple: all you have to do is stay here for the next two months and keep yourself completely out of sight,” Su Zhan said.

Shen Peichuan frowned. “That’s your plan?”

“After two months, if Song Yaxin is still pining for you, we can be sure that her feelings for you are genuine. If she can’t even last two months and starts to search for a new apple of her eye, it’ll prove that she never really loved you in the first place. She was probably only with you for your good looks and qualifications.

If you turn up when she's trying to snag a new guy, she won't have any grounds to hold onto you."

Shen Peichuan was reluctant. "What if she doesn't try to find anyone new after two months?"

Doesn't that mean that I'll be stuck with her?

"Then we'll present her with definitive proof of your death. There's no way she'll remain loyal past death, right?" Su Zhan scoffed. He was clearly confident that Song Yaxin would not be able to last two months. *She'll move onto another target. That I'm sure.*

Shen Peichuan contemplated for a while before replying, "But we'll be lying..."

"So what if we lie? Song Yaxin has been married before. What right does she have to ensnare you?" Su Zhan flared up.

Shen Peichuan lowered his gaze. *Su Zhan's plan does sound good but it involves lying. How will I face Captain Song?*

"Fine. We'll do it your way." Shen Peichuan finally assented.

Wow. A stick in the mud like Shen Peichuan is actually able to get over his sense of responsibility. He agreed so quickly. Looks like he really feels nothing for Song Yaxin.

He lightly punched Shen Peichuan. "Are you and Sang Yu official?" Su Zhan asked excitedly.

Shen Peichuan angled his body away before letting out a soft sound of confirmation.

Su Zhan sniggered. "Holy shit! You guys move fast. I guess what they say is true, that difficult times always lead to better days."

Shen Peichuan did not elaborate. "I really like her. I want to take care of her," he said sincerely.

Su Zhan smiled. "Is it possible that you're just taking pity on her? Weren't you turned off by how young she is? What changed?"

Shen Peichuan glanced at him. It was true that he never thought about it in that sense; the only issue he foresaw was their age difference.

Even when they interacted, he brushed off all possible feelings her for by reminding himself how incompatible they were.

But when he then saw someone pursuing her, he became scared that she would leave him.

What else could this be other than love?

"What time are you leaving?" Shen Peichuan asked.

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Su Zhan stared at him, feigning anger. He understood Shen Peichuan well. “What are you trying to say, Shen Peichuan? I’ve only just arrived and haven’t even had as much as a sip of water. How can you ask me to leave? Are you afraid I’ll interrupt your lovey-dovey time with your girlfriend?” he demanded in an intentionally loud voice.

That was not Shen Peichuan’s intended meaning. He was only being considerate to Su Zhan because the place was cramped; it was too small for Su Zhan to rest comfortably.

“Think of it however you like.” Shen Peichuan rose to his feet.

Su Zhan instantly broke out into a smile. “I was just kidding. You can’t take a joke?”

Shen Peichuan ignored him and walked towards the classroom. *Since Su Zhan is here, I might as well take the opportunity to reintroduce him to Sang Yu.*

They might already know of each other, but now that their relationship has changed, it’s best for them to be reacquainted.

Su Zhan trailed behind him. “I drove here. As long as there’s air-conditioning at night, I’ll make do.”

He peered around. “This place is not bad.”

He took out his phone and made a video call to Qin Ya, who picked up shortly. He raised the mobile phone and aimed it at himself. “Guess where I am?”

He avoided Shen Peichuan and shot his background for Qin Ya.

Qin Ya sat in her office with her mobile phone in hand. From the video, she could tell that Su Zhan was in a village. She felt that he was being childish. “Do you have nothing better to do, Su Zhan?”

Su Zhan chuckled at the camera. “It’s not like I always report my whereabouts to you.”

Qin Ya took a sip from the cup of coffee on her desk. “Hurry up and tell me what you want. Otherwise, I’m hanging up,” she muttered.

All he does is spit crap.

Su Zhan took on a more solemn demeanor. “Remember how I told you that Shen Peichuan is fine? I’m here with him now.”

He aimed the camera towards Shen Peichuan. Shen Peichuan turned to look at Su Zhan for a moment before strolling silently to the classroom.

Su Zhan hung up and switched to sending voice messages. “Do you know what Shen Peichuan’s doing now?”

“No. What’s he doing?”

“He’s about to formally introduce me to his girlfriend.”

An enormous question mark materialized in Qin Ya’s mind. *Haven’t they already been introduced? Su Zhan even sent me a photo saying they weren’t a match.*

Why do they need to be re-introduced?

What’s going on?

“Explain yourself, Su Zhan. What girlfriend of Shen Peichuan’s are you talking about?”

Su Zhan grinned at his phone. *She's hooked.* But he decided to keep her in suspense. "Take a guess."

Qin Ya did not respond. She set her phone to the side. *He's doing this on purpose. I won't take the bait.*

After waiting for some time, Su Zhan still received no reply from Qin Ya. Slightly crestfallen, he decided to take the initiative and sent her another voice message. "Shen Peichuan's true love."

He once again waited for a response.

Again, there was none.

"Su Zhan," Shen Peichuan said as he led Sang Yu out of the classroom.

Su Zhan looked up from his phone. He immediately plastered a smile on his face and greeted Sang Yu cheerily, "It's nice to see you, Sang Yu."

Sang Yu smiled back. "We haven't met in a while."

Su Zhan beamed. "It's true, but I never expected that you would have snatched up my good friend by the time we meet again."

Sang Yu felt shy and hung her head.

"It's hot here. Let's head into the house," Shen Peichuan suggested.

Su Zhan voiced his agreement.

Shen Peichuan and Sang Yu walked ahead to lead the way.

As Su Zhan followed them, he gazed down at his phone to check if Qin Ya replied.

She had not.

He blinked. *Is she angry?*

He fired off another message: *Ya. My darling. Please reply to me so that I know you're getting these messages.*

When they entered the house, Shen Peichuan took out a small bench for Su Zhan to sit on. He still had not received any response from Qin Ya and was starting to panic.

His fingers danced all over the keyboard on the mobile phone screen. *Ya, I'm not kidding anymore. I was wrong. Please reply.*