

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 766

Zong Jinghao originally came to help out Qin Ya, but now that Guan Jing was gone, the burden of the company affairs fell onto his shoulders.

With the piling workload, he really had no spare time to look for a helper.

Moreover, he had never done anything like this before.

“Guan Jing, do me a favor,” Zong Jinghao called out to the man who was just about to open the door.

“What is it?”

“Can you help me get Qin Ya a maid? A reliable one, that is.”

Guan Jing noted down the request and took his leave.

Meanwhile, Qin Ya was waiting at the hospital after completing some final discharge procedures for Grandma Su. The former was unable to visit Lin Xinyan at the hospital as there was no one to look after the elderly woman, who suffered from mobility issues. Bringing Grandma Su along for the hospital visit was not ideal either, as that might disturb Lin Xinyan’s rest.

After some time, Guan Jing’s car pulled into the hospital car park. He was here to bring Qin Ya to an agency to hire a suitable maid for Grandma Su.

Approaching the pair, Guan Jing said, “Follow me; I’ll bring you to the place.”

“Sorry for the trouble,” Qin Ya replied sincerely.

After helping Grandma Su into her seat and settling down on his own, Guan Jing continued, "I know a decent agency that offers high-quality helpers. They went through training, and their services are of a high standard. I'm sure we can find a suitable maid for Grandma Su."

Qin Ya, being unfamiliar with the region, could only thank Guan Jing for his assistance in such a matter.

Guan Jing chuckled. "Don't fret it; I'm just fulfilling my duties. As long as Mr. Zong wants something, I'll make sure to see to it to the best of my abilities."

Their conversation ceased subsequently, and the car ride continued in silence. The only sounds that pierced the air were the incessant car horns and groans from frustrated drivers. Due to the jammed roads, they only reached their destination after close to an hour.

Guan Jing was evidently an esteemed customer at the company as the trio was immediately ushered into the boss's office once they entered the building.

"What requests do you have this time?" asked the boss enthusiastically as he offered them a glass of water.

Declining the excessive formality, Guan Jing turned to Qin Ya and said, "Ms. Qin, let him know what particular requests you have in mind. He'll help you find a suitable maid."

Unable to give solid criteria, Qin Ya consulted Grandma Su. After all, the senior woman would be interacting with the maid the most. Thus, her personal preferences were of utmost importance.

The boss reassured the old lady, "Our helpers are all professionally trained. We're able to handle any requests and demands."

The old lady pondered for a moment and proceeded to give 2 simple qualities she hoped for in her helper. "Someone hardworking, but also lively."

Since she had difficulty moving about, she would be spending the majority of her time at home. That was why a diligent and talkative maid would make the ideal company.

The boss followed up with, “As for the age, are there any particular limits?”

Grandma Su considered the question briefly and decided that age was not a matter of concern.

She only cared about the 2 qualities she had previously vocalized.

Flashing a polite smile, the boss excused himself. “Please hold on for a while. I’ll go and select a few helpers who meet your criteria, and we can continue our selection thereafter.”

Guan Jing nodded.

After a moment, the man returned with five other helpers. Four of them looked to be around their mid-forties, while the last lady in line appeared significantly younger. With lustrous coal-black hair tied into twin braids and a youthful charm, she stood out from the others.

The boss gave her a special introduction. “This girl hails from a rural area. She is the oldest sibling in the family and takes care of two younger brothers and a sister. Due to financial circumstances, she had to drop out of school to work. Although she may be younger than most other helpers, trust me – she’s very hardworking and can hold a conversation well.”

However, the elaborate description did not affect Guan Jing – he immediately waved her off. “I’ll pass.”

He was neither being deliberately mean, nor was he skeptical about the woman’s abilities. His rationale behind his rejection was simple – he did not want any possibility of an affair to occur.

After all, he was well aware of all the TV trope in which the male lead ended up cheating with the maid.

Guan Jing was not casting doubt on Su Zhan's loyalty. To him, a young maid simply felt too inappropriate.

Grandma Su begged to differ. "She seems good to me." She called out directly to the girl, "How old are you?"

"I'm nineteen this year."

Her voice was crisp and clear, making Grandma Su take an even greater liking towards her upon hearing it.

"You're very young indeed. What's your name, dear?"

A shy smile appeared on the girl's face. "Chen Xue."

Grandma Su gave a pleased nod.

The boss watched on apprehensively from the side. Frankly, he did not really dare to push for Chen Xue's employment. The girl had been introduced to the company by a friend but she suffered many rejections since then. Many customers found her way too young.

Her good looks were another great cause for displeasure. After all, families that could afford a helper were all well-off. With money came additional paranoia – they would caution against any stranger as they might be out to target their wealth. Particularly, most of them would caution against hiring someone too young – just in case an extra-marital affair happened. Thus, being young in the helper industry was a bane.

The boss had been meaning to push her out to a family as soon as possible. Chen Xue was included in every showcase when a customer arrived.

But judging from Guan Jing's attitude, it appeared that the same concerns had arisen – the woman was simply too young. Throwing in the towel, the boss turned his attention to the other helpers, introducing them patiently. "Some of them here have experience in eldercare. They're also equally diligent and have a talent in livening up the atmosphere."

As Chen Xue listened on, her heart sank once again. She had originally entered the company because it was the only way she could make a living without having a degree under her belt. The company had a great reputation, and many helpers did end up with a much higher relative pay than others. She was lucky to be recruited because she had certain connections. But with her prospects of getting hired getting lower day by day, she might be expelled from the company soon.

Yet, she was a fighter. *I must not give up. The fewer the opportunities there are, the more I must treasure each one.*

And so, she proactively stepped forward and spoke up, "Nice to meet you. Please don't mind me calling you Grandma – my grandma is around the same age as you. I've been here for almost 3 months. Many people have doubted my abilities to do chores because I'm young, but trust me! I'm very hardworking and would be glad to do anything you ask."

The boss actually prohibited the helpers to speak during any showcase. But considering Chen Xue's plight, he was willing to close an eye. The man desperately wanted her to be hired too, after all. *Hopefully, Chen Xue's words managed to move the old lady,* he internally prayed.

Grandma Su asked for Qin Ya's opinion.

To Qin Ya, nothing else mattered so long as Grandma Su was happy. "Grandma, we'll be agreeable to anything as long as you like it."

"I think it's a pretty good idea. Moreover, we're also doing some charity here – her family's poor, and it's difficult for her to find a job."

“Okay, grandma,” Qin Ya replied.

With that, Chen Xue got the job.

Her boss heaved a sigh of relief – the company’s investments in her were not wasted after all.

Grinning from ear to ear, the boss asked, “Shall we do the paperwork?”

Both Guan Jing and Qin Ya volunteered to do it in unison.

“I’ll follow you,” Guan Jing told Qin Ya. And so, the two proceeded to settle the administrative details. However, Guan Jing still had some qualms. “Don’t you think the maid is too young? What if she’s terrible with the chores? I found the other helpers better.”

“I don’t want to go against Grandma Su’s wishes,” was her response.

Guan Jing could only concede. “That’s true... As long as she’s happy, I guess.”

The boss handed the contract over to Qin Ya.

“Let me take a look at it instead,” requested Guan Jing. After scrutinizing the terms and conditions and ensuring that nothing was amiss, Guan Jing handed the contract back for Qin Ya to sign.

The contract entailed a monthly salary of nine thousand, along with paid accommodation and meals.

The price was discounted on the account of Guan Jing – the usual salary was typically above ten thousand.

Nevertheless, Chen Xue’s pay was still an edge above her counterparts in the industry.

Once the whole matter concluded, Guan Jing drove everyone, including the new maid, back to the Su family.

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Qin Ya had to leave the house soon after returning as there was still an unwell Su Zhan to care for at the hospital.

She instructed the new maid to take care of Grandma Su, to which the young girl reassured her that she would.

Guan Jing, who was waiting outside, gave Qin Ya a ride to the hospital.

Shen Peichuan was present in the hospital when Qin Ya arrived. The man had just ended a hectic day at work; he had to settle a ton of workload alone due to Captain Song's absence.

Realizing that Grandma Su had already been discharged by the time he arrived, Shen Peichuan made a detour to Su Zhan's ward instead.

"Qin Ya has settled everything," Su Zhan told him.

That eased his worries. "Not gonna put up an act anymore?"

Su Zhan let out a strained laugh. "If it continues, I may just lose everything."

Shen Peichuan was confused. "Why? You've been discovered?"

"It's not that... It's just..." Compunctious feelings of apprehension were gripping him.

"It's just what?" came Qin Ya's voice out of the blue as she opened the door.

Quick on his feet, Su Zhan switched the topic immediately. “Nothing much; I’m just asking how this man’s marriage life is going.”

Shen Peichuan rolled his eyes internally. *Of all the topics you could have chosen from... Seriously?*

That statement reminded Qin Ya of something. “Speaking of that – I haven’t been able to prepare a wedding gift in time. Everything was too sudden.”

“You can give it to us next time,” replied Shen Peichuan.

Seeing that Qin Ya was here, he reckoned it was time to take his leave. Rising from his seat, he said, “Since you’re back, I shall go now.”

“Looks like someone’s missing his wife and children at home. Ah, such is the blissful warmth of having a wholesome family,” Su Zhan teased.

Shen Peichuan entertained the idea of duct taping Su Zhan’s mouth for a moment. He scoffed, “I’ll have mercy on you today because Qin Ya is here today. Don’t push your luck.”

His comment made Su Zhan chuckle. “Because of Qin Ya? Shouldn’t you be more benevolent because I’m injured?”

“Don’t think too highly of yourself,” was Shen Peichuan’s final jibe before he left – not forgetting a brief greeting to Qin Ya in the process.

Qin Ya stood by Su Zhan’s side. “Are you feeling better?”

The man answered in the affirmative. Pulling her closer so that she sat on the bed, Su Zhan dotingly asked, “Are you feeling tired?”

Qin Ya shook her head. “No, not really.”

“You look very tired.”

Lethargy was obvious from her frazzled appearance. Tenderly stroking her palm, he continued, “Ya, let’s go get our marriage certificate tomorrow and return home.”

The said marriage certificate had been waiting at the registry since the wedding was held.

“Don’t think about that yet; you’re still injured.”

Su Zhan eased her concerns. “It’s fine. There’s no difference between recuperating at home and in the hospital. The only troubling aspect is my head injuries. I will need to be back here in a few days to remove the bandages. Other than that, I would very much love to escape from these 4 drab hospital walls.”

Qin Ya enquired if the doctor had approved it.

“I asked, and the doctor said that it’s fine.”

Since the idea had already been greenlighted by a medical professional, Qin Ya agreed. She was not one to protest anyway.

“Ya, you’re the best.” Planting a chaste kiss on her hand, Su Zhan lamented, “I should be taking care of you. But all this while, you’ve been the one who’s doing everything for me. I feel terrible.”

Pursuing her lips, the woman replied, “Aren’t we a family? There’s no need to fret over such things. And if you really feel bad, treat me more nicely in the future.”

Su Zhan sat up – silently wincing at the pain that stemmed from the movement – and buried his head into Qin Ya’s chest. The woman was afraid to move, fearing that she would aggravate any injuries. “Su Zhan, you remind me of a child right now.”

“Then pretend I’m your son from now on,” came the man’s reply as he buried his face deeper into her chest.

Qin Ya was rendered speechless by his playful antics for a moment.

“You’re full of nonsense,” she said with a chuckle. Su Zhan’s childish behavior earned him a soft pat on his back. “Ouch! That hurt. Now you need to rub that spot for it to heal.”

“Enough with this childish roleplay. We’re at the hospital.” Qin Ya signaled him to get up, to which Su Zhan obediently abided. The latter then told her, “I’ll tell the nurses to add a bed into the ward so that you can rest well tonight. You haven’t been sleeping well these days, have you? Look at those dark circles under your eyes.”

Qin Ya was agreeable to the arrangement.

That night, she had one of the deepest slumbers in a while on the newly-added hospital bed. Conversely, her partner tossed and turned on his bed, unable to drift into dreamland. He got out of the sheets and made his way beside Qin Ya’s bed. Weak illumination lit the outline of her peaceful expression.

Troubled thoughts flooded his mind. He knew that while Qin Ya willingly compromised regarding the child’s matters, she was still actually suffering inside.

While gently caressing her hair, Su Zhan looked at the issue from another perspective. *Qin Ya is willing to compromise because she loves me, cares about me, and doesn’t want me to incur Grandma’s wrath.* The thought brought a smile to his face.

That night, Su Zhan fell asleep beside Qin Ya.

On the other hand, Zong Jinghao had just finished tending to some work affairs during this hour. The project at hand had been originally helmed by Guan Jing,

but the man's sudden resignation left the man floundering for a substitute to no avail. As such, Zong Jinghao could only take the project on himself.

He found an awake Lin Xinyan when he returned. She had been waiting for him, fueling on the extra energy she got from sleeping a lot in the day.

"You don't have to wait for me. Go to sleep early."

To which Lin Xinyan replied, "I waited because I've something to discuss with you."

Zong Jinghao draping his outerwear over the chair and walked over. "What is it?"

Lin Xinyan handed him a pink envelope. "Take a look at this."

Unveiling the contents, his guess was right – it was indeed a wedding invitation. The date was said to be the following day, and Lin Xinyan was invited to attend.

He frowned. "But your body... "

"But I can't not attend either." The pair fell into silence as Lin Xinyan gave him a helpless look.

Placing the invitation aside and sitting on the bed, he pulled on his tie. The lady naturally assisted in his undressing. "Were you very busy today? Oh, you drank?"

"Just a little – it was for formality. And yes, it was pretty hectic today. Guan Jing resigned without warning, and I couldn't find a replacement in time."

Lin Xinyan was surprised by the news. "Why did he resign? Wasn't he doing alright?"

Zong Jinghao only vaguely knew that the man had met certain bumps in his work and had been low-spirited. It was probably best that he took a break. But other than that, he was not exactly sure why Guan Jing had quit either.

Returning to the topic of the wedding invitation, Zong Jinghao questioned, "So, are you planning to go?"

Lin Xinyan had her own concerns. Her body was not in the best condition, and her due date was approaching soon.

But she did not want to trouble the already-busy man to go either.

"I'll make a call in the morning tomorrow," was her verdict. Having removed his tie, Lin Xinyan proceeded to remove his shirt. "It's late. Wash up and sleep soon."

Zong Jinghao lingered near her for a moment, staring at her in silence. No words came out from his mouth in the end.

Lin Xinyan was resting on the bed drowsily when he emerged from the bathroom after a refreshing shower. The air conditioner had yet to cool the room, so she left her blanket crumpled at the side. Exposed prominently beneath her white nightgown was the bulging baby bump. Zong Jinghao strode over and gently stroked her belly.

His tender gesture was met with a tug at the corner of his shirt.

"Why? Am I prohibited from touching you?"

His remark elicited a laugh from her. Shaking her head, she murmured, "Of course not. It's just a little ticklish."

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Smiling, Zong Jinghao ran his fingers through her body and stopped the moment he reached her chest. “Does it hurt?”

Lin Xinyan grabbed his hand and ordered him to stop fooling around.

In return, Zong Jinghao rebuked in a playful manner, “What? Aren’t you the one teasing me?”

She adjusted her position and replied with another question, “Since when have I ever teased you?”

“When do you think?” Zong Jinghao’s lips curved upwards, forming a smirk.

“I have no idea. Why don’t you tell me?” she replied in a mischievous manner.

“You’re such a naughty girl,” Zong Jinghao teased with a sheepish grin as he pinched her nose.

“It hurts!” She tapped on his hand and beckoned him to move away from her.

Immediately, Zong Jinghao set her free as demanded. He lay beside her and held her firmly in between his arms. After a few seconds, he slapped her bum and told her, “I want you to take good care of yourself until our child is born.”

Lin Xinyan raised her head and kissed his chin. “I will definitely take good care of myself and our child.”

Thereafter, the intimate duo fell silent. Consequently, Zong Jinghao fell asleep shortly after Lin Xinyan.

By six o'clock, Lin Xinyan woke up and reached for her phone. She wanted to give Wen Xiaoji a call and tell him that she wouldn't be able to make it to his wedding.

Ever since Lin Xinyan got married, she had been keeping in touch with Wen Xiaoji. They would frequently communicate through text messages.

Therefore, he was aware that Lin Xinyan was pregnant. He had been wondering about her estimated date of delivery just like most would.

Nevertheless, Lin Xinyan didn't tell him her actual condition because she didn't want others to be worried about her.

After all, Wen Xiaoji rarely had the chance to make his way back since he had many things to tend to on his end. Thankfully, his supervisor had approved his leaves for his wedding.

She wished to be part of the wedding ceremony because she didn't want any of them to bear the consequences of their antecedents. However, she had to consider her current situation and physical condition.

Soon, the call got through, but before Lin Xinyan could break the silence, Wen Xiaoji got ahead of himself and asked, "When are you coming over? Do you want me to head over and pick you up?"

She was about to turn him down, but she was at a loss for words all of a sudden.

The observant Wen Xiaoji soon noticed that something seemed off. "What's wrong? Why aren't you replying? Did anything happen?"

She mustered her courage and told him the truth, "It's not a big deal, but I'm afraid I can't attend your wedding ceremony, Xiaoji. I..."

Halfway through Lin Xinyan's sentence, Wen Xiaoji interrupted her and confronted her in a petulant manner, "Why not? Is it because of my parents?"

“N-No...” Lin Xinyan lowered her gaze and stuttered.

“If that’s not the case, then why not?”

“I’m not feeling well...”

“What sort of excuse is that?” Wen Xiaoji refused to believe Lin Xinyan’s words because she had never mentioned that she was ill lately.

He couldn’t figure out the reason she had gotten ill over the night right before his wedding ceremony. Thus, he was certain it was something she had made up to evade his parents.

Initially, he thought they would no longer have to bear the consequences of their antecedents. He once deemed it possible for them to move on and let bygones be bygones.

“It has been some time since we last met! I want to grab this opportunity to catch up with you! I will be greatly disappointed if you refuse to be here with me on such an important occasion in my life!”

“I’m so sorry...” Lin Xinyan pursed her lips and replied.

“I don’t want you to apologize to me because you have done nothing wrong! In fact, we’re the ones at fault! I really want you to be part of the wedding ceremony! Why don’t you tell me what’s bothering you? If you don’t want my father to be around, I’ll get him—”

“Xiaoji!” Lin Xinyan interrupted him. Wen Qing wasn’t the reason she couldn’t be part of the ceremony. Since Zong Jinghao had decided to move on, she had no intention to go after the man anymore.

In fact, Wen Qing had learned his lesson and borne the consequences of his actions.

Once again, she was at a loss for words.

“I’ll head over and pick you up at nine o’clock sharp!” Wen Xiaoji hung up the phone right after he finished his sentence.

Holding on to her phone, the helpless Lin Xinyan heaved a long sigh. She couldn’t figure out what her next best course of action would be.

“I’ll talk to him.” Lin Xinyan turned around the moment she heard a man’s hoarse voice. She caught a glimpse of Zong Jinghao, who had roused from his sleep and was staring at her in the eyes.

Zong Jinghao brought himself up and sat upright on the bed. He took a few seconds to snap out of the state of reverie before turning around.

Pursing her lips, she asked, “Have I interrupted your sleep? Did you hear the conversation we had?”

He nodded and brought himself out of the bed while she lay on the bed once more in an attempt to sort out the things she had in her mind.

After a few minutes, Zong Jinghao, who had carried out his morning routine, walked out of the bathroom to get changed. Lin Xinyan asked, “Do you have a lot of things to tend to today?”

Instead of answering her queries, he stared at her in the eyes silently as though he was aware of her upcoming suggestions.

Murmuring, Lin Xinyan’s lips twitched involuntarily. “Can you please tag along with me?”

After Zong Jinghao attached his cufflinks, he returned to his wife’s side. Truth be told, he didn’t want her to attend the wedding ceremony at all.

She's merely a few days away from the estimated date of delivery. I can't possibly leave her alone. What should I do if anything goes wrong with her?

Lin Xinyan was aware of the things Zong Jinghao had on his mind since he had remained silent for a few minutes. She reached over and shook his hands in an attempt to persuade him. "I know you're worried, but it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience! Since he only gets to get married once in a lifetime, I can't possibly turn him down, right?"

Lowering his gaze, Zong Jinghao stared at her hand silently. He had no intention to give in to her request. "You have a better understanding of your current condition as compared to me, don't you?"

"Yes..." Lin Xinyan nodded in return.

"Since you're aware of your current condition, are you sure you want to be part of the wedding ceremony?" Zong Jinghao asked in a serious tone.

She's going to put herself at stake. She's heavily pregnant! In fact, she's merely a few days away from her estimated date of delivery.

I would definitely allow her to attend the wedding ceremony if she weren't heavily pregnant. I don't mind tagging along with her, but she has to be in the condition to be part of the ceremony. Look at her! Does she really think she's fit to participate in the ceremony? She's not the only one that's at stake; our child is at stake as well! I can't possibly allow anything to go wrong!

Lin Xinyan moved her hands away from Zong Jinghao's because she was certain that he wouldn't give in to her request.

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“Are you angry?” Zong Jinghao asked.

“No.” Lin Xinyan shook her head, assuring her husband that she wasn’t angry. However, deep down, she was indeed frustrated.

Zhuang Zijin had brought them their breakfast, so Zong Jinghao lifted her out of the bed and brought her to the bathroom to carry out her morning routine.

By the time she finished brushing her teeth and washing her face, he brought her back to the table and helped her to the chair. However, Lin Xinyan told him, “I’m not in the mood for a meal. Please bring me back to the bed.”

As soon as Zong Jinghao placed her on the bed, Lin Xinyan tucked herself in and turned around with her back facing him. “You should finish the meal and get going. I’ll finish my portion once I’m awake.”

Zhuang Zijin heard her daughter’s demanding words. Therefore, she urged her, “You must be kidding me, right? You have literally been sleeping all day and night. Come over and finish your meal immediately. Otherwise, it will get cold soon.”

The woman wasn’t aware of the conflict between the duo. Hence, she approached her daughter in an attempt to persuade her.

“You’re aware that you’re not feeding yourself alone, aren’t you? You have to finish your meal for the child’s sake. Hurry up and finish your meal at once.”

Lin Xinyan remained silent, whereas Zong Jinghao stood right where he was, staring at her with a poker face.

Zhuang Zijin took a peek at them both and noticed that they seemed to be in the middle of a fight.

She had no idea who the one at fault was, but she told Zong Jinghao, “Are you guys fighting? I’m sure you’re aware of Yan’s condition, right? Why did you get into a fight with her?”

Zong Jinghao ignored her and stared at Lin Xinyan in silence, so Zhuang Zijin was certain the two were in the middle of a fight.

She was, after all, the one who had brought Lin Xinyan up ever since she was young. Naturally, Zhuang Zijin took Lin Xinyan’s side and reprimanded Zong Jinghao, “Are you seriously going to fight with Yan when she’s heavily pregnant? She’s pregnant with your child! How could you irritate her?”

“You shouldn’t have picked on her when she’s about to give birth!” Zhuang Zijin was harsh with her words and showed no signs of stopping at all.

Finally, Lin Xinyan couldn’t take it anymore because she was afraid Zhuang Zijin and Zong Jinghao would get into another conflict. She removed her blanket and said, “No! We’re not fighting! I’ll head over and finish my meal immediately!”

“Huh? If both of you aren’t fighting, why are you angry? Why do you refuse to complete your meal?” Zhuang Zijin probed further, confused.

“What? Me? Angry? What brings you to such a conclusion?” Lin Xinyan rebutted.

“Really? Should I get you a mirror so you could check on your current expression? It’s written all over your face.” Zhuang Zijin walked to the table and beckoned Lin Xinyan over. “Come over and finish your meal at once.”

Zong Jinghao helped Lin Xinyan up and placed her on the chair. The latter reached for the spoon and was about to savor the congee that had been served, but she soon noticed Zong Jinghao had yet to take his seat. Therefore, she turned around and asked, “Aren’t you going to join me?”

The man remained silent. He felt lightheaded after the series of confrontations that had occurred within the past thirty minutes.

Usually, she would behave herself, but whenever she threw a tantrum, he would have to go to great lengths to persuade and pacify her.

Aware she was the one at fault, Lin Xinyan reached over and held his hand. "I'm so sorry, okay? Let's finish our meal together. You still have to return to work, don't you?"

"You know what? Someday, I might pass on due to a heart attack because of you." Zong Jinghao finally took his seat after he expressed his frustration.

Lin Xinyan was rendered speechless by his words. Immediately, she scooped a spoonful of congee and fed her husband to express her apology.

"I'm so sorry, okay? I'll definitely behave myself in the future! Please don't be mad at me!"

Oh, God! Since when has she learned to behave herself in such a timid manner?

Zhuang Zijin decided to leave the duo alone. She walked out of their room with a smile and closed the door as she made her way out.

Zong Jinghao found the woman hilarious, but he put on a stern front and shrugged her hand away. "Good try, but that's not going to work on me."

However, Lin Xinyan had no intention to give up, so she pressed the spoon against his lips, smudging his lips with the congee. "You're allowed to be mad at me, but can you please finish your meal? You can't head over to work starving, can you?"

He was at a loss for better words to rebut her statement. In the end, he pinched her face and asked, "Are you giving me a hard time on purpose?"

“O-Ouch!”

She turned around and smartly avoided the man’s hand.

Finally, Zong Jinghao finished the spoon of congee she had served him. The two soon patched things up.

After they finished their meal, Zong Jinghao lifted her and brought her back to the bed, laying her on the bed prior to his departure.

“Did you guys really have not a fight?” Zhuang Zijin, who had returned to collect the crockery, asked Lin Xinyan.

“No,” Lin Xinyan replied without a second thought.

“No? Are you sure?” It was evident Zhuang Zijin wasn’t convinced.

Lin Xinyan repeated the entire incident to her mother. As soon as Zhuang Zijin figured out that Lin Xinyan wished to head out without others’ companion, she reprimanded her, “You’re the one at fault! Usually, no one will nag you if you’re heading out, but do you have any idea of your current situation? How could you bring up such an absurd request? No wonder Jinghao was angry! If I were to be in his shoes, I would be mad at you as well!”

Lin Xinyan was rendered speechless by her mother’s words because she seemed to have taken Zong Jinghao’s side instead of her own daughter’s side.

She grumbled, “Mom, you’re my mother, aren’t you? Why are you taking his side as though he’s your son?”

“I’m not taking sides. I’m merely stating the fact! You should reflect upon your action!” Zhuang Zijin cast a stern gaze at her daughter.

Immediately, Lin Xinyan lay on the bed in an aggrieved manner. However, the moment she tried to lie down, she started feeling uncomfortable since she had just finished her meal.

Therefore, she propped herself up and sat upright on the bed.

All of a sudden, Zong Jinghao walked into their bedroom. Lin Xinyan looked at him and asked, "Aren't you supposed to be on your way to the company?"

Zong Jinghao told her that he wouldn't be heading over to the company.

"Where did you go just now then?"

He told her, "I dropped by the clinic and talked to your attending physician."

"Huh? Is something wrong with me?" Lin Xinyan blinked anxiously in anticipation of his reply.

Approaching her, he said indifferently, "I told him that I will be bringing you out."

Lin Xinyan was in a state of reverie for a few seconds. The moment she returned to her senses, she expressed her gratitude with a bright grin, "Thank you!"

In return, Zong Jinghao snorted contemptuously. "I don't think I have the right to turn you down, right? Otherwise, you may have me go through silent treatment for the entire day."

She wrapped her slender arms around his waist and stated coquettishly, "Can you please let me off the hook? This isn't how a man's supposed to behave. Besides, I have apologized countless times."

If I'm not a man, what am I? A woman?

Lin Xinyan beamed her reply, "Thank you!"

“We’ll only be heading over in the afternoon,” Zong Jinghao announced.

“Okay!” She nodded vigorously in return because she would be glad as long as she had the chance to participate in the wedding ceremony.

Immediately after they had everything sorted out, Lin Xinyan got in touch with Wen Xiaoji and told him it would be unnecessary for him to drop by her place.

In the meantime, Su Zhan had been discharged from the hospital, but the doctor instructed him to stay put at home for the time being as he needed adequate rest. Nevertheless, the moment he was discharged, he insisted on registering as Qin Ya’s legal spouse.

Qin Ya turned him down and told him they would get registered once he recovered. However, Su Zhan insisted on getting it done as soon as possible. Since she couldn’t seem to talk any sense into him, she decided to give in to the patient’s request.

Within a few hours, they had gotten the paperwork done. After that, they hailed a cab and made their way home. In order to welcome them home, Grandma Su had already instructed Chen Xue to tidy up their place. Before their arrival, Chen Xue had opened the windows for better ventilation. Their linen had been changed into a new set of linen as well.

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Qin Ya helped Su Zhan up and rang the doorbell. Since Grandma Su was bound to a wheelchair due to her legs' condition, she had Chen Xue answer the door.

The moment Su Zhan saw Chen Xue, he asked, "Who are you?"

Qin Ya quickly explained, "She's the new caregiver who's taking care of Grandma."

In return, Su Zhan nodded and made his way into the house.

Grandma Su was delighted to see him. She greeted enthusiastically, "Come on in! You need to get some rest!"

Instead of returning to his room, however, Su Zhan looked at Grandma Su in the eyes and said, "Grandma, I have something to tell you."

"What is it?" Grandma Su asked in return; she was in the mood for a conversation.

Su Zhan showed her the marriage certificate. "Qin Ya and I have patched things up and gotten married. From now onwards, she's a member of the family. You have always been fond of her presence, right? Are you willing to accept her as a member of our family?"

"Of course," Grandma Su replied without a second thought.

She turned around and beckoned Qin Ya over to join them. "Come here and have a seat. I'm sure you're exhausted since you have been looking after Su Zhan all this while."

“Xue, please get Qin Ya a glass of water,” Grandma Su instructed.

Chen Xue, who had undergone professional training, was familiar with all sorts of chores. After a few seconds, she returned with a glass of water as instructed.

Qin Ya told Grandma Su, “I’m not tired. I’ll take a break after I bring Su Zhan back to his room.”

“Alright. Make sure you’re taking care of yourself and get some rest.”

In return, Qin Ya nodded and helped Su Zhan up, bringing him back to his room. Grandma Su looked at Chen Xue, who had just returned with a glass of water. “Put it on the table. As for our lunch today, prepare a few extra dishes to celebrate the joyous occasion.”

Thankfully, Su Zhan managed to make it through the accident. Finally, Qin Ya has agreed to go for surrogacy and patched things up with Su Zhan. This is such a wonderful day! It calls for a celebration!

Chen Xue nodded and replied, “We bought a lot of things from the supermarket yesterday. I’ll go get ready immediately.”

Meanwhile, Qin Ya brought Su Zhan back to his room.

She closed all the windows and switched on the air-conditioner.

Leaning against the headboard, Su Zhan asked, “Is the caregiver here to take care of Grandma?”

Without turning around, Qin Ya hummed and affirmed Su Zhan of his thought as she closed the curtains.

Frowning, Su Zhan asked, “Seriously? She seems to be relatively young. Are you sure she can take good care of Grandma?”

Qin Ya returned to his side and asserted, “Grandma enjoys her presence.”

Sighing, Su Zhan thought to himself and made up his mind to let Grandma Su have things her way. The woman should be given the right to enjoy her life at the final phase of her life.

He beckoned his wife over and suggested, “Why don’t you join me in bed? Let’s take a nap.”

Su Zhan was grateful for the woman. Qin Ya was a gentle and kindhearted woman. Although he had hurt her back in the day, she had decided to give him another chance. Moreover, she had gone to great lengths to take great care of him when he needed her the most.

He was determined to return the favor and reciprocate the affection she had for him in the future. Truth be told, he was afraid Qin Ya couldn’t get used to staying with his grandmother as she had always brought up the topic of surrogacy in front of her.

The moment Qin Ya took a seat on the bed, he held on to her hand and suggested, “Shall we move out once I’m fully recovered? Maybe we can move to Shen Peichuan’s neighborhood and be his neighbor. What do you think?”

Su Zhan’s suggestion was spot on. Qin Ya actually couldn’t stand the fact that Grandma Su had been bringing up the topic of surrogacy over and over again.

It wouldn’t matter if they couldn’t become Shen Peichuan’s neighbor as the only thing that had been bothering Qin Ya was Grandma Su’s presence.

“Are you sure it’ll be fine?” Qin Ya thought Grandma Su wouldn’t allow them to move out. After all, Su Zhan was the only relative the elderly woman could rely on. Therefore, Qin Ya was certain that Grandma Su would want to keep Su Zhan by her side.

Su Zhan gave her question some thought before replying, “We’ll move to C City once I’m fully recovered. Let’s stay there for a while. I heard there’s a particular hospital that specializes in producing IVF babies. I’m sure we’ll get the best candidate for surrogacy there.”

Qin Ya was the reason behind his suggestion because she had her career based in C City. Since she had sacrificed so much for him, he didn’t want her to lose her career anymore.

He held her hand firmly and stated, “I know you’re not comfortable with the idea of surrogacy. That’s okay. Once we’re in C City, we’ll adopt a child and tell Grandma that the surrogacy was a huge success.”

Lying on his chest, she nodded vigorously in return. She was surprised because she had no idea Su Zhan had already sorted out everything in his mind.

Qin Ya told him, “I don’t want to opt for surrogacy because things will get messy in the future. Our baby will have to spend most of his time in another woman’s abdomen. If our child figures out that I’m not the one who gave birth to him, what will he think of me? I can’t possibly proclaim myself as our baby’s mother when I haven’t gone through the things an ordinary mother has to go through. However, I’m feeling bad because I have promised Grandma I will fulfill her wish.”

In the end, she raised her head and asserted, “I can’t allow you to be the last generation of your family either.”

Holding on to her shoulder, Su Zhan fastened his grip to express his emotions in silence because he was touched deep down.

Knock! Knock!

Qin Ya rushed over to answer the door the moment they heard someone knocking on their door. Chen Xue had shown up at their doorstep and said, “Lunch is ready. Grandma has instructed me to get both of you to join her for lunch.”

“Alright,” Qin Ya replied.

“What time is it?” Su Zhan asked as he was in a state of reverie after lying on the bed for some time. Losing track of time, he was surprised to hear that it was time for lunch.

“It’s almost eleven o’clock,” Qin Ya replied after she checked the time.

“Let’s head over and join Grandma for lunch.” She walked over and brought Su Zhan out of his room, all the way to the dining hall.