

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 801

Shao Yun: *Why are you unhappy? Has Su Zhan been bullying you?*

Qin Ya remained silent as she stared at her phone screen. At long last, she finally responded: *No.*

Su Zhan did nothing wrong, but the external factors still troubled her. Grandma Su was still around and she had proved to be a huge obstacle between them, even as they were far away from her.

Besides, having children is something that is unattainable to me.

Shao Yun responded with a “helpless” emoji.

Soon enough, he sent a voice message to her. Opening his message, Qin Ya sincerely thought that Shao Yun had wanted to inform her of something.

Unexpectedly, it was a soundtrack that originated from Journey to the West, a famous TV drama. Qin Ya instantly recalled the scene in which “Zhu Bajie”, one of the important characters, carried his wife.

Qin Ya was nonplussed and she almost laughed aloud.

The next moment, another message popped out on the screen: *If “Zhu Bajie” is happy to carry “the Monkey King”. Why are you dejected even when you already have a handsome husband?*

She couldn't help but burst out in laughter, responding: *Uncle, your way of comforting people is different from others.*

Shao Yun: *Of course. This is me, the one and only Shao Yun.*

Qin Ya replied swiftly while putting a smile on her face: *Why are you excited when I mock you for being fat?*

Shao Yun: *Hehe, I only wish to make you laugh.*

Qin Ya replied: *I know.*

Shao Yun: *Take care of yourself since you know it. You will look old very soon if you are constantly unhappy. So, remember to keep smiling. If you look as old as me with wrinkles on your face, you won't even want to look at yourself in the mirror.*

Qin Ya: *Uncle, those are not wrinkles. They are merely traces of time.*

Shao Yun: *You have a silver tongue.*

Qin Ya: *I'm telling the truth.*

Shao Yun: *We haven't met for merely several days, yet you've already become a sweet talker.*

Qin Ya: *Well, I learned it from you.*

Shao Yun: *Haha, am I that good at teaching?*

“Who are you chatting with? Why do you seem so happy?” Su Zhan leaned against the side of the door while throwing her a glance.

Truthfully, he had already arrived for quite some time now. Seeing that Qin Ya was staring at her phone smilingly, he soon grew curious, not wanting to cause her any disturbance. On the other hand, Qin Ya was so concentrated on her phone that she failed to notice that he had returned.

She turned around to look at him, still in shock as she asked, “You... Haven’t you gone home already?”

He came up to her and replied, “I’ve returned because I was worried that you might feel bored.” As he spoke, his gaze fell upon her phone screen.

When she noticed his moving gaze, she stood up from the hanging chair and suggested, “Shall we watch a movie?”

However, Su Zhan stared at her as he kept silent instead.

She couldn’t help but furrow her brows and ask, “Why are you staring at me?”

He lowered his head and murmured, “Nothing.”

Deep in his heart, he actually wanted to ask her if she was unhappy, living with him. *Why aren’t you as happy as you were earlier, especially while you are with me?*

However, just as his thoughts were on the tip of his tongue, he suddenly remembered that she was unhappy due to the pressure that she had faced from his family.

If he had been in her shoes, he would have felt the same.

In the end, he chose not to say it out loud.

As a matter of fact, he could tell that Qin Ya felt rather stressed, living with him. Unfortunately, he couldn’t do anything to help her out.

“Ya, if you think that you’re exhausted, I...” Su Zhan stopped right before he wanted to say that he would give her freedom. It was easy for him to think about it, yet difficult for him to say it out loud. After a while, he looked up passionately and uttered, “It will be my biggest regret if you’d ever left me.”

As though she had sensed his internal conflict, Qin Ya stared at him and replied, "I know that."

"From now on, I will do all sorts of good deeds, hoping that God will sympathize with us, gifting us a baby. Then, we won't be troubled by this any longer." Uttering these words, Su Zhan soon took her into his arms.

She leaned against his chest and urged, "Let's go out."

Upon receiving Su Zhan's affirmative answer, the duo soon left to have dinner, with the intention of watching a movie afterward. The cinema was rather crowded because a popular movie had just been released, recently.

As per the current trend, many movies now tended to include scenes that would bring the audience to tears. With that said, it was a given that a slightly emotional person would easily cry in a cinema.

Qin Ya happened to be one of them, unfortunately. Nonetheless, Su Zhan claimed that she had cried easily due to the fact that she was a woman.

"Don't men cry?" Qin Ya shot him a cold-eyed stare.

Su Zhan answered, "Well, men do cry, but we are generally less emotional. Thus, such scenes are not enough to bring me to tears."

All of a sudden, Qin Ya grabbed his arm as she bit into it forcefully. Su Zhan didn't move an inch as he merely furrowed his brows. *Ouch, that really hurts!*

Unknowingly, she had wanted to vent her feelings out because she was a little unhappy. Nevertheless, she didn't realize that she had bitten him too hard. Upon sensing the smell of blood, she recollected herself as she immediately released her bite on his arm.

There were some visible teeth marks and his arm had begun to bleed.

“Why won’t you tell me that it hurts?” Qin Ya questioned.

He replied calmly, “Why should I? It doesn’t hurt.”

She was rendered speechless.

“Oh, is that so? In that case, I’ll bite you again!” Once she finished, she grabbed his arm and pretended to bite him again. Much to her surprise, he remained unmoving as he soon added, “I’ll treat them as though they were some marks left by you on me. Shall I head to a tattoo shop to get a tattoo of teeth marks on my shoulder?”

“Are you out of your mind?” She couldn’t read his mind at this moment. *Others might begin to think that he isn’t a serious lawyer because of such a tattoo. Besides, why does he want to make a tattoo of teeth marks on his shoulder? I mean, it doesn’t look beautiful at all.*

“Well, you can get a tattoo if you’d like to. Just get a tattoo of me on your heart!” Qin Ya pointed at his chest and exclaimed.

Su Zhan laughed heartily. He grabbed her hand that was pointing at his chest and kissed it gently. After that, he stuffed one of his hands into his pocket, all while hugging her with his other hand. As they were walking, he urged, “Let’s head to a tattoo shop so that I can get a tattoo of you on my heart. I shall ask the tattoo artist to use the best liquid that can’t be washed off.”

“Does such a liquid even exist?” Qin Ya asked casually.

“Let’s ask them,” he responded smilingly.

She was reluctant to go as she soon queried, “Will they think that you’re a lunatic?”

Instantly, he asked her in return, “Do I look like a lunatic in any manner?”

Scanning him from head to toe, she then uttered with pursed lips, "You look like a lunatic from head to toe!"

She ran away as soon as she finished her sentence. In the next instance, Su Zhan ran to catch up to her as he yelled, "Don't run."

"I'm not listening to you." Occasionally turning around, she shot brief glances at him as she ran away.

Seeing that Su Zhan was quite the speedy runner, he managed to successfully catch up to her, soon enough.

Ah...

He hugged her from behind and whispered, "You can't run from me now, can you?" His lips neared her face as he spoke. Qin Ya intuitively pushed his face away from hers as she reminded him, "Hey, we're on the street now."

"We haven't done anything wrong."

Just then, he wrapped his arm around her waist and muttered, "Let's go home."

Surprisingly, she suggested, "Let's walk back home, shall we? I want to walk around."

Su Zhan agreed to her suggestion since they weren't exactly that far away from home.

Thirty minutes later, they were set to arrive at the entrance of their neighborhood. At this moment, they caught sight of two familiar people, pacing up and down before the entrance of their home.

Hence, Qin Ya poked Su Zhan, pointing toward the entrance of the neighborhood. Then, she indicated, "I think you know them."

Su Zhan's gaze shifted to the direction that she had pointed at. After a brief moment, he soon realized that they were his clients, namely the mother and brother of the deceased woman.

Seeing his expression, Qin Ya then glanced at him and asked, "Are they looking for you?"

"Probably." Su Zhan crossed the street while holding her hand.

"Mr. Su." The woman and her son approached Su Zhan once they caught sight of him.

"Are you looking for me?" he asked.

At this moment, the woman and her son appeared rather embarrassed, as if they were struggling to inform him of something.

"Well... Mr. Su... We're here because..."

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When the woman began to stammer, her son soon tugged at her arm and interrupted, "Allow me to inform Mr. Su of our decision."

Su Zhan momentarily shifted his gaze toward him.

"We're here to tell you that we've decided not to proceed with the litigation. We don't want to sue them anymore," her son explained.

"May I know the reason for your decision?" Su Zhan couldn't understand it, seeing as they had been rather enraged in the past. *In addition to that, they were determined to seek justice for the deceased, even if it meant that they would lose everything. Why have they changed their minds all of a sudden?*

"There is no specific reason to it. We just don't want to pursue the matter anymore." He pulled his mother in an effort to leave the neighborhood once he finished.

Su Zhan stood still and thought about it. He surmised that they had probably decided as such due to the pressure that they had received from the Lu family. Although the other lawyers in his firm had advised him against it, Su Zhan insisted on taking the case, so as to provide them assistance. Nevertheless, they chose to back down even before he had.

Taking a few strides in the opposite direction, the woman soon stopped her son and returned, making an effort to bow before Su Zhan. "I'd like to thank you, for agreeing to take our case. Many people have avoided us, afraid that trouble would befall them if they ventured too close. Nevertheless, you were different from the rest. You hadn't! We have decided not to sue them anymore and I can assure you that it's not for the mere reason that our grievances have faded away. Rather, we have to survive, or our futures will be destroyed by them."

As the woman spoke, tears streamed down her face. She recalled the day when her daughter had first married into the Lu family. Coming from an ordinary family, her daughter was only able to marry into the family for the mere reason of her striking appearance.

Eventually, the Lu family was aware that the mother had wished to bring about a lawsuit against them. Hence, they targeted her family by causing her son and daughter-in-law to lose their jobs.

“We can’t afford to offend the Lu family. Adults like us can still bear hardships. We’re able to cast our dignity aside. Unfortunately, my grandson is still young. He has to go to school to have a bright future. I can’t ignore the well-being of my living family members for the deceased. That’s why we’ve decided not to sue them.” Upon wiping away her tears, the woman glanced up at Su Zhan and uttered, “Nonetheless, we’d still like to express our gratitude for your help.”

Knowing that this case was rather difficult, Su Zhan was still willing to accept it, in hopes of helping them. Seeing as such, the woman was very grateful to have had him as her lawyer.

“My grandson was accepted by Mingzhu School because the Lu family had helped us. However, looking at the current situation, my grandson might get expelled by the school because of the lawsuit,” the woman admitted helplessly.

We have no choice but to back down. My daughter is gone, and thus, I can't afford to put my grandson's future at risk!

After all, they couldn’t survive here, seeing that they had already once irritated the Lu family.

As much as they were disgruntled by the death of her daughter, they understood that survival of the fittest was the real rule in the world, meaning that there was no real justice at all.

Su Zhan replied, “I understand.”

“Thank you.” The woman expressed her gratitude repeatedly in a sincere manner. On the other hand, they were disappointed by many of their relatives who had chosen to avoid them, wanting to evade any unwanted troubles.

When her daughter married into the Lu family, many distant relatives visited them to express their congratulations. Unfortunately, all of them had completely disappeared after the tragedy.

This is the harsh reality of the fickleness of human nature. People will often be quick to congratulate and flatter you for your success, yet, they will refuse to lend you a hand once you've gotten into trouble.

After all, most humans were hypocrites.

“It’s fine. I didn’t do much.” Su Zhan continued, “Since you’ve made up your mind, I shall respect your decision. Take care.”

“Thank you, Mr. Su. I...” The woman’s son stammered, “I am useless.”

Knowing that his sister had died because of the Lu family, he still chose to bear the shame, for the mere sake of his survival.

Su Zhan understood his internal conflict and anger. He was aware that the man had been forced to concede defeat for his mere survival. *Oftentimes, humans are left with no choices in life.*

As for Su Zhan, he had his own troubles, along with a sense of helplessness.

As soon as the woman and her son departed, Su Zhan headed into the neighborhood, all while hugging Qin Ya.

Qin Ya had yet to utter a single word, ever since the woman and her son had made their appearance. She was evidently troubled by the sense of helplessness in life, upon listening to their words.

Soon enough, the couple arrived at their house. Shutting the door before she turned around, Qin Ya was surprised when Su Zhan took her into his arms. Placing her hands on his chest, she asked gently, "What are you doing now? You are hugging me tightly, and you're making it hard for me to catch a breath."

Even while he was made aware of the fact that Qin Ya was evidently resisting him, Su Zhan refused to release his hold on her. Instead, he lowered his head to meet her gaze as he uttered admittingly, "I've missed you."

She stared at him and asked, "Why do you miss me? You get to see me every day!"

With his lips quirked upwards, his sparkling, brown eyes held a certain allure to them. At long last, he chided lovingly and coquettishly, "Don't change the subject. You know what I'm talking about."

Nevertheless, Qin Ya lowered her head. She was aware that they had not been intimate for quite some time. After all, she had constantly felt that she was an imperfect woman. She had a low sense of self-esteem due to the lack of a certain organ in her body.

"Su Zhan, I..." With her gaze on him, Su Zhan momentarily felt that her eyes appeared to be as calm and as crystal clear as a lake. In spite of that, he could sense that there were some mixed feelings, deep within her eyes.

He kissed her nose gently and pressed forth, "I understand that you have your fears. You're undaring, in regards to facing me directly. Nevertheless, you have always remained constant, Qin Ya, the one who has never changed in my heart."

Gnawing on her lips, Qin Ya's clenched fists began to loosen up. Grabbing her hands, Su Zhan placed his thumbs on her palms and urged, "Look at me."

Seeing that her head was tilted up in an effort to meet his gaze, Su Zhan immediately lowered his head to plant a kiss on her lips. Swiftly, he pushed her against the door as he began to kiss her fervently.

As of current, their bodies were as hot and as hard as volcanic rocks.

Kissing each other for what appeared to be a minute or so, Qin Ya soon pushed him away from her as she gasped for air. "You've almost suffocated me."

He chuckled and reassured her, "I won't let you die." As he spoke, he carried her and placed her on the couch. Then, he loomed atop of her, his gaze observing of her every feature. Apart from her lovely eyes, he felt that she had appeared rather different from her usual self. Nevertheless, he knew that she was still the same Qin Ya whom he loved.

He lowered his body to meet her gaze as he suggested gently, "Let's have a try at it. If you really can't take it, I won't force you. I won't make you afraid either."

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Receiving Qin Ya's nod of approval, Su Zhan soon supported himself with one hand against the couch. Meanwhile, he began to caress her face, eyes, nose, and lips with his other hand. With his hands roaming all over her body, he wanted to engrave her look in his heart, as he hoped that he would never forget her.

Then, as his lips approached hers, she slowly closed her eyes.

Knowing that Qin Ya was fragile emotionally and that she required protection, Su Zhan kissed her gently, not impatient to do anything. He leaned toward her ear and whispered, "Ya, if you feel upset about anything, please inform me about it. Don't bury your feelings deep within your heart."

Truthfully, he envied anyone who could make her smile.

He couldn't recall the last time that he had seen her genuine smile, seeing as she had begun to smile less, offering fake smiles in front of him. In addition to that, she had always buried her feelings, evidently reluctant to be forthcoming to him.

Feeling his kiss upon her eyes, Qin Ya's eyes soon began to flutter open. She had felt ticklish.

However, at the same time, she felt that his lips were rather soft. Eventually, she closed her eyes again.

He kissed her gently for quite some time, so much so that she was almost used to the intimacy.

When he began to unbutton her shirt, she didn't resist him as she had expected earlier, daring to face him instead.

Soon, their clothes were thrown all over the floor, lying in heaps.

Qin Ya was lying on the bed when she woke up. She roughly remembered that Su Zhan had carried her into the bedroom last night. When she saw Su Zhan's shirt on the side of the bed, she grabbed it randomly in an effort to put it on. Seeing that his shirt was rather oversized for her, it looked like a mini skirt that could cover her private part, still revealing her legs in the process.

When she walked out of the bedroom, she saw Su Zhan in the kitchen with an apron around his waist. She couldn't help but stand next to the door as she stared at him. In his casual wear, his waist and legs looked thin, but not without energy.

Shen Peichuan gave others the impression that he was sturdy, yet Su Zhan was handsome due to his fair skin and clean-cut facial features. He looked a little smug when he wasn't serious, but his eyes would sparkle the moment he focused on something.

Besides, as a thirty-year-old man, he looked rather young. Many would have thought that he was merely over twenty years old. Furthermore, he appeared like a typical, handsome young man whenever he acted seriously without wearing his necktie.

Moving out of the house, Qin Ya seemed to be a lot more relaxed. She went into the kitchen silently and hugged him from behind all of a sudden. Then, she leaned over to look at the pot and asked, "What are you cooking?"

"Large shrimps in tomato sauce." Each shrimp in the pot was as large as two fingers combined. She could clearly sense the smell of seafood, seeing that the shrimps were already almost cooked.

After a while, she pursed her lips and revealed her feelings to Su Zhan. "For quite some time in the past, I lived in fear, being afraid for many reasons."

He turned off the gas as he spun around. However, when he wanted to touch her face, he realized that his hands weren't clean. Hence, he kissed her forehead and responded gently, "I know."

In fact, he always observed her. Unfortunately, he found that he couldn't comfort her at all.

After all, her fear and uneasiness were brought about by him.

"From now on, don't mention surrogacy because we won't be doing it anymore," Su Zhan urged seriously.

Qin Ya caressed his temples and admitted, "I love to see you smile."

Nevertheless, Su Zhan really couldn't smile.

Upon pondering over it for a while, Qin Ya suggested, "Let's give it one more try. We'll let it go if we fail again. We should at least finish what we'd started."

He hugged her and agreed, "Alright, we'll give it one more try. I won't have regrets, even if we fail again..." He paused for a while and continued, "Let's not go back. I will deal with Grandma later."

Qin Ya agreed to it. After all, she found it difficult to face Grandma Su and was more relaxed when she lived outside.

"In that case, I shall be a little selfish and hand over everything to you. Instead, I will merely hide behind you." It had been a long time since she had laughed heartily before him.

He loved how she appeared both now and whenever she smiled. More importantly, he appreciated it when she was honest with him.

At the end of the month, Qin Ya tried once more, this being the second time of her surrogacy. Throughout the process, she was still anxious and worried that she would fail again. She was ready to bear the pain, yet, she felt that it was difficult to accept it if the doctor had told them the same result.

After the extraction of her ovum, Su Zhan picked Qin Ya up, as they headed home together. In fact, she was disgusted by the odor of disinfectant, feeling that it was difficult to breathe whenever she was in the hospital.

Hence, she was relieved that she could rest at home now, with Su Zhan remaining by her side.

Moreover, she seldom brought up questions about Grandma Su. Since Su Zhan had already dealt with the matter, she forced herself not to think about it.

At the end of the month, Shen Peichuan finally returned.

However, Sang Yu wanted to move to the dormitory at the university with the excuse that she had to attend many classes. She even moved out secretly, on the same night that Shen Peichuan returned.

Shen Peichuan didn't doubt her and genuinely believed that she was truly busy with her studies. When Zong Jinghao was informed that Shen Peichuan had returned, he invited Shen Peichuan for lunch at his house in the afternoon.

Since he came alone, Lin Xinyan couldn't help but ask, "Why didn't Sang Yu come with you? I mean, you two have hardly seen each other because you'd gone on a trip for many days."

Besides, because they have just gotten married. Lin Xinyan thought that they were supposed to stick together. Hence, she was curious upon seeing that he had arrived alone.

Lin Xinyan wanted to persuade Zong Jinghao so that she could bring the kids along to C City. It had been more than a month after she had given birth, and she didn't want to let go of her business in the city.

However, Zong Jinghao didn't really agree with her decision. He was determined that it was enough, for one of them to be the breadwinner of the family. Seeing that they had a comfortable life now, Zong Jinghao was rather reluctant to see his family members separated from one another.

Lin Xinyan understood his reasoning. Hence, she didn't take a hardline stance, as she merely hoped that Zong Jinghao would reconsider it.

Her youngest son had fewer wrinkles and looked cuter as he grew up. While Zong Yanchen looked increasingly like Zong Jinghao, her youngest son grew to look like her.

Hearing Lin Xinyan's question, Shen Peichuan soon replied, "She has moved to the dormitory because she is busy with her studies."

Lin Xinyan instantly felt that something was not right. A few days ago, when Sang Yu came to their house, she told her that was rather free as she was currently looking for an internship.

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Lin Xinyan glanced at Shen Peichuan and asked, "Have you guys quarreled?"

Surprised by her question, Shen Peichuan replied, "No, we haven't."

Lin Xinyan was a little doubtful yet she refrained from further pursuing the matter. Given that Sang Yu was young and emotional, Lin Xinyan felt the need to remind him, "You are well aware of Sang Yu's situation. Seeing as such, you have to be sure to cherish and protect her. Make her feel at home, and don't ever leave her in the cold."

Shen Peichuan shot her a smile as he assured her that he understood.

He loved Sang Yu in his own way, as he supported her too, in pursuing her studies. Hence, he didn't stop her when she wanted to move to the dormitory, even going as far as to give her a lift to the dormitory.

Now that Lin Xinyan had reminded him of it, he began to ponder over their relationship. He couldn't help but feel that something was subtly different between them. *In the past, she liked to stay with me all the time. Nevertheless, she seems to be distancing herself from me now. Have I done something wrong?*

He remembered that they didn't quarrel at all before he left. Seeing that he had been rather busy lately, they didn't even have time to communicate with each other, not to mention quarrel.

Did I overthink it? Perhaps Sang Yu isn't pissed off at me at all?

"Hand the baby over to me." Zhuang Zijin carried the kid from Lin Xinyan and continued, "He is supposed to take a nap now."

Handing the kid over to her, Lin Xinyan took two glasses of water and placed one of them before Shen Peichuan. Then, she asked, "How long will your next trip be?"

"About a month," Shen Peichuan replied.

She nodded in response. Upon taking a sip of the water, she asked again, "How many days will you stay here? When will you be leaving?"

"I was quite busy back then. But now, I am free for several days. I will be taking my leave on Tuesday. I should be able to complete the course when I return the next round," Shen Peichuan explained.

"I understand that you're busy. However, you still have to spend some time to accompany Sang Yu." When Sang Yu visited their house, Lin Xinyan sensed that she was troubled with something. Although she kept smiling, she would easily be lost in thought whenever she didn't speak.

Shen Peichuan nodded and affirmed, "I understand."

"Let's have lunch now." Aunt Yu announced after she put the dishes on the dining table. Since it was a weekend, Zong Qifeng brought the two kids to the cultural center. Besides, Zong Jinghao couldn't come home because he had lunch with a business partner.

As such, the house was rather quiet now.

Shen Peichuan left after lunch. When he hopped into his car, he realized that he had nowhere to go. After all, his house was quiet because Sang Yu wasn't at home. Hence, he took out his phone and sent a message to Sang Yu: *Have you had your lunch?*

Miles away from him, Sang Yu had taken some food at the canteen. Unfortunately, she didn't have the appetite to consume her food. When her phone rang, she hurriedly took it out. She felt a little excited, the moment she caught

sight of Shen Peichuan's message. Although she was upset that Shen Peichuan didn't take the initiative to contact her for many days, she couldn't help but open the message immediately.

Upon reading the message, she pretended to be calm as she replied to him: *Yes, I have.*

Holding the phone, Shen Peichuan was unsure as to how he should respond. *Should I say I miss you?* Nonetheless, he felt that it would be too cringy for Sang Yu because she was on campus. Hence, he sent another message to ask another question: *What did you have for lunch?*

Sang Yu was rendered speechless once she saw the message.

Is he the dullest man on earth?

She held in her annoyance as she replied to him: *Some cowpeas, stir-fried pork with ginger, along with some bean curd.*

Since he began to feel his dullness, he tried to change the subject: *How many classes do you have in the evening?*

Sang Yu's eyes sparkled when she saw the message as she asked him in return: *Why do you want to know?*

The next moment, he quickly typed out a few words: *I wish to see you...*

However, upon hesitating for a while, he soon changed the message: *Let's have dinner tonight.*

Sang Yu felt speechless once again.

What a jerk!

She replied to his message blandly: *I have many classes and I don't have any time for dinner.* Upon sending the message, she placed her phone on the table. Now, she felt that she had completely lost her appetite.

Wang Tingxue came up to her and asked, "Sang Yu, seeing that we don't have any classes in the evening, would you like to go shopping?"

However, Sang Yu wasn't in the mood to do so.

She was quick to change the subject as she asked Wang Tingxue, "Have you found your internship yet?"

Wang Tingxue shook her head and responded, "Nope. Have you?"

"I hope to join Huihong Investment Bank." Since Sang Yu had studied finance, she wished to join a company relevant to her knowledge, hoping that she would be able to gain experience.

However, a top-tier company would not easily accept any applicant to be their employee.

"Why don't you ask your husband for a favor? I'm sure that he has many wide connections." Wang Tingxue's tone held a slight hint of envy as she admitted, "I really admire you for having married a successful man even before you have graduated. If I were you, I would've stopped studying, choosing to become a housewife instead. I mean, it's not a bad idea to take care of your children and husband."

Sang Yu glanced at her and muttered, "I don't want to become a housewife."

Deep in her heart, she hoped that she and Shen Peichuan were equals.

She had once wished to join the police force, hoping to follow in his footsteps. Eventually, she felt that it would not necessarily be a good thing to have the same job. Hence, she decided to continue her studies.

“Sang Yu, please accompany me to go shopping. I’ll treat you to bubble tea.” Wang Tingxue wrapped her arm around Sang Yu’s as she continued, “I’ll feel bored if I go alone.”

Sang Yu pursed her lips, still reluctant to go with her.

“How about two cups of bubble tea? Deal?”

Sang Yu glanced at her and replied, “Alright, but one cup of bubble tea is enough.”

“Then, finish your lunch now.” Wang Tingxue urged her to finish her meal faster so that they could go shopping later.

Sang Yu stole a glance at her phone screen when she picked up the chopsticks. To her utter dismay, there was no message. Then, she put her phone into her pocket and began eating.

After lunch, Wang Tingxue booked a cab via an app, and it arrived as soon as they reached the gate. Sang Yu thought that Wang Tingxue had planned to go shopping at Taoyuan Street, for a variety of affordable goods. She was a little surprised when Wang Tingxue told her that she had wanted to visit the shopping mall downtown.

As university students, they didn’t have a lot of cash.

Apart from that, the clothes in the shopping mall were extremely expensive.

Sang Yu couldn’t help but ask, “What do you want to buy?”

“A set of formal attire for work.” Wang Tingxue gazed at her and asked, “Aren’t you buying a set for yourself too?”

Sang Yu shook her head and replied, “I already have mine.”

“Did you buy it from Taoyuan Street?” Wang Tingxue stared at her in shock.

Her guess was right, but Sang Yu didn't think that it was inappropriate in any way. “Well, I don't think that it's inappropriate because it reflects who I am.”

Since she never had a formal job, she didn't feel the need to wear some branded clothes, or much rather, make an effort to show off.

Moreover, an intern like her didn't have to wear fancy clothes.

Wang Tingxue had a different opinion about it. She believed that people would be more confident, especially while wearing branded clothes. She asked curiously, “Did your husband refuse to give you money?”

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Sang Yu had some money as she did not spend a single cent of Shen Peichuan's savings. She was not the type to squander her wealth away since she was a rather stubborn and independent woman.

Even if she were unemployed, did not have a lot of disposable income, and had Shen Peichuan's card with her, she would not use his money in a frivolous manner. If she wanted any luxury or expensive item, she would rather work her way there.

As Sang Yu remained silent, Wang Tingxue's eyes widened. "Don't tell me that your husband doesn't give you any money?" Then, she added, "Shouldn't he support you financially, seeing that you're very much younger than him?"

Sang Yu thought that her words were rather nonsensical. *So what if I'm young? It doesn't necessarily mean that I have to be supported financially.*

What kind of logic is that?

In fact, she thought that Wang Tingxue's words sounded very condescending and belittling. She made it sound as though Sang Yu had merely married Shen Peichuan for his money and status in society.

"I married him because I love him, not because of his wealth," Sang Yu emphasized.

Wang Tingxue let out a laugh and assured her, "I know that. Don't be so uptight! I didn't say anything!"

Sang Yu glanced at her in disbelief.

Ultimately, Wang Tingxue let out a sigh, "Alright, alright. I was wrong, okay? I didn't mean anything by it, alright? Don't overthink it."

The truth was, she did not intend to imply that Sang Yu had married her husband at her young age for his money.

The conversation had somehow ended up as such. It was just a mere slip of the tongue, and she did not expect Sang Yu to be so sensitive.

Upon their arrival, Wang Tingxue offered to get them drinks. The duo walked into the mall hand-in-hand as the place was rather crowded on the weekend.

“Hey, that’s the ladies’ department. Let’s head there.” Wang Tingxue dragged Sang Yu along as she spoke. The latter was just here to accompany her– she had nothing much to buy on her own and she decided to just go along with Wang Tingxue’s plans.

After Shen Peichuan left, Zhuang Zijin remarked that the weather was getting colder and that Zong Yanxi had outgrown her long-sleeve jacket. As the little girl grew taller, they had to get some new clothes, and Zong Yanxi herself agreed. Although she was not as tall as Zong Yanchen, she was still growing.

Zhuang Zijin and Aunt Yu would take care of the baby, so Lin Xinyan headed out to buy autumn clothes for her two kids.

She realized that she was turning very much into a housewife– a very privileged housewife, in fact. She had a chauffeur to drive her around as well as Zhuang Zijin and Aunt Yu to take care of her children.

Fortunately, Zong Jinghao was good at making money and there was not much for her to do. However, she did not enjoy such a carefree life as she wanted to pursue her own interests instead.

To her utter dismay, Zong Jinghao did not allow her to go to C City. Thus, she could only stay at home and be a homemaker.

She was at the mall for a while, with the chauffeur trailing along behind her with several shopping bags in his hands. At first, she came to buy clothes for her two children. However, she subconsciously found herself strolling into the baby’s store when she chanced upon it. The small clothes looked very cute, and she bought a few pieces, along with some other items.

Meanwhile, Wang Tingxue dragged Sang Yu into a jewelry store. The latter blinked and asked, "Tingxue, are you here to buy something?"

Wang Tingxue whispered into her ear, "No, we're not here to buy anything."

Sang Yu was puzzled. *Why did she drag me in here if she doesn't want to buy anything? Furthermore, everything in here looks expensive. They would probably have a range of costs from a few thousand to tens of thousands! Tsk, there's nothing cheap here at all.*

"Since we aren't buying anything, let's not go in." Sang Yu felt that the trip was rather unnecessary and a waste of time. Furthermore, window shopping was rather meaningless to her.

"Sang Yu, we are here to shop. I'm only going to take a look. It doesn't cost anything to try them on!"

Before Sang Yu could react, Wang Tingxue already pulled her into the store. A salesperson welcomed them warmly.

Wang Tingxue dragged her to the necklace section immediately upon entering. There were plenty of display lights in the shop which made the expensive jewelry sparkle in a blinding manner.

All ladies loved intricate jewelry, including Sang Yu herself. She was just one to control her temptations and purchase within her means.

She would never force herself to do something that she could not.

Wang Tingxue did not have the money to buy such expensive pieces. She merely enjoyed looking at them and trying them on. After all, it would cost her nothing.

There was a necklace in the display case that caught her attention. Wang Tingxue had seen a replica of it online on many occasions. Now that the authentic one was right in front of her eyes, she pointed to it and asked the salesperson, "Can I try this on?"

The salesperson put on a pair of white gloves and agreed. He unlocked the display case carefully and took the necklace out before placing it in a red velvet jewelry display box for her.

It was a thin, platinum necklace with a heart-shaped pendant. The pendant was made using platinum as well and there was a small diamond embedded in it. It looked truly beautiful and would be suitable for fair-skinned ladies.

Wang Tingxue picked it up and examined it closely. *Wow, this is a lot prettier than what I've seen online!* Getting excited, she asked the salesperson once more, "Can I try it on?"

The salesperson nodded. "Of course, ma'am."

Wang Tingxue passed the necklace to the salesperson so that she could put it on for her.

Very quickly, she had the necklace on. Wang Tingxue was a rather pretty girl and the necklace suited her well too.

"It looks really good on you." The salesperson brought her a mirror and showed her its reflection.

Wang Tingxue examined her own reflection, along with the necklace in the mirror. She truly loved the jewelry.

"How much is this?"

"Nine thousand, eight hundred and eighty-eight," the salesperson informed her. "As you should know, platinum is expensive, and there is also a rather good-grade diamond embedded here. I would say that you are paying for a premium product."

Wang Tingxue continued to stare at her own reflection as she caressed the necklace. A diamond being too small meant nothing to her— this one was perfect.

"Do you have any discounts or offers on this?" Wang Tingxue asked as she got the sales assistant to take the necklace off of her.

She undid the necklace and replied, "This is our latest model, ma'am. We don't have a discount."

"Oh."

"You have very good taste. The necklace really suits you and looks good on you. It brings out the feminine side of you! You looked like an entirely different person. More classy, more tasteful."

Wang Tingxue really fell in love with the necklace. However, she knew that she did not have the money to buy it.

Hence, she could only wait until she saved up enough for it.

"To tell you the truth, I don't really like it. Let's head somewhere else." Wang Tingxue smiled and dragged Sang Yu toward the exit.

As the sales assistant placed the necklace back into the display case, she muttered, "Just say that you can't afford it. Why pretend that you didn't like it? What little self-awareness."

Upon hearing this, Wang Tingxue instantly turned displeased. She spun around to glare at the sales assistant as she asked, "What did you say earlier?"