

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 946

Zong Yanxi could not resist when she saw how adorable the little girl was, so she picked her up.

The child wrapped her arms around the adult's neck with a big smile.

She's too comfortable with strangers. This is not good.

Despite the girl being likable, the world was filled with people with ill intentions. With her trusting character, it would be unfortunate if she encountered bad people.

Zong Yanxi was walking down from the arched bridge when she accidentally sprained her ankle. She almost lost her balance, but luckily she was quick to grab onto the railing to support herself.

"What happened?" the little girl asked in shock as she tightened her arms around Zong Yanxi's neck, fearing that she would fall.

Zong Yanxi did not respond. Instead, she tried to continue walking again but failed to do so as she felt immense pain on her ankle.

"Put me down. I don't want to fall." The little girl struggled to free herself.

"Don't move," uttered Zong Yanxi in a low voice.

It was already unstable enough to use only one hand to hold the little girl. If she made bigger movements, both of them would surely fall together.

The girl listened to her and stopped struggling.

Seeing that, Zong Yanxi bent over slowly and let her down.

Standing on the steps of the arched bridge, she lifted her head and looked at Zong Yanxi. "I'll go get help."

Without waiting for Zong Yanxi's response, she ran down the stairs.

Zong Yanxi watched the little girl as the corners of her lips curled up. This kid is so lively.

Soon, the child's figure disappeared from her view. She did not wait idly but slowly descended the stairs, cautious of not applying too much pressure on her injured leg.

When she reached the bottom, she hobbled towards a nearby house.

It took some time but she arrived at last. However, the doors of the house were all closed. Even the rooms were pitch-black; it seemed that no one was inside.

Zong Yanxi frowned. Where are they?

She stepped forward and knocked on the door, but no one answered.

What's going on?

She decided to take out her phone and call Zhuang Jiawen.

The latter did not answer her call immediately. It only connected after two call attempts.

"Where are Mom and Dad?" she asked in a panic.

"At home," replied her brother in confusion.

"No, they're not. The house is all dark."

Zhuang Jiawen paused for a moment. "Where are you right now?"

"Their house," replied Zong Yanxi matter-of-factly.

"You're in Thailand?"

"Yes."

"Why didn't you tell me before you went there?"

Zong Yanxi sat on the grass while staying silent.

"Aunt Qin's birthday is around the corner and Mom is helping me prepare for my wedding, so she came back and is staying with me now."

"Ah, I see."

"Of course, she wants to see you, too. We didn't tell you because we feared that you'd refuse to meet up. Why didn't you let me know before you went over to Thailand?"

Zong Yanxi kept quiet.

"You should come back. I think you'll be able to make it before Aunt Qin's birthday."

Zong Yanxi raised her skirt to check on her swollen ankle. "I don't think I can go back."

"Why?" Zhuang Jiawen questioned, but before she could answer he added again, "What is inside that head of yours? We have been accommodating you for so long and letting you do whatever you wanted. Now that you're this close to meeting Mom and Dad, you're suddenly backing out? What the hell are you thinking?"

"Are you done?"

"Yes," Zhuang Jiawen responded petulantly.

"It's not like I don't want to go back, but I sprained my ankle earlier."

Zhuang Jiawen let out a light cough. "Oh. I thought you changed your mind. In that case, have your ankle checked at the hospital then. I'll tell Mom and Dad about you."

"No need," she uttered while playing with the grass. "I don't want them to worry. It's only a minor injury. I'll go back when it gets better."

"Okay, then. Call me if you need anything. Don't forget to go to the hospital."

"Yeah. I'm hanging up now."

“Sure.”

After she ended the call, she put her phone back into her pocket.

When she was about to push herself up, a dark figure appeared before her. “Hello.”

She lifted her head to look at the handsome man in crew cut. Wearing an olive-green military uniform with black leather boots, he stood with his back perfectly straight and exuded a commanding presence.

“It’s her, Daddy.” The little girl from earlier pointed at Zong Yanxi. “She sprained her ankle when she carried me.”

The woman shifted her gaze between the father and the child. Though she could not understand what the little girl had said, she still knew the word “daddy”.

“H-hello,” she greeted stiffly.

“Let me see your wound.”

Zong Yanxi’s eyes widened when she heard the man speak in her mother tongue. “You know where I’m from?”

The man glanced at the house behind her. “I guess this is where you’re headed?”

Zong Yanxi looked back before replying, “Yes.”

“Are they your parents?”

“Yes.” She nodded.

“You look just like them.”

Zong Yanxi touched her face and looked in the direction the little girl was pointing. It was a house not far from where they were. Mom and Dad have been living here for so long. He must be their friends.

“Miss, you can stay with us,” the little girl said while pulling her hand.

"It's fine." She smiled.

"Your parents have already flown back and there are no hotels nearby. If you don't mind, you can stay with us and let me treat your wound. Your mom took good care of my daughter when I wasn't around," the man offered sincerely.

Even so, Zong Yanxi still rejected him. "Umm, can you drive me to the hospital instead?"

I'll rest at the hospital for the night and make plans tomorrow.

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"I still think you should stay with us," the little girl persisted and refused to let go of Zong Yanxi's arm. She then continued to speak, but in Zong Yanxi's language, "You don't have anywhere to go anyway."

The man frowned seeing his daughter holding the woman's hand.

She has always been like this. Whenever she takes a liking to someone or sees somebody pretty, she will not hesitate to invite that person to our house.

Zong Yanxi was shocked that the girl could speak her language.

The man noticed her expression and explained, "She often goes to your parents' house; your mother taught her the language."

Zong Yanxi nodded in understanding.

"Come on! Let's go!" said the little girl cheerfully.

Zong Yanxi pursed her lips and looked at the man. "Sorry for bothering you, then."

"Not at all. Can you walk? Which leg is injured?"

"The left one."

"Let me see." The man crouched down.

Zong Yanxi instinctively took a step back and almost lost her balance. She felt a bit uncomfortable for the man to check her leg.

"I know a thing or two about this stuff and I just want to see if the injury has reached your bone. I don't mean to do you any harm."

He doesn't seem like a bad person. Maybe I'm overthinking things. With that thought in mind, she slowly lifted her skirt to show her ankle.

The man touched her leg lightly before saying, "Fortunately, your bone is intact. It's just normal swelling. You'll be fine after putting some ice on it."

"Thank you."

"Okay. Let's go then," uttered the little girl.

Zong Yanxi looked at her and decided to tell her father about her behavior. "Your daughter is adorable, but she's not afraid of strangers and that can be dangerous. Don't let her wander around on her own next time. What if she encounters a bad person?"

The man knew his daughter very well. She did have maids following her everywhere she went, but she liked to slip away from them.

"I will keep that in mind," he said as he offered his arm to her, "Let me help you."

Zong Yanxi accepted his gesture as she held his arm. "Thank you. My name is Zong Yanxi, by the way. What's your name?"

"Tawan Thitipoom," the man introduced.

They were quite a distance away from the city. Tawan has chosen to live here because his house was passed down from his ancestors.

Tawan had come from a line of noblemen.

Since he had inherited his title, it was his responsibility to protect the glory of the Thitipoom family as well as the wealth his ancestors had accumulated.

It was rumored that his family was so rich that they could basically buy an entire nation.

As time passed, the city started to develop the area south of the river. The houses that remained on the north shore were mansions preserved by influential families.

They had maintained their properties in good condition so future generations could continue residing here.

But few lived in the area, and the place was very quiet.

Of course, real estate here was very expensive, so not many people could afford to live here.

The trio finally arrived at Tawan's yellow mansion. Judging by the looks, it was obvious that it was well-maintained. Though the design was not modern, the architecture embodied the unique characteristics of previous eras.

The inside of the house gave off an even stronger sense of aristocracy with its tall arched doors, exquisite ornaments made from pure gold, and crimson curtains. Even the windows were kept squeaky clean.

Most wealthy people in Thailand were fond of gold—even their utensils were made of pure gold.

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As they stepped through the door, they saw a female helper dressed in traditional Thai clothing approaching them. She then took Tawan's hat.

"Go get some ice," Tawan instructed.

The helper heeded his orders and left.

Zong Yanxi apologized to him, "Sorry for troubling you today."

Tawan led her to the sofa and replied, "Actually, I knew your father."

However, he didn't go into detail. "I'll go change my clothes."

"Alright." Zong Yanxi thought that she was being a hassle to them, so she didn't want to trouble them any further by making any more requests.

The young girl propped her chin up and sat opposite of Zong Yanxi while she sized her up.

"Why are you looking at me?" Zong Yanxi took a look upstairs. "Where's your Mom?"

The girl giggled and flashed her pearly teeth. "How about you be my Mom?"

Color drained from Zong Yanxi's face. Are kids this outgoing these days? Did she really ask me to be her Mom?"

Is she mentally challenged?

But she doesn't seem so. Instead, she looks quite bright.

The girl pointed up and said mysteriously, "That man doesn't have a wife."

Zong Yanxi looked in the direction the girl's finger was pointing and had a realization. However, she was even more confused now.

If he doesn't have a wife, where did she come from?

Even so, she wasn't interested in their family affairs, so she changed the subject, "What's your name?"

"I'm Sorn." The girl held her hand. "Please?"

"Huh?"

"Please be..."

"Sorn." At that moment, Tawan appeared. Zong Yanxi saw that he had changed out of his imposing military outfit and was now dressed in a white t-shirt with a pair of beige shorts. He looked much more amiable now.

"Sally, bring her to the showers." He instructed the helper.

Sorn was reluctant, but in the end, she still followed the helper and went off.

Tawan took a towel and used it to wrap the ice the helper gave him. Zong Yanxi realized what he was about to do, so she stretched her hands out and offered, "I can do it myself."

Tawan didn't protest as he passed her the towel. "Please don't take what Sorn said to you to heart."

Zong Yanxi put the towel on her swollen ankle and asked, "I won't, but she..."

Does she go around and ask every woman to be her Mom?

Isn't this a little...

"I mean no offense, but, is your wife not here?" Zong Yanxi asked politely.

Tawan poured himself a drink and replied, "I haven't married yet."

Zong Yanxi was rendered speechless.

So where did Sorn come from?

Was she an accident?

But he seems like a decent man who wouldn't sleep around.

Wait, actually, I shouldn't judge a book by its cover.

Maybe he just seems like a decent guy. Who knows? Maybe he's just as much of a douchebag as Jiang Mohan.

Meanwhile, in the hospital in B City.

Jiang Mohan, who was in the VIP ward, just woke up.

A few doctors donning their white coats were there by the bed with Nan Cheng.

Nan Cheng was the one who received Jiang Mohan's call and sent him to the hospital.

Jiang Mohan's condition was stable now, and he needed to give consent to undergo surgery. His leg was injured, so it would take at least a few months for him to fully recover after the surgery.

Even though he had family, he wasn't close to his father or his brother. It just so happened that a family member's signature was required as well for the operation.

In the case of an emergency, Nan Cheng had to power to put down his signature, but Jiang Mohan was in no danger right now, so Jiang Mohan needed to give consent himself.

Jiang Mohan took a casual look at the consent form and signed it. "Is one month enough for me to go back to normal?"

The doctors were stumped. "Your injury isn't serious, but it still needs time to recover. One month is not enough."

Nan Cheng knew Jiang Mohan's concerns, so he tried to advise him, "Actually, letting Mrs. Jiang cool off for this period of time is for the best."

Jiang Mohan cast him a cold glance in reply. He didn't want to wait any longer!

He just wanted to get her back because he was afraid of losing her again.

He had already felt the intense longing, so he didn't want to go through that again.

"Two months."

"At least three months." The doctors gave a reasonable estimate.

"Can you win back your wife's heart if you're crippled? The surgery is more important right now." Nan Cheng wasn't afraid of his glare. "Doctors, you can start arranging for the operation now."

Jiang Mohan calmed down and instructed, "Go and find out where she went. I want to know where she is right now."

Nan Cheng nodded. "Alright."

An hour later, Jiang Mohan was sent to the operating theater while Nan Cheng stood guard outside.

Even though this wasn't a major surgery, it was still a heart-rending sight because none of Jiang Mohan's family showed up.

Meanwhile, Nan Cheng hoped that Zong Yanxi could forgive Jiang Mohan.

He thought that Jiang Mohan's dismal childhood caused him to act this way. If Jiang Mohan's father gave him some affection after his mother's death, he probably wouldn't pine for motherly love as much as he did now. Also, he probably wouldn't be that blinded by his desire to avenge his mother.

However, Nan Cheng only knew that Jiang Mohan wanted to win back Zong Yanxi's heart, and he didn't understand his suffering.

Not only did Jiang Mohan harm the person he loved, but he also caused his child's death.

Meanwhile, in another location in another country, Zong Yanxi lay on the bed.

The room was clean, but it probably was frequented by mosquitoes, which explained the mosquito netting covering the bed. The soft layers of netting overlapped on each other and formed a protective covering around the bed.

She was exhausted, yet she couldn't fall asleep.

Creak. With a twist of the handle, Sorn came in while carrying a puppy. "Are you asleep?"

Zong Yanxi answered, "No."

Sorn closed the door and climbed onto her bed as she said, "I can't sleep too."

Zong Yanxi smiled and ruffled through her hair. She's adorable, but she's kinda too friendly to strangers.

"I forgot to introduce it to you. Its name is Torah."

Sorn pointed at the puppy.

Zong Yanxi asked, "Did you name it?"

Sorn nodded heavily. "Does the name sound good?"

"Yes."

Well, it actually does sound good.

"Did you take into consideration what I told you?" Sorn repeated herself after she was interrupted by Tawan previously, "Be my Mom."

Zong Yanxi didn't know how to answer her.

"I'm still very young, so I can't be your Mom. Besides that, I only just met your father." Tawan is really so irresponsible! He should've married Sorn's mother even if he didn't like her for Sorn's sake.

Because otherwise, the children from incomplete families might grow up to have personality flaws.

Actually, I think that fate already befell Sorn. Probably that is why she keeps asking me to be her Mom?

Sorn replied seriously, "I asked you to be my Mom because you're young and pretty. There are a lot of women who want to be my Mom, but Daddy and I don't like them."

She pouted and continued, "So what if you just met Daddy? Isn't he quite handsome? You'll get to know each other better after I introduce you to him. His name is Tawan Thitipoom and he's twenty-nine years old. Everyone calls him Lord Thitipoom, and he definitely can give you a happy life because he has a house full of jewelry and gems."

Thitipoom was Tawan's surname, and he was titled as a marquis.

Zong Yanxi was speechless.

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This kid really is way too mature for her age!

Isn't she just four or five years old?

Zong Yanxi was perplexed.

She turned around and announced, "I'm tired. I'm going to sleep."

Sorn climbed over her and snuggled in her arms. "Just think about it, please?"

Zong Yanxi didn't know how to respond to that, so she opted to just pretend like she was asleep.

Sorn shook her gently and she remained motionless. A few moments later, Sorn realized that her efforts were futile, so she lay in Zong Yanxi's arms and mumbled, "It's still so early, hmph."

Zong Yanxi was dumbfounded.

Hey, it's already very late!

A while later, Sorn fell asleep unwittingly while Torah went into slumber at the end of the bed. Zong Yanxi thought that the dog was quite similar in behavior to its owner.

She didn't move a muscle because Sorn was fast asleep in her arms. In the end, she dozed off as well.

Zong Yanxi was in a foreign place, so she didn't really sleep well. She jolted awake a few times at night and she also woke up very early in the morning.

She gently placed Sorn down and massaged her aching arms. She didn't change her sleeping position all night because she didn't want to wake Sorn up, which caused her arm to feel numb.

Knock knock.

Zong Yanxi ushered the person at the door in response to the knocking. She thought that a helper would be at the door because it was early, but it was Tawan instead. His gaze fell on the little girl sleeping behind her as he frowned. "Did she interrupt your sleep last night?"

"No." Zong Yanxi replied.

Tawan exposed her lie ruthlessly. "Then why didn't you sleep well?"

Zong Yanxi blinked in confusion as he continued, "You have dark circles around your eyes."

She was rendered speechless.

Not only is he a douchebag, but he's also insensitive as well.

"Let me help you up." Tawan approached her, but she immediately waved her hands.

"No thanks." Ever since she thought that Sorn was his illegitimate child, she didn't have a good impression of him.

"I can manage." Zong Yanxi put on her slippers and propped herself up with her uninjured foot.

Tawan didn't insist and agreed, "Alright. Please be careful."

As he was about to leave, Zong Yanxi asked him, "Can you please do me a favor?"

"Yes?"

"Can you please send me to the city if you're free today?" I can't just keep staying here. My injuries will heal soon, so I should go to a hotel instead.

"But you're still injured," Tawan replied.

“Um, I have some other stuff to take care of, so...”

“What stuff?” Sorn woke up groggily, but Zong Yanxi’s voice dispelled all the sleepiness she had.

Zong Yanxi turned around in surprise. Why did this clingy kid wake up so early?

Sorn rubbed her eyes and questioned, “Didn’t you say you agreed to be my Mom? Why are you leaving?”

Zong Yanxi was dumbfounded.

When did I say that?

“Are you still dreaming?” Zong Yanxi asked.

Sorn raised her head, and her messy hair couldn’t conceal her delicate features. “I’m very awake right now.”

“Then you must’ve been dreaming. I didn’t agree to be your Mom.” I shouldn’t show her any sympathy.

Even though she’s very likable and I pity her because she doesn’t have a mother, I can’t just simply agree to this.

Sorn blinked in response as her eyes started to turn red.

Zong Yanxi started to panic as she rambled, “Um, you should ask your Daddy if you want a Mom. I really can’t be your Mom.”

Tawan approached Sorn and picked her up. “Sally.”

In a flash, a helper appeared. “Yes?”

“Take her to her room and help her change.”

However, Sorn held onto Tawan’s neck tightly. “Daddy.”

"Come on, be a good girl." Tawan patted her head. "Don't you want to go to the playground? I'll bring you there today."

"Really?" Sorn widened her misty eyes which belied the slight smile on her face.

"Really." Tawan replied determinedly.

"Thank you. I love you." She planted a kiss on his face before following the helper out.

Tawan waited until Sorn left before he said, "She doesn't have a mother, so..."

"So you should marry her mother. Otherwise, Sorn might grow up to have some personality issues. I feel like men should take responsibility for their actions."

Zong Yanxi interrupted him with a lecture.

In response, Tawan just stared at her for a few minutes.

His glare made Zong Yanxi felt numb all over, and she didn't know what he meant.

Is he angry at me for lecturing him?

But it really is immoral to make a lady pregnant and dump her afterward.

"Um, I mean... I mean..."

Zong Yanxi couldn't explain herself no matter how hard she tried.

"Breakfast is almost ready. Go wash up." He left soon after and left her speechless.

Did I just offend the person who offered me a place to stay?

But even so, it doesn't change the fact that he has a personality flaw.

She limped all the way to the bathroom to wash up before limping back out again.

At that time, Sorn had already changed into a new set of clothes. She wore braids and a small flower on her head while she was fitted in a pink lace dress. She looked just like a doll when she blinked and fluttered her long eyelashes.

When Zong Yanxi stared at her, she felt that her mother couldn't be Thai. Instead, Sorn seemed more Caucasian than anything.

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Zong Yanxi approached the giggling Sorn. "Let me carry you."

She felt that she was too straightforward just now because it was natural for a childlike Sorn to crave motherly affection. I should've rejected her indirectly.

"Does your Daddy usually not have the time to play with you?" Zong Yanxi thought that way because Sorn seemed very easy to please; she was overjoyed at the mention of Tawan bringing her to the playground.

Sorn nodded. "He's very busy."

No matter how busy he is, he should spend more time with her. After all, she doesn't have a mother.

"But he tries his best to spend time with me." Sorn's mood turned gloomy all of a sudden and left Zong Yanxi astonished.

Did I say something wrong?

Why is she sad all of a sudden?

I didn't expect that at all!

"Um, Sorn..."

Sorn met her gaze and assured, "I'm fine."

Zong Yanxi didn't know what to say anymore.

This kid...

"My father and mother died. He was the one who adopted me," Sorn explained.

Zong Yanxi widened her eyes in surprise. Was I mistaken all along?

Sorn isn't Tawan's illegitimate child!

He isn't an irresponsible man!

"My parents are gone and my grandparents didn't want to take me in, so I became an orphan that no one wants. He was the one who brought me here and became my Daddy..."

Sorn blinked and continued, "Actually, I pity him too."

Zong Yanxi was perplexed.

She pities Tawan?

But why?

He has money, power, and is well-respected, so why does she pity him?

Did she mistaken the word 'pity' for something else?

If he's considered piteous, what about all the common folk who work their heads off to earn money?

"He's so busy he doesn't have time to look for a wife. Isn't it just sad?" Sorn blinked.

Zong Yanxi had a revelation.

Is that why she keeps asking ladies to be her Mom? Is she trying to find him a wife?

This little kid...

I really don't know what to think about her.

"Sorn." Tawan appeared and instructed, "Come here."

Sorn immediately pounced at him and nuzzled her head affectionately on him. "Daddy."

Tawan picked her up and placed her on a chair next to the dining table. The table was very long and it could accommodate at least twenty people.

"Ms. Zong, please join us." Tawan graciously pulled the chair for her.

Zong Yanxi still felt embarrassed at how she jumped to conclusions about his character and assumed that Sorn was his illegitimate child.

The things I said to him!

"I thought Sorn was your..."

She then realized Sorn was there as well, so she immediately held back her tongue.

Tawan knew what she was about to say, so he changed the subject for Sorn's sake. "Are you fine with food like this?"

Zong Yanxi replied, "I'm not a picky eater, so it's fine."

Her impression of him improved somewhat now that she realized that he wasn't as irresponsible as she thought he was.

Meanwhile, in B City.

Jiang Mohan's surgery was a success.

All he needed to do was to rest on the bed because he couldn't walk yet. Nan Cheng stayed by his side like a loyal guardian.

"Is Ling Wei still alive?" Jiang Mohan asked suddenly.

Nan Cheng was confused because of the sudden mention of Ling Wei. "She's still inside and she's alive."

"She deserves to die." Jiang Mohan spat out the harsh words while donning an expressionless facade.

"Fortunately, Mrs. Jiang was alright. She also received her deserved punishment." Nan Cheng didn't know Zong Yanxi lost his child during the fire, so he didn't understand why Jiang Mohan brought her up.

"Actually, she committed the huge mistake because she was deeply in love with you. She probably doesn't deserve to die. Perhaps she should be given a second chance if she's willing to turn over a new leaf..."

"What did you just say?" Jiang Mohan interrupted, "She doesn't deserve to die?"

Nan Cheng gulped nervously when faced with his cold glare. "Um, I'm not trying to defend her, it's just that... that..."

He couldn't cough up an explanation.

Jiang Mohan closed his eyes to conceal his emotions. "She doesn't deserve to live. Make her pay with her life."

Nan Cheng froze. Did I hear that correctly?

Does he want Ling Wei dead?

Indeed, she tried to kill Zong Yanxi, but Zong Yanxi is still alive, right? Why should she pay with her life?

She's already in jail, and that's enough.

"Um..."

"Nan Cheng, don't defend her. She doesn't deserve it. She's more evil than you think. Just follow my instructions." Jiang Mohan kept his eyes shut as he tilted his head slightly towards the window.

Nan Cheng fell silent for a while before acknowledging, "I'll be on my way."

Nan Cheng couldn't stop thinking about Ling Wei.

Even though he didn't understand what was happening, he still went with Jiang Mohan's command.

However, he didn't manage to find Ling Wei.

What's going on?

He immediately went to Chief Wu to question him, but he was in the dark as well.

He even denied Nan Cheng's claims that Ling Wei was missing, "How is that even possible?"

"I really didn't see her. I wouldn't have come to you otherwise." Nan Cheng stared at him. "Don't tell me she escaped?"

"Are you joking? It's not that easy to escape from this place!" Chief Wu was solemn because after all, a missing inmate was his responsibility.

He had promised Guan Jing that he would keep a close eye on her and make sure she never sees the light of day.

How would he explain himself to Guan Jing now that she was missing?

"Let's go." Chief Wu took the lead and Nan Cheng tagged along.