

CHAPTER 101.

This place did not look like a pub nor a restaurant. The interior seemed high-classed, and the place was quiet. There was barely anyone around.

Lin Xinyan was perplexed. "What place is this?"

"A bar." He Ruize pulled her towards the room at the end of the corridor.

Lin Xinyan frowned. "It's rare to see such a quiet bar."

"This is a private bar. It's not opened to the public, only to certain people. He Ruize explained, "It's quiet here."

"Oh."

Soon, they reached the room. He Ruize pushed the door open. The warm lighting was dim, and the room was spacious. At the end of the room was a black leather couch and a round table. On the table, there were two bottles of red wine and two glasses.

Lin Xinyan looked at He Ruize. "You've booked this earlier?"

He Ruize's expression stiffened, but he quickly returned to normal. "I'm a VIP here. This is my regular room. This wine is from my collection."

Lin Xinyan walked in. "I thought you don't like to drink."

He Ruize stood at the entrance and fell into a momentary trance looking at her thin back. "People change, don't they? I'm human and I have desires. I get upset when my love doesn't get returned."

His words meant something else.

Lin Xinyan understood.

She pretended to be casual as she looked around the room. Her hands traced the lampshade, knocked on the wine bottle, and moved the wine glasses. "There are billions of people in this world. To be able to meet is already fate. Some people are just not meant to be. You can't force something that's not meant to be."

He Ruize lowered his head and laughed. "You're still witty. Let me off a little. Don't you know you should respect your elders?"

Lin Xinyan turned around and smiled at him. "You're not old. In my eyes, you'll always be that person dressed in a doctor's coat with glasses, gently asking about Xinqi's condition. You're that person who takes care of me like a big brother. I'll always remember that."

He Ruize took out the cork and poured the wine. "Let's not talk about the past."

He was afraid that he would become soft-hearted and wouldn't bear to do it.

However, if he did not ruin her, it would be impossible for He Ruilin and Zong Jinghao to be together. There would be no chance for them to get married to create a good future for his family.

He poured two glasses of wine. "Don't keep looking. Come over and have a glass with me."

Lin Xinyan sat on the couch and raised the glass that He Ruize had poured for her. The color of the wine was bright red, and the scent was rich. It was a good wine. He Ruize raised his glass and clinked onto hers. "Accompany me in getting drunk today."

"My alcohol tolerance isn't good. I won't be getting drunk with you. I still need to go home early. Ruixi can't sleep without me." She had to accompany Lin Ruixi to sleep. If she was not home at night, she was not sure if Lin Ruixi would pester Zhuang Zijin.

He Ruize did not answer her. He tilted his head and finished the wine.

He raised his empty glass for Lin Xinyan to see. "I'm done with mine. It's your turn now."

Lin Xinyan had no choice but to drink hers.

Unlike white wine which burned, red wine was smooth and easy on the throat.

He Ruize poured another glass for her. "This is the first time that both of us are drinking in a quiet place."

"Yes." Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes as she stared at him pouring the wine. Her vision was blurry, and she was starting to see doubles. She blinked her eyes and said, "Yes. This wine tastes mild, but it's strong."

He Ruize looked at her and asked, "Is that so?"

"Yes." Lin Xinyan clearly felt dizzy.

"Are you looking for excuses not to drink with me?" He Ruize deliberately said.

"No, no." Lin Xinyan gently rubbed her forehead. Instead of going away, the dizziness became stronger.

He Ruize handed her another glass of wine. "Don't bluff, you said you were going to accompany me for a drink."

Lin Xinyan widened her eyes, trying to see his face clearly. However, she could not. It was as if there was a layer of mist in front of her, and everything seemed blurry.

She had another glass urged by He Ruize.

He Ruize continued to pour for her.

"I can't drink anymore. I'm drunk. I'm going home now. Xichen and Ruixi are waiting for me at home." She stood up and walked a few unsteady steps. Her mind went blank as her vision went dark, and she collapsed onto the floor.

The entire time, He Ruize had been sitting motionless on the couch; as if he knew she would not manage to leave the room.

He put the glass down after finishing it, then stood up. He carried Lin Xinyan, who had passed out on the floor, to the couch.

She was skinny and light. It barely took him any effort.

After placing her on the couch, he sat by her and caressed her hair. "Don't blame me for this. You made me do it."

It was all planned.

It was just that he was not determined enough, and he was forced by He Ruilin.

After listening to Lin Xinyan's words, he stopped hesitating.

He gently caressed her face. "You no longer care about me, why should I care about you?"

Lin Xinyan could not feel anything, nor could she hear his words.

Button by button, he undid her clothes. Her skin was fair and smooth, like white porcelain. His hand touched her face, her neck—

He swallowed.

"I know you'll hate me when you wake up, but I have no other choice. The moment you drank the mineral water that I had drugged, you had nowhere left to run. You don't, and I don't." He had added a drug for digestion in the mineral water. This red wine had high alcohol content. When combined, it was easy to make someone fall unconscious.

Even if there was an investigation, the only conclusion would be that the person had been drunk.

Her top was fully unbuttoned by He Ruize. She wore a black bra, and it wrapped around her round breasts. It rose and fell with her breathing. It was an indescribable temptation.

Her stomach was flat, and there were few stretch marks under her belly button. It was from her pregnancy with Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi.

The two children had been small-sized when they were born, so her stretch marks were not obvious. Some had terrifying stretch marks like the cracks on the floor, but hers were faint. It looked a little sexy instead of looking ugly.

His large hands covered and caressed her stomach. “Lin said that women were sensual beings, and they feel attached to men who were their first. If you knew that man was Zong Jinghao, would you fall in love with him?”

“No... You’ve already fallen in love with him, haven’t you?” He Ruize lowered his head and laughed, each time the laughter got lower and lower in tone. “He broke off the engagement with Lin after seeing you. And you, who had not wanted to return here, came back after you saw him. It’s all because of him, right?”

He leaned to kiss her lips. “This is the first time you’re not rejecting me from kissing you.”

In his previous attempts, she would stop him right before he kissed her.

He knew that was her rejecting his intimacy.

She did not love him, that was why even when she said yes, her body still subconsciously rejected him.

He leaned by her ear. “Maybe Lin was right. Even when you didn’t know that that man was Zong Jinghao, but because you were intimate with him once, that’s why you subconsciously had feelings for him”

“If I made love with you, would you feel something for me too? Yan—”

As he spoke, he unbuttoned her pants.

And pulled the zip down.

CHAPTER 102.

Just as He Ruize was about to pull her pants down, the phone in her pocket suddenly rang.

He Ruize quickly took out the ringing phone. On the screen was Xichen’s name.

The call was from Lin Xichen.

He stared at the screen and gripped tight on the phone. After a few moments of hesitation, he picked up the call.

If he had not, he was afraid that there would be raising suspicion.

“Hello mommy, why aren’t you coming home yet?”

Lin Xichen’s voice came from the other end.

He relaxed himself to make it sound like he was calm. “Your mommy went to the bathroom. She’ll be back in a moment.”

“Oh, it’s uncle. Do tell her to come home early. Ruixi is looking for her and she doesn’t want to sleep.”

“Alright.” After the conversation ended, He Ruize instantly hung up the phone.

Lin Xinyan’s eyelashes fluttered. She felt like she had heard something, but her eyelids felt heavy and she could not open her eyes.

He Ruize placed the phone on the table and retracted his hand quickly as if the phone was a hot potato.

It had taken him great effort to prepare both the plan and himself. After Lin Xichen’s interruption, he felt loss again.

His gaze landed back on Lin Xinyan. Looking at her seducing figure, his heart started throbbing again.

He loved this woman for many years.

“I’ll be good to you.” He clasped his hands a few times before calming down. He reached out to take off her pants.

His hands were cold, and she felt it when it touched her skin.

She could feel the coldness crawling in her.

“Mmm—”

She raised her heavy eyelids.

He covered her clothes back in a panic when he heard her.

Lin Xinyan woke up.

“What are you doing—”

Just as she finished her sentence, she realized that her clothes were all unbuttoned. Her skin and undergarments were all exposed in the air.

Boom!

It was as if her brain had exploded.

She stood up in a panic. She hugged her own body, and her pupils constricted. She stared at He Ruize with a look of disbelief and shock. “You——”

“I—” He Ruize wanted to explain, but his words could not form.

Lin Xinyan gathered her wits in a second, and she seemed to realize what was going on.

She could not believe that He Ruize would do such things to her, but the truth was right in front of her.

The person that she respected and felt apologetic to was about to—

“Get lost!” Lin Xinyan shouted with all her might.

Her heart was filled with pain, shame, and disappointment. She could barely breathe in it.

“Listen to me—” He Ruize tried to explain.

Lin Xinyan sneered, “The truth is right in front of us. What are you trying to explain?”

“I—” He Ruize stared at her disappointed face, and he pursed his lips as he said, “I’ve protected you for so many years, I just want you once.”

“What— What are you talking about?”

It was as if her heart was tied to rock in the ocean, and it kept sinking.

“You’re no longer a virgin, and you have children. Why are you pretending to be pure?” He Ruize leaned over and hugged her. “I’ll marry you. And I’ll treat Xichen and Ruize like my own children—”

“Go away.” Lin Xinyan pushed him hard. “Let go of me.”

“It’s too late.” It was as it was. Even if he did not do anything, she would still hate him.

He might as well do it.

“Let go of me, let go of me!” Lin Xinyan pushed him frantically, trying to break away from him.

A man was stronger than a woman physically. Even if He Ruize was not the muscular type, he still had more strength than Lin Xinyan.

She could not break away from him.

He Ruize pushed onto the couch and kissed her face, hair, and neck frantically.

Lin Xinyan twisted her head to one side and saw the wine bottle on the table. She reached out to grab onto it and smashed it on He Ruize’s head.

Crash!

The red liquid instantly dripped from his hair, and there was a scent of red wine on her.

He Ruize could not believe that she had smashed that bottle onto him.

There was a throbbing pain in his scalp. If it was not for the red wine, his blood would be obvious.

There was even a metallic hint of blood in the air.

Lin Xinyan broke free from him while He Ruize had slightly let go. He Ruize was pushed away and he fell onto the ground.

In Lin Xinyan’s head, there was only one thought—run. She did not have time to see how he was. She pulled up the zip on his pants, gathered the openings of her clothes with her hands, and ran out of the room.

Her running was unsteady, and she looked back once in a while to see if He Ruize was after her.

He Ruize bore with the pain and ran out for her. “Yan—”

When Lin Xinyan heard his voice, she tensed even more, and ran even faster. She was not focusing on the front, and she crashed into a person by the entrance.

She held onto herself and apologized, “I’m sorry, I’m sorry. Please make way.”

The person did not make way. Instead, he reached out to lift her chin.

There was shock when the two pairs of eyes met.

Lin Xinyan gaped. “Why are you here?”

Instead of answering, Zong Jinghao stared at her. Her top was completely unbuttoned, and if she had not gathered the edges of her clothes together, her bra would have been exposed. Her top was white, but it was stained by a red that looked like blood. Her hair was in a mess, her face had tear tracks, and there were wine stains on her.

Her pants looked fine, but she had no shoes on.

She had been wearing high heels, but high heels were unsuitable for running, so she had kicked off her heels when she ran.

Zong Jinghao looked at her. His eyes were like an ocean with crashing waves.

Without saying anything else, he took off his shirt and covered her body. He carried her into his car.

Lin Xinyan's body was curled up at the backseat.

As if she was dealing with a shock.

Zong Jinghao started the car and left the place. The car sped.

His expression was sharp, and his tightly pursed lips were like a sharp sword.

He could have exploded any time.

Just then, his phone rang.

He picked the phone and ended the call without looking.

Just as he put it down, it started ringing again. It seemed like the caller was persistent.

He picked up the call, and a male voice immediately came from the other end. "Are you coming yet? Everyone is waiting for you."

"I'm not going."

"It was difficult to gather everyone, how could you not come—"

Before the other man finished his words, Zong Jinghao had ended the call and threw his phone into the storage compartment.

He rubbed his fingers and was about to ask Lin Xinyan what had happened before his phone rang again.

The fury that he had been holding back finally exploded. He picked up the call, and shouted, "I said I wasn't going, are you deaf? Or do you not speak human?"

Guan Jing jumped from his volume. What was wrong with him?

He did not offend him, did he?

“I— I was just going to ask about the car. I’ve bought that car, should I send you the keys?”
Guan Jing carefully asked.

Previously he heard Yu Doudou mentioned that Lin Xinyan wanted to buy a car.

So he told Guan Jing to check which model she was interested in, and to buy it.

“Leave it at your place first.” Zong Jinghao ended the phone. To avoid someone else calling in, he turned off his phone and threw it aside.

By now, he had reached his place.

It was not the villa, but a hotel that was near his company. This was a room that he had booked for long-term stay.

This place was closer to the company. If he was too busy, he would rest here.

Aunt Yu was at home, if he were to bring Lin Xinyan back there, she would have much to say.

He just wanted some peace right now.

He did not want any disturbance.

After parking his car, he carried Lin Xinyan down.

He entered the hotel and went in the elevator.

Lin Xinyan’s head was lowered. She was quiet as if she had not come back to her senses yet.

Entering the room, Zong Jinghao placed her on the bed.

CHAPTER 103.

Entering the room, Zong Jinghao placed her on the bed.

Then he soaked a towel and cleaned her face. The more he looked at her, the more frustrated he became. He threw the towel and stood in front of her. He suppressed his frustration as he asked, “What happened? Why are you like this?”

Lin Xinyan trembled when she thought about what He Ruize did to her.

She did not know how to say nor what to say.

“Talk.” Suddenly, he grabbed onto Lin Xinyan’s shoulders and stared into her eyes. “Tell me, have you lost your virginity?”

There was a gathering storm in his eyes.

Lin Xinyan shook her head.

If she had not woken up in time... She did not dare to think further than that.

She had never expected He Ruize to do this to her.

The storm in Zong Jinghao’s eyes did not dissipate; it was still swirling in his eyes. “Who did this to you?”

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips as she remained silent.

She only hugged herself and trembled.

“I’m asking you a question!” He gritted his teeth in his insuppressible anger.

Lin Xinyan kept her eyes opened, and the tears flowed out without warning.

She remained quiet and her tears kept falling. One by one, they streamed down her face.

Zong Jinghao was pacing by the bedside.

He had never felt so agitated before.

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes. Soon, he stopped. The room was so quiet that there were only his breathing and her sobbing.

A dark shadow lightly came down and hugged onto her trembling anxious body. His warm hand was gently caressing her face, lovingly and tenderly. Finally, he kissed the tip of her nose.

In the whole process, Lin Xinyan was helpless, shocked, surprised, and soft. She had felt in that moment, the love that Zong Jinghao had never expressed.

“Wash up.” Zong Jinghao carried her up into the bathroom.

He filled a tub full of warm water, and the steam rose from the tub.

Lin Xinyan looked at him, stunned.

She had never thought that this prideful man would ever do this for her.

Zong Jinghao turned around to look at her. "Do you want me to wash you?"

What?

Lin Xinyan hurriedly shook her head and rejected him. "No need, no need."

"I'll be outside. Call me if you need anything." He told her.

"Okay."

Lin Xinyan closed the bathroom door and locked it. Only after she made sure that it was firmly locked then did she take off her dirty clothes.

Her heart still skipped a beat when she thought about He Ruize's actions.

She entered the water. The temperature was just right and she sunk to the bottom. Like seaweed, her hair floated at the surface of the water. Vaguely, her body could be seen under the water.

She was rubbing every inch of her skin. She did not dare to think what He Ruize had done when she was unconscious.

She rubbed vigorously. She wanted to clean the skin that he had touched.

Outside the bathroom, Zong Jinghao was thinking. He knew that Lin Xinyan was not telling the truth. How could she not know who it was?

She must have not wanted to tell him.

Zong Jinghao picked up the phone by the bed and gave a call to Guan Jing. "Check who was with Lin Xinyan tonight at KS Private Club."

"Alright." Guan Jing answered.

Zong Jinghao hung up the phone. He rubbed on his temple as he sat on the edge of the bed.

Lin Xinyan had not come out after a long while, so he went to knock on the door. "Are you done?"

"I'm done." Lin Xinyan was wrapping a towel around her. There were no clothes for her to wear.

After an hour-long bath, she felt calmer, and her head had cleared up.

She opened the door to see Zong Jinghao standing by the door. His shirt's collar was slightly opened and his black suit pants wrapped around his slender legs. He was staring at her.

Her hair was still damp and droplets were still on her shoulders. On her fair skin, it looked as if they were crystals.

Lin Xinyan was grabbing onto her towel with both hands, as if she was afraid it would fall off. "Could you help me with something?"

"Yes." Zong Jinghao dropped his gaze and answered softly.

"Could you get me a set of clothes? Anything is fine, as long as I can wear them."

Zong Jinghao gave her a glance. "Do you know what time it is?"

She shook her head.

"It's already one in the morning. Where am I going to get clothes for you?" The malls were closed at this time of the day.

Zong Jinghao took one of his shirts and passed it to her. "Wear this for now. I'll buy you some clothes when the sun is up."

Lin Xinyan held onto the shirt but did not move to wear it. She shifted her feet as she said, "I want to go home."

Zong Jinghao's expression turned cold. "You don't remember who you are?"

She had promised him the last time, was she going to break her promise now?

Zong Jinghao's long arms held onto her waist, and the two bodies were leaning tightly against each other. She was about to resist, but her hand was grabbed by Zong Jinghao. He looked into her eyes. "You need to get used to me touching you like this."

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes as she quietly stayed in his embrace.

"I'm tired."

"I'll hug you as you sleep." He carried her up and put her under the blankets. Then, he went under the blankets and hugged her from behind.

Lin Xinyan was not used to being hugged.

She twisted her body, trying to struggle out of his arms.

Zong Jinghao frowned and warned, "Don't move."

Lin Xinyan stiffened instantly. She could feel his hard body getting hotter and hotter. There was something hard pressing against her waist.

She was not a naive little girl. She knew what that was.

She did not dare to move, and even her breath was slow. She was afraid she would trigger the man behind her.

Although she had agreed to continue maintaining their marriage status, she was not mentally prepared to do what married couples did.

“Relax, you’re being too stiff. It’s like I’m hugging a rock.” Zong Jinghao closed his eyes and covered his heat away.

Lin Xinyan’s body was out of her control.

She could not relax at all.

She was not wearing much. She did not believe that he would not do anything while he hugged her like this.

Furthermore, he was already having a reaction.

And it seemed quite intense too.

“Good girl.” He kissed her hair from the back.

Lin Xinyan swallowed. “Although I had promised you, b— but you have to get my permission, then you can—”

“Then I can?” He suddenly opened his eyes, and there was a teasing smile at the corner of his lips.

Lin Xinyan buried her face in the pillow. “You know.”

“I don’t.”

The smile got wider.

Lin Xinyan pretended to be asleep. She stayed quiet.

It was obvious that Zong Jinghao did it intentionally. He knew it and yet he still asked her.

He wanted her to be embarrassed.

Zong Jinghao laid on his back and looked to the ceiling. He asked, “When will you give me permission?”

To willingly do what married couples do.

Lin Xinyan blinked. She did not know; she still rejected it until now.

She did not want to give in herself just like that.

The first time was not her choice.

This time, she had to be the one who decides.

“When I can accept the opposite sex.”

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

If she could not accept it until the end of her life, does that mean he could not touch her until then?

It was absurd!

Was she expecting him to become a monk?

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes again. She said nothing else and pretended to have fallen asleep.

Her body was stiff, unlike what sleeping people’s bodies were.

Zong Jinghao turned to look at her, then laughed. He turned his body to hug her and sleep.

Lin Xinyan fell into a deep sleep. She only woke around six in the morning.

The man beside was still fast asleep. Lin Xinyan pulled away the blanket and quietly went down the bed, fearing that she would wake him up. She had not noticed that her towel had loosened throughout the night. A part of the towel was under Zong Jinghao and when she stood up, she felt a cold breeze on her body. Her towel had fallen off.

She was about to pull it back when Zong Jinghao moved.

Lin Xinyan was afraid that he would wake up to the naked sight of her, so she went back under the blankets.

Zong Jinghao turned over and his leg was placed on top of her. He hugged her and continued sleeping.

CHAPTER 104.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She tried to move his leg away but it was too heavy.

She could not move it away at all.

Lin Xinyan could only give up and stop moving. She turned her head to look at the phone on the table. She reached out for it, and as the phone was near her, she managed to grab it.

She dialed the number for the reception. "Hello, could you help me to buy a set of clothes? I'll pay you when you get back."

"Sure, but what size do you wear?"

"Alright."

Lin Xinyan was just about to hang the phone up when the voice continued, "Which room are you in? I'll send it up for you."

Lin Xinyan did not know how to answer her.

"88." His voice still sounded relaxed from the sleep.

Lin Xinyan turned her head around and saw Zong Jinghao looking at her with half-closed eyes.

When did he wake up?

"Room 88." Lin Xinyan said to the receptionist.

"Alright."

After ending the call, Lin Xinyan placed the phone back.

"When— When did you wake up?"

Did he see her when she stood up?

There was a faint smile at the corner of his lips, as if he was not fully awake. "Just."

Lin Xinyan breathed a sigh of relief. She held tightly to the blanket and said after a long hesitation, "Are you not getting up?"

He turned over. One of his hands was supporting his head and the other was on her. His words were slurry as he said, "Hm?"

Lin Xinyan turned her head aside. "Nothing."

She had been speaking clearly just now, how could he have not heard it? He must be doing this deliberately, so there was no point for her to repeat herself.

If he was not getting up, Lin Xinyan would not dare to get up either. All she could do was to lie down and wait for the clothes.

Half an hour later, the doorbell finally rang.

As if she heard her savior, Lin Xinyan said, "Open the door."

Zong Jinghao did not move from his lying position. He moved closer to her and onto her towel that was under him. "Why don't you go?"

Lin Xinyan did not answer him.

The corner of his lips turned upwards as he said, "I can go."

Lin Xinyan watched him as she waited for his next sentence.

He tilted his head forward to look into her eyes. "If you kiss me, I'll go."

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

Zong Jinghao smiled. "You don't want to? It's alright; I don't have anything to do. No one's waiting for me either. It's good for me to take a rest today."

Lin Xinyan remained quiet.

She had not gone home the entire night. She had no time to waste with him here.

After a long moment of hesitation, Lin Xinyan finally said stuttering, "Close— Close your eyes."

"Okay."

Zong Jinghao closed his eyes; his long eyelashes were thick and curled.

Lin Xinyan stared at him. It was similar to her Lin Xichen. They both had long eyelashes that were thick and curled.

She felt envious when she looked at it sometimes.

She was not expecting his to look good as well.

She pretended to stay calm. "You're not allowed to open your eyes."

"Okay."

Lin Xinyan slowly moved over while hugging onto the blanket. His skin was smooth; now that she was close, she could see the thin hairs on his face. She closed her eyes and placed her lips on his. It was as light as a dragonfly skimming across the surface of the water.

For a moment, Zong Jinghao did not know what to say.

He opened his eyes and thought, that was too quick.

Before he had time to savor it, it was already gone.

"You can't go back on your words." Lin Xinyan bit onto her bottom lip. She was afraid that he would request for more ridiculous things.

Zong Jinghao sighed. When would she kiss him willingly without him needing to do something in exchange?

He pulled away the blankets and went down the bed. Before going to the door, he adjusted the blankets on her.

The door opened, and it was Guan Jing. There was a bag of clothes in his hand. "I was passing by the reception and they gave this to me. I've paid for it."

As he spoke, Guan Jing's gaze wandered into the room. He wanted to see which woman was it in the room.

When did Zong Jinghao start to indulge in his private life?

How wild were they last night that the clothes were no longer usable?

Zong Jinghao was irritated. He frowned and his tone was cold as he said, "Are you done looking?"

Guan Jing hurriedly dropped his gaze. However, he was still extremely curious, so he asked, "Who's in there?"

"When were you allowed to ask about my life?"

Guan Jing grinned. "I thought it would be Ms. Lin."

Everyone knew who he was interested in.

And now, he was interested in Lin Xinyan.

“These are the clothes and the car keys.” Guan Jing handed Zong Jinghao the things. Zong Jinghao gave a cold look to him. “Have you found out what I asked you to check?”

He was afraid when he thought about someone out there thinking of her in this way. He was afraid that person would succeed in their plans.

He did not dare to imagine that future.

He could not handle it.

Nor could he accept it.

“Hurry. And check what He Ruilin had been doing lately.” After calming down, he had given it some thoughts. Lin Xinyan had just returned to this country; she did not have enemies.

There was only He Ruilin who kept trying to hurt her.

It was for her best that she was not the one behind this.

Or else she was going to suffer under his hands.

“Okay.” Guan Jing looked down at his watch. “I have an appointment at seven-thirty.”

“You can leave now.”

Zong Jinghao closed the door.

He walked to the bed side and handed her the clothes and the car keys.

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment. She raised her head to look at him. “This—”

“Didn’t you like this?” He sounded casual.

The reason she wanted to buy it was not because she liked cars, but because she needed it. She just was not expecting Zong Jinghao to remember something Yu Doudou had mentioned off-handedly.

“I’ll pay you back.” Lin Xinyan took the car keys.

“Are you being that particular with me?” He bent over and looked at her. “I don’t want the money. What about this? If you kissed me again, I’ll take that as payment.”

Lin Xinyan pushed him away. “Be serious. I’m going to change.”

Zong Jinghao took a step back from her push. He reached out to caress her hair. “You’re my wife. As your husband, shouldn’t I buy a car for you?”

Lin Xinyan nearly choked on her own saliva when she heard him say “husband”.

She no longer dared to talk about paying him back.

“I’m going for a shower.” He found some new clothes from the cupboard and went to the bathroom. He had not showered last night. He had fallen asleep holding onto Lin Xinyan. He felt uncomfortable, so he had to wash up now.

Also, he had given Lin Xinyan some space.

He knew that she would feel uncomfortable with him here while she changed.

Lin Xinyan was at the corner of the bed and wrapped in blanket. Staring at the closed bathroom door, she gripped tight on the car keys in her hand. Although Zong Jinghao liked to touch her and did not seem to respect her, he had never done anything out of line.

Just like last night. He clearly was interested, but he did not force her.

He listened to every word she said.

And he kissed her so gently last night.

Lin Xinyan felt complicated.

She wiped the damp corners of her eyes.

On the other hand, He Ruize, whom she had respected and trusted, had done such shameful things to her.

By the time she had worn her new clothes, Zong Jinghao had also changed. The two of them packed and left the room together.

The car was parked at the parking lot of hotel.

Zong Jinghao sat in the front passenger seat. “This is my first time having you drive a car I’m in.”

Lin Xinyan looked at him. “Are you sure you’re not going to drive?”

Zong Jinghao did not answer her. Instead, he showed her his answer through his actions—he buckled his seatbelt.

Lin Xinyan started the car and drove onto the road skillfully.

The trip was quiet. Both of them were not talking; they both were thinking.

When they reached outside her house, Lin Xinyan released her seatbelt. “I’ll go up to take a look at them, then we’ll go for a meal.”

She had not returned the entire night. She was worried about her children.

She had never stayed out the entire night.

“Okay.” Zong Jinghao remained leaning on the seat.

Only when Lin Xinyan’s thin figure disappeared in the stairwell then did Zong Jinghao dropped his gaze. He leaned on the seat and looked at her house window.

Knock knock.

There was knocking sounds on the car window. He turned his head and saw a small hand.

He winded down the window and saw a small figure tilting his head up in front of the car door. “Were you with mommy last night?”

Before Zong Jinghao could answer him, Lin Xichen shouted, “Rascal!”

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

Every time he saw him, this boy was seething.

What did he do to make the boy so hostile to him?

“I think we need a talk.” Zong Jinghao raised his eyebrow. This naughty boy’s attitude was going to affect his relationship with Lin Xinyan.

After all, Lin Xinyan cared about him a lot.

“I won’t talk to you. I’m going to look for a man richer and more handsome than you for mommy.” The moment Lin Xichen thought about the fact that he abandoned them, he was furious.

He wanted to bite him to relieve his anger.

Zong Jinghao pushed open the car door and came down.

“Boy...”

The phone in his pocket rang. He took it out and saw that it was Guan Jing who had sent him a video.

CHAPTER 105.

Right after was another message from Guan Jing. He lowered his head and looked at the message.

KS Private Club does not have video surveillance to protect their customer's privacy. The corridor has, however, and this was the footage where Ms. Lin appears.

He Ruilin was here last night.

Although Guan Jing's words were not straightforward, Zong Jinghao knew what he wanted to say. He Ruilin was involved with Lin Xinyan's incident.

To be specific, she was the one who planned Lin Xinyan's incident.

Lin Xinyan knew that she was devious, she should have been wary of her. Lin Xinyan should not have fallen into her trap.

With a curious mind, he clicked on the video.

The download was completed.

The video played.

Lin Xinyan was running unsteadily with a disheveled look of panic.

"Yan—"

Soon, he saw who was chasing after her.

He Ruize!

His expression changed, and his gaze turned cold. His voice was deep and loud as he said, "Fantastic!"

The siblings were fantastic!

They were cooperating with each other to hurt her.

Lin Xichen jumped in fright, thinking that he was saying about him.

He was clearly afraid but he put on a brave face and kept his chin up. When he spoke, his incoherent words betrayed his feelings. "D—D—Don't think I'll be scared of you!"

Zong Jinghao looked up and stared at him. "Boy, your mommy was bullied by other. Do you want to take revenge?"

Lin Xichen blinked. Was someone bullying his mommy?

Who else would bully her other than him?

“Do you think I’m three? I’m not going to fall for your tricks.” Lin Xichen still had an arrogant look on his face with his head tilted up.

That was right. He was not three, he was five. He was older than three-year-old by two years. It was not easy to trick him.

“Come over.” Zong Jinghao beckoned him to come over.

Lin Xichen remained standing at his spot and looked at him warily.

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

He narrowed his eyes. How did Lin Xinyan teach this boy? He was still so young but he was already overthinking.

“I’m not lying to you.” He played the video and showed it to Lin Xichen. “Look at it yourself.”

Lin Xinyan was at the start of the video, so Lin Xichen had seen her instantly. He widened his eyes.

Mommy...

Halfway through the video, he clenched his fists. Who was bullying his mommy?

Soon, he saw who it was.

His eyes widened further.

Until it almost looked like his eyeballs were going to pop out.

He had picked up the call he made to mommy last night, so that meant that he did see mommy last night.

He had said that mommy was at the bathroom, so she could not take the call.

What did he do to mommy?

Zong Jinghao took back his phone and Lin Xichen leaned forward to snatch it. Zong Jinghao raised his hand high, and he could not reach it even when he tiptoed.

He looked downwards at the boy. “What about now? Do you want to take revenge for your mommy with me?”

Lin Xichen’s face was red from anger and he glared at Zong Jinghao.

“Think about it. You’re just a kid. Even if you want to take revenge, you don’t have the capability.” Zong Jinghao kept his phone back into his pocket and came down. As if he had remembered something, he turned to look at the boy. “Right. Last night your mommy was indeed with me and we slept on the same bed. She told me she’ll be having breakfast with me later.”

Lin Xichen was about to explode.

His tears were going to stream down from his eyes.

Did mommy lose her mind?

Did she not know that she should not turn back for him?

“I saved your mommy last night.” Zong Jinghao did not continue to frighten him.

After hearing his words, Lin Xichen felt more relieved.

So it was not that mommy had lost her mind.

“What— What you said earlier. Are you really going to take revenge for my mommy?” He looked at Zong Jinghao with wide eyes.

Zong Jinghao looked at him for a second. “Yes, but...”

He crouched down to look at Lin Xichen on the same level.

And for once, Lin Xichen was quietly watching him without any rejections.

His small hands twitched as his heart thumped. This was his dad.

If only he never abandoned them.

They could live as a family.

The others would not say that he and his sister were fatherless children.

“You need to help me get together with your mommy.”

For a moment, Lin Xichen did not say anything.

Why did you divorce and abandon her if you liked her? He thought mockingly.

She had suffered so much. She gave birth to him and his sister and raised them as the others judged her.

Lin Xichen pursed his lips tightly. “Do— Do you still like my mommy?”

They must have been in love back then, that was why they had married. Later, he must have fallen in love with someone else, or he must have fallen out of love with mommy. That was why they divorced.

Now he was going after mommy. Does that mean he had fallen in love with her again?

Zong Jinghao slightly raised his eyebrow. What had he meant by “still”?

However, he gave it no further thought and dismissed it as the boy’s lack of capability to express himself.

“I do...”

“Xichen.”

Lin Xinyan ran over. She had not seen him upstairs, and Zhuang Zijin had told her that her son had been waiting for her downstairs.

She had confiscated his smartwatch.

She could not contact him and she was afraid he was lost. When she ran around the park and could not find him, she was about to call the police in a panic, then she realized that he was at the entrance of the district.

“Where did you go? I was so worried for you when I couldn’t find you.” Lin Xinyan knew that her son was hostile towards Zong Jinghao, so she pulled him behind her. “About that. He’s just a kid, so don’t take his words to heart.”

“Of course.” Zong Jinghao leaned at the side of the car and pointed to Lin Xichen with his chin. “I won’t be calculative with children.”

Lin Xichen had just started getting a good impression of him before it all went away with his last sentence.

Lin Xichen held onto Lin Xinyan’s neck and kissed her cheeks. “Mommy, I want to sleep with you tonight. I want to sleep in your arms, is it okay?”

Zong Jinghao stared.

This kid.

Lin Xinyan looked at her son with surprise. Why was he acting weird today?

He had been angry with her because she had confiscated his things.

He was alright with her now?

That was weird.

“Mommy, are you going out to eat? Can I come with you?” He hugged Lin Xinyan and tilted his head sideways. “Can I?”

Lin Xinyan looked at Zong Jinghao with a questioning gaze.

Zong Jinghao nodded. “Let’s go.”

This time, Zong Jinghao was the one driving while Lin Xinyan and Lin Xichen sat at the back.

As if showing off that Lin Xinyan was his, Lin Xichen was particularly clingy to her. He hugged her, held her, and kissed her.

He even looked at Zong Jinghao provocatively through the rearview mirror, as if saying Mommy was his, and no one could take her away from him.

Only he could hug her and sleep with her.

Lin Xinyan was shocked by her son’s sudden enthusiasm.

“Xichen.” She reached out to touch his forehead.

He was not having a fever.

What was going on with him?

“I’ll return you your smartwatch, okay?” Lin Xinyan was not used to her son’s sudden enthusiasm.

It was inconvenient to not be able to contact him.

However, she was not going to return him his tablet yet.

He had not admitted to his mistake.

“Really?” Lin Xichen’s eyes were bright. “What about my tablet?”

He was bored without his tablet.

He could not play any games.

“I can give to you, but you know—”

“I was wrong.”

Before Lin Xinyan could finish her sentence, he had admitted to his mistake.

He had already decided to take revenge for mommy with that heartless man. Obviously, he would not embarrass him further.

He was going to pause his revenge on him for a while.

Lin Xichen had really surprised Lin Xinyan a lot today. He had never done this before.

He was a good boy, but he was stubborn. He would not give up on things he had decided on, and it was difficult for others to advise him.

“Here.” Lin Xinyan said as she looked at the restaurant banner.

Zong Jinghao looked into the store. It seemed like it was crowded.

He parked the car.

Lin Xinyan carried Lin Xichen down the car.

And they walked into the store together.

The shop was crowded at this time, and people turned to look at them when they entered.

The sight of the three of them looked like a family.

The husband was tall and handsome. The boy took after his father and looked like handsome too. The mother was young and pretty.

It was a perfect sight.

Zong Jinghao rarely ate his breakfast outside. He was not used to these kind of places.

“Sit down first. I’ll go take a look on what to eat.” Lin Xinyan put her son down and asked, “Is there anything you want to eat?”

“I want pumpkin porridge and dumplings.”

“What about you?” Lin Xinyan turned her gaze to Zong Jinghao.

“Anything.” He had never been here. He did not know what was available here.

And there were so many people.

“There’s a table there.” Someone had stood up, and Lin Xichen pulled Zong Jinghao towards the place.

The table had not been cleared, and Zong Jinghao frowned at the sight of it.

Lin Xichen could see that Zong Jinghao did not like the place. The corner of his lips turned downwards. "Mommy and I always come to these kinds of places to eat."

"Is that so?"

"Yes."

"I've promised to cooperate with you to take revenge for mommy." Lin Xichen looked at the figure walking in the crowd and taking food for him. He clenched his fists. "Mommy had suffered a lot. I have to protect her."

CHAPTER 106.

He was still young; his capabilities were limited. All he could do was to work with this heartless man for now.

Zong Jinghao looked downwards at the boy.

He knew about caring for Lin Xinyan at such a young age.

He knew how to appreciate her.

Lin Xinyan had educated him well.

A kind mother and a filial son.

That was what they were.

At this moment, a server came to clean the table. The server kept away the previous customer's utensils and wiped the table with a tablecloth. The tablecloth must have been used on many tables, as the table still shone with oil after cleaning.

Lin Xichen pulled the chair. "Sit."

He climbed skillfully onto the chair and waited for Lin Xinyan to bring the food over.

"Do you dislike this kind of place?" Lin Xichen looked at him.

Zong Jinghao took a look at him, pulled the chair and sat down. It was not that he disliked the place. He had just never come to such places for breakfast and there were people who glanced over once in a while.

It felt like he was an animal in the zoo, meant to perform for others.

It did not feel good.

Lin Xinyan was holding a tray of porridge, dumplings, scallion pancake, and some eggs as she was walked over.

She took out two bowls of porridge and placed one in front of Zong Jinghao and Lin Xichen. She placed the last bowl in front of her and the rest of the plates on the table. She put away the tray and sat on her chair.

Lin Xichen had already started eating. He was eating the porridge and the dumplings at the same time.

It looked tasty from the way he ate it.

“Eat slower.” Lin Xinyan took a tissue and wiped the porridge stain at the corner of his mouth.

Zong Jinghao looked at him. The boy had a good appetite.

“Why are you not eating?” Lin Xinyan asked when she saw Zong Jinghao not touching his food.

Only then did Zong Jinghao pick up the spoon and scoop the pumpkin porridge. The rice in the porridge was cooked well. The pumpkin was also sweet, and it had a strong fragrance.

Lin Xinyan looked at his face and asked, “Is it good?”

“Yes.” Zong Jinghao did not lift his head. He scooped another spoonful and ate it.

Lin Xinyan smiled, her eyes turning into crescents as she did.

This shop was not far from their place. Zhuang Zijin was the one who found this place. When she brought them here the first time, Lin Xichen had fallen in love with the pumpkin porridge.

“This is good too.” Lin Xichen took a dumpling for Zong Jinghao.

He looked at the dumpling in the boy’s chopsticks. He had eaten many dumplings that had exquisite appearances. The ones that Aunt Yu had made, and the ones he had in restaurants.

This one did not look nice, and it looked oily.

"It's really good." Lin Xichen looked at him expectantly with big, bright eyes.

Zong Jinghao was stunned when he looked back into Lin Xichen's eyes. His eyes were pretty.

It looked like his when he was a boy.

He remembered how he looked like from Aunt Yu's photo.

He leaned forward and ate the dumpling that Lin Xichen had taken for him.

It was filled with pork, shrimp, and leek.

He thought that the dumpling would taste greasy because of its oily exterior, but it did not. It tasted fresh.

"It's good, right?" Lin Xichen asked.

He felt that the taste was good and he had wanted others to agree with him. So for a moment, he had forgotten that the man in front of him was a heartless man. He just wanted to prove that the dumplings he liked were tasty.

Zong Jinghao realized what the boy was thinking and decided to throw him a wet blanket. "It's just fine."

Lin Xichen was rendered speechless for a moment.

"There must be something wrong with your taste buds!" Lin Xichen was unwilling to submit.

Zong Jinghao did not want to answer him.

He was healthy and his taste buds were fine.

After breakfast, Lin Xinyan went to pay while Zong Jinghao and Lin Xichen went ahead.

In the car, Lin Xichen leaned towards him. "What are you planning? What do you need me to do?"

Now he was standing on the same side as him?

Zong Jinghao beckoned him, and Lin Xichen obediently leaned his ear over.

"Just leave the revenge to me. As for you, protect her when I'm not around. Make sure she's not dumb enough to fall into someone else's trap."

"My mommy's not dumb!" Lin Xichen exploded.

"That's not being dumb?" The bad guys nearly won.

“No.” Lin Xichen shook his head. “My mommy wasn’t wary because it was someone she knew. She’s not dumb.”

Lin Xichen did not agree with Zong Jinghao’s comment on Lin Xinyan.

“If my mommy is dumb and you still like her, aren’t you dumber?” Lin Xichen retorted.

Zong Jinghao had nothing to say.

His words seemed logical.

He could only admit that Lin Xinyan was not dumb, or else this boy would never end the argument.

“I’ll protect my mommy.” Lin Xichen reached his hand out for him. “Give me your phone. I need to have your number so we can contact.”

Lin Xichen was a meticulous person.

Zong Jinghao handed him the phone, and he dialed his number. He returned the phone to Zong Jinghao when the call went through. “Here. That number is mine, and I have yours.”

Lin Xichen stretched his hand out. “Here’s to our cooperation.”

He looked at Lin Xichen’s small hands and was at a loss on what he should feel. Must the boy make it so official?

Alright.

He reached out his hand and grabbed onto Lin Xichen’s small hand. The boy’s hand was plump. It was round and soft.

“Here’s to our cooperation.”

“We’ve reached an agreement!”

“What agreement?” After paying, she heard Lin Xichen’s words as she entered the car.

She looked at her son then back at Zong Jinghao. She asked with a confused tone. “What were both of you talking about?”

“Did we talk?”

Lin Xichen did not know how to explain himself, so all he could do was to not admit to it.

“Did I mishear it?” Lin Xinyan frowned. She did not mishear it. Lin Xichen had clearly said something earlier.

“You misheard it.” Lin Xichen buried himself into her arms and hugged her neck. “Mommy, you’re not that old yet. Why are you starting to hallucinate?”

“Naughty boy.” Lin Xinyan caressed her son’s hair.

Zong Jinghao watched their interactions through the rearview mirror. His eyes were shimmering.

Back at the district, Lin Xinyan sent her son upstairs.

Zong Jinghao waited for her.

Lin Xinyan sat back in the car. “Are you going to the company?”

“Hand me the evidence in your hands.” He did not answer her question.

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a second. “What evidence—” Halfway through, she realized what he was talking about.

“The evidence is with Yu Doudou.”

“Ask him to bring it over.”

“You want it?” Lin Xinyan did not understand why he wanted the evidence.

“Did you think that you can pin the crime on her as long as you have the evidence?” He family’s business was not doing well, but their reputation was well established.

They had connections.

If there was a lawsuit, they would just bribe their way out of the case.

Not only would they not be able to hit the enemy, they would be showing them the ace up their sleeves.

“You’re going to help me?” Lin Xinyan did not know how she had managed to ask this.

She was secretly hoping for it but at the same time, she did not dare to believe it.

She could not believe that he would do this for her.

Without looking at her, he quietly hummed in response.

Lin Xinyan clenched her hands.

She looked out the window as she did not want him to find out that she was overjoyed.

This was the first time her hopes had not fallen.

After a while, she made a call to Yu Doudou.

On the other end, Yu Doudou was equally excited. "Let me tell you this. I've found a lawyer in B City. I was about to look for you. When are we going to meet and discuss this? We should find a date to submit the case to court."

"Are you free now?" Lin Xinyan asked.

"Yes."

"Let's meet then. Bring the evidence along with you." Lin Xinyan said.

"Alright."

"Where do I find you?" Yu Doudou asked.

"Wanyue." This was from Zong Jinghao because he was on the way to the company. Now Lin Xinyan realized that he had been driving towards the town center.

After ending Yu Doudou's call, Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. "You're going to the company. Why am I going there for?"

He reached out a hand and grabbed onto hers. His fingers brushed her palm. "Accompany me."

CHAPTER 107.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She did not reply him when she thought about Yu Doudou coming over. Anyway, she had nothing to do for the next few days.

Qin Ya was taking care of the store for now.

She had not had so much free time for a long while.

After giving birth to Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi, she had to prepare for her exams. After that was work. For these few years she had not let herself relax. It was good that she would be able to rest for the next few days.

She leaned on the seat and relaxed. She took out her hand that Zong Jinghao had been holding. "Focus on the road."

There was a sense of loss when his hand was empty. Zong Jinghao gripped the steering wheel, and that sense of loss never went away.

It felt like there was a void in his heart, and it was only filled up when he was near this woman.

At the junction, the traffic light was red.

Casually, he placed his hand on Lin Xinyan's thigh.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

This man.

His finger was slowly brushing her skin. Before Lin Xinyan could reject him, he said, "We're husband and wife."

She had to give him something if she did not let him touch her all the time.

He was a normal man, not a monk.

For a woman, the thigh was quite a private place. Instead of staying unmoved, his hand kept brushing on her skin. Her face started to turn red.

She grabbed onto the edge of her shirt. Her head turned away as she did not dare to look at him.

Her heart was beating as rapidly as a hummingbird's wings.

It was as if her heart was no longer hers and she had no control over it.

This heart would always illogically thump for this man.

Lin Xinyan did not reject him and Zong Jinghao's mood was good.

Under his palm was her thigh and he stopped moving his hand. He drove the car through the crowded city center until it reached the office area.

Soon, the car is in Wanyue Group's office parking lot. As this was a new car that Zong Jinghao had bought for Lin Xinyan, it was yet to be registered here. The employee at the parking lot did not lift the pole and said, "This is Wanyue Group's parking lot. It's not opened to public, please park somewhere else."

Zong Jinghao lowered the car window and the employee looked at his face. The employee recognized him instantly and hurriedly lifted the pole with an apologetic smile. "Oh it's Mr. Zong. I didn't see you earlier."

He did not want to lose his job because he blocked his boss' car.

When his gaze landed on the woman in the front passenger seat, he froze for a moment.

He had been here for at least four years. He had never seen any woman sit in his car. This was the first.

And so, he stared at her.

Zong Jinghao glanced at him and winded the window up.

It blocked the gazes from the outside.

When the car stopped, Zong Jinghao handed Lin Xinyan the keys.

She took it from his hands.

"Thank you." Although he had been reminding her that they were husband and wife, Lin Xinyan knew that this relationship was not a willing and loving one.

It was just a marriage arranged by their parents.

She knew that this car costed at least a million.

She felt bad that he did not want her to pay him back.

She had to show him that she appreciated this.

"Do you really want to thank me?"

There was a smile at Zong Jinghao's mouth.

Lin Xinyan's expression was serious. "Of course."

He leaned over to her. "If you're sincere, kiss me. That'll be your show of sincerity. How about that?"

Lin Xinyan did not want to answer him.

There was no end to this man.

Did he not know where this place was?

This was his company.

Would he not be embarrassed if others saw it?

Lin Xinyan pushed him. "Be serious."

"Then you'll owe me for now." He took Lin Xinyan's arm and wrapped it around his arm. They walked towards the elevator.

Lin Xinyan felt uncomfortable. She bit her lips and asked, "Won't it look bad if the employees see us?"

She was in an awkward position.

Furthermore, he had just broken off his engagement. Would the others think that she was the mistress that made Zong Jinghao break off the engagement?

"I don't want others to think that I'm a mistress. I don't like it."

She did not like mistresses.

Especially when they said words like "they had met love too late".

Or that "they met the right person at the wrong time".

To her, those were all excuses.

Lin Guoan was a good example. He just thought of his own happiness and could just abandon his wife when he had a change of heart.

"In the future, if there's a chance... Let's do this again."

If he really loved her in the future, and not the momentary interest he had in her now, she would hold his hand and stand beside him in public.

The expression on Zong Jinghao's face slightly darkened and turned sharp.

He did not like mistresses too.

There was also one in his family.

He let go of Lin Xinyan's hand.

Just then, the elevator stopped and someone came in. The man greeted when he saw Zong Jinghao, "Mr. Zong."

Zong Jinghao nodded his head slightly as a response.

It was unusually quiet in the elevator.

Zong Jinghao sneakily reached out to touch Lin Xinyan's hand.

As if electrocuted, Lin Xinyan quickly hid her head behind her back and took a step away from him.

When the Wanyue employee heard the commotion, he turned around to look at Lin Xinyan. "Are you also Wanyue's employee? Why have I never seen you?"

Six years ago, Lin Xinyan had come to Wanyue to work as a translator for Zong Jinghao. It was just for a few days. After so many years, no one would know her here.

The gears in Lin Xinyan's head turned. She could not come up with a good explanation, so she lied, "I'm new."

"Oh, which department?" This colleague was quite enthusiastic and talkative.

Lin Xinyan did not answer him.

She fidgeted her hands.

Zong Jinghao stood straight, his tall figure taking up much space in the elevator. His figure shrouded a part of the elevator in shadows.

The corner of his lips was slightly turned upwards, as if waiting to see what Lin Xinyan was going to say.

Ding!

Just as Lin Xinyan was at a loss for answers, the elevator stopped.

The employee went out.

Lin Xinyan breathed a sigh of relief and her shoulders drooped.

"I haven't hired a secretary."

Zong Jinghao's head was tilted high.

Lin Xinyan looked at him and rejected. "No way, I have my own job."

She did not want to come here to serve him.

She would be crazy to give up on the designing job she loved and become his secretary.

"Should I tell Mrs. William that she won't be needing to have a branch?"

Lin Xinyan instantly admitted defeat.

“No.”

“No to what?”

“Don’t tell Mrs. William that.”

“Alright.”

“If you kiss me, I won’t.”

Once again, he had rendered her speechless.

Lin Xinyan was going to go mad from his despicable actions.

“Why are you being a despicable person?”

“I had always been one.”

Lin Xinyan closed her mouth.

Suddenly, he grabbed her by the waist. Before she could react, his hot breath had already reached her.

Soft lips pressed onto her forehead.

Soon, Zong Jinghao had let go of her. The entire process was short. It had been so quick that Lin Xinyan thought it had been a hallucination.

Yet she knew that it was not because she could still clearly feel the warmth on her forehead left by his breath.

He stood on a side with a smile on his face. He looked like a child who had gotten his favorite toy.

The elevator stopped and Zong Jinghao went off the elevator. He walked towards his office and said, “I’m thirsty.”

Lin Xinyan looked left and right. There was no one around, was he talking to her?

Obviously, he was.

There was no one else around.

Was he really treating her like his secretary?

Lin Xinyan sighed. At least she had once been here so she knew where the pantry was.

Easily, she found the pantry and she poured a glass of water.

There were some changes here. The people she once saw were mostly not around. There used to be some women, but now there were only men.

She was a little emotional. Time did change many things.

Finance manager Han Zhiying was bringing the monthly report up for Zong Jinghao to sign.

And she crashed into Lin Xinyan in front of the CEO's office.

Lin Xinyan had been holding a glass of water, and some of the water had spilled on her.

The expression on her face instantly darkened.

CHAPTER 108.

The clothes she was wearing were newly bought. She had spent more than forty thousand on it, and she wore it just to meet with Mr. Zong.

It was only the end of the month then could she see Mr. Zong.

Usually, he only appeared in big meetings. And in these meetings, there were hundreds of executives and she was not seated in the front, so she would not be able to see him clearly.

This was the only chance she would be able to meet with the CEO.

Now that he had broken off the engagement, he was single.

She had to take the given opportunity.

If he falls in love with her, she would be the CEO's wife.

Lin Xinyan had been busy with her thoughts and did not notice that there was someone by the door. It was her negligence, so she apologized, "Sorry, sorry. I didn't mean to do it."

"Are you trying to dismiss me with a simple 'I didn't mean to do it'? Do you know how much my clothes cost? Can you afford it?" Han Zhiying glared at her. Her beautiful clothes were stained with water, how could she meet with Mr. Zong?

She had not seen this face. "Are you new?"

Lin Xinyan was afraid that she would ask him which department she was from like that other employee, so she said, "No."

Han Zhiying's expression turned dark. Bai Zhuwei was no longer around Zong Jinghao, there was no other women around him.

This level was not supposed to have women either. Where did she come from?

Had she heard that Zong Jinghao had broken off the engagement and came to please him?

When she thought about it, Han Zhiying's expression turned even darker.

"Are you going in? I'll help you with the door." Lin Xinyan felt apologetic because she was the one who spilled the water on her. Just before she could push the door open, her wrist was grabbed.

And she was pushed away roughly.

Lin Xinyan's body leaned backwards and she took a few steps before stabilizing herself. The water that she had been holding had spilled all over her chest, even her neck was now damp.

Fortunately, the water was no longer hot so she did not burn herself. Only her clothes were wet.

She was wearing a silk dress. When it was soaked with water, the bra underneath became visible. She hurriedly covered her chest.

Although she had given birth, she had kept her figure well. The places where there should be meat were plump, and the places that should be lean was slim.

When Han Zhiying saw her chest, she was stunned for a second. Then, she sneered, "Embarrassing. Who are you trying to seduce wearing like that?"

Han Zhiying felt that she had also come to appease herself in front of Zong Jinghao.

Thinking of competing with her?

"Shameless!"

Lin Xinyan was also angry. She had already apologized. Did she have to be so mean?

"Forgiving is a virtue, have you not heard of that? You're an employee of a large company yet you're so petty?"

"Who— Who are you talking about?" Han Zhiying could not find words to refute her.

Lin Xinyan ignored her and turned around. She wanted to pour another glass back at the pantry.

However, she was pulled back by her arm. "No way you're leaving."

"Apologize to me!" Han Zhiying had an imposing manner. After all, she was the finance manager of Wanyue Group.

Lin Xinyan was just a new employee, what was she afraid of?

She was confident that she would not be on the losing side.

Lin Xinyan looked at her with surprise. "I've already apologized for spilling the water on you. It should be you apologizing to me now."

"Hah! Why should I apologize to you? Who do you think you are?" Han Zhiying sneered, "I think you're not interested to be staying in this company. A new employee likes you; how could you be so presumptuous? Are you that ready to run in front of the train? Do you think you can last long if I wanted to mess with you?"

Lin Xinyan just looked at her.

At this moment, the office door swung open, and a tall figure appeared by the door.

He looked around before his gaze finally landed on Lin Xinyan. The floor was wet with water.

And she was soaked in it.

"Mr. Zong, I was planning to hand in the monthly report to you. I wasn't expecting this new employee to spill water on me and arrogantly refusing to apologize. We should not hire such people in the company."

Han Zhiying complained.

After all, whoever complained first stood advantageous for these kinds of matters.

She had already arranged the roles for the two of them. The words that Lin Xinyan said would become excuses.

She curled her pretty hair and leaned towards Zong Jinghao as she spoke. She lowered her head and had an upset expression, as if she was wronged and someone needed to help me.

Zong Jinghao had heard the entire conversation from his room. Lin Xinyan had apologized instantly. It was the other woman who was being aggressive.

"What punishment do you think she should have?" Zong Jinghao asked as he looked at Lin Xinyan.

Before Lin Xinyan could say a word, Han Zhiying looked at this godly man in surprise. Was he asking her how would she want this woman to be punished?

It was a pleasant surprise.

Han Zhiying felt that her heart was about to burst out of her chest.

“Naturally, this kind of person could not be kept in the company. She doesn’t have a good personality.” Han Zhiying said with a righteous tone. As she spoke, her eyes were looking up and down at Zong Jinghao.

His ironed suit fitted his firm and tall body. He exuded an aura of superiority that no one could ignore.

The more she looked at him, the faster her heart skipped.

The room was silent for a second.

Lin Xinyan’s gaze landed on Han Zhiying. She took a deep breath and did not want to hold her accountable. She asked Zong Jinghao, “Are you still thirsty?”

“Yes.”

Lin Xinyan turned to walk to the pantry.

There was a brief moment that Han Zhiying could not react to what just happened. What did that mean?

As if she finally realized, she asked, “Mr. Zong, you want a drink? I’ll get it for you.”

She turned around and tried to run ahead of Lin Xinyan before she could pour hers.

Zong Jinghao did not bother with looking at her. “You won’t need to come for work starting from now.”

Han Zhiying’s expression dropped. Was he talking about her?

It should not be.

“About that, Mr. Zong. It’s not me, it’s her that isn’t suitable—” Han Zhiying tried to explain.

She was in a panic. Why did this matter end up this way?

Should it not be the other woman who should get lost?

Her gaze fell onto the documents in her hand, and Han Zhiying found her reason. She pulled on Zong Jinghao’s suit and said, “Mr. Zong, this is the report for this month. That woman had come out of nowhere and started being ridiculous. I’m an old employee of the company, how

could you say that I should just stop coming to work? Isn't she the one who's supposed to leave?"

Zong Jinghao looked at her hand that was grabbing onto his shirt with a grim look.

Guan Jing had just come back from working outside. He was about to report to Zong Jinghao when he saw Han Zhiying pulling on Zong Jinghao, and he froze.

What was going on?

Zong Jinghao hated people touching him.

What was happening here?

What had happened when he was not here?

What had he missed out on?

"Mr. Zong." Guan Jing walked over.

"I don't want to see this person in the company anymore." Zong Jinghao pulled Han Zhiying's hand away and shook her hand off, as if he had touched something dirty.

Han Zhiying did not want to admit her defeat. Why was she the one who was being kicked out?

"Mr. Zong—"

She was about to explain and slander Lin Xinyan more when she was grabbed by Guan Jing. "Go. You should know Mr. Zong's temper. When did he ever change what he said?" Guan Jing said with an indifferent tone.

"It's not my fault." Han Zhiying still did not think that she was wrong.

Lin Xinyan held the glass with one hand and covered her chest with the other as she walked over.

When Guan Jing saw her, he was stunned. Why was she here?

"Ms. Lin." Guan Jing immediately had a smile on his face.

Lin Xinyan nodded her head slightly. "He's thirsty. I'll go in first."

"Alright."

Guan Jing looked at Lin Xinyan's soaked clothes and realized what might have happened.

Han Zhiying was stunned.

She stared dumbfoundedly at Guan Jing. "You call her Ms. Lin. Do you know her?"

"Yes." Guan Jing took the documents from her hand. "Give it to me. Pack your things and leave today."

"Who is she?" Han Zhiying swallowed. She had already started to sense her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

She seemed to know Guan Jing well too, as if they were old friends.

"Who is she?"

Guan Jing looked at the closed office door, and thought, Perhaps it's the person in Zong Jinghao's heart.

In the office, Zong Jinghao took off his suit jacket to reveal his white shirt underneath.

He folded his sleeves, showing his muscular forearm.

Lin Xinyan placed the glass of water in front of him. "Here."

Zong Jinghao looked up at her...

CHAPTER 109.

Zong Jinghao looked up at her and his gaze landed on the hand that she was covering her chest with. "Did you get burned?"

Lin Xinyan was quiet for a moment.

She turned her head, unable to take his gaze. "No."

She walked towards the lounge and sat on the couch. She took a few tissues and started wiping the water on her neck.

The light in front of her was suddenly blocked. She did not know when Zong Jinghao had walked over. Lin Xinyan quietly coughed once. "I thought you have many matters to settle? Why did you come over?"

When she came in with the water, she saw a tall stack of documents on his office table, waiting to be signed.

As if he had not heard her, Zong Jinghao took the tissue from her. "I'll wipe it for you."

"No need." Lin Xinyan tried to grab the tissue back from him. He raised his hand and she failed to take it back.

"Listen to me." Zong Jinghao crouched down in front of her legs and gently pulled open her collar to wipe the water on her skin.

His eyes were lowered and there were shadows under his long eyelashes. He looked serious and gentle as if he was wiping expensive antique. Lin Xinyan fell into a trance for a moment.

She turned away slightly. She did not dare to look at him for too long.

She was afraid that this was just a beautiful dream.

That it was not real.

"Don't be too nice to me." She did not want to fall into his gentle trap.

She did not want to think about her past, but the fact was there.

After that night, she did not think that she could have romantic love for the rest of her life.

She had lost her rights to have what was beautiful.

She could not deny that in her life, the mark that Zong Jinghao had left in her became deeper and deeper, until it could no longer be erased and she could not ignore it. She seemed to have gotten used to his domineer, his flippant behavior, and his occasional tenderness. Bit by bit, it took over her heart that she had never revealed.

He gave a light laugh. "I want to be nice to you."

Lin Xinyan's eyes were red but she did not want Zong Jinghao to realize, so she said in a cold tone, "You're blind."

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

This was the first time he had heard someone mocked themselves.

The corner of his lips was turned upwards. "That's true, I'm quite blind. You don't look that pretty."

Why was he only interested in her?

He carefully looked at the woman in front of her. Her eyebrows, her nose, her lips, her jaw, and her cheeks. None of those were the best, but when they were combined, she looked stunning.

Six years ago, the impression she gave to others was of a pure, naive girl.

Now she had experienced life, and her impression to others was of gentleness, intellect, and feminine.

Knock knock.

Someone knocked on the door of the office and Zong Jinghao paused his actions. They looked at each other for a second, then he stood up. He gave her the jacket that he had thrown on the couch. "Wear it."

Lin Xinyan lowered her head to look at herself, then she wore the jacket.

After she was done then did Zong Jinghao say in a low voice, "Come in."

Guan Jing brought Yu Doudou in.

This was the first time that Yu Doudou had been to this kind of place. Along the way, he had been looking everywhere. When he entered Zong Jinghao's office, he let out a sigh. The rich really knows how to enjoy, Yu Doudou thought.

His entire house was not even a quarter of his office.

"Sit down." Guan Jing reminded him.

Yu Doudou laughed apologetically. It seemed like he was a little rude just now.

He sat down facing Lin Xinyan. "I have what you want. Have you thought of what to do?"

Lin Xinyan looked at Zong Jinghao and nodded. "Yes, please hand it to me."

Yu Doudou did not take it out immediately. Instead, he asked, "What are you planning to do? You just came back so let me tell you, B city's Dacheng Law Firm is reputable in this country. The lawyers there were all elites. If we can hire one as our attorney, we have high chances of winning."

His expression darkened as he continued, "I had actually found one, but when he heard it was against the He family, he rejected."

Now, Lin Xinyan realized what Zong Jinghao meant.

They could not do anything to He Ruilin if they only had Yu Doudou's evidence.

The He family would pay for someone to cover up the case.

“Why are you not talking?” Yu Doudou stared at Lin Xinyan.

“Hand me the things and leave the case to me.”

“What are you planning to do? I can help you.” It was not that Yu Doudou did not believe in Lin Xinyan. He just thought that this was not a matter for only one person to work on. The two of them should be working hard instead of him leaving everything for her to do.

He knew that this case was complicated.

After all, it had been six years.

Lin Xinyan pulled on the suit jacket on her, and said gently, “You should have realized by now that this case won’t be an easy case. The He family is reputable, so they wouldn’t allow this case to surface. It’s impossible for the two of us to do this.”

“Then what should we do?” Yu Doudou could no longer stay seated as he jumped up from the couch.

“Don’t worry.” Lin Xinyan hurried to console him. “That’s why I asked you to bring it over. There’s someone who will be helping us for this.”

“Who...”

Soon, Yu Doudou realized.

He opened his mouth in shock but quickly shut it and pursed his lips.

He carefully pointed to the man who had been standing aside with an indifferent look. “He’s helping us?”

Lin Xinyan nodded.

He instantaneously withdrew his hand.

He placed the things he brought with him on the table.

“If there’s anything you need me for, just tell me.” Yu Doudou gave an awkward smile.

Lin Xinyan looked at it. It was indeed the things that he had shown her.

At the same time, Lin Xinyan’s house door was knocked.

Zhuang Zijin went to open the door.

He Ruize’s head was wrapped in bandages. He had treated the wound and changed his clothes.

Zhuang Zijin was stunned. "What happened to your head? Why are you hurt?"

He Ruize's expression froze, then he gave a smile. "It was an accident."

"Be careful." Zhuang Zijin said, concerned.

After all, they had known each other for so long. Although she knew that it was impossible for her daughter to be with him, she was still polite.

"I will. Where's Yan?" He looked into the house but he did not see Lin Xinyan.

"She did not come home last night. She came back this morning but left soon after. I don't know what she's busy with." Zhuang Zijin said.

"Oh, I see. I'm here for her. Auntie, why aren't you inviting me in?" He Ruize asked with a smile.

"Look at me, I forgot about that." Zhuang Zijin hurriedly moved aside and let him in.

He Ruize looked into the bedroom. "Where are the two children?"

Zhuang Zijin wiped her hands on her apron and poured a glass of water for him. "Xichen is playing with Ruixi in the room."

"Oh." He Ruize sat on the couch and casually, asked, "Did Yan say anything when she came back?"

He took a sip from the glass to cover the panic in him.

"No, she came back to check the children. She didn't even have breakfast at home." Zhuang Zijin smiled.

"I was meeting with Yan yesterday and I mentioned about our relationship yesterday. She seemed to have gotten angry and went off. I'm afraid that she's still angry so I came here to look for her."

The smile on Zhuang Zijin's face dropped a little. This did not seem like her daughter's style.

Even if she rejected him, she would not have left immediately.

She treated people who were good or bad to her accordingly.

Although she did not like He Ruize, he had helped her much over the years. She would have been more thoughtful than to cut ties with him on the spot.

"Auntie, I'd like to invite your family to lunch and apologize to Yan." He Ruize glanced away slightly; he did not dare to look at Zhuang Zijin in the eyes.

CHAPTER 110.

He felt guilty.

Zhuang Zijin hesitated. In the past she would not hesitate and would have said yes instantly.

Now that she had promised Lin Xinyan that she was not going to pressure her nor try to matchmake He Ruize and her, Zhuang Zijin did not dare to say yes to him that easily.

“I need to ask Yan about this.” Zhuang Zijin reached out for the phone, but He Ruize covered the phone with his hand. “It’s just a lunch; you won’t need to ask her. My car is just downstairs.”

Zhuang Zijin still did not answer him. She was afraid that Lin Xinyan would not be happy if she decided for her.

Lin Xinyan was the one supporting the family. It was difficult for her, so she did not want her daughter to be unhappy.

“Let’s go. I’m not a predator. We’ve known each other for so long, are you not going to trust me?” He Ruize stood up.

Zhuang Zijin looked at the clock. It was just ten in the morning; it was not time for lunch yet. “Isn’t it a little early for lunch now?”

“The restaurant I booked is far. By the time we reach, it’ll be noon. It won’t be too early.” He Ruize tried his best to convince Zhuang Zijin.

It would not be too good if she were to reject He Ruize again. So, she nodded and said, “Sit on the couch and wait for a while. I’ll get the children ready.”

She undid her apron and went into the bedroom.

Lin Xichen was sitting by the bay window and his sister was in his arms. He was teaching her how to draw with the tablet.

Lin Xinyan had returned the tablet and smartwatch to him, so he could call his teacher and play games again.

Zhuang Zijin carried Lin Ruixi. She was still wearing house clothes, so she had to change.

Lin Xichen was leaning against a soft pillow. On his leg was the tablet and his fingers swiped across the screen. He asked lazily, “Grandma, are you changing for her because you’re going out?”

“Yes, you— Uncle said he’s bringing us out for lunch.” Zhuang Zijin had thought about her son when she said uncle.

Lin Xichen sat straight up, blinked, and looked at Zhuang Zijin. “Grandma, what did you just say?”

Zhuang Zijin patiently repeated her words.

Lin Xichen put down his tablet, slid down the bay window, and quietly opened the door to look out. He Ruize was there sitting on the couch; his head was wrapped in bandages.

He thought about the video he saw on Zong Jinghao’s phone. He thought about the look on his face as he chased after mommy.

He had never seen his mommy in so much panic and looking so helpless.

Lin Xichen clenched his small hands. “A wolf in sheep’s clothing. He’s worse than the heartless man.”

He looked like a good person on the outside, yet he had secretly hurt his mommy.

“What are you talking about?” Zhuang Zijin turned to look at Lin Xichen who was mumbling to himself by the door. “Do you want to change your clothes?”

“No.” Lin Xichen said coldly. What lunch?

Hah!

He would not want to go for lunch.

Who knew if this wolf in sheep’s clothing was going to kidnap them to threaten mommy.

Lin Xichen shivered at the thought.

“I want to pee.” Lin Xichen ran to the bathroom. He closed the door and locked it.

What should he do?

How could he stop Zhuang Zijin from going with He Ruize without He Ruize realizing something was going on?

Lin Xichen sat on the toilet bowl with a frustrated look on his face. Suddenly, he remembered that he had Zong Jinghao’s number. And so, he dialed the number.

Wanyue.

In Zong Jinghao’s office, there was a man with an unfamiliar face.

This man was Zong Jinghao's friend.

He was the one who organized the gathering and invited Zong Jinghao at KS Private Club the last time.

However, Zong Jinghao had met with Lin Xinyan who was nearly raped. So Zong Jinghao had not gone for the gathering.

He remembered it.

The moment Su Zhan entered the room, he mocked, "Tsk tsk. As someone who go ditched, I'm surprised you have a need for me. What a rare sight."

When he had gotten the call, he thought he had misheard him.

Zong Jinghao did not bother with his words. "The things and people are there."

In the case of a lawsuit, the lawyer had to know the entire course of the incident.

He had to determine whether the evidence was useful.

Su Zhan's lips turned downwards. "That's too much of you. The best lawyers in the firm were lured away by you to work for your company's legal affairs. Now you want me, the boss, to work on your lawsuit?"

Hm?

It was now that Su Zhan realized that the person on the couch wearing a suit was not a man but a woman.

He leaned his body and walked towards the couch. He stared Lin Xinyan. "Is this your ex-wife?"

When Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan had married, he was studying abroad.

Later, Lin Xinyan had left.

So he had never seen her.

He had only heard from Guan Jing that Zong Jinghao's ex-wife of a month's marriage was back.

"I didn't have the chance last time, so I have to see how you look like this time." The one who made Zong Jinghao turned back for her.

One of the seven wonders of the world.

Su Zhan moved towards Lin Xinyan before he was suddenly dragged by his back collar. “Be serious.”

“Hey, don’t be like that. People cross the bridge when they come to it, but for you, you burn the bridge before you cross it. Do you still want my help?” Su Zhan took a few steps back from Zong Jinghao’s pull.

Lin Xinyan touched her hair to cover her embarrassment from being watched.

On a side, Yu Doudou was watching with wide eyes. Oh my god, Wanyue Group’s CEO was Lin Xinyan’s ex-husband?

“Jinghao, you can’t be like that. Let me tell you, a person can’t be too—”

“I heard your grandma is looking for you. Why don’t I tell her that you’re with me right now?” Zong Jinghao let go of his collar and said with an indifferent tone.

Su Zhan was speechless.

A threat.

Explicitly. An explicit threat.

“Hm?”

“I’ll go. I’ll go, okay?” Su Zhan wanted to smack himself. Why was he friends with this person?

Su Zhan shouted at Yu Doudou, “Hey, what’s your name?”

“Yu Doudou.” Yu Doudou gave a tensed smile.

“Ha—Hahaha...”

Su Zhan started laughing. “You’re a man, why is your name Doudou?”

It was Yu Doudou’s turn to be speechless.

What could he do about it? It was the name given to him by his parents.

“Come, come, tell me everything.” Su Zhan was an extrovert and he had a lively personality.

He was the polar opposite of Zong Jinghao.

How did these two become friends?

Yu Doudou furrowed his eyebrows slightly.

After Su Zhan had left, there was quietness in the office.

No one spoke.

“That was your friend?” Lin Xinyan broke the silence.

“Yes.”

“He’s a lawyer?” Lin Xinyan did not think that he looked like a lawyer.

The lawyers she had seen were rigorous and unsmiling. They were all serious people.

Su Zhan was even livelier than the average person.

A person like that was a lawyer?

“How did you two become friends?” Lin Xinyan was curious.

Zong Jinghao walked over and was just about to talk to her when his phone on the office table rang.

“Let me pick up a call.” He walked to the front of the table and picked the ringing phone. On the screen was the naughty boy’s name.

He had just seen this boy a total of three times. And yet he had given him two “surprises”.

He had a deep impression of him.

And he deliberately saved his name as such on his contacts list.

His pupils contracted to the center. He picked up his phone but his gaze was on Lin Xinyan.

“Hello?”

“It’s me. The bad guy is at my house. He’s saying that he wants to bring us out for lunch but I think he’s thinking of kidnapping us to threaten my mommy.”