

## CHAPTER 111.

Zong Jinghao raised his hand and checked the time. About fourteen hours had passed since the incident happened. He was fast.

He knew that he was unable to achieve his goal by targeting Lin Xinyan, so he changed the target to the person she cared about the most.

He slowly withdrew his hand that was holding the phone.

Lin Xichen was a little anxious when he didn't hear Zong Jinghao's reply. After all, He Ruize was at his home now, and he also didn't dare to tell Zhuang Zijin for fear that she would act rashly and alert He Ruize in case she was unable to remain calm.

"Do I need to call the police?" Lin Xichen asked.

Zong Jinghao looked at Lin Xinyan and thought for a moment. "What will you tell the police?"

Lin Xichen was speechless.

Now that there was no evidence, so the video could not be released. Besides, the short video couldn't help much either.

"What should we do then?" Lin Xichen asked anxiously.

Zong Jinghao casually leaned against the desk, rubbed his fingers along the edge of the table, and asked after a moment of thought, "Do you want to avenge your mommy?"

"Yes," Lin Xichen replied without any hesitation.

"Do you dare to risk your life?"

Lin Xichen was stunned for a moment, and quickly understood what Zong Jinghao meant. "You want me to follow He Ruize. When he really holds us hostage, we can obtain the evidence of his breaking the law without involving Mommy."

Although He Ruize was shameless, but if such a thing is published, Lin Xinyan's reputation will also be damaged.

Zong Jinghao's gaze that were fixed on Lin Xinyan grew deeper. This kid has a really sharp mind.

He was able to understand what he meant so quickly.

"Yes," Lin Xichen answered bravely. "But—"

Lin Xichen shut his mouth again after thinking for a moment.

If Mommy knows that Zong Jinghao uses us as bait, she will definitely be angry, right?

“But what?” Zong Jinghao asked.

“Nothing.” Lin Xichen decided not to tell him.

“You have to pretend that you don’t know anything, and act as usual. Don’t arouse his suspicion. Turn on the location service on your phone and leave the rest to me.”

“Okay.”

Lin Xichen knew what to do.

After hanging up the phone, Zong Jinghao called the internal line to ask Guan Jing to come.

Soon he knocked on the office door.

After Zong Jinghao said, “come in”, he opened the door and walked up to Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao said a few words to him in a low voice. After listening to Zong Jinghao’s words, Guan Jing glanced at Lin Xinyan. Will she be upset if she knows about this?

After all, they are risking her children.

“I got it.”

“Don’t make any mistakes. Do it personally.”

“Okay.”

Lin Xinyan took a financial magazine and casually flipped through it. She was not interested in reading it but was bored and wanted to kill time.

Zong Jinghao seemed to be dealing with things with Guan Jing, so it wasn’t good for her to disturb him.

When Guan Jing went out, Zong Jinghao asked, “Would you like to see if they have finished talking?”

He was referring to Su Zhan and Yu Doudou.

“Sure.” Standing up, Lin Xinyan took off the suit.

Her skirt was thin, and the air conditioner was turned on in the office, so it had become dry.

Zong Jinghao wanted to put his hand over her shoulder, but Lin Xinyan dodged him. “If you do this again, I’ll get angry.”

Lin Xinyan pulled a long face.

Their current relationship was nondescript and unclear.

People might speculate if they saw them like that.

Zong Jinghao didn't force it. He was not in a hurry, as there was plenty of time.

Su Zhan and Yu Doudou were in the reception room, which was not far from Zong Jinghao's office. They reached there after walking through the office area.

Pushing open the door of the reception room, Lin Xinyan was shocked at the spaciousness of the reception room. The decoration here was very different from Zong Jinghao's office. The dark office desk and chair made the place appear calm, while the right side was hollowed out and an entire glass wall was installed, making the lighting excellent. Every piece of the furnishings was very bold, and even the drinking cups were also very expensive.

Lin Xinyan could probably understand too. After all, the reception room was used to receive guests, and to discuss matters, so it represented the company.

Seeing Lin Xinyan, Yu Doudou quickly stood up. He had been somewhat restrained.

Lin Xinyan motioned to him not to be nervous.

"How's it going?" Zong Jinghao pulled out the chair and sat down.

Su Zhan ignored him and stared at Lin Xinyan with his chin propped.

He kept looking her up and down.

He smirked. "So, this is your type? Didn't you like woman like Zhuwei previously? Has your taste changed?"

Su Zhan knew Bai Zhuwei, her previous relationship with Zong Jinghao, and also her identity now as the daughter of the He family. He also knew that she had changed her name, but he did not like to change his way of addressing her, so he still stuck to her previous name.

"Quite a big difference there." Obviously, Lin Xinyan and Bai Zhuwei were not the same type.

Zong Jinghao remained calm, watching him talking to himself coldly.

Su Zhan also found it boring, so he put away the frivolous manner, and said solemnly, "I need your help in this matter."

If the other party was an ordinary person, it was naturally easy to do; but the other party was an important and powerful figure with a background, so it was not that simple.

Certain means were needed for ironclad evidence.

Zong Jinghao had already come up with a countermeasure.

He leaned back in the chair, rhythmically tapping his fingers gently on the table, as if he was thinking about something.

Su Zhan knew he was thinking, so he stopped talking. Turning his chair and standing up, he walked up to Lin Xinyan with a smile, and introduced himself, "Let me introduce myself first. My name is Su Zhan, the owner of Dacheng Law Firm. You can call me Zhan, or Su."

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

Yu Doudou widened his mouth in surprise.

"Y-You're the boss of Dacheng Law Firm?" Yu Doudou had spoken to him for a long time, but he didn't even know that he was from Dacheng Law Firm, and that he was the famous lawyer, Mr. Su, who had never lost in lawsuits.

He had only heard of him and never met him.

"I finally see the real one today," Yu Doudou said excitedly.

He thought, I can avenge my brother now.

"You think I'm a monkey? What real one? Have you seen a fake one?" Su Zhan dissed him.

Yu Doudou waved his hand and explained, "I-I admire you."

Straightening up, Su Zhan pinched his collar, which was not creased, and said proudly, "That's more like it."

Yu Doudou smiled.

Lin Xinyan quietly took a step back, trying to withdraw from the pointless conversation between the two of them.

Having good eyes, Su Zhan stepped to the left to stop her from leaving. "Umm, how do I address you? If you haven't divorced Jinghao, I should address you as Mrs. Zong."

He rubbed his chin with his fingers, glanced at Zong Jinghao, and said meaningfully, "Actually, it's also okay to address you that way now—"

"Just call me Lin Xinyan," Lin Xinyan interrupted him.

Su Zhan smiled, "Isn't it inappropriate?"

"Nothing is inappropriate," Lin Xinyan replied.

She didn't want to be labelled with some strange identity.

"Should I call you Yan?"

The black pen on the table fell to the ground with a snap.

That pen belonged to Su Zhan. He used it to record what Yu Doudou said to him earlier.

Su Zhan was speechless.

Zong Jinghao walked over, with steady and unhurried steps. When he passed by Su Zhan, he said calmly, "I'm sorry for accidentally dropping your pen."

Su Zhan was again rendered speechless.

That pen was given by his ex-girlfriend, and it was very 'precious'.

Zong Jinghao took Lin Xinyan's hand. "We should go now."

"Where to?" Lin Xinyan was baffled.

"You will know when you get there."

Su Zhan was stunned in place for several seconds.

After coming back to his senses, he shouted at Zong Jinghao as he left, "Are you a kid? Doing something so childish?"

Zong Jinghao completely ignored him.

Yan?

Even I had never called her like that before.

Su Zhan's mouth twitched.

"Are we going to see Mommy?" Lin Ruixi was sitting in Zhuang Zijin's arms, but her eyes kept looking out of the car window, feeling curious about the scenery passing quickly outside.

He Ruize, who drove the car, turned around and comforted her, "Yes, your mommy will come later too. I called her."

Lin Xichen glanced at He Ruize and snorted in his heart. Liar.

"Really?" Lin Ruixi was excited because she was about to see Mommy.

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Lin Ruixi grinned, revealing a row of white teeth.

“Sure.”

He Ruize glanced at Lin Xichen, who had been quiet, and asked, “Xichen, why don’t you talk?”

Lin Xichen looked distressed. “I feel blue.”

“You are a kid. Why do you feel blue?” Zhuang Zijin said. She added, “Didn’t your mom give you your smartwatch and tablet? What else makes you unhappy? Why are you tugging at my shirt?”

Lin Xichen wanted to stop Zhuang Zijin from talking, but he failed.

“S-Stop, you’re embarrassing me in front of uncle.” Lin Xichen quickly came up with his explanation, but when he said the word uncle, he felt extremely disgusted.

Such a hypocrite was not worthy of being called uncle by him.

“Xichen, show me your watch. I have forgotten how your smartwatch is like.”

Zhuang Zijin didn’t bring her phone as it was turned off after He Ruize deliberately knocked over his teacup wetting it.

He specifically glanced at Lin Xichen’s wrist and found that it was empty.

He did not allow Lin Xichen to be able to contact Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xichen’s eyes were shifty. “Umm, I forgot to bring it.”

He Ruize knew that this kid was smart, and his behavior earlier was a sign of guilt.

What is he guilty of?

He Ruize narrowed his eyes. Zhuang Zijin’s reaction was normal, and wasn’t wary of him, which meant Lin Xinyan didn’t tell her about it.

Lin Xinyan didn’t tell Zhuang Zijin, let alone telling the two five-year-old children about such a thing.

He took out the phone in his pocket and dialed Lin Xichen’s number.

Soon a ringtone was heard ringing inside the car.

He Ruize recognized this ringtone clearly.

It was from Lin Xichen's smartwatch.

Panicked, Lin Xichen pocketed his smartwatch, but it was already too late.

"Xichen, why did you lie to me? You forgot that I bought this smartwatch for you. I have set my number, and your mom's number as special care, so even if you turn off the smartwatch, it will still remind you when we call."

Lin Xichen only remembered this after the smartwatch rang.

How could I forget such an important thing?

Lin Xichen hung his head, feeling upset. "I—I just don't want to show it to you."

He kept his head down, so He Ruize couldn't see his expression.

"I remember that this smartwatch also has GPS. At that time, I was afraid that you would go missing."

"It does have GPS." Lin Xichen felt wrong, so he tried to call Zong Jinghao.

Suddenly, He Ruize parked the car on the side of the road and turned to look at Lin Xichen. "Who are you calling?"

"I'm not." He panicked, and the smartwatch fell off, showing the words Heartless Man on it.

This was a name Lin Xichen gave to Zong Jinghao.

In his opinion, Zong Jinghao abandoned Mommy and them, so he was a heartless man.

Even if they were now working together, it did not mean that he forgave him.

He Ruize bent over and picked it up. Staring at the name on it, he asked, "Who is this?"

Lin Xichen was so nervous that a layer of sweat formed on his forehead. "My teacher, who likes to control me, so I gave him a nickname."

Lin Xichen was studying in AC before, and knew that he had a teacher, so he didn't doubt him.

"This smartwatch has been used for too long. It's time to change." Then, he removed the square electric plate inside.

The screen of the smartwatch went black.

“No, I don’t want to change it.” Lin Xichen reached out to grab it, but He Ruize easily dodged him.

Zhuang Zijin noticed that He Ruize’s behavior was very strange. “The smartwatch can still be used.”

He Ruize threw the watch into a small river not far away. He had already driven out of the city, and they were now on the way to the outskirts.

Zhuang Zijin asked him, “Why is it so remote?”

He Ruize said that the place he booked was a farm family resort, which was located in a remote area, hence alleviating Zhuang Zijin’s doubts.

“When we return to the city after the meal, I will buy you a new one. Many functions will not work after this has been used for a long time.”

“I think it’s still good, and it rang when you called just now, so it can still be used.” Zhuang Zijin vaguely felt that something was odd about He Ruize.

“I’ll get him a new one.” He Ruize started the car and drove back onto the highway.

Suddenly Lin Xichen tugged at He Ruize’s shirt hem. “I want to go home.”

“We’ll be there soon. Why go home?” He Ruize didn’t mean to stop.

“I-I—” Lin Xichen was racking his brain. He needed to find a reason. At that moment, a light bulb went off in his head. He had an idea and covered his stomach. “My stomach hurts. I want to go to the toilet.”

“There is no toilet here. Just hold it.”

“No, I can’t take it anymore.” Lin Xichen curled up on the back seat, looking like he was in great pain.

“Doctor He, you should stop. Xichen is unwell.” Putting Lin Ruixi on the seat, Zhuang Zijin held Lin Xichen in her arms, and touched his belly.

“Did you eat something bad and have diarrhea?”

Zhuang Zijin felt sorry for him.

“Maybe.” Lin Xichen trembled with pain and looked terribly in pain. “The pain is killing me. I need to go to the toilet.”

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan got into Zong Jinghao's car, still feeling that his behavior was strange, so she asked, "Where are you taking me?"

"I just received a call from your son in the office..."

Buzzing...

Suddenly his phone vibrated and interrupted him. Glancing at the caller ID, he saw that it was Guan Jing, and picked it up.

Guan Jin's voice was immediately heard saying, "The location information is suddenly cut off."

Zong Jinghao's heart skipped a beat. How could this be?

Has that kid been exposed?

"Where is the location when the signal was cut off?"

"Near Ding Bridge."

"Where are you now?"

"Hurrying over there."

Zong Jinghao thought calmly for two seconds and instructed Guan Jing to send a few men to investigate the surrounding environment.

Ding Bridge was already far away from the city, and that place was relatively remote. He speculated that the place He Ruize would go should not be very far from there, and that it might be nearby.

"Check if there is any place where he can hide."

After hanging up, Lin Xinyan asked immediately, "Xichen called you?"

Zong Jinghao was going to tell her, but now that something went wrong, he didn't say anything for fear that she would be worried, and just responded in agreement.

"Why does he have your phone number?" Lin Xinyan frowned. The kid hates him so much. Why would he contact him?

Is there anything I don't know about?

She felt panicked inexplicably.

"I gave it to him when we ate last time. We are now friends and not enemies. His prejudice against me is gone," Zong Jinghao patiently explained.

Lin Xinyan still felt uneasy.

“Really?”

“Yes.”

Meanwhile, Zhuang Zijin was anxious. “Hurry up and stop the car. Xichen is uncomfortable!”

He Ruize took a look at the GPS. They were not far from where he was heading, so it would not waste too much time for him to stop here. Besides, he had already destroyed Lin Xichen’s means of communication, making him unable to contact anyone, so he stopped the car.

He pushed open the car door to get off and walked to the back seat, saying to Zhuang Zijin, “I’ll take Xichen, and you’ll take care of Ruixi in the car. It’s a remote place. Don’t run into bad guys.”

“Okay,” Zhuang Zijin replied.

“Uncle, hold me. My stomach hurts so much that I can’t walk.” Lin Xichen wrapped his arms around He Ruize’s waist, looking weak.

He Ruize looked at him. “Does your stomach really hurt?”

“Sure. Why would I lie to you?” Lin Xichen lay in his arms, and held him tightly, as if he was someone very close to him.

Now that he was sick, he had become weak.

He Ruize watched this kid grow up, so there was a bond between them.

Seeing him in so much pain, He Ruize’s heart softened. “I will take you in my arms.”

When Lin Xichen was lying in his arms, he quietly reached into his pocket, while deliberately talking to him. “Uncle, am I going to die?”

“Nonsense. No, it’s just a stomachache, not a terminal illness,” He Ruize comforted.

“Then why am I in so much pain? It really hurts. The pain is killing me.” He deliberately moved around in his arms to disguise his movement of pulling out his phone.

“You won’t die so easily. If you die, your mommy will not be able to survive too...”

Speaking of Lin Xinyan, his eyes darkened.

Lin Xichen successfully got He Ruize’s phone, and then secretly put it in his pocket.

“This looks like a good spot.” He Ruize put him in the woods.

With his feet on the ground, Lin Xichen immediately took off his pants.

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With his feet on the ground, Lin Xichen immediately took off his pants.

He Ruize turned around instinctively.

Lin Xichen secretly took out He Ruize’s phone and tried to dial Zong Jinghao’s number while observing his movements.

He had a good memory, and was especially sensitive toward things like numbers, so he remembered Zong Jinghao’s number after seeing it.

Just as he keyed in two numbers, He Ruize suddenly said, “Hurry up.”

“Okay.” Lin Xichen quickly keyed in the rest of the phone number.

Suddenly He Ruize turned around. Fortunately, Lin Xichen moved fast and put the phone away. He continued to cover his belly pretending to be in pain.

“Xichen.”

“Yeah—” Lin Xichen groaned in pain while covering his stomach.

“Are you okay with me marrying your mommy?” He Ruize asked tentatively.

No way!

He didn’t want him to marry Mommy. He would rather Mummy be together with the heartless man than with him.

But he couldn’t say that, so he replied, blinking his eyes, “Y-Yeah I guess.”

Lin Xichen felt sick when he said something against his will.

“Really?” He Ruize still hoped to be recognized by him and Lin Ruixi.

If it weren't for the fact that he was left with no choice, he didn't want to use such a despicable means.

He never thought of hurting them. He just wanted to hide them and threaten Lin Xinyan to marry him.

After they got married, he would take them back safely.

"Yes." Lin Xichen felt nauseous, as he was put off by He Ruize, who even asked him whether it was true.

Not possible to be true!

"What's wrong?" He Ruize walked over, and Lin Xichen quickly waved his hand. "Don't come over. I just can't get it out and feel very uncomfortable."

"Your stomach hurts probably not because you want to poop." He Ruize still came over. "Let's go back. I'll find a place to examine you."

"W-What place?" Lin Xichen swallowed hard.

Obviously, he was not going to let him go back.

Instead of saying go back to the city, he said 'find a place'?

Lin Xichen's heart began to race. He hadn't had a chance to call for help.

What should I do?

What should I do?

What should I do if grandma and Ruixi are really in danger?

He was so anxious that beads of sweat stood out on his forehead, looking a little like the cold sweat formed due to the pain.

"N-Nothing," He Ruize explained stammeringly, "When we get back to the city, I will have you examined at the hospital."

"Let's go." He Ruize reached out to hold him.

Lin Xichen quickly refused. "I-I will pull my pants up. Don't look at me."

He pretended to be shy.

He Ruize smiled. "I am also a man, and it's not like I haven't seen it before. When you were young, I even changed your diapers."

“But I’m grown up now.” Lin Xichen wrapped his hands around his legs tightly, while the phone was still hidden in his arms. If He Ruize got too close, he would definitely find out.

“Well, hurry up.” He Ruize did not continue to approach him, as he turned around.

Lin Xichen took out the phone and was about to make a call, when suddenly, the phone rang. He wanted to hang up in a panic, and the phone fell to the ground. His heart was beating so fast that as if it would jump out of his chest.

It was too late for him to pick it up.

He Ruize turned and stared at the phone on the ground, his eyes narrowed. Why would he have my phone?

“I-I...” Lin Xichen wanted to explain but couldn’t find a reason. The fact that the phone fell out of his hand was irrefutable.

He couldn’t explain it.

“You have been lying to me. Your stomach doesn’t hurt at all. You hugged me, not because you have a good relationship with me, but because you deliberately wanted to steal my phone.” He Ruize slowly approached him.

Lin Xichen had never seen He Ruize looking so vicious before, so he could not help but back away while grabbing his pants with both hands.

“D-Don’t come over.”

He Ruize bent over to pick up the phone, whereas Lin Xichen took advantage of this and ran away.

There was no way to run in the woods here.

He didn’t run far before he was caught by He Ruize who held him by the waist. “I’m so good to you and your mommy. Why do you have to fail me? I trust you so much, and yet you lie to me?!”

His face was terrifying.

Lin Xichen struggled hard. “Let go of me. Hurry up and let go of me.”

At this moment, the phone in He Ruize’s pocket rang again.

He took out his phone and saw the word Ruilin flashing on the screen.

He answered the phone.

He Ruilin's voice was immediately heard, urging, "Why are you not here yet? It's getting late. Also, why didn't you answer my call just now?"

"Something happened on my side—Ah—"

Lin Xichen bit He Ruize's arm, causing him to groan in pain.

"Let's go!" He Ruize angrily scolded.

With strength born of desperation, Lin Xichen bit hard, wishing to bite the piece of meat off his arm.

He Ruize was in great pain, so he slapped Lin Xichen on the face, and his face turned red in an instant, with five obvious fingerprints on his small fair face, that looked like it was about to swell up.

He Ruize glared at Lin Xichen, clutching his collar. "How dare you bite me?"

"You bullied my mommy; I wish I can bite you to death!" Lin Xichen also glared at him.

He was obviously so weak and small in front of He Ruize, but he was extremely unyielding.

He Ruize's hand that was holding his collar made noise due to overexertion. "Your mommy told you?"

"None of your business!" Lin Xi screamed at him while glaring at him.

"Okay, okay. Lin Xichen, I underestimated you." He Ruize grabbed his collar and dragged him on the ground to the side of the road.

Lin Xichen pursed his lips stubbornly, not wanting to utter a single sound, despite the fact that it hurt to have ankles being dragged along the ground.

Zhuang Zijin was sitting in the car when she saw this scene and felt her heart ache so much that as if it had been stabbed, making her unable to breathe.

She got out of the car with Lin Ruixi in her arms, and scolded, "What are you doing, Doctor He?"

He Ruize raised his head and saw Zhuang Zijin standing by the car, her eyes wide open and blazing with anger.

"Grandma, run with Ruixi. Don't bother about me. He wants to kidnap us and threaten Mommy to marry him," Lin Xichen shouted at Zhuang Zijin.

What?

It all happened too quickly, and Zhuang Zijin couldn't react for a while. "W-What did you say?"

Lin Xichen had no time to explain to her. "Quick! Run!"

"Auntie, don't listen to his nonsense. It is a misunderstanding—"

Misunderstanding?

With bloodshot eyes, Zhuang Zijin was shivering. "You abused Xichen. I saw it with my own eyes. How could it be a misunderstanding?"

Suddenly, her bloodshot eyes were popping out with terror and anger.

She found He Ruize strange, and sure enough, he had changed.

"Run!" Lin Xichen was extremely anxious.

With Lin Ruixi in her arms, Zhuang Zijin didn't move. She couldn't leave Lin Xichen behind.

"Doctor He, calm down." Unable to stop her body from shaking, she was extremely panicked.

"There's no turning back." Since Lin Xinyan discovered his intention that night, he had no way out and could only go down this path.

For the happiness of his sister, the benefits of the family, and himself, he could only go on.

There was no way out!

"Don't bother about me. Do you want him to catch us all to threaten Mommy?!" Lin Xichen roared.

Zhuang Zijin's tears rolled down her cheeks.

How could I leave a child behind?

Lin Ruixi didn't know what was going on, as she blinked her eyes and asked, "Grandma, what's wrong with Xichen?"

Zhuang Zijin looked at Lin Ruixi in her arms, thinking that they couldn't all be caught by him.

She must at least make sure one was safe, and then come to rescue the other.

Holding Lin Ruixi, she ran away.

He Ruize threw Lin Xichen into the car and wanted to chase Zhuang Zijin, but Lin Xichen held his arm.

“Let me go!”

Lin Xichen was determined not to let go.

After the darkest side of him was seen, He Ruize completely lost his usual geniality. He grabbed Lin Xichen’s hair and said, “Even if they run away, I still have you, and your mommy will still be willing to give herself in exchange for you!”

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Lin Xichen’s right face was swollen, as if puffing up with anger, forming a sharp contrast with the left side.

He couldn’t think too much now, and just wanted his grandma to escape with his sister first.

It was better for him alone to be controlled than for the whole family to be controlled by him.

At this moment, Zhuang Zijin had already run far.

He Ruilin called again to rush him. “What’s the matter with you? It’s been too long. What happened just now?”

He Ruize couldn’t explain clearly on the phone. After saying I’ll be there soon, he hung up.

He didn’t plan to chase after Zhuang Zijin, as it was too long a delay, and having one of them was enough to threaten Lin Xinyan.

He was worried that Lin Xichen might cause more trouble, so he grabbed his hair and hit his head on the car door. Lin Xichen felt very pain.

A warm liquid ran down his forehead.

Everything went black, while he gradually lost his consciousness, and passed out.

He Ruize threw him in the back seat, got into the driver’s seat and started the car.

Not long after He Ruize left; another car drove over. Guan Jing gave Zong Jinghao the result of the investigation, which found that there was a village near Ding Bridge, so he targeted this village.

Apart from that, there was no place to hide.

Guan Jing led men to follow.

“Don’t worry too much. Your son is so smart, so he’ll be fine.”

When Guan Jing called, Lin Xinyan put him on speaker and learned that He Ruize was going to kidnap Zhuang Zijin and her two kids.

Since then, she had been in a tense state, and said nothing to Zong Jinghao.

“Smart?” Lin Xinyan’s eyes were reddened. “He is just a five-year-old child. How can he deal with an adult?”

She knew she was taking out her anger on him, but she couldn’t help it.

What if something happens?

“It’s all my fault. I shouldn’t be away from home. I shouldn’t leave them at home and not care about them. That’s why this happened.” She blamed herself.

She never thought that He Ruize would suddenly become like this.

She had known He Ruize for ten years.

How could he kidnap my children?

Can the human really be so fickle?

Her heart hurt so much that it was as if someone tore her heart with a saw.

Knowing that she was worried, Zong Jinghao reached out to squeeze her hand, clasping her hand in his palm tightly.

He did not use words to comfort her, as she might be deaf to comforting words now.

Zhuang Zijin didn’t keep running. Instead, she hid with Lin Ruixi.

Seeing a car passing by, she ran out and flag down the car.

Guan Jing was driving the car when he saw someone from a distance. After getting close, he could see who was standing on the roadside. So, he accelerated and then stopped the car beside Zhuang Zijin.

“Please do me a favor. I’ve met a bad guy, can you—” Zhuang Zijin saw who he was before she finished speaking.

Although she only saw him a few times, Zhuang Zijin knew him. He was the guy around the young master of the Zong family.

Guan Jing got off the car and opened the rear car door. "Get in quickly."

"Thank you." Zhuang Zijin got into the car with Lin Ruixi in her arms.

She was as good as gold. Zhuang Zijin told her that there was a bad guy who wanted to catch them, and could not talk, so when they hid, she kept her mouth pursed and didn't say anything, very well behaved.

"Xichen was taken away, can you call the police for me?" Zhuang Zijin asked Guan Jing after she was sure that she was safe.

"Don't worry. I've already brought the police with me."

Guan Jing motioned her to look back. She was too nervous and didn't pay attention to the back. At this moment, several cars and even police cars were parked behind the car.

Zhuang Zijin couldn't bother to think about how Guan Jing knew they would be in danger, and just wanted him to save Lin Xichen quickly.

He was a five-year-old child, and still very young.

Although he was clever sometimes, he was still just a child in her eyes.

"Don't worry, Mr. Zong and Ms. Lin are already there and will definitely rescue Xichen. I will send you to a safe place first." Guan Jing turned the car around and drove to stop next to Chief Shen's car. Winding down the window, Guan Jing said to Chief Shen who was sitting in the passenger seat of another car and was looking at the map, "You guys go ahead. I have something else to do."

Chief Shen glanced at him. "Alright. I'll take care of this."

He had known the location.

"Okay." Guan Jin continued driving and gave Zong Jinghao another call, with the purpose of telling Lin Xinyan that her mother and daughter were safe, so that she felt better and wouldn't worry so much.

"What about Xichen?" They escaped, but what about Xichen?

"He's been taken away by He Ruize. Your mother probably discovered He Ruize's intentions, and might not be able to take the two kids with her at the time." This was Guan Jin's guess. After all, the two five-year-old children couldn't run fast, while He Ruize was a young and strong man, so he could easily catch them.

He already found the fact that Zhuang Zijin was able to escape incredible.

Although Zhuang Zijin was not exactly elderly, her physical fitness was definitely not as good as He Ruize's, not to mention that she had to carry a kid in her arms.

It was not easy for her to escape.

"Please help me to take good care of them." Holding the phone, Lin Xinyan didn't feel relaxed at all.

"Send them to the villa," said Zong Jinghao.

The place where she lived was too unsafe.

No one dared to trespass in his villa.

Moreover, the security system and the anti-theft system were all top-notch, and he could arrange for people to protect them in the villa.

Lin Xinyan thought for a while. Now that she had had a falling out with He Ruize, and the He family was no ordinary people, she was worried if they went back to her place.

"Send them to the villa," Lin Xinyan said.

"Okay," Guan Jing answered.

At this time, their car had already entered the village. Lin Xinyan hung up the phone, but did not put it down, and just held it tightly in her hand.

It seemed that she would not feel so nervous if she was holding something in her hand.

Zong Jinghao drove the car through the village with road that was very uneven and bumpy.

Suddenly Lin Xinyan saw a familiar car, and she said excitedly, "That's He Ruize's car."

She urged, "Hurry up."

"Okay." Zong Jinghao was particularly patient.

Knowing that she was anxious, he responded in acknowledgement, despite already driving at full speed.

He Ruize's car was parked in a courtyard.

The black brick wall in front of the bungalow was very low and looked worn out because it hadn't been taken care of all year round.

In the courtyard.

He Ruize brought only one person, so He Ruilin was very angry. "Isn't your relationship with them very good? Why do you bring one only?"

"They found out."

"Why would they find out?" He Ruilin yelled, "I don't allow accidents, but you missed it again and again. If you succeeded last time, do we still need to do this?"

She was on the verge of breaking down. "Ruize, did you really make a mistake, or you just don't have the heart to do it?"

He Ruilin now seriously doubted that he was lacking in will.

"I did my best!" He Ruize raised his voice at his sister for the first time. "Because of this, I'm done with Yan entirely."

Even if he used her child to threaten her to marry him, she wouldn't treat him as before.

Although she didn't love him previously, at least she was close to him and treated him like a family.

Yet now, they had become enemies.

"Don't ever think that you've made sacrifices. You're selfish underneath. Don't forget, you concealed the truth you found from her before you found out that I am your sister!" He Ruilin could see through that, in fact, He Ruize was the same kind of person as she was.

He was just good at camouflaging.

Now, he just showed his true colors.

## **CHAPTER 115.**

"What nonsense are you talking about?" He Ruize didn't like his cards being put on the table, even if she was right.

"Well, just treat it as nonsense then." He Ruilin didn't want to argue with him either, as it was not the time to argue about this now.

The most urgent task now was to think about how to deal with the current situation. Zhuang Zijin had escaped, so Lin Xinyan would find out soon.

“Where did Zhuang Zijin find out about this and escape?” asked He Ruilin.

“The river at the village’s entrance.”

That place was very near here. If she provided clues, Lin Xinyan should be able to find this place soon. It was not safe here anymore.

They couldn’t hide Lin Xichen here.

“We have to leave and find another place to hide this kid.” He Ruilin narrowed her eyes.

“Now we can only send him as far away as possible. It’s best to make sure Lin Xinyan never find him.”

That’s her son. If she knows that her son is missing or dead, she will go crazy, won’t she?

“Our plan is just to kidnap him, and after Yan promises to marry me, we will release him—”

“Then what?” He Ruilin interrupted him. “Will Lin Xinyan resignedly spend the rest of her life with you? Stop dreaming. Only by keeping this little guy in your hands forever can she stay by your side, understand?”

With things as such, he had no choice.

He Ruize put Lin Xichen, who had passed out, into the back seat again.

“Look for another place later. Let’s get out of here first.” He Ruilin got into her car. Just as she was about to start her car, she saw the black cross-country that was driving over. The strong iron was wrapped in jet black paint with strong lines. This was Zong Jinghao’s car, Kuris.

She had seen it before.

He Ruilin’s face changed immediately, as she shouted at He Ruize, “Hurry up.”

But it was too late. Zong Jinghao slammed on the accelerator and turned the steering wheel, doing a 60-degree drifting amid the potholes and mud, before he stopped the car at the door steadily, blocking the doorway.

He Ruize’s car couldn’t get out.

Lin Xinyan quickly got off the car and went to He Ruize’s car to find her son.

He Ruize also recovered from this sudden change. Being close to Lin Xichen, he turned around and pulled Lin Xichen into his arms.

Lin Xinyan was too late.

“Give Xichen back to me!” She went to open the car door on the driver’s seat. He Ruize locked the car door, so Lin Xinyan couldn’t open it. She could only look at her son through the black glass. She couldn’t see if he was injured, but her face seemed to be swollen.

She thumped the car window frantically, causing the window to shake. “He Ruize, come out. Return Xichen to me!”

Not daring to face her, He Ruize turned his head away from her.

“He Ruize, come out. Let’s talk it over. Will you please return Xichen to me?” Lin Xinyan begged.

“If you want your son,” He Ruilin walked up to her, saying, “Give me a kowtow, and I’ll ask Ruize to return your son to you, how about it?”

Lin Xinyan was trembling all over.

“Oh ya, your son was not very obedient, so we had to do something to him—”

Smack.

Before she could finish her sentence, Lin Xinyan gave her a slap in the face.

The sophisticated makeup put on by He Ruilin was smudged by Lin Xinyan’s slap.

Her fake eyelashes were curled up, her hair messed up, while the powder on her face fell off.

Her initially beautiful look was gone.

“How dare you hit me?!” Wide-eyed, He Ruilin stared at her in disbelief.

Lin Xinyan was trembling with anger. She wished she could choke her to death, let alone slapping her in the face.

Since joining the He family, He Ruilin had a sense of superiority, so she could not stand being slapped in the face.

She raised her hand in retaliation, but her hand was immobilized as soon as it was raised in the air.

She looked up and saw Zong Jinghao standing beside her. As he stood against the light, the outline of his face was cast with a shadow, causing his facial features to appear clearer and more distinct.

He let go off her hand forcefully.

Being let go so forcefully, He Ruilin stumbled backward.

She raised her hand to touch her left cheek tremblingly. This slap was nothing compared to the pain Zong Jinghao had caused in letting go of her mercilessly.

This is the man I love deeply.

This is the man I want to get by all means.

He now shows nothing but indifference toward me.

“Hao—”

Zong Jinghao didn't look at her at all, not even a single glance.

He reached out to wrap his arm around the woman whose body was shaking because of being too angry.

Lin Xinyan seemed like she would fall to the ground at any time.

She looked at He Ruize in the car, begging, “Give me Xichen, please. I beg you. You know how important he is to me. You watched him grow up, how can you hurt him?”

Her heart ached very much.

Even when he tried to do that kind of thing to her, she only thought that he was acting on a sudden impulse.

He wasn't a bad guy.

Today, she realized that she might be wrong.

She didn't understand this man and his heart.

“Let me go first.” He Ruize didn't cave in. He could only take Lin Xichen away first for now, while the other things could only be discussed later.

But He Ruilin couldn't wait. She couldn't see Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan together, especially the way he held Lin Xinyan tenderly.

She once received such tenderness from him.

It's snatched away by Lin Xinyan!

“If you want to save your son, marry Ruize.” He Ruilin smiled with a terrifyingly ferocious look on her face. “It's best to consummate your marriage now and finish the unfinished business from last time.”

Zong Jinghao's face sank. "Do you want to die?"

"Well, since I was disengaged by you, everyone in City B will know that I am an abandoned woman. I will live enough!" She looked at Zong Jinghao, deranged. "You are a heartless person!"

She turned to Lin Xinyan. "Don't be proud thinking that he will like you. He abandoned me, and similarly, he will abandon you as well!"

"He is a heartless person by nature. I have been with him for so many years—" she burst into tears afterward, crying loudly.

During their confrontation, suddenly, the passenger door of He Ruize's car was violently removed with a bang.

Before He Ruize could react, the child in his arms was taken away.

Everything happened quickly.

No one paid attention to the people who sneaked in and removed the car door by force.

"Xichen."

Lin Xinyan ran over quickly. Seeing her son with blood on his face, Lin Xinyan almost broke down. She hesitated for a moment, and then quickly rushed to hug her son.

"Xichen, Xichen." Lin Xinyan reached out to touch his hair, his cheeks, and held his head. "Look at Mommy, Xichen."

Chief Shen pitched in personally earlier, so it was a successful rescue.

Su Zhan, Zong Jinghao and him shared a dormitory during the college days.

He and Su Zhan were Zong Jinghao's only friends.

Now they all had their own career.

Their careers went smoothly; Su Zhan was a well-known lawyer, whereas Shen Peichuan became the city's criminal police chief.

The only thing in common was that their love relationships were not going well.

Su Zhan was a playboy and had many ex-girlfriends whom he wasn't very serious about, whereas Shen Peichuan had never been in a relationship.

Shen Peichuan walked up to Zong Jinghao. "Leave it to me. You should bring her back first."

Guan Jin explained the situation to him clearly.

He also made arrangements for what to do.

It was now time to deal with the damage.

“I’ll leave it to you then.” Zong Jinghao patted him on the shoulder.

“Don’t worry. Arrangement has been made,”

When she opened her mouth, she realized that her voice was trembling.

She didn’t need someone else to hold her son for her.

She could hold him herself.

“I will take you to the hospital.”

## **CHAPTER 116.**

When they arrived at the hospital, Lin Xichen was sent to the examination room.

Due to Lin Xinyan’s unstable mood, the doctor did not let her in.

She was leaning against the wall of the corridor. Without the support of the wall, she might not be able to stand.

Whereas Zong Jinghao sat on a bench nearby and did not persuade or comfort her.

After she saw the blood on Lin Xichen’s face, she was already on the verge of collapse, and now any trivial matter might make her completely collapse.

Suddenly the door of the examination room opened and the doctor walked out. He took off his mask and asked, “Who is his family member?”

“I am.”

Lin Xinyan walked over quickly and asked anxiously, “Is he okay?”

“Minor injury. The bleeding was caused by the wound on his head. It has cleaned up now. Apply some ice on the face at home. I’ve prescribed some medicine, and you can take it when you go to the first floor. He is inside. You can take him now.”

“Thank you. Thank you.” Lin Xinyan repeatedly said thank you. Thank you, doctor, and thank God that Xichen is fine. She ran into the examination room, and saw that Lin Xichen was still lying on the bed in the room. The blood on his still-swollen face was cleaned, while fingerprints were visible on his face, and there was also gauze on his forehead. He was awake.

Seeing Lin Xinyan, he shouted, “Mommy.”

“Xichen.” Lin Xinyan rushed up to him and held his hand. Fortunately, he is fine.

With tears in her eyes, she reached out and gently stroked his face, and rubbed his cheek with her thumb, distressed. “Fortunately, you are fine.”

“I will be fine.” Lin Xichen reached out to wipe the tears on Lin Xinyan’s face. “Mommy, don’t cry. I’m fine.”

Lin Xinyan lowered her head, and buried her face in his arms, her shoulders heaving lightly.

She cried in muffled sobs.

Zong Jinghao stood at the door of the examination room, looking at them.

He had never seen Lin Xinyan cry like this, where she could only choke back her tears, and dared not cry out loud, for fear of affecting Lin Xichen.

It suddenly struck a chord with him.

His eyes that were watching them darkened.

Smiling, Lin Xichen made an OK gesture at Zong Jinghao who was standing at the door.

Zong Jinghao also smiled and gave him an OK gesture.

He then walked in. “We can go back now.”

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and wiped her face, before she picked up Lin Xichen. “I will take you home now.”

Lin Xichen wrapped his arms around her neck. Mommy’s embrace is so warm.

When they arrived on the first floor, Zong Jinghao went to fetch the medicine. Suddenly the phone in his pocket rang. It was a message from Shen Peichuan.

He clicked to view the text message; [Look at the news. ]

Then there was a news link.

He tapped on the link.

The big eye-catching picture was a scene of rescuing Lin Xichen in that village, with a title on it that read, Siblings of the He family, jewelry tycoon in B City, bullied and ganged up on a five-year-old kid!

In the era of developed internet, any news that was posted on the Internet would soon be spread, especially news about the rich and powerful bullying the common people.

This kind of news would easily attract attention. Moreover, the one being bullied was a five-year-old child.

Coupled with those people arranged by Guan Jing, the public opinions were now one-sided.

The He family actually bullied a child. What a shame.

In the current society, the rich and powerful act like a boss.

They bullied a kid just because they're rich. Why don't they die? This kind of person should be hit by a car when they're out.

They must be severely punished. They cannot be dealt with lightly just because they have money. Two adults should be executed by shooting for bullying a child. There were many other comments that were intense.

Someone deliberately guided the public, causing them to ignore the reason why the He family would bully a child, and only saw them bullying the child.

Children were weak, and people were naturally biased towards the weak.

He raised the corners of his lips slightly. The He family must have seen it now.

He family.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Except for the sound of things being smashed, no other sound could be heard in the living room.

Everyone in the living room said nothing.

He Wenhui smashed everything in the living room, leaving the floor in a mess.

He Ruize and He Ruilin stood trembling at the door.

They had never seen He Wenhui so angry.

His whole body trembled in anger, while he pointed at the pair standing by the door with his finger. "Look at what the both of you did. Not only are you unable to help the family, but also cause us trouble!"

He Ruixing was preventing Xia Zhenyu from going up to He Wenhui, who was obviously furious now. Whoever talked to him first would be slanged at.

He was also disappointed with both He Ruize and He Ruilin.

They could not share any burden in the family and would only cause trouble.

They were ruining the reputation of the He family this time.

That was why He Wenhui was so angry.

"You two, get out of here! Our family doesn't have people so incompetent like the two of you!" He Wenhui was so angry that his chest was heaving rapidly.

"We are also doing it for the sake of our fami—"

Bang!

He Wenhui grabbed the phone on the table and threw at He Ruilin who was talking.

"Shut up!"

"For the sake of the family?" He Wenhui trembled with anger. "Initially, we could form an alliance with the Zong family through marriage, but due to your incompetence, they called off the engagement. And now, because of the two of you, the He family is scolded by everyone. Yet, you actually have the audacity to say that you are doing it for the sake of our family?!"

He Ruilin did not dodge, so the phone hit her arm. She covered her right arm in pain. "We are indeed doing it for the sake of the family."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah, tell me about it."

He was tired after a big fire.

"We kidnapped that child because the child's mother was a woman Zong Jinghao liked. If we hold that child hostage and threaten that woman to marry Ruize, then I can still be with Zong Jinghao and we will get married. This is not for us but for our family?"

"Good?" He Ruixing said. His face was flushed, while his voice was like the weather in December, with a chilling mockery. "Who do you think Zong Jinghao is? Will he come back to marry you just because this woman is married to someone else?"

He really wanted to open up her brain to see what was in her mind.

“Can’t you see it? Even if all women in this world are dead, he won’t marry you. Didn’t you see his determination to withdraw from the engagement here that day? He actually stabbed his heart with a knife. If he does like you even just a little bit, he won’t be so resolute.”

“No, no—” He Ruilin refused to admit it. “As long as that woman marries someone else, Zong Jinghao will definitely be willing to be engaged to me.”

“Please wake up already. Stop dreaming. Can’t you see it? You angered him.” He Ruixing was in the business circle and was somewhat familiar with Zong Jinghao.

He wasn’t a man to be trifled with.

Hurting the people around him was like seeking for own demise!

“You mean this news is his doing?” He Ruize, who had not spoken, seemed to understand what He Ruixing meant.

Back in the village, Shen Peichuan released them easily.

It turned out that something was up his sleeve.

He Ruixing snorted coldly, “Of course. Otherwise, why would there be such an overwhelming amount of one-sided public opinion in just a few hours? Do you think that things will get to this point if there’s no one behind this?”

He pointed at the headline of the news. “Look, every word here refers to the He family.”

He Wenhui had calmed down at this moment. He had known that this was done by someone, otherwise, the news would not spread so quickly.

Now he had to visit the Zongs.

Seeing the reckless pair, he became angry. “I don’t know why I have you as my kids. If you are as good as one-tenth of Ruixing, I won’t have to spend time worrying. Now, you keep causing me trouble!”

## **CHAPTER 117.**

“Dad, I will go with you.” He Ruixing stepped forward.

He Wenhui nodded. “It’s good too you can go with me.”

Among his three children, his favorite was this eldest son. Although he had no talent in doing business, he was steady and had not troubled the family. Now, he was also taking care of the family business.

As for the other two of his children, he got angry once he looked at them.

“You two are not allowed to go out until this matter is solved. Just reflect on your own mistakes at home!” He Wenhui said coldly.

“Dad

He Ruilin wanted to explain. Although she had selfish intentions, it was also true that she did it for the family. It didn’t work out in the end but they shouldn’t be treated like this.

As soon as she spoke, she was stopped by He Ruize beside her. “Stop talking.”

“Why can’t I talk?” He Ruilin refused to give in. “My original intention was to do something for the family. It’s just that I didn’t succeed. It isn’t something unforgivable. It is unfair to treat us like this!”

Feeling furious, He Wenhui covered his chest.

Now, not only does she not admit her mistakes, but she also refuses to listen to my words, huh?

“Okay, enough. Don’t you see that Dad is angry?” He Ruixing scolded.

“Don’t pretend to be a good person in front of Dad. You are afraid that Ruize and I will get the family asset and take away your position in the company, so you please Dad in every way—”

“Enough!” He Wenhui thumped the table, and started coughing, probably because he was too angry. He was coughing so hard that his face flushed, so He Ruixing smoothed his back for him.

“I’m just saying the truth. Ruixing often flatters others outside, and also flatters dad at home.”

The family business was in charged by He Ruixing alone. She had returned to the He family for so many years, yet every time she said that she wanted to work in the company, He Ruixing deliberately came up with various excuses to prevent her from joining the company.

He is afraid of me getting a share of the family asset, isn’t he?

“Okay, just go back in the house!” Xia Zhenyu couldn’t bear it. They were all her own children. She could side with neither one.

“Let her say it!” He Wenhui opened his mouth and gasped, as if he would faint at any time from being out of breath.

“Dad, is it fair to leave the company to my brother alone?” He Ruilin felt dissatisfied a long time ago. She only said it now because she just wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to vent it out.

He Ruixing looked at her without saying a word.

He Wenhui looked up. “So now you’re talking about being fair?”

He was not a dotard who only put his eldest son in an important position. It was because he saw it thoroughly.

He Ruize went to study some psychology and became a psychiatrist despite his disagreement. After he came back, he didn’t understand anything about the business, which wasn’t easy in this competitive era.

It was too late for him to learn now. Moreover, business wasn’t something that could be learned.

It required ability, courage and vision.

He Ruize had none.

As for He Ruilin, she was a girl. She was able to stay with Zong Jinghao back then, not because of her ability, but because of what happened during the childhood. Out of compassion or pity, he kept her as his secretary, who only served drinks, and arranged his daily schedule.

The most important thing was that she was a girl and would be married in the future.

Hence, it was impossible for He Wenhui to give her company shares that she would later bring to the family of her husband.

Meanwhile, He Ruixing took up business studies and learned with him after graduation, before he took over the company.

Although he was not outstanding, he had been in the business for many years. He didn’t have the ability to grow his family, but he had accumulated experiences and could maintain the status quo of the company.

Therefore, he turned a blind eye to any of He Ruixing’s attempts to usurp power.

“Wenhui, calm down. They are all just children” Xia Zhenyu came to smooth his back for him and comforted him.

“Humph.” He Wenhui sneered. “They’re already in their 30s. What children?”

He Wenhui glanced at his wife. “They are not allowed to go out without my permission.”

“Okay.” Xia Zhenyu responded cautiously, fearing to provoke him again.

He Ruixing helped him up. “Dad, let’s get going. I’m afraid things will get out of control.”

The current situation was one-sided, but it had just happened and not many people knew it. If the news continued to spread for another one or two days, it would really be impossible to manage.

He Wenhui also knew the severity of the matter, so he stood up with his son’s help. “Ask the driver to start the car.”

“I’ll drive,” He Ruixing said.

“Okay.”

He Ruixing helped his father out.

He Ruilin looked at Xia Zhenyu. “Mom, look at how partial dad is. He only trusts Ruixing and leaves everything to him.”

Of course, she knew what her husband was thinking.

If Ruize was capable, he would not ignore him; whereas He Ruilin was a girl, and she went missing since she was a child, so their bond wasn’t strong.

Compared with He Ruixing’s hard work and considerateness, he was naturally partial to him.

“You have caused such big trouble. Yet, you still fight with each other, instead of reflecting on it. How could your father be happy?” Xia Zhenyu looked at her daughter. “You are a girl, and you will get married in the future. It doesn’t matter whether you join the company or not.”

“Does the fact that I’m a girl mean that I’m not member of the He family?” He Ruilin didn’t expect her to say such a thing.

How could she value sons over daughters?

“Why didn’t you choke me to death when I was born since you’re averse to the fact that I’m a girl? Why did you still reunite with me since you don’t like me being a girl?!” He Ruilin cried and ran upstairs after finished talking.

Xia Zhenyu’s body shook, as she almost lost her balance.

He Ruize came over to help her. "Mom, don't be angry. Ruilin didn't mean it."

Xia Zhenyu waved her hand. "I couldn't get any angrier. Help me back to the room."

"Your dad said that you are not allowed to go out. Don't go out these days, or else he gets angry again," she reminded her son.

"Okay." He Ruize pursed his lips and said, "Although we have caused trouble this time, we really wanted to do something for the family at first, but we didn't succeed. I know that it makes sense for Dad to put Ruixing in an important position. I am not jealous, and never thought about seizing power."

It wasn't that he didn't have any desire, but his desire was not about power.

If it was something that he really wanted, he would do whatever it took to get it.

For instance, Lin Xinyan, whom he deliberately deceived that the man that night was a man from Country A because of his selfishness.

As He Ruilin said, he was actually selfish, but he was just good at disguising it.

Zong family.

Zong Qifeng was practicing calligraphy in the study. After the company was handed over to his son, he stayed completely out of it. Calligraphy was his hobby.

Every afternoon, he would stay in the study for three hours, and Yuxiu would grind inkstick for him.

Although they got on in years, they still made a beautiful picture together.

"What are you thinking about?" Zong Qifeng looked at Yuxiu who was looking out the window in a daze.

She regained her senses and continued to grind the inkstick. "It's nothing. I just miss Jinghao."

Zong Qifeng held her shoulder. "Do you regret it?"

Just as Yuxiu wanted to talk, the door of the study was knocked, and Mr. Feng's voice was heard saying, "Someone from the He family is here."

"Isn't the matter with the He family already settled?" Yuxiu stopped what she was doing, and said with a cold tone, "What is he doing here?"

Yuxiu thought they came because of the cancellation of the engagement again.

They didn't watch the news today, so they didn't know what happened.

After finished writing the last stroke, Zong Qifeng put the brush on its holder, and said, "Let's go out and have a look."

#### **CHAPTER 118.**

The door of the study was opened, and Mr. Feng stood at the door. "I have made them wait in the living room."

Zong Qifeng nodded his head.

"Don't worry, the matter has been resolved. He can't say anything," Zong Qifeng comforted after noticing Yuxiu's worried look.

Yuxiu looked down. "I'm not worried."

"So stubborn." Zong Qifeng held her hand. "Let's go."

In the living room, He Wenhui was sitting on the mahogany sofa with the served tea placing in front of him, whereas He Ruixing was standing behind him.

Seeing Zong Qifeng coming over, He Wenhui stood up. "Zong, I have to beg you this time."

"Beg me?" Zong Qifeng laughed loudly. "Don't joke with me. Why would you beg me?"

He Wenhui heaved a sigh. "It's the trouble caused my two useless kids."

"What is it?" Together with Yuxiu, Zong Qifeng sat on the sofa across from him.

The servant served two more glasses of water.

"You didn't watch the news today, did you?" He Wenhui asked.

"No."

After Zong Qifeng stepped down, he didn't like to watch the news. He spent his days practicing calligraphy, going for a walk with Yuxiu and playing chess.

"You should take a look first." He Wenhui motioned his son to show the news to Zong Qifeng.

He Ruixing handed the phone to him. "Uncle Zong."

After taking a look, Zong Qifeng was a little surprised, not because how outrageous the news was, but because of the fact that they came to him after something like this happened to their family.

It shouldn't be difficult to cover this matter up with the connections the He family had.

"He, don't tell me." Zong Qifeng raised his head and looked at He Wenhui across from him. "That this matter has something to do with me?"

Otherwise, why would he come to me?

He Wenhui again heaved a sigh. "I am not as lucky as you. You have a good son, so you get to retire early, and enjoy your life. I'm about to be irritated to death by those reckless kids of mine."

"He, what makes you say so?"

"Well." He Wenhui pointed at the child whose face was full of blood in the news. "I heard that this child was born by a woman Jinghao likes. Lin felt that that woman sabotaged the engagement between her and Jinghao, that's why she— alas, what an embarrassing thing to say. Ruize loves his sister, and so, he kidnapped her child on impulse, wanting to use the child to threaten that woman to leave Jinghao."

He Wenhui evaded the serious matters.

He didn't say that He Ruilin wanted to marry into the Zong family, so that an alliance could be formed between the two families, nor that He Ruize wanted to marry that woman.

Those things hurt his pride.

Zong Qifeng and Yuxiu looked at each other.

Who is this woman?

What's the matter with the child?

Wasn't it because of Lin Xinyan that Zong Jinghao called off the engagement last time?

There was no picture of Lin Xinyan on the news, so they didn't know that this woman was Lin Xinyan.

Zong Jinghao ordered that Lin Xinyan was not allowed in the photo.

He didn't want to involve her in such news.

“This matter may have angered Jinghao, that’s why I came to you.” He Wenhui sighed again. Even at this age, he had to beg someone his age because of his children’s doing, so he felt upset.

“We are all distinguished and well-known people with status in society. I’ll be so humiliated once it’s spread out. I don’t need to come to you, but a conflict between our families will only hurt both sides, don’t you think so?”

He Wenhui knew how to negotiate. He was not here to beg for mercy now. He just didn’t want the two families to fight with each other and hurt their relationship.

“You also understand my son. If I can control him, the engagement will not be called off.” Zong Qifeng was not an idiot either. He couldn’t just listen to his words and simply agree or promise him something.

He Wenhui was about to lose his cool. Is he staying out of it?

“Zong, although we can’t become in-laws, but we have known each other for a long time, do you really want to watch the bond between our families get severed because of such a trivial incident?”

“Jinghao is not an unreasonable person. After all, someone provoked him first. Of course, we won’t stay out of it either. You know, the two of them have been at odds over the years, but we will try our best. We’ll ask him to come over tonight to ask him about this matter, and persuade him,” Yuxiu spoke, using both the hard and the soft way. She accused them of provoking Zong Jinghao first, so the fault was with them. The latter sentences also indicated that they wouldn’t stay out of it, but it was an entirely different matter whether they could change Zong Jinghao’s mind.

He Wenhui was rendered speechless by her words.

“It’s good then. It’s best if it doesn’t hurt our relationship.” He Wenhui rose to his feet.

“Of course, we don’t want to hurt our relationship too,” Yuxiu replied.

He Wenhui forced a smile. “I have to go now.”

“You should stay for dinner.” Yuxiu smiled modestly and decently.

“No, thanks. They’re waiting for us at home.” He Wenhui declined.

“Mr. Feng, see them out please.” Yuxiu didn’t see them out personally. Regardless of what happened afterward, they must now stand on Zong Jinghao’s side.

Obviously, they were at fault first.

She handled it well enough to let He Wenhui know that if Zong Jinghao didn’t let this matter pass, it was also their fault, as they were the cause of it.

It also served them right if their relationship was damaged.

“Here will do,” He Ruixing said to Mr. Feng when they reached the gate of the Zong family.

Smiling, Mr. Feng still opened the car door for He Wenhui. “Madam asked me to see you out. How dare I ignore it? Master He, please.”

He Wenhui glanced at him and got into the car.

He Ruixing took the driving seat.

The car soon left.

He Wenhui looked at the villa that was getting smaller in the rearview mirror, and lamented, “There’s a reason for Zong Jinghao’s intelligence. His parents have high intelligence, so how could he be stupid?”

He had known Zong Qifeng’s means and intelligence.

Yuxiu’s earlier responses surprised him.

“Dad, what are you talking about? Zong Jinghao’s biological mother is Zong Qifeng’s ex-wife.”

“Oh ya. Look at me. I am really getting on in years.” He Wenhui touched his forehead.

“Dad, what if Zong Qifeng can’t persuade Zong Jinghao?” He Ruixing asked, feeling worried.

He Wenhui thought for a long time. After much considerations, and distinguishing the pros and cons, he still felt that he couldn’t have a falling-out with the Zong family.

After all, the Zong family was wealthy and powerful. So it was undeniably not a family to be trifled with.

If they really had to have a face-off, they were at the losing side.

“Whoever caused the trouble will be held responsible.” He Wenhui slowly closed his eyes.

It was not that he was ruthless. It was just that he couldn’t care too much about his family under this circumstance.

If Zong Jinghao wasn’t willing to let it slide, then this matter was bound to continue to develop.

Then, the reputation of He family went bad, and it would affect the company. They were running a jewelry business. If they were boycotted, he could not afford to bear the consequences.

In the living room of the Zong's villa, Zong Qifeng was leaning against the cushion on the sofa, and holding Yuxiu's hand in his hand, rubbing his thumb on the back of her hand, while half-squinting his eyes, as if thinking about something.

"Are you thinking about the identity of that woman? And what's the matter with that child?" Yuxiu asked.

In fact, she found it strange as well. Previously, she thought Zong Jinghao liked Lin Xinyan, but now another woman with a child suddenly appeared.

This made her worried.

Zong Qifeng reached out to place a strand of hair behind her ear, and said softly, "Don't worry, I will go to the villa to see him."

And also talk to him about this incident.

## **CHAPTER 119.**

Meanwhile, Lin Xichen fell asleep in Lin Xinyan's arms while returning to the villa.

One side of his face was still red and swollen. Lin Xinyan felt very distressed and wanted to touch him but was afraid of hurting him.

She was very quiet and didn't say a word, as she silently wiped her tears.

It was the first time that Lin Xichen was injured.

As the Chinese saying went, the injury was on the son's body, but the pain was in the mother's heart.

Zong Jinghao looked at her in the rearview mirror, trying to comfort her so that she wouldn't be too upset. But after opening his mouth, he didn't know what to say.

He had never been a parent, and so he couldn't understand her feelings.

It didn't take long for him to reach the villa and park the car in front of the villa.

Zong Jinghao got off the car and opened the door for her. It was not convenient for her to get off the car while holding Lin Xichen, so he reached out and said, "I'll hold him for you."

“No, I can hold him myself.” Since Lin Xichen was rescued, she was inseparable from him.

She had been holding him and wouldn't let anyone hold him.

Zong Jinghao looked at her for two seconds and couldn't stand her attitude. This was her child, whom she could spoil and love, but he couldn't accept that she kept blaming herself and thought that it was all her fault.

“It's not your fault. You don't have to punish yourself.” He forcibly took Lin Xichen from her, but she was unwilling to let go. “What are you doing?”

“If you don't want your son to be woken up, just be quiet.”

Lin Xinyan fell silent and whispered, “He has an injury on his head. Be careful while holding him.”

She was afraid that Zong Jinghao would hurt Lin Xichen.

He had no experience in holding children.

Zong Jinghao responded in acknowledgement.

Having lived here previously, Lin Xinyan was not unfamiliar with the place, which had basically remained the same as before.

Inside the house, Lin Ruixi had fallen asleep when she was sent here by Guan Jing and had not woken up until now after experiencing the incident during the day, maybe because she was either scared or tired.

Aunt Yu met Zhuang Zijin and Lin Ruixi once, so when Guan Jing sent them here, she was surprised at first, and then quickly became acquainted with Zhuang Zijin.

Guan Jing didn't say why they were sent here, while Aunt Yu didn't ask either. Guan Jing was Zong Jinghao's man, so he must have been instructed by Zong Jinghao to do so.

After seeing the two children last time, she felt that they looked like Zong Jinghao when he was a child. In order to see them again, she often went to the supermarket, hoping to see them and inquire about the mother and father of the two children.

Unexpectedly, she couldn't see them even though she went there every day.

Yet, they found her themselves.

As the saying went, fancy finding by sheer luck what one had searched for far and wide.

Aunt Yu took this opportunity to inquire about the two children.

Zhuang Zijin could guess what this place was, but she didn't want to say much about her daughter, and only said that the two children were born by her daughter.

She said nothing about everything else.

Aunt Yu couldn't find out anything.

Excusing herself, Aunt Yu got up and wanted to show her the picture of Zong Jinghao, when the door of the villa was opened.

Zong Jinghao walked in with Lin Xichen in his arms, while Lin Xinyan followed behind. Like a subconscious habit, she opened the shoe cabinet and took out the slippers. She knew Zong Jinghao's, so she took it and put it in front of him.

Zong Jinghao lowered his eyes and glanced at her. "You still remember."

Lin Xinyan paused. She only stayed here for less than a month, and yet she actually still remembered his slippers.

She raised her head and said calmly, "I remember everything I have seen."

Zhuang Zijin rose to her feet and glanced at Zong Jinghao, before finally fixing her gaze on her daughter.

Aunt Yu saw them coming in, with Zong Jinghao holding Lin Xichen while Lin Xinyan was beside him. She opened her mouth wide and looked at Zhuang Zijin. "This is your daughter?"

Zhuang Zijin nodded her head.

Aunt Yu seemed to understand everything in an instant.

She had been wondering why Zhuang Zijin didn't want to talk about her daughter. It was because her daughter had divorced and gave birth to the twins, so she must be angry that the children's father divorced her daughter and didn't want to bring it up.

For Aunt Yu, Lin Xinyan's children were Zong Jinghao's.

She remembered that she got pregnant six years ago.

Although they lived separately back then, they slept in the same room the first night they got married.

Moreover, after some simple calculations, she found that the timing was right as the children were five years old six years later.

The room downstairs belonged to Zong Jinghao. After Lin Xinyan left, he still lived in it, but rarely returned to the villa.

“I’ll take him to the room,” Zong Jinghao said.

Lin Xinyan responded in agreement.

“Yan.” Zhuang Zijin had a lot of questions that she wanted to ask her, so she called out to her when she saw her.

Lin Xinyan stood in the hallway and did not enter the house. “Let’s go outside and talk.”

“Sounds good.” After all, there were other people in the house, and it wasn’t convenient for them as it wasn’t their own place.

She changed her shoes at the door and followed Lin Xinyan out.

The front yard of the villa was covered with a large area of green lawn, which was soft underfoot. A rockery was built nearby the green plants with water flowing continuously. Below was a pond with ornamental fish that looked a little special with their green bodies and long tails, seemingly an expensive and rare species.

There was a round table, four rattan chairs, and a parasol.

Lin Xinyan pulled the chair out for Zhuang Zijin.

Zhuang Zijin sat down.

“What the hell is going on? Why would Doctor He suddenly kidnap us? And why are you still with him? You two are divorced, so there’s no more relationship between you. Is it because Doctor He knows that you’re with him, and so he did such a thing out of jealousy?”

Zhuang Zijin asked a series of questions and expressed her thoughts.

Lin Xinyan shook her head. “No.”

She had told He Ruize before that she was willing to try with him. Later, because of his sister, she realized that it was impossible for her and He Ruize to be together. Not only was there no love between them, but there was also his mother, and his sister who were the barriers between them.

“Why did he do such a thing then?” Zhuang Zijin suddenly thought of something. “You told him that his mother spoke to you?”

“No.” Lin Xinyan clasped her hands. She didn’t know how to tell Zhuang Zijin what He Ruize did to her.

It was too difficult for her to talk about it.

“Why then?” How can one person suddenly change so much?

She kept thinking about it since she came back.

But she still couldn't figure out the reason why he became like that.

"Mom, you know that I don't love him." Lin Xinyan clasped her hands tightly, her palms wet and sticky with sweat. She could only tell the truth now.

She told Zhuang Zijin what He Ruize tried to do to her.

Zhuang Zijian jumped to her feet. "What?"

"How could he do something like that?"

Lin Xinyan didn't want to believe it, but she could figure it out after thinking about it carefully.

He liked her, while He Ruilin liked Zong Jinghao.

If he destroyed her, He Ruilin would still have a chance to be with Zong Jinghao.

For the happiness of his sister, he was willing to do so.

Zhuang Zijin sat back down and didn't recover for a long time. "We really can't tell what's in a person's mind."

As the saying went, there is no knowing what is in a man's heart. This was true.

"Then, what's the matter with you and Zong Jinghao?" Zhuang Zijin asked again after feeling stable. She looked at her daughter. "Don't tell me that you like him."

## **CHAPTER 120.**

She was feeling conflicted and complicated. She had to admit that she did have feelings toward Zong Jinghao, but she didn't dare to admit it, and didn't want to give it much thought.

She didn't want to break such vague emotions and go to the bottom of it to find out whether it was love or not. It pained her to think so much.

When asked by Zhuang Zijin, she didn't know how to answer, while she was having mixed feelings.

"Why don't you speak?" Zhuang Zijin's eyes turned red. "Perhaps, he treats you very well now, but have you thought about the future? Can he accept Xichen and Ruixi? Can he be okay with them for the rest of his life?"

“Mom, I don’t want to think about it now. By the way, we may have to live here for a while. I’m afraid that our house is not safe.” She deliberately changed the subject.

Zhuang Zijin refused to move on to another topic. “Is it because of him when you decided to come back to China?”

If they didn’t come back, maybe these things wouldn’t happen.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and remained silent.

Apparently, she acquiesced in what Zhuang Zijin said.

Zhuang Zijin wanted to tell her not to be blinded by what seemed good now.

But, she swallowed back the words on the tip of her tongue, and instead, said, “You call the shots since it’s your business.”

She was an adult with her own thoughts and ideas.

Too much interference would bring her pressure.

Zhuang Zijin sighed. “Just live here. It’s important to ensure the kids’ safety.”

Thinking of what He Ruize did, she still had lingering fears.

Lin Xinyan knew what she was worried about and said, “Don’t worry, I will protect myself.”

Back in the villa, Zong Jinghao put Lin Xichen who was sleeping in the room downstairs.

Aunt Yu was standing at the door, watching.

Since Zong Jinghao came in, she had been following him, as if she had a lot of things to say.

“Do you already know?” Aunt Yu asked, standing at the door.

Zong Jinghao put a quilt on Lin Xichen, straightened up and looked at her. “Know what?”

Aunt Yu was anxious. “That they are your children.”

Zong Jinghao’s eyes darkened. It seemed that Aunt Yu’s topic had crossed the line.

Or rather, he was upset that someone suddenly asked something he deliberately ignored and forced him to face it.

Aunt Yu frowned, finding Zong Jinghao’s attitude strange. Aren’t they his kids?

Why is the atmosphere around him growing denser?

Sighing, Aunt Yu ran to take out the photo, walked to the bed, and placed it next to Lin Xichen's face to compare. "Look—"

Lin Xichen was injured and his face was swollen, looking completely different from what she saw last time.

Aunt Yu asked, "Why is he injured?"

Aunt Yu felt sorry for him. He was so smart and cute when she saw him last time.

Zong Jinghao didn't want to discuss this matter with others. "Don't mention his identity from now on."

"But—"

Not giving up, Aunt Yu was still trying to say something.

"She got pregnant before we got married. They're not my kids." Zong Jinghao interrupted her quickly.

Obviously, he would know if he had ever slept with her.

He didn't want to know about Lin Xinyan's past.

The thought of her being on the bed with another man made him feel so depressed that he couldn't breathe.

So no one should bring up the identity of these two children to him.

No one should tell him about Lin Xinyan's past.

He didn't want to know all these!

"W-W-What are you talking about?" Aunt Yu was so shocked that her hands trembled, and she could only utter the question after a long time.

She was pregnant before she was married to Zong Jinghao?

How could it be possible?

"I don't think she looks like that kind of unscrupulous and easy girl. How could it be possible?" Aunt Yu couldn't believe that Lin Xinyan was pregnant before marrying Zong Jinghao.

"I've seen it with my own eyes, but I don't want to hear other people talk about it." After speaking, Zong Jinghao walked out of the room.

He only said it because it was Aunt Yu. He wouldn't reveal so much if it were others.

Aunt Yu felt confused. She looked at the photo in her hands and then at Lin Xichen who was lying on the bed. Even though Lin Xichen's face was swollen, she still remembered how he looked when he was not injured.

How could Lin Xinyan had him before marriage?

How could this be?

He looked the same as Zong Jinghao when he was a child.

Aunt Yu was unable to recover from the shock of this information.

She didn't know how she walked back to her room, as she felt surreal.

Later, Lin Xinyan and Zhuang Zijin went into the house.

Zhuang Zijin went to the guest room to see if Lin Ruixi was awake; whereas Lin Xinyan went to the fridge in the kitchen to get some ice cubes, wrapped them in a towel, and applied on Lin Xichen's face.

The sky gradually darkened, while the sun set, leaving the sky red.

Aunt Yu had composed her emotions and went to the kitchen to make dinner.

When Lin Ruixi woke up, she clung to Zhuang Zijin due to the unfamiliar environment, so Zhuang Zijin held her in her arms.

Zhuang Zijin was unfamiliar with the place, so she held Lin Ruixi in the room and didn't come out.

In the study, Zong Jinghao hung up the call with Guan Jing and looked down at his watch. It was five o'clock, so he got up and walked out of the study. The living room was quiet, and occasionally, the sound of Aunt Yu chopping shrimp could be heard coming from the kitchen.

Along with this sound, Zong Jinghao opened the door of the room, and saw Lin Xinyan sitting on the chair by the bed with towel on the table.

Lin Xichen was still not awake yet.

It seemed that Lin Xinyan had been staying there by his side.

He walked in and looked at the little man lying on the bed with his eyes closed. He reached out to put his hand on Lin Xinyan's head, pressed her into his arms, and comforted, "Don't worry too much."

"Okay."

Zong Jinghao was standing, while Lin Xinyan was sitting. He held Lin Xinyan's head so that her face was pressed against his abdomen. Through the fabric, she could feel his strong, hard, and warm abdominal muscles.

"Thank you," said Lin Xinyan sincerely while she wrapped her arms around his waist.

The incident happened suddenly. Without Zong Jinghao's help, she didn't know how the incident would develop.

Fortunately, her kids were fine now.

Zong Jinghao's body froze, while his mind was in chaos for a few seconds.

Lin Xinyan rarely took the initiative to have physical contact with him. Does this mean that she is slowly opening up to me?

He rubbed the tip of his fingers against her ear, as he went from the skin behind her ear, to her soft earlobe.

It seemed that this part was relatively sensitive, as Lin Xinyan's body trembled slightly.

Sensing her reaction, Zong Jinghao bent down and kissed her hair, forehead, corner of her eyes, cheek...

"Mmm..."

There was a soft moan, followed by Lin Xichen's slightly hoarse voice. "Mommy."

Lin Xinyan quickly regained her rationality. She pushed away Zong Jinghao who was kissing her, and quickly went to see her son. "Are you awake?"

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

"Yeah." Lin Xichen cast his gaze on Zong Jinghao, while his hands under the quilt were grasping the bed sheet tightly. In fact, he woke up when Zong Jinghao came in.

He remained silent on purpose, wanting to see how he and Mommy got along usually.

Unexpectedly, he still wanted to kiss mommy even though they've divorced.

He's so annoying!

Looking at Zong Jinghao, he grinned, and hissed in pain when it affected the wound at the corner of his lips. "Thank you so much this time."

Zong Jinghao frowned. Looking at his smile, he sensed that he had something up his sleeves.

"Alright, stop talking. There is a wound on your mouth." Lin Xinyan couldn't stand seeing her son in pain. He even felt pain when he spoke just now.

"Don't you know, Mommy?" Lin Xichen pretended to be surprised.

"Know what?" Lin Xinyan looked at her son blankly.

Whereas Zong Jinghao looked at him warningly.

Lin Xichen pretended he didn't see it, and said to Lin Xinyan, "Mommy, my capture was actually intentional."

"What?" Lin Xinyan could hardly sit still.

Is he out of his mind deliberately wanting to be caught?

Lin Xichen continued to pretend to be innocent. "Yes, he came up with the idea and asked me to let myself be caught by He Ruize."

He pointed at Zong Jinghao.