

Chapter 281

"Ren Ai Hospital," Shen Peichuan said.

Su Zhan had just exited the hospital, and he stopped abruptly to turn around and look at the name of the hospital. The front door of the hospital was adorned with neon lights that showed "Ren Ai Hospital" in big red letters. Wait, he's in the same hospital as Grandma? He wondered.

His lips twitched. "Where exactly are you?"

"The operation theater." Shen Peichuan said, a little confused. "What's wrong?"

Su Zhan merely said, "I'm coming up," then hung up.

He walked back into the hospital and followed the directory to the surgical wing. Shen Peichuan was sitting on the bench in the hallway with a couple of his bodyguards, and Su Zhan strode over to him. "What's happening now?" He asked.

Shen Peichuan looked up at him and moved to give him some space on the bench. "Sit down first."

Su Zhan plopped himself down on the bench.

"The doctor said that he would have died if the wound was any closer to his heart. He's still in there, by the way," Shen Peichuan said.

"He should have just died!" Su Zhan spat.

Shen Peichuan gave him a look. "If he had died, then Jinghao would become a murderer. Xinyan is the only one who is level-headed here."

"It's not like we can't make things right," Su Zhan said, contemplating the methods he could use to kill He Ruize.

Why did money always come before power?

That's because money makes everything attainable.

With money comes power naturally.

They could cover things up with the help of Zong Jinghao's uncle.

Shen Peichuan figured that Su Zhan was too furious to listen to him, so he stayed silent to let Su Zhan calm down. He had underestimated Su Zhan's anger.

The corridors of the surgical wing were very quiet at this hour, while the air was thick with tension.

“How long is it going to take?” Su Zhan asked, slightly annoyed.

Shen Peichuan stared at him for a moment before saying, “Why don’t you go back first?”

Knowing Su Zhan, he would probably beat He Ruize to a pulp regardless of He Ruize’s condition.

“I’m not going back,” Su Zhan said, determined.

Shen Peichuan couldn’t help but frown. Since when was this person so stubborn?

“Shen Peichuan, that jerk slapped my grandmother! How do you expect me to calm down?” Su Zhan asked with a glare.

He was vexed.

He Ruize was a real bastard for setting his hands on an elderly person.

“It’s scary when a psychologist becomes a psycho himself,” Shen Peichuan said.

At that moment, the light on the door of the surgery room turned off, and the door slid open. The doctor came out first, followed by He Ruize on a gurney.

The doctor removed his mask. “The surgery went well, but he has to rest and recuperate properly afterwards since this is a pretty serious injury. His lifespan might be shortened too...”

“He should have just died!” Su Zhan yelled, cutting off the doctor mid-sentence.

The doctor felt annoyed about getting rudely interrupted.

He frowned. “Why send him here if you don’t want him to live?”

The doctor was satisfied with the outcome of the surgery, so Su Zhan’s words were no doubt a wet blanket.

Looking at how awkward things were getting, Shen Peichuan stood up to save the day. He took out his ID and said, “I’m from B City, and we’re in the pursuit of this suspect who escaped here. I shot him when we were chasing him. He’s a human trafficker, and the crimes he committed didn’t sit well with my colleague here. I’m sorry if he’s being rude.”

The moment the doctor heard that he had just saved a human trafficker, his joy from saving the patient disappeared without a trace.

“He really should have just died,” he snarled.

Shen Peichuan managed to slap the title of 'human trafficker' onto He Ruize.

"Send him to the ward first," Shen Peichuan said, waving his hand. His bodyguards immediately got to work.

Knowing Shen Peichuan's identity, the doctors were very understanding and cooperative with him.

Su Zhan walked over to the doctor and placed his arm onto the doctor's shoulder. "Is there anything we should take note of?"

"He should be fine as long as he doesn't move too much," the doctor said. He had lost all respect for He Ruize after finding out that he was a criminal.

"Doctor," Su Zhan whispered. "If I slap him a couple of times, will he die?"

The doctor was taken aback by this, but he coughed lightly to hide it. "Um...as long as you don't take out his tubes, a few cuts and scrapes shouldn't be life-threatening."

"Alright," Su Zhan said, patting the doctor's shoulder. "Thanks."

Su Zhan turned around to go to the ward, and the doctor shivered as he watched Su Zhan disappear down the hallway. He could almost imagine what Su Zhan would do in the ward.

He walked away quickly before he got dragged into any drama.

Back in the ward, a nurse was monitoring He Ruize's condition.

Su Zhan stood by the side and asked, "When will he wake up?"

"In about three hours," the nurse said, finishing off her checklist. "The patient just had surgery, so try not to move him for now. If anything happens, just call the doctor."

"Understood," Su Zhan said before Shen Peichuan could.

The nurse gave him a look and turned around to leave with the checklist in her hand.

The door to the ward slid shut, and Su Zhan walked to the bed to glare at the person lying on it. His clenched his fists so hard his knuckles cracked.

Shen Peichuan had a bad feeling in the pit of his stomach. "Don't do anything rash," he said, running over to pull Su Zhan away.

"I'm not going to act on impulse. Besides, the doctor already said that a few scratches won't kill him," Su Zhan said, attempting to push Shen Peichuan away. Shen Peichuan held on to his neck. "I'm angry too! I want to stab him right now, but can't you see that he's still

unconscious. What's the point of hitting him if he can't even feel it?" Shen Peichuan said desperately.

Su Zhan blinked. "You can't feel pain when you pass out?"

Shen Peichuan stared at him incredulously. "How are you going to feel pain when you're out cold?"

"But I can't just let him go like that," Su Zhan said, his chest heaving.

"When he gets better, I'll let you beat him up for all you want. In fact, I'll get you a knife personally even if you want to stab him. How about that?" Shen Peichuan reassured him.

Su Zhan looked at Shen Peichuan and finally understood what he meant. He grinned and said, "You're just scared that he's going to die?"

Shen Peichuan didn't know what to say.

"He shouldn't die now, but things might change in the future," Shen Peichuan said patiently. "You see, He Ruize had already been charged with previous offenses, and this would only mean an additional charge of escaping from prison. When we get him back into jail, you can do whatever you want with him as long as I'm there."

Su Zhan was convinced by that.

"Look, getting slapped is a really humiliating experience, so why don't you wait for him to wake up before you insult him?" Shen Peichuan said.

Su Zhan looked at the unconscious He Ruize. Indeed, no matter how much he berated or assaulted He Ruize, he wouldn't know a thing. There was nothing to gain.

"Fine. I'll wait till he wakes up for your sake," Su Zhan said, admitting defeat. "Let go of me."

Shen Peichuan patted his shoulder. "I'll make sure you get revenge for Grandma."

He slapped his chest to show his sincerity.

Su Zhan bumped shoulders with Shen Peichuan. "I'm leaving."

"Okay."

After Su Zhan left, Shen Peichuan walked over to the bedside and glared at the unconscious person lying on it. If that guy had woken up, Shen Peichuan would have beaten him up anyway, even if Su Zhan wasn't there.

He gave Lin Xinyan a call to tell her that Su Zhan's grandmother was fine, and to tell her about He Ruize.

Back at the hotel.

Lin Xinyan had just given her two kids a bath and dressed them in their pajamas. Lin Ruixi began to jump on the bed, and Lin Xichen joined in out of the blue, probably due to the joy he felt from finally solving his Rubik's cube. Instead of calling his sister childish, he decided to have fun with her for once.

Lin Xinyan couldn't help but smile at the sight of her kids having fun.

Just as she was about to put her towel away, her phone rang.

Chapter 282

She walked over and noticed that the call was from Shen Peichuan, and her smile turned stiff. She tossed a glance at her son and said, "Don't jump around too much, you'll sweat. You won't feel fresh anymore."

"Alright," Lin Xichen said, panting.

Zong Jinghao began to act strange after coming back.

Lin Xinyan wasn't sure what happened to him. When she was bathing the kids, Guan Jing called him, presumably to talk about work matters. He sat down in front of his computer after the call and hadn't gotten up since.

She answered the call and immediately said, "Gimme a second."

"Alright," Shen Peichuan said.

Lin Xinyan put down her towel in the bathroom and glanced at the scene behind her. The two kids were still hopping around on the bed while Zong Jinghao was still absorbed in his work. His slender fingers rapped on the keyboard, and he was completely oblivious to her going out.

Lin Xinyan held on tight to her phone and exited the room before closing the door behind her.

The moment the door closed, Zong Jinghao's hands froze.

He glanced at the closed door as a thousand thoughts ran through his mind.

Lin Xinyan walked to the end of the corridor, looking down upon the underwhelming city skyline, peppered with neon lights. She didn't know what to expect from Shen Peichuan.

However, she still had to face it, be it sooner or later.

She lowered her gaze. "Tell me."

"Su Zhan's grandmother is fine. You don't have to worry as Su Zhan isn't an unreasonable person, so he won't blame you for anything. They saved He Ruize's life too, so you don't have to worry about him as well."

Lin Xinyan heaved a huge sigh of relief. Thank goodness both the old lady and He Ruize were fine.

Even if He Ruize was a criminal, they shouldn't take it upon themselves to dispose of him.

"I'm quite curious," Shen Peichuan suddenly said.

"Of what?" Lin Xinyan asked.

"Was Jinghao actually looking to kill him? I know how his shooting skills were back when we trained together, and he only quit because of his family matters. If Jinghao had wanted to kill He Ruize, he wouldn't have missed by two centimeters, but if he hadn't, he wouldn't have aimed so close to his heart."

Lin Xinyan couldn't give him an answer.

"If there's nothing else, I'll hang up then," Shen Peichuan said.

Lin Xinyan hummed lightly.

She grasped her phone tightly and stood before the window, pondering over Shen Peichuan's words. She knew what he meant to say. If Zong Jinghao had wanted He Ruize dead, he could have killed him in one shot.

What was he thinking?

She couldn't think of a reason and she had no clue.

She wanted to believe that she knew him well, yet she doubted it very often.

Suddenly, she heard footsteps coming from behind her, and she whirled around to see Zong Jinghao standing at the other end of the corridor. The suit he had been wearing was creased from sitting down for too long, but it only enhanced his manliness.

Lin Xinyan had a strange sense of heaviness in her heart.

"Who was that?" He asked calmly, as though he was talking to a stranger.

Lin Xinyan furrowed her eyebrows. "Shen Peichuan. He told me that Su Zhan's grandmother was fine, and so was He Ruize."

He hummed and turned around.

“Zong Jinghao.”

Lin Xinyan called out to him, stopping him in his tracks.

He stopped, but he didn't turn around. He just waited for her to speak.

Lin Xinyan held her hands together tightly. “I heard from Shen Peichuan that you're really good with a gun and that you could have killed He Ruize in one shot. So why...”

“It was a mistake. I did want him to die,” he explained coolly.

He was indeed a genius at shooting, but when he saw He Ruize choking Lin Xinyan, he panicked and couldn't shoot straight.

Lin Xinyan watched as he walked closer to her. “Why aren't you happy? Did I do something wrong?”

Zong Jinghao's gaze was downcast with his long eyelashes concealing his emotions. “No,” he said after a long stretch of silence.

“Then why...”

“I'm just mad with myself.”

Before Lin Xinyan could say another word, he cut her off.

Lin Xinyan walked over and wrapped her arms around his waist, looking up at his face. “Why do you love torturing yourself so much?”

His eyelashes twitched and he gave a self-deprecating laugh. “I've never felt so defeated before.”

Lin Xinyan's heart ached. She could feel his disappointment.

Her arms tightened around her waist, her whole face buried in his chest. Zong Jinghao was making her anxious, yet she didn't know how to comfort him, and why he was acting like that.

“Did I make you feel that?” She asked, slightly panicked.

Zong Jinghao pursed his lips tightly.

He took He Ruize's words about Lin Xinyan getting back with him solely for the kids' sake very personally since he was sure that their reunion was due to other factors.

He had been avoiding those for ages.

When he heard someone else mentioning it, he couldn't help but feel unhappy about it.

He had never felt so beaten in his life.

Every time Lin Xinyan warmed up to him, he couldn't help but wonder if she was just doing it for the kids' sake.

Lin Xinyan was not used to him being like this at all. She was used to him being clingy and intimate, so this cold and distant side of him had frightened her.

"What's wrong? Can you tell me?" She asked, hooking onto his neck. She could see her distress self in his eyes.

"Do you think a person would do things against their wishes for their kids' sake?"

Lin Xinyan froze at his words, before recovering quickly.

"So you're taking his words personally?"

He remained silent, presumably agreeing with her.

"I don't think so," Lin Xinyan said, determined.

"I don't want to admit to it too, but I kinda like you," she said truthfully. She didn't want to lie to him, and neither did she want to lie to herself. "I can't tell you how much I love you exactly, but just know that I'm used to being around you like a married couple."

Zong Jinghao's eyes glinted. "Really?"

"Yeah, totally," Lin Xinyan said, pretending to be sarcastic. She let go of him and made a move to leave.

Zong Jinghao grabbed her wrist and pinned her onto the wall in one fell swoop. With one hand on the wall, he said, "No. What you said has been said, and you shall not lie."

"Why are you stopping me now?" Lin Xinyan said, trying to be as arrogant as she could.

"Hm..." He drawled, looking strangely flirtatious. "You're my wife after all," he said with a grin.

After that, he pressed a kiss onto her lips.

Lin Xinyan froze.

His lips traveled from her lips to her neck, before stopping at her collarbone, where he lingered for a long time, nipping it with his teeth without hurting her. "It's fine if you don't love me. I'll make you love me somehow," he muttered.

Chapter 283

What a conceited brat! Lin Xinyan thought.

However, she couldn't deny the fact that he was very attractive that way.

At that moment, the bodyguards at the lift lobby had finished their shift, and the sound of feet shuffling mixed in with voices permeated the air. "It's so much warmer inside..."

Suddenly, the voices stopped.

The person who had been talking stopped as he saw Zong Jinghao standing in the corridor...

He forgot to finish his sentence.

The other three wondered what made him trail off like that, and poked their heads out to the corridor. However...

Lin Xinyan could feel someone's eyes on her, and she pushed Zong Jinghao away.

"Hm?"

"Did you hear someone talking?" She asked quietly.

Zong Jinghao turned around.

"..."

They hadn't expected Zong Jinghao to turn around so quickly, and they didn't know how to react. They stood rooted to the ground as they were contemplating on how to explain themselves.

Lin Xinyan's face turned red-hot in a second. She looked down and tugged at Zong Jinghao's clothes.

That was so embarrassing!

Zong Jinghao looked down at her scarlet cheeks, and proceeded to pull her into his embrace. "Turn around," he ordered the audience.

He knew that Lin Xinyan got embarrassed easily.

The last thing she wanted to see would probably be those people.

The four men were surprisingly in sync as they whirled around.

Lin Xinyan walked into the bedroom with her head down, shoving Zong Jinghao away once they got out of the bodyguards' view.

"It's all your fault."

Doing it in the corridor and all...

Zong Jinghao bent down to look at her red face. How could she still be embarrassed about it?

She was strangely adorable, as though she was a young girl experiencing love for the first time.

A smile lingered on his lips as he pinched her cheeks. "I told them to turn around, so no one saw it."

"They did!" Lin Xinyan insisted, glaring at him.

He pulled her into his embrace. "So what?"

"Get off me," Lin Xinyan said, pushing him away.

That only made Zong Jinghao's embrace even tighter. "I love it when you blush," he teased.

How could he be so annoying?

"Daddy, Mommy! What are you doing?" The two kids that had been jumping around on the bed stopped playing suddenly and looked towards them at the same time.

Lin Ruixi covered her eyes with her hands, peeking through the gaps between her fingers. "Daddy and Mommy are going to kiss-kiss..."

"There is nothing to see here!" Lin Xichen said, covering his own eyes with one hand and his sister's eyes with his other hand. "Go on. We won't peek."

Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao made eye contact for a second, before turning their gaze to the kids on the bed. They didn't know whether they should laugh or cry.

Since when did Mommy and Daddy get along so well? Lin Xichen thought.

However, he figured that they could live as one happy family if what he just saw was real.

"Mommy, can you give us another baby brother or sister?" Lin Xichen asked, still covering his face.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

On the other hand, Zong Jinghao's face was creased with happiness. He was rather happy with what his son just said.

After all, Lin Xichen was his son, bonded by blood and all.

"Did you hear that?" Zong Jinghao said, hooking his arms around her waist.

Lin Xinyan's face turned red yet again. "You're taking the kids' words seriously?" She hissed.

"Why not?" Zong Jinghao said.

Lin Xinyan didn't know what to say.

"That's enough," Lin Xinyan said, breaking out from his embrace. "You're going to be a bad influence for the kids."

She walked over to the bed and took Lin Xichen's hand. "Kids shouldn't be talking like that."

"I didn't say anything wrong," Lin Xichen insisted quietly, slinging his hands around her neck. "I just wanted you and Daddy to have another kid so that you won't leave each other."

So that's why he wanted another sibling... "You kids shouldn't be thinking too much as well," Lin Xinyan said, ruffling his hair.

"Can we sleep together tonight?" Lin Xichen said, pulling her onto the bed.

"I haven't bathed yet..."

"It's fine. I don't think you're dirty anyway."

Lin Xinyan remained silent.

"Daddy, why don't you come along too?" Lin Ruixi asked, launching herself high using the mattress as a trampoline. Zong Jinghao caught her in mid-air to stop her from falling off the bed. "Be careful."

The little girl was in a good mood, and she hugged her father tightly. "I won't fall off. Come and sleep with us, Daddy."

Zong Jinghao glanced at Lin Xinyan discreetly and smiled.

The bed in the hotel room was rather wide, but it was barely enough room for four people. However, Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao didn't want to spoil the kids' excitement, so they relented.

The two of them took one side of the bed each with the kids nestled between them.

The soft orange light gave the room a warm, fuzzy feeling.

The two kids were in too good of a mood to sleep, and they begged Lin Xinyan to tell them a story.

Lin Ruixi buried herself into Zong Jinghao's chest. "Daddy, I want to hear the story about Sleeping Beauty."

Lin Xichen didn't know what to say.

His sister was still as childish as ever.

However, he decided to go along with it, since it had been a long time since they last cuddled together like this.

Zong Jinghao pursed his lips.

Seeing his hesitation, Lin Ruixi asked, "Daddy, do you know the story?"

Zong Jinghao began to panic. He had no idea how the story went, since no one ever told him about it as a boy. The few times he'd heard it, he'd dismissed them as childish fairytales.

"Um..."

Lin Xinyan decided to help him out. "How about Mommy tell you the story, Rui?"

Lin Ruixi blinked and pouted. "Daddy is so dumb, he doesn't even know Sleeping Beauty..."

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

Did he just get roasted by his daughter?

Lin Xinyan ruffled her daughter's hair, not knowing what to say.

"Mommy, you can tell me the story," Lin Ruixi said, glancing at her father. "Daddy, I want you to listen as well. I want you to tell me the story next time."

Zong Jinghao nodded obediently. "Sure."

Lin Xinyan paused for a second and started, "Once upon a time, there was a castle. On a rainy day, the whole castle shook with the cries of a newborn baby...the queen had given birth to a little princess. That was the king's first daughter, and as he loved his queen a lot, he loved his little princess as well."

When the princess turned one, the king invited many guests, human and angel alike, but he did not invite a certain evil witch.

The angels began to cast their spells on the princess. The first one gave her beauty.

The second one gave her intelligence.

The third one gave her courage.

Just as the fourth angel was about to give her blessing to the princess, the whole castle was engulfed in a chilling gale, and the evil witch appeared in black clothes and carrying a walking stick.

She walked into the castle with hatred burning in her heart. The king had not invited her to the princess's birthday feast, and for revenge, she placed a curse on the princess that would kill her if she ever pricked her finger on a spindle...

Before Lin Xinyan could finish her story, Lin Ruixi had already fallen asleep.

Lin Xinyan stroked her daughter's face, yet Lin Ruixi did not stir at all. Lin Xinyan grinned at how cute her daughter was.

Just as she was about to pull her hand back, Zong Jinghao's hand came to rest over it. She looked up and made eye contact with him.

"Just do whatever you want. Pretend that I don't exist," Lin Xichen said, pulling his blanket over his body and closing his eyes, as though he had fallen asleep.

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

Chapter 284

They decided to return to B City the next day, since both Su Zhan's grandmother and He Ruize were fine.

The trip had been smooth and free of incidents.

The new year was coming soon, and they don't have much time left to prepare for it.

Shen Peichuan volunteered to share a ride with He Ruize, and they trailed behind the group. Su Zhan and Qin Ya took the same car as Su Zhan's grandmother, while Zong Jinghao and his family took the RV.

The scenery outside was rather underwhelming. There was no liveliness of spring, no warmth of summer, nor the calmness of autumn; all that was left was the chilling wind.

Everyone remained silent throughout. They travelled half the distance in just half a day, which was much faster than when they came.

They got off their vehicles at the rest stop to eat.

The year was ending, and the rest stop was crowded with all sorts of people and vehicles.

Lin Ruixi needed the bathroom and Lin Xinyan took her there, while Zong Jinghao took Lin Xichen to the restaurant with Su Zhan, Qin Ya and Su Zhan's grandmother trailing behind them.

He Ruize had woken up, and someone had to watch him at all times so that he wouldn't attempt to kill himself or run away.

Shen Peichuan assigned some bodyguards to watch over He Ruize so that he could take a toilet break and go into the restaurant. Su Zhan's grandmother looked healthy, most probably due to happiness from seeing Su Zhan and Qin Ya as a couple.

Now that Su Zhan had gotten married, her last worry had been vanquished.

"Grandma, you're getting younger," Shen Peichuan said, sitting down.

"You're so good at making me happy," the old lady chided, though she wore a smile on her face.

"I'm just telling the truth," Shen Peichuan said, earning a hearty laugh from the old lady.

The food at the rest stop was rather lackluster. Shen Peichuan stuffed a mouthful of food into his mouth and said, "Let's just eat this to keep us going. We can have a feast when we get back to B City."

Su Zhan stood up. "I'm going to get something. Qin Ya, can you take care of Grandma for me?"

Qin Ya nodded.

"Uncle Su Zhan, I saw a stall that sells jackfruit just now. Can you buy some on your way back," Lin Xichen asked.

Su Zhan turned around to look at him. "You like it?"

Lin Xichen shook his head. "My sister likes it, but she doesn't really care what you give her, as long as it's yummy."

Su Zhan nodded and walked out of the restaurant. He stole a glance at Shen Peichuan talking to Lin Xichen, and his lips seemed to form the words, "You really love your sister, don't you?"

Shen Peichuan didn't notice his gaze. He sighed in relief and pulled the hat of his coat over his head and walked over to the car where He Ruize was kept in.

He glanced around to make sure that no one was looking at him, before he opened the car door. There were two bodyguards tasked with watching over He Ruize by Shen Peichuan inside.

One of them turned to him and greeted him. "Mr. Su."

Su Zhan glanced at He Ruize and laughed. "Y'all should go and eat. I'll stay here to watch over him."

"But Captain Shen said that he's coming to help us out..."

"He told me to come. Are you guys doubting me?" Su Zhan asked, visibly unhappy.

The bodyguard waved his hands in denial. "No..."

"Then get out!" Su Zhan bellowed.

The two bodyguards got off the car as Su Zhan slipped into it. "Eat faster," he told them.

"Sure."

After they left, Su Zhan closed the door and sat down, studying the restrained He Ruize from head to toe. He gave an evil laugh and warmed up his joints. "We meet again."

He Ruize glared at him, yet he couldn't move at all. His limbs had been bound together and a gag was even placed in his mouth, as they didn't want to leave any chances for him to escape or commit suicide. Shen Peichuan told him that if he wanted to die, the only place to do that would be in B City, and only after he got his sentence.

It's not like he would have an easy way out if he didn't die anyway.

"Why can't you move?" Su Zhan asked teasingly.

He Ruize knew that he was completely not in control of himself. He was like a piece of meat on a cutting board meant for others to toy on him.

He decided to close his eyes in the end so that he didn't need to look at Su Zhan.

"Huh," Su Zhan scoffed, taking out his phone and opening the camera app. "Why don't you let me take a couple of nudes and make it into a poster? Maybe I can put them in front of the He family's office doors and villa...won't that be exciting?"

He Ruize's eyes opened immediately and he glared at Su Zhan. If he could move, he would have gone all out in a fight with Su Zhan. If he died and his family gets dragged into this mess, then it would just be another crime of his.

“Haha,” Su Zhan laughed and looked down upon him. “You’re scared? Did you not see this coming when you threatened me the other day? Hm?”

He Ruize’s hands balled into fists and his eyes twitched. One could tell at a glance that he was going to explode from anger.

Su Zhan pinched his cheeks and gave them a few light slaps. “Tsk. Why is your face as rough as a dog’s ass?”

He Ruize’s face scrunched together into an ugly scowl.

Su Zhan felt satisfied seeing him like this. He bent down even further. “So you beat up my grandma?”

Piak!

The glass window of the car shook, and He Ruize’s face swelled up. A drop of blood hung at the corner of his lips.

Su Zhan shook the numbness out of his hand. “Man, it hurt so much to slap you! You don’t deserve to have dignity after all.”

He Ruize’s body began to tremble with anger.

“Doesn’t it feel amazing to be someone else’s ragdoll?” Su Zhan said while pinching his swollen cheek.

He Ruize hissed in pain.

Thump! Thump!

Someone knocked on the window of the car.

He turned around but he couldn’t see who it was. The window of the car had a black film over it that blocked out light completely.

He wound down the window and saw Shen Peichuan standing there, leaning against the car. “I think he’s had enough. Why don’t you go and eat?”

Shen Peichuan knew what Su Zhan wanted to do the moment he said that he was going shopping. However, he didn’t try to stop him.

If he didn’t let off some steam, he would brood over it forever.

Su Zhan pushed the door open and coughed to hide his embarrassment. “You’re done?”

Shen Peichuan pouted. "Yeah. I came to check in case you accidentally beat him to death. I would have a hard time reporting to my higher-ups if you did."

He would have to face the consequences if he didn't bring He Ruize back, since chasing after He Ruize was his excuse to be absent for such a long period of time.

Su Zhan huffed. "He won't die," he said, before shuffling back to the restaurant. He bought a whole jackfruit from a nearby fruit stall before he went in.

Lin Xichen's mouth fell open the moment he saw the jackfruit Su Zhan was holding. Didn't he ask for just one box of it? Why did he buy a whole jackfruit?

How were they going to cut it open?

Su Zhan smiled. "It's fresher like this."

Lin Xichen blinked. "You're going to cut it open?"

The fruit was delicious, though there was a huge seed in the middle that got in the way. However, the biggest challenge was cutting the skin of the fruit.

Su Zhan managed to take out his anger on He Ruize, leaving him in a good mood.

"Yeah, I'll do it. By the way, where's your dad?" Su Zhan asked as he left the jackfruit onto the floor and pulled a chair for himself.

"He went to look for my mommy."

Lin Xinyan had taken Lin Ruixi to the bathroom and had yet to return. Zong Jinghao decided to go look for them.

Considering the crowd at the rest stop, they might have to queue for a while.

Zong Jinghao had been frowning ever since they got off the car. He was not used to being in a crowded place. As he stood at the other side of the road waiting, Lin Xinyan emerged from the bathroom with her daughter.

Lin Ruixi saw Zong Jinghao and let go of Lin Xinyan's hand immediately. "Daddy!"

She started running but ended up crashing into a woman eating instant noodles by the side of the road. The noodles she was holding flew out of her hand and splashed onto her coat.

It was a white woolen coat, and the bright red soup formed a huge stain immediately. The woman's face darkened immediately. "Are you blind or something?"

Lin Xinyan ran over to apologize.

Lin Ruixi began to regret her actions. "I'm sorry..."

Piak!

Chapter 285

Before Lin Ruixi could even finish her apology, the woman's hand hit her squarely on her face. Lin Ruixi had never been slapped in her life, and her eyes widened immediately. Tears threatened to spill from her eyes.

Lin Xinyan froze. The last thing she had expected was for the woman to hit her daughter. She pulled Lin Ruixi into her embrace and glared at the woman. "How could you slap a child?!"

"Why did she run around in the first place? You're such a bad parent too. Look at my clothes! It's new! Give me the thousand I spent on it now!" The woman yelled at her. Her red lips, thick foundation, and her ugly snarl made her look like an unruly shrew.

"I didn't mean to..." Lin Ruixi cried.

"That's it?" The woman said arrogantly.

"How much do you want?" A low voice growled.

The man strode over with a scary frown.

He was about to go over when Lin Ruixi ran into the woman, yet a passing car got in his way. In just those few seconds, the woman had slapped his daughter.

The woman turned around at the sound of his voice.

Zong Jinghao was wearing a handmade suit under his unbuttoned coat which fluttered behind him, enhancing his domineering aura.

The woman shivered instinctively, the prior arrogance nowhere to be found. "This girl ran into me."

"I didn't mean it," Lin Ruixi repeated, sniffing.

Lin Xinyan hugged her daughter tight. She had never laid a finger on her own daughter, yet some stranger decided to give her a harsh slap out of nowhere.

"How much does your clothes cost?" Zong Jinghao asked, taking out his wallet from his pocket. He didn't have enough cash, so he signed a cheque instead. "Is a hundred thousand enough?"

He looked up.

The woman swallowed. A hundred thousand? Is he kidding her?

“I want cash!” The woman insisted, forcing herself to stay calm.

He didn't have that much cash on him at the moment, so he gave Su Zhan a call. “I don't care what method you use, but get me a hundred thousand in cash right now.”

Su Zhan didn't know how to react. A hundred thousand in cash? What's going on?

“Why do you need so much money all of a sudden...”

“Get it here in ten minutes!”

Zong Jinghao hung up after that. A crowd had formed around them by then.

Quiet chattering filled the air.

“That costs a thousand at the most,” someone whispered. “My bestie has the same coat and she's asking for a hundred thousand?”

“I know right! She's just a little kid, and it's not like she did it on purpose. Why is she being so unreasonable?”

“Didn't y'all see it? She hit the kid!” Someone who was there earlier said.

“She hit a child?”

“Look at that poor kid. Her face is red!”

“How could she? She's such a cute child!”

The woman began to panic when she realized that she had messed with the wrong people. The man standing before her seemed to be a handful.

“Fine. I don't need your compensation.”

Zong Jinghao didn't even bother looking up. “You don't get to say if this is over..”

Fear crept up the woman's throat, though she put on a brave front. “I'm not asking for you to compensate me anymore. Why can't you just let me go?”

“What in the world is going on?” Su Zhan said, appearing at the scene with a bag in one hand and Lin Xichen in the other, two bodyguards push the crowd aside so they could get the front. He walked up to Zong Jinghao and asked, “Why do you need so much cash?”

Su Zhan gave himself a pat on the back for coming up with a plan.

There were no banks near the rest stop, so he only had one place to go for cash. The gas station.

Just as he had guessed, there was an ATM at the gas station. He took out a hundred thousand in cash from the ATM.

Zong Jinghao gestured at the woman with his chin. "Give it to her."

Su Zhan turned around to look at the woman, taking in the soup stain on her clothes and the overturned bowl of instant noodles at her feet, and he instantly understood the situation. However, the coat she was wearing looked nowhere close to something that would cost a hundred thousand.

"How much did you spend on this?"

Before the woman could talk, someone from the crowd answered for her. "A thousand at the most My bestie had the exact same coat."

"Why do you want a hundred thousand for something that costs a thousand..."

"Give it to her!" Zong Jinghao yelled, cutting Su Zhan off. His dark pupils grew even darker.

Su Zhan noticed that something was off. He handed the money over to the woman.

She didn't dare to take it. "I...I..."

She was at a loss for words.

"My daughter ruined your clothes, so as her father, I have to compensate you," Zong Jinghao said, grabbing the money from Su Zhan's hand and tossing it onto the floor at the woman's feet. "Though, how am I going to deal with the fact that you hit my daughter?"

"What?"

Su Zhan and Lin Xichen were both shocked to hear that this woman had hit Lin Ruixi.

Lin Xichen began to tremble with anger. Did she just hit his little sister?

Su Zhan was furious too. How could she hit a child?

"I-I didn't mean to..." The woman said, her voice trembling.

"You're not getting off so easily!" Su Zhan yelled before Zong Jinghao could say anything.

"I don't need the money, you don't need to pay me for the damages..."

“Yes, we have to pay you for the damages, but you’ll have to explain why you hit my sister! She’s been a nuisance to me in the past, but I’ve never laid a finger on her even once! She had been my Mommy’s biggest treasure ever since she was born! If you’re not going to give us a good explanation today, I won’t let go of it forever! My daddy had said that we shouldn’t let ourselves get bullied just like how we shouldn’t bully others with our status and power!”

Lin Xichen was only five years old, yet his words were imbued with logic and reason. He looked like a mini version of Zong Jinghao beside his father.

However, all Zong Jinghao heard was Lin Xichen calling him ‘Daddy’.

Although Lin Xichen had accepted him as his father, he had never called him “Daddy”.

His heart ached for a second when he heard that.

“I said that it’s fine! Why are y’all bullying me?” The woman said, staggering backward and bracing for the worst.

She started regretting her action.

Why did she lash out like that?

However, she was truly angry since she had just bought the coat to wear for the new year; and it was ruined by this child.

“What do you by saying that we are bullying you? You started it!” Lin Xichen retorted. He would not let her turn the tables.

“That’s right! I’m sure someone here has seen the whole incident.” Su Zhan said as he scanned the crowd.

“I did,” a woman in the crowd said, stepping out. “I saw the little girl running after I came out from the bathroom, and she ran into the woman by accident. She apologized on the spot, yet the woman slapped her without any explanation.”

“She must be a really horrible person to have slapped a child like that.”

Chapter 286

The crowd started to condemn the woman.

She was obviously in the wrong for slapping a child.

The woman felt so ashamed and the redness on her face spread to her neck, and she wished that the ground would just open up and swallow her. Then, she turned around to leave.

Su Zhan was quick to block her.

“You’re trying to escape now?” He asked with a serious expression.

“I said that you don’t need to compensate me anymore! What more do you want?” The woman bellowed, annoyed by all the jeering from the crowd.

“We must compensate you for your losses, and so you must pay us back for slapping this kid too!” Su Zhan said, raising his chin.

The woman’s heart was beating like crazy. She had not seen all these coming, and she had no other options but to call her husband for backup.

“L-let me make a call,” she stammered, pulling out her phone from her pocket to call her husband.

He picked up very quickly. He started growling before she could say anything, “Did you fall into a ditch or something? Why aren’t you back?”

“I-I’m near the bathroom,” the woman stuttered.

“So why aren’t you back?” The man repeated, clearly annoyed.

“I got blocked by someone,” the woman said, still trembling.

“What?!” The man yelled as his temper flared up thinking that someone was flirting with his wife. He alighted his car and stormed to the bathroom area. “Who dares to block my wife?”

“My dear...” The woman whispered gratefully, as though she had found herself a straw to grasp onto.

The man walked over and craned his neck. “Who’s flirting with my wife?”

“Who would even want to flirt with her with such look?” someone in the crowd said.

The man immediately flew into a rage as he was embarrassed by the fact that someone had just called his wife ugly.

“Who said that! Come out now!” The man yelled, gesturing wildly at the crowd.

“Mister, calm down. That person didn’t mean to say that your wife was ugly on the surface. They probably meant that she had an ugly heart,” a woman standing at the front of the crowd said.

That made it sound even worse. Being called ugly on the surface was one thing, but being ugly at heart meant that the person had no morals or was evil...either way, it didn't mean anything good.

The man jabbed a finger in the woman's direction. "Say that again?"

"Your wife has poor manners," the woman explained.

The man was about to beat her up, but his wife pulled him back. "Don't make a scene," she whispered.

He was about to scold her when he noticed her soiled clothes. "Didn't you spend a thousand on this? Why is it so dirty?"

"My daughter did it," Zong Jinghao said coldly as he fixated his domineering gaze onto the man.

The man froze in shock.

"His daughter made me spill my noodles all over myself, and I slapped her out of anger."

The man couldn't hear what his wife said over the static in his brain.

It took a while before he finally recovered and said arrogantly, "Your daughter ruined my wife's clothes, so you gotta pay up."

"The compensation's right here," Su Zhan said, kicking the bag of money on the ground. The piercing red of the bank notes peeked through the opening, and the man looked down in utter surprise. That was a lot of money...

Something smelt fishy.

Even so, no one would reject free money.

He pushed his wife. "How much are you expecting? They gave you the money, so just take it!"

The woman didn't dare.

"My daughter ruined your wife's clothes, so here's our compensation for you. On the other hand, your wife hit my daughter, so how are we going to deal with that?" Zong Jinghao asked with a deep frown.

The man looked from his wife to the money on the floor, and then to the crowd around them, not knowing how to respond.

The woman tugged at him. "What are we going to do?"

The man gave the woman a look before slapping her squarely on the face. She was caught off guard, and she slipped on the spilt noodles before crashing onto the floor. She gave him an incredulous look while holding her face.

“Did you just hit me?”

The man bared his teeth. “Are you blind? Look at how well they’re dressed! I can’t bother with you anymore. Deal with this yourself.”

The crowd went silent in shock. This was one strange man.

Although his wife was in the wrong, all he cared about was losing his face.

Su Zhan smacked his lips. “Well, I guess birds of the same feather really flock together.”

The man had no sense of responsibility or a sliver of courage, whereas the woman was vain and evil.

Otherwise, she wouldn’t have slapped a child.

“But...” The woman tugged at the man’s pants, she was hoping that her husband would help her out.

“You made a mistake, you deal with it yourself,” the man said. Then, he kicked her aside unceremoniously and weaved his way out of the crowd while yelling, “What are you looking at?!” to the crowd.

The man was the woman’s last hope so she began to panic after he left.

“That’s karma for sure. It pays to be nice, after all,” someone said, pointing to the woman.

The woman knew that there’s no longer any point in asking for her husband’s help. Her dignity was in shreds, and she was convinced that men were useless.

The woman wiped her face and decided to get it over and done with. “I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have hit your daughter.”

Zong Jinghao refused to look at her, obviously unsatisfied with her apology.

He had never even thought about hitting his own daughter, yet this woman did it.. He was not going to let her go so easily.

“What do you want?” The woman asked pitifully. With noodles all over her clothes and her makeup smudged to oblivion, she looked like an abandoned stray dog sprawled helplessly across the ground.

“Which hand did she use to hit my daughter? Chop it off!” Zong Jinghao bellowed. Lin Xinyan flinched at the sound of that.

The woman’s eyes grow wide and she trembled even more. She dragged herself over and tugged at Zong Jinghao’s pants. “Please, let me go! I’m sorry!”

He hated getting touched like that.

“What are you waiting for?” He asked the bodyguards standing beside him.

The bodyguards rushed up to her and pinned her down with her hands behind her back.

The mascara and foundation that the woman was wearing were not waterproof, and they dissolved into her tears that rolled down her face. It made her look hideous.

The woman couldn’t care less about how she looked at the moment as she could only beg for her life. “I’m sorry! I’ll never do this again! Please let me go!”

“Humility is a good virtue” Su Zhan said coolly.

Chapter 287

Acting rashly could send one tumbling down into the abyss.

The woman was acting as if she was the best in the world just because she wore something that cost a thousand.

She had gotten herself into some serious trouble by that one action.

Zong Jinghao made no move to change his orders.

The woman was terrified. How was she going to live without her hand?

No, I can’t lose my hand!

Even so, she could not fight against the people standing before her.

Fear might have flipped a switch in her, and she broke free of her restraints all of a sudden, all before the bodyguards could react.

She barreled herself towards Lin Xinyan.

Zong Jinghao thought that she was going to hurt Lin Xinyan, and he kicked her away. The woman skidded sideways and crashed into a tree in the garden nearby, making it shake on impact.

Zong Jinghao's eyes were red with anger. "What were y'all doing? You can't even hold a woman down!"

The woman pressed a hand to her chest and coughed a few times. "I was not going to hurt her," she rasped.

She looked up at Lin Xinyan. "I just thought that I could ask you for some mercy, since you're a woman like me."

Lin Xinyan's face remained cold, not because she was heartless, but rather because the woman's actions were beyond her threshold.

As a mother, she felt guilty for not being able to protect her child from harm, yet she couldn't forgive the perpetrator so easily.

She was not a saint but an ordinary human and a mother.

"My daughter is only five, and I have never even scolded her, let alone hit her. Who gave you the right to hit her?" Lin Xinyan asked, her eyes reddened. "You probably don't deserve to lose your hand because of this, but you have to be punished."

The woman's jaw dropped, and she was at a loss for words.

Lin Xinyan hugged Lin Ruixi close to shield her from the violent scene that was about to take place. "I'll get on the car first," she said.

Zong Jinghao nodded.

"Wait.

Lin Ruixi looked up at Lin Xinyan suddenly. "Mommy, didn't you teach me to forgive and forget?"

Lin Xinyan lowered her head. That's right, she taught her daughter that.

One shouldn't be unreasonable, and one should forgive and forget once the situation is resolved.

Yet, she failed to do so.

As a mother, she felt furious and guilty the moment she saw her child getting hit by some stranger.

Lin Ruixi turned to look at the woman, who was still sprawled on the floor. "Do you know what you did wrong?"

The woman's eyes had lost their shine, and she scoffed at herself. "One mistake is all it takes to understand the people around you."

Her husband had been the sweetest man on earth before, yet he abandoned her and even told her that she was an embarrassment to him. She was left to fend herself.

Lin Ruixi sighed as she pitied the woman. "Mommy," she said before turning to her father. "Daddy, let her go. My face doesn't hurt anymore."

Zong Jinghao pulled his daughter into his embrace. Her soft skin was still tinged with red, and the slap mark was still visible. He reached out to stroke her cheek but ended up wiping his fingers across her forehead as he was scared that he would hurt her. His daughter had a kind heart.

Even so, the world had its ugly side.

"You sure?" He asked his daughter gently.

Lin Ruixi nodded. "Yeah. Mommy said that you should forgive as much as possible so that you can be happy."

Zong Jinghao raised his eyebrows. "What else did she teach you?"

"That we shouldn't go looking for trouble, and if others try to mess with us, we fight back with twice the power!" Lin Xichen cut in.

Lin Ruixi looked at her brother. "Mommy only told you that, not me."

Lin Xinyan took different approaches in educating her two kids. For Lin Ruixi, she did as much as she could to protect her from harm, and strived to shape her into a smart, compassionate and observant young lady.

As for her son, she taught him to be strong, determined, and fearless. She wanted him to become a reliable man when he grew up.

As a result, the things she told the two kids differed greatly as well.

"What does 'an eye for an eye' mean?" Lin Ruixi asked, blinking.

"It means that I will beat you up if you hit me first," Lin Xichen said without much thought.

"But it's not like you hit me back whenever I hit you," the little girl said innocently.

Lin Xichen resisted the urge to roll his eyes. Was his sister stupid or something?

"You're my sister, so it doesn't count! Mommy said that we share the same blood since we're twins, so I will never hit you no matter what happens. Mommy gave birth to both of us, so you're forever my little sister."

Lin Ruixi cocked her head to the side and pondered over it for a long while before saying, "Does that mean that if I slap her back, we'll be even?"

Lin Xichen put his arms across his chest and held his chin as he considered his sister's words. "Hmm...it should be two slaps, since she made the first move. We have to make her remember it somehow."

"Two slaps then!" Lin Ruixi said, looking at Zong Jinghao. "You can ask Uncle Su to slap her twice, and we'll be even. If you chopped her hand off, how is she going to eat?"

Zong Jinghao looked at his daughter's clear, innocent eyes, and was at a loss for words.

Lin Ruixi took her father's hesitation as doubt, and she wrapped her arms around his neck. "Daddy, just let her go..."

Finally, Zong Jinghao gave in to his daughter's pleas, not out of mercy, but rather his reluctance to let his daughter down.

However, Zong Jinghao asked the bodyguards to do it instead of Su Zhan, since their training made them much stronger than Su Zhan.

"Let's go," Zong Jinghao picked up Lin Ruixi, while Lin Xinyan took Lin Xichen's hand, leading them away from the scene. Su Zhan walked in front of them to lead the way.

One of the bodyguards held the woman down while the other administered her punishment.

They heard a loud 'piak' behind them as the bodyguard slapped the woman's face.

They could tell that the bodyguard had used quite a bit of strength.

Lin Ruixi lifted her head out of curiosity, but Zong Jinghao immediately pressed her head back down, blocking her view.

She poked her head out and blinked at her father. "Daddy."

"Hm?" Zong Jinghao hummed, looking down.

The little girl smiled. "Did you get angry because I got slapped?"

Zong Jinghao raised his eyebrows. "Why do you ask?"

"I can tell that you care from how angry you got and I am happy about it," she answered. The look of fear on her face had disappeared.

Lin Ruixi blinked and repeated, "I'm really happy."

Her Daddy loved her, and so did her Mommy and big brother. She felt like the luckiest girl in the world.

The slap didn't even make a dent in her world.

She had the protection of all her love ones.

Zong Jinghao's voice grew raspy. "Oh, you little dummy. Of course I love you dearly."

The little girl broke into a huge grin, her smile was just like her mother.

Zong Jinghao loved it, but when his gaze settled on the red slap mark on her face, the smile he had disappeared into thin air.

He hid in a corner of the car with his daughter refusing to talk to anyone.

Lin Xichen rolled the jackfruit Su Zhan bought over to his sister. "Do you want some, Rui?"

She shook her head, much to his surprise. "No."

Lin Xichen struggled to come to terms with the fact that his greedy little sister had refused an offer of food.

That was really strange.

Lin Ruixi snuggled closer to Zong Jinghao, as though she was trying to comfort him.

Lin Xinyan knew that Zong Jinghao was just brooding over the events of just now, and she couldn't help but blame herself for it.

The car slowly backed out of the rest stop and entered the highway.

Lin Xinyan's phone rang all of a sudden.

She pulled her phone out from her pocket.

Chapter 288

The screen showed an incoming call from Cheng Yuxiu.

She stepped back instinctively. She noticed that Zong Jinghao was holding Lin Ruixi, engrossed in caressing the latter's hair. She pulled down the curtain and received the incoming call.

"It's me." Cheng Yuxiu identified herself as the caller.

Lin Xinyan acknowledged softly.

He knew that Cheng Yuxiu would not call him unless there was something urgent.

“Wen Qing dropped by our house today. He asked me about tea silk which, he said, is now available in Baicheng.”

Lin Xinyan frowned, wondering why Wen Qing was so well-informed.

She suddenly clenched a fist tightly. Could he have discovered that it was a particular piece of tea silk which I had given Qin Ya to make her wedding dress? It was actually Cheng Yuwen’s gift to me.

“I am sure that he will look into the matter thoroughly. By then he will know what you have done. I am quite worried that...” She hesitated, reluctant to get Lin Xinyan involved.

She only wished to live in harmony with Zong Jinghao. As for the tea silk, it was nothing more than a worldly item, even if it was handed down as a relic of the Cheng family.

Lin Xinyan poked at the blinds, looking through the gap. She noticed Zong Jinghao holding his daughter. “Don’t worry; everything is going to be fine.”

“Both of you must be careful, now...”

“I’ve got something on. Bye.” Lin Xinyan knew what she wished to say; whatever she had decided, she would not reconsider.

She held her mobile phone, sliding her finger on the screen. Who is this Wen Qing?

However, just based on Cheng Yuxiu’s description, she knew that he was a ruthless guy, someone not to be belittled.

Otherwise, Cheng Yuxiu could not refuse to disclose more just for the sake of Zong Jinghao.

The entire journey was rather quiet. By the evening, they entered the territory of B City.

When they reached the inner city, it was already time for dinner. Everybody felt tired at the end of the journey. Su Zhan and Qin Ya brought the old lady home, Shen Peichuan needed to go back to his office to make arrangement for He Ruize before going home to rest.

Lin Xinyan went back to the villa with his wife and daughter.

Aunt Yu and Zhuang Zijin had gotten dinner ready for them, as both had been notified of their return earlier.

When they got out of the car, the bodyguard and the driver carried the luggage back into the villa. Zhuang Zijin missed the two kids dearly. When Lin Xichen stepped in, Zhuang Zijin hugged them and observed carefully whether and how they had grown.

“Where is Ruixi?” Zhuang Zijin looked at Lin Xinyan. At this point, Zong Jinghao entered carrying Lin Ruixi who was asleep. He looked serious and did not greet anyone, walking straightaway into the bedroom.

Zhuang Zijin was fast to notice Zong Jinghao’s bad mood. She asked the daughter, “What happened to him? He seems in a bad mood.”

Lin Xinyan did not say much in reply, so as not to make Zhuang Zijin worry unnecessarily. “Nothing; maybe he is tired.”

Zhuang Zijin did not really believe what her daughter had said. Since Lin Xinyan was unwilling to say more, she knew not to press further.

“Please come over for dinner which the dishes are still warm. Let me take care of the luggage.” Aunt Yu came up wearing an apron, smiling happily in welcoming them home.

“Put the luggage here and let me take care of them.” Aunt Yu signaled the bodyguard to place the luggage at the entrance.

The wind blew in through the door which had remained wide open. Lin Xinyan took off Lin Xichen’s overcoat; the latter had washed his hands before eating dinner.

Lin Xinyan removed her down jacket and placed it on the hanger. After washing her hands, she carried a bowl of rice together with some dishes on the dinner table in a tray, walking into the bedroom.

“Yan.” Zhuang Zijin called and stopped at once.

Lin Xinyan looked at her, “Yes, anything?”

“Nothing, you go ahead.” Zhuang Zijin waved her hand as she walked towards the dining area to get a bowl of soup for Lin Xichen.

Lin Xinyan could feel that Zhuang Zijin had something to talk about with her, especially after they were away from home for quite some time. “Mom, I will come over to have a word with you later tonight.”

“Good. I need to discuss something with you.” Zhuang Zijin confessed.

“What is it?” Lin Xinyan was curious to know.

Zhuang Zijin found that it was not convenient to disclose the topic of their discussion just yet because Aunt Yu and Lin Xichen were around.

“Later tonight, I will tell you when you come over to my room.”

Lin Xinyan nodded. As she carried the tray into the room, Lin Ruixi was fast asleep. Her dress was placed beside her while Zong Jinghao was sitting by her side, looking at her.

Lin Xinyan sighed quietly, putting the food on the table. “Eat something please.”

She picked up her daughter’s dress and put it on the hanger.

Zong Jinghao sat still. He had no appetite to eat, especially when he saw his daughter’s face.

Though the sign of her being beaten had almost disappeared, he was very disturbed by the incident.

Lin Xinyan came near him and placed her hands on his shoulders. She was happy to see him being so concerned about her children.

“Don’t blame it on yourself; it was just an accident.” Lin Xinyan tried to console him.

Zong Jinghao placed his hands on the back of hers and held them. She conveniently sat on his lap. They stared at each other, speechless. In fact, Lin Xinyan fought back the urge to tell him the matter about Cheng Yuxiu, on several occasions. She knew that it was irrational to tell him the truth which might ruin him, causing Cheng Yuxiu’s sacrifices all these years to be in vain.

She asked in a soft tone instead, “Are you still angry?”

Zong Jinghao mumbled affirmatively.

“That wasn’t your fault.” Lin Xinyan assured him.

Zong Jinghao lowered his head and squinted, “I really regretted the past six years of my life.”

He missed the time when Lin Xinyan had needed him the most, with the two children growing up.

“From now on, we’ll be staying together.” Lin Xinyan let out a laugh. She was beginning to feel uncomfortable with what had become of him now.

He looked serious. “How about you two have another child?” So that I can see you how you look like when pregnant; watch the baby grow day by day.

He wanted to fill up on something that he had missed with much regret.

Lin Xinyan had previously told him that her body was not fit for another pregnancy. That was the truth. However, despite this, she did not want to disappoint him. “Okay.”

Zong Jinghao held his hands around her waist. His chin barely touched her shoulder. He could smell her peculiar body scent.

In low yet clear words, he spoke flirtatiously, "Are you going to sleep with me tonight?"

Lin Xinyan appeared speechless. Why must you be so direct?

Lin Xinyan withdrew her hand from his shoulder. "Not tonight."

"Oh! Well?"

"My mom seems worried about something. I am going to see her after this."

"I can wait for you." He did not mind waiting. After all, you won't be sleeping with your mom tonight, will you?

Lin Xinyan felt cornered. Are you really that desperate?

Fearing that Zong Jinghao might say further, she told him what to do, "Eat your dinner first before the dishes get cold. Let me take a look at Xichen. I am also starving."

She had not taken any food the whole day.

Zong Jinghao pulled at her hands and smiled mischievously, "Let me feed you until you are full."

Lin Xinyan blushed immediately. She withdrew her hands from his grip and gave him a stern look, "Don't be so bad."

Chapter 289

"Hurry up, eat your dinner. Don't let the dishes get cold." Lin Xinyan pushed him again.

Zong Jinghao stood up and walked over to the table. "Aren't you going to eat dinner with me?"

"I have only brought in one bowl of rice, I'll eat outside."

"Stay please." Zong Jinghao sat down and pulled her to sit on his lap. Lin Xinyan stared at him, "There's only one bowl of rice."

"We can share it." Zong Jinghao picked some food from a dish as he fed it to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan simply obliged.

"How is it?"

Zong Jinghao fed her again, this time with lady's fingers that had touched her lips. "Aren't you starving?"

Lin Xinyan felt uncomfortable. I'm not a child, there is no need to feed me, please!

"You don't feel like being fed by me?" Zong Jinghao was sharp to read her body language.

She lowered her head and explained softly, "I'm an adult now, stop treating me like a child."

Zong Jinghao put the food intended for her into his own mouth instead, "Then, you feed me. I don't mind."

This made Lin Xinyan speechless.

"You may feed me like I am a child." He cast a playful look at her, "Come on, feed me."

The corners of Lin Xinyan's eyes twitched. She knew if she did not oblige to him, he would never stop giving her a hard time.

In order to extricate, Lin Xinyan used the chopsticks to feed him some prawn meat.

Zong Jinghao bit at the chopsticks and refused to let go of them. Just when Lin Xinyan was about to get angry, he quickly released them.

"Tastes very good." He smiled contentedly.

Lin Xinyan stared at him. "All along, the food prepared by Aunt Yu has been good."

"The taste is good because you'd fed it to me." He held her waist and looked up at her, "If you don't believe me, try it."

Lin Xinyan did not know what else to say.

She refused the offer. Zong Jinghao frowned, "Why? You don't like me?"

Lin Xinyan avoided his gaze. "No."

"Then, please eat it."

Lin Xinyan was utterly embarrassed.

"Please stop fooling around with me... "

Before she finished her sentence, a piece of prawn meat had been shoved into her mouth.

Lin Xinyan was shocked, her eyes wide open.

He grinned, "Isn't it sweet?"

Lin Xinyan had originally thought of spitting it out. However, Zong Jinghao had sensed her thoughts. He pushed her chin up so that the prawn meat would slide down her throat, leaving a strong smell of seafood in her mouth.

"Don't try to be funny with me." He laughed at his success in feeding her by a trick. Lin Xinyan did not want to look at him; she ate a morsel of rice. Zong Jinghao stopped his antics in fear of enraging her. He would then have a hard time to appease her, if at all.

It was only a bowl of rice with a few dishes, They devoured them all. Lin Xinyan took the tray out with the empty bowl and plates. Meanwhile, Zong Jinghao went to take a shower.

Aunt Yu was unpacking the luggage as Zhuang Zijin helped to bathe Lin Xichen.

Lin Xinyan cleared up the dinner table and washed the eating utensils in the kitchen.

Aunt Yu came to the kitchen while Lin Xinyan was busy with washing the eating utensils. "You must be tired by now after travelling long hours in the car. Let me finish the washing. You can go ahead and have a shower before you rest."

Lin Xinyan smiled, "I am not tired, really."

"Even if you are not tired, you don't have to do the washing." Aunt Yu pushed her aside gently and took out her gloves, "Young Master doesn't look happy today. Go and cheer him up."

Lin Xinyan preferred to stay in order to avoid getting with entangled with him. While eating an apple, she asked Aunt Yu, "His mother... "

Aunt Yu raised her head with surprise. She did not expect her to raise this matter. "You mean Madam?"

Lin Xinyan nodded. "Could you please tell me something about her?"

Aunt Yu was stunned at first, then she smiled affably, "No problem."

She is showing great interest in knowing more about Young Master. Does this mean that all these days Young Master has been away from home, she has fostered a better relationship with him?

"I followed Madam to the Zong family. I was a former maid of the Wen family. When Madam was married into the Zong family, I was sent over to take care of Madam. Madam and Master Zong's marriage was meant to make both families a strong alliance. Although they did not have true affection towards each other initially, they had still treated each other with all due courtesy and respect. They became closer after the birth of Young Master. After that, Madam

passed away due to illness. Within one month of Madam's death, Master Zong married the current ma'am."

Lin Xinyan took a morsel of an apple and chewed slowly. Her mind tossed with certain things which seemed inexplicable to her. Wen Xian has passed away. But Cheng Yuxiu said that Wen Xian was once pregnant. What has happened to her child? What about Wen Xian's lover? All of these seemed unanswered after her death.

Apparently, Aunt Yu knew nothing much. She did not even know that Zong Jinghao was not borne by Wen Xian.

"What do you think of Yuxiu?" Lin Xinyan continued probing.

Aunt Yu thought for a while, trying hard to give an impartial impression. "Although she married Master Zong at the wrong time, she was quite a nice person. It looked like she was in a good health. She didn't scold Young Master or torture him. She carried herself well. The point is, she did not have a child of her own. I really respect her. At that time, she was rather young. It is quite a sad thing for a woman not to have a child of her own during her lifetime."

Lin Xinyan squinted. The apple in her mouth had lost its taste after constant chewing. She recalled the call from Cheng Yuxiu that day; the latter had wanted to desist from re-introducing Xiangyun silk on the market.

Back then, Wen Qing had undergone pressure from her family, in terms of marrying Zong Qifeng. This was in exchange for the rescue of the Cheng family's ancestral business. However, Wen Qing had been principally motivated to proceed with the deal, as she was eager to stay beside her child, taking care of it. She was willing to do so, even though she knew that the child would be unaware of her true identity.

She could not pretend to be unaware of this side of the story. She knew that she had no right to pass judgment over the deal. However, she was sure that the Wen family had gone overboard in the matter.

Instinctively, she held her hands tightly. Once her mind was made up, she would not regret her decision.

Lin Xinyan still felt like asking Aunt Yu more about Wen Qing.

She had worked in Wen family before and would surely know something about Wen Qing. Before she could open her mouth, Zhuang Zijin's voice interrupted her.

"Yan."

After Zhuang Zijin had bathed Lin Xichen, she put him to bed. The latter fell asleep almost immediately because of tiredness.

Zhuang Zijin wanted to have a word with her daughter. Seeing Lin Xinyan in the kitchen, Zhuang Zijin called upon the former.

Realizing Zhuang Zijin's intention, Lin Xinyan put down the unfinished apple and approached her mother. "Yes, mom."

"Follow me." Zhuang Zijin turned around to step into her room.

As soon as Lin Xinyan stepped in, Zhuang Zijin told her, "Close the door, please."

After closing the door, Lin Xinyan sat by the side of her mother's bed. "What is it that you want to talk about, mom?"

Zhuang Zijin kept holding her own hands. She did not know how to put it. She was also worried about her daughter's objection to what she would say to her.

"All this while away from home, how have you been getting along with him?" Zhuang Zijin calmed herself down before asking.

Lin Xinyan knew who her mother was referring to.

Coincidentally, Lin Xinyan also wanted her mother to know her decision. "I am getting along quite well with him. I have decided to stay with him."

"That's good." That was what Zhuang Zijin had wished for. "After all, he is the father of the twins. Maybe it is fated. After so many trying times, you two have finally come back to square one."

She had her marriage arranged while she was a child. By a twist of events, she had given birth to his children.

Maybe, it was all fated.

"Yan..." Zhuang Zijin stopped with hesitation.

"Mom, go ahead and say what's on your mind. I am your daughter and not some stranger." Lin Xinyan held her mother's hands tightly.

Zhuang Zijin stared at her daughter. She waited long enough to muster up the courage to speak her mind, "I have decided to remarry Lin Guoan."

Chapter 290

Lin Xinyan was utterly shocked to hear what her mother had just disclosed.

Zhuang Zijin pulled her hand at once, "Yan..."

Lin Xinyan pushed her mother's hand away. She stood up and retreated from her mother. Her lips shivered with anger, "Have you forgotten that he had forced you to sign a divorce while you were pregnant? He then sent you overseas, not caring whether you could die or would live. You are telling me that you are prepared to remarry him?"

"Yes, I agree that he was very bad. But after so many years, he has mended his ways. He has frequently approached me, regretting what he had done..."

"And you believe him?" Lin Xinyan interrupted her mother angrily. She scratched her head in disbelief.

"Mom, how could you have fallen for his sweet talk? You must remember, he'd jilted you. He'd also jilted Shen Siuqing. He's just a heartless person. How could you believe his sweet words?"

Zhuang Zijin was unmoved. She lowered her head, "My decision is final."

Lin Xinyan leaned against the wall, staring at her mother. "So, this is what you'd wanted to inform me of today?"

"Sort of, yes!"

"I know that." Zhuang Zijin walked nearer to her daughter, intending to touch her daughter's hands. Nonetheless, her gesture was rejected, once again..

Lin Xinyan turned away, reluctant to look at her mother.

Zhuang Zijin withdrew her hands, fingers curving back in disappointment. "Anyway, I have made my decision."

There was no room for rebuttal. Lin Xinyan's objection was uncompromising. This gave her mother no other option, "I am moving out today."

"Why the rush?" Lin Xinyan was baffled. She could not stand her mother being so forgiving.

"Have you forgotten about Xinqi?" Though Lin Xinyan had loathed mentioning this name, she had hoped that it might persuade her mother to reconsider the matter.

Zhuang Zijin was overwhelmed with sadness upon hearing the mention of her deceased son. She could not forget him. It was for this reason that she had wanted to remarry Lin Guoan. It made her feel guilty towards Lin Xinyan.

"We have got our marriage certificate already," continued Zhuang Zijin.

Lin Xinyan wiped her face and smiled with disappointment. "You have already made up your mind, haven't you?" She took a deep breath, "As a daughter, I know that I have no right to

criticize your decision. You should've at least asked for my opinion. After all, we have depended on each other for so many years."

"I am sorry." Zhuang Zijin had failed to come up with any other reason.

"You don't have to apologize. This is your matter; it's none of my business. Do what you like." Disgusted, Lin Xinyan waved her hands in the air. She could not stay there anymore. She had feared that she would fall into a craze, saying offensive things.

"Yan..."

"That's enough." Lin Xinyan staggered out of her mother's bedroom.

She could not accept Zhuang Zijin's decision. In light of Zhuang Zijin's firmness, she knew that there was nothing that she could do to change her mind.

There was a glass of plain water. She gulped it down, shivering upon its coolness. She remained baffled as to why her mother had decided as such.

You should have known that Lin Guoan is a surefire trap. Why are you still walking right into it?

"Why?" Lin Xinyan put her hands on the table to support her upper body that had begun to slant slightly.

She raised her head when she realized that someone was touching her shoulders.

"What happened?" Zong Jinghao queried as he wiped her tears.

His gesture had only caused her tears to profusely drop.

She turned around and planted her head into his chest. Her shoulders continuously shook uncontrollably.

Zong Jinghao caressed her back tenderly. Given her emotional condition, he simply could not find out what had happened.

Leaving her room, Zhuang Zijin saw them in the sitting room. She squinted. "Please take care of her for me." After that, she quickly left, along with her baggage.

"Where are you going?" Zong Jinghao asked. It's already late at night.

Zhuang Zijin did not respond. Lin Xinyan roared, "Let her go!"

Zhuang Zijin's eyes were swollen as if she had cried for a long time. She had made up her mind to leave.

"I've raised her since young; life has been difficult for her all these years. If you don't mind, please help me take good care of her."

"I don't need that." Lin Xinyan interrupted, eyes blurred with tears. "If you can still remember the difficult times we'd gone through, you won't be willing to remarry Lin Guoan! Since you have decided to patch up with him, why bother whether I live or die? Go ahead and enjoy yourself!"

With strong emotions, Lin Xinyan kept shivering.

Zong Jinghao held her tightly in his arms. "Calm down."

Seeing Lin Xinyan so emotionally agitated, Zhuang Zijin sighed. She turned around and walked out without a word.

When the door closed, Lin Xinyan cried fervently, "Is her mind blind or what?"

Zong Jinghao did not agree as he readily understood Zhuang Zijin's purpose in doing what she did.

Lin Xinyan was so emotionally worked up that he knew that whatever he said would simply fall on deaf ears.

He could only hold her in his arms to console her.

"I was ten years old then. He divorced my mother in order to appease his mistress. He sent us overseas, where we were left to fend for ourselves. He did not care about us. Now, just because of some sweet talk from Lin Guoan, she is going to remarry him. I just wonder how she could have forgotten all the hardships that she was made to endure? How could she forget this irresponsible man who has harmed her so?"

"She probably has her own view. Or there may be something that must be kept secret... "

"How could Lin Guoan have threatened her? Even so, she could have let us know."

"You're too emotional," professed Zong Jinghao as he wiped the tears on her face. "You must calm down first."

He immediately carried her upstairs and let her sit by the side of the bed. He went to prepare a hot bath for her. When the bathroom was filled with hot steam, he came out. "Go take a bath and relax. We can look for her later and discuss the matter further when everybody has calmed down. You risk making the matter worse, by being so emotional."

Lin Xinyan looked up blankly with tears on her face. "Did I say something offensive just now?"

“No.” He combed her disheveled hair to the back of her head. “Listen, why don’t you take a bath and cool down. Get a night of good sleep. We can go talk to her later if you still think that she shouldn’t patch up with Lin Guoan.”

“While I was away, she applied for and obtained the official certificate in respect of her marriage with Lin Guoan.” Lin Xinyan looked teary-eyed again.

“Trust me. If your mother was under duress, I know how to cancel the marriage certificate.”

Tears were trapped in Lin Xinyan’s eyelashes. She blinked while putting her hands around his neck. Her tears dropped at once. “Are you serious?”

Chapter 291

He smiled with confidence. “I don’t lie.”

Lin Xinyan felt relieved. “It’s so good to have you around.”

Zong Jinghao kissed her long hair. “So, aren’t you going to be a bit nicer to me?”

Lin Xinyan wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes. “I’ll tell you what, I am going to take a shower.”

She was quick to ready herself for the shower.

Zong Jinghao stood beside the bed and laughed rather helplessly. He feared that he would have to postpone his wedding night.

Lin Ruixi woke up, just as Lin Xinyan was taking a shower. Having skipped dinner, she must have been hungry by now.

Zong Jinghao carried her downstairs and called Aunt Yu for help.

“Hey, Ruixi is awake.” Aunt Yu approached them to find that the chubby little girl had just woken up.

“She is hungry.” Zong Jinghao explained calmly.

Aunt Yu asked, “Ruixi, what would you like to eat?”

The little girl just woke up and she was still in a daze. She had felt hungry. “Anything that tastes good will do.”

“How about I prepare broth wontons for you?”

“Mm.” Still in a daze, the little girl answered affirmatively.

Zong Jinghao carried her to the washroom. He had wanted to wash her face to wake her up.

The little girl refused to come up and she insisted on clinging unto her father. Zong Jinghao kissed her face affectionately. “How I’d wish that your mommy is sticky like you.”

“Mommy?” The little girl scrutinized the surroundings and asked, “Where is my mommy?”

“Mommy has gone for a bath.” Zong Jinghao washed her face carefully. “Let’s eat our broth wontons.”

Aunt Yu had prepared broth wontons and fried eggs. She had even cooked a big prawn with tomato sauce to whet Lin Ruixi’s appetite.

The little girl’s sense of smell was truly wonderful. As she reached the sitting room, she was thrilled by the pervasive, saliva-inducing smell. “Wow, I can smell it. So nice!”

Zong Jinghao was stunned beyond speech. What a sharp nose!

The little girl seemed to behave well that day. Aunt Yu put a napkin in front of her while she started feeding herself with a spoon.

Zong Jinghao helped to peel the big prawn for her.

“Daddy, I want you to bathe me and cuddle me until I sleep tonight,” exclaimed the little girl while she was chewing food.

“Sure!” Zong Jinghao knew that she had needed loving care after what had happened earlier in the day.

In fact, he would accede to any request from Lin Ruixi.

“Here you go.” Zong Jinghao fed the prawn into the already wide-opened mouth of Lin Ruixi.

On the other hand, in contrast to the emotional ups and downs in the villa, Su Zhan and Qin Ya experienced a quieter life. They were just a handful of occupants there. The old lady had liked Qin Ya. They got along well.

The only thing was that they had gotten married in a rush. There was no time to ready a properly decorated wedding room.

Su Zhan did not like the old lady for being garrulous.

“We’ve got to get someone to renovate the house. And to buy some furniture too.” The old lady put a bank card in Qin Ya’s hand. “Buy whatever you’d like with this.”

Qin Ya refused to take the bank card. She did not want to use the old lady's money. She preferred to rely on what little money she had saved. "Thanks, but I can buy whatever I like with my own money."

"You two got married in quite a rush. No decorated bridal room, no betrothal gift; not even a proper wedding reception. You may not want these, but we have to give you what you deserve." The old lady explained her stance on the matter. "Anyway, the money in my bank account represents the money given to me by Su Zhan all these years. I don't get to use much of it. I keep saving for an occasion like this."

The old lady drew closer and whispered. "My saving is quite impressive, you know. If you don't like staying with an old lady like me, go buy and move into a new house, where you two can stay together. I don't mind, really."

"I don't plan to move out." Qin Ya felt like crying, as she was touched by the thoughtfulness of the old lady.

"I think that we are one family. We should stay together," urged Qin Ya with sincerity.

"My fear is that young people don't like me being so garrulous."

"We don't mind that, really." Qin Ya quickly assured her, "Whatever you say is meant for our own good." She turned around to look at Su Zhan who just put away the luggage. "Don't you agree with me?"

"I beg your pardon?" Su Zhan came over.

"From now on, grandma will be staying with us."

"Oh, of course." Su Zhan was glad that the old lady would no longer pester him to get married. Furthermore, with the presence of Qin Ya, he would cease to be the focus of her attention. That was why he was not repulsed by the idea of letting the old lady stay with them.

"I am tired of travelling in the car. I must now retire to bed. You two go to bed early. Tomorrow we are going to the shopping mall." The old lady did not want to interrupt too much of their time together.

She yawned and walked off, saying in a low tone, "When one gets old, it is easy to get tired."

"Time for us to go to bed." Su Zhan held the waist of Qin Ya as they entered the bedroom. It was a typical boy's room. Gloomy style and cool, with many law books placed on the desk near the window.

"In the future, you'll decide how we are going to decorate it," pronounced Su Zhan.

Qin Ya nodded. "The color scheme of this room is cold. It should be warm so that we can feel that it's our home."

“Do you find the old lady a bit too clingy?” Su Zhan came close to her.

Qin Ya thought for a moment. She recalled how understanding the old lady had been all these days, but the latter had seemed to be concerned with her and Su Zhan more than anything else.

Since Su Zhan was her only grandson, Qin Ya readily understood the old lady’s behavior.

“You may not feel uncomfortable with her just yet. In the days ahead, you will find that you cannot enjoy freedom anymore.” Su Zhan wrapped his hands around her waist to pull her closer to himself.

Qin Ya pushed him back. “How dare you dislike grandma for this? I am going to report this to her!”

Su Zhan came close to her, purposely blowing down her cheeks. “How would you like to complain?”

Qin Ya withdrew from him. “It is understandable for her to be messing around with us.”

Su Zhan smiled contentedly. “You’re such a good wife.” Because you’re so loving of my grandma.

He got closer to her. “I have a way to shift her attention away from us.”

“What...What’s that?” Qin Ya started to babble. By now, Su Zhan had cornered her to the side of the bed.

He whispered into her ears, “Simple. We’ll have a baby to keep her busy all day.”

“I don’t want...no...”

Qin Ya did not push him away.

Their clothes were in disarray on the floor. After a session of intimacy, Su Zhan held her in his arms and spoke his mind, “I am serious. It’ll great if we can have a baby.”

Nestled in his arms, she felt tired. She squinted and responded feebly, “I don’t feel like having a baby.”

Now was not the time for that. She was sure that the old lady would like her to have a baby as soon as possible. But she felt that her relationship with Su Zhan was not steady enough. In conclusion, it was not suitable to have a baby yet.

Su Zhan switched on the bedside lamp and turned around to look at her. “Why?”

Qin Ya opened her eyes widely, thinking about the best way to respond. It would not be nice if she was too straightforward. But surely, I cannot say that, since we'd just gotten married. We'd have a baby later when our relationship has become more steady. That will undoubtedly sound very hypocritical.

She replied pointedly, "I am still young. I don't feel like having a baby so soon."

Su Zhan touched her youthful face. It felt so soft that he feared that he would force moisture out from it, had he pressed harder.

"Then we put it aside." He switched off the lights and sneaked into bed.

"Su Zhan, I don't feel like it." Qin Ya pushed him away.

"But I want."

"Ummm..."

The bedroom bore witness to their acts of intimacy.

Su Zhan had hired a maid to look after the old lady. When the newly-weds got up, it was already 10 o'clock in the morning. They had really a good time last night, celebrating their love for each other.

The old lady readily understood why they had woken up late. In fact, she was happy to see Su Zhan and Qin Ya being so affectionate with each other.

"Hurry up, we'll go to the furniture shop after breakfast."

"I need to go back to the station to take a look." Su Zhan had been away for quite some time already. He needed to do just that.

Qin Ya also felt like visiting the shop. "Grandma..."

The old lady waved her hand in displeasure. "Today you mustn't go anywhere else. You must go with me to the furniture shop. Qin Ya just got married and moved in here. We have to replace some old furniture with new ones, especially your room, as it must be refurbished. The new year is coming. You must at least buy some new furniture, to give off the impression of a bride's room. Marriage is a one-off affair in a lifetime. Even if Qin Ya doesn't mind, I must insist on doing what is right and proper for her."

Su Zhan drank some fresh milk. "Yes, grandma. I'll do as you say."

He gave Qin Ya a wink, hinting to her that they had to bow to the dictates of the garrulous old lady with authority at home.

Qin Ya stared at him. "Finish your meal, please."

Su Zhan smiled most lovingly. "Yes, yes. I've got you."

After breakfast, Su Zhan drove Qin Ya and his grandma to the furniture shop located in the center of B City.

Su Zhan got down to open the car door for them.

"Su Zhan."

When he heard a most familiar voice call his name, he pulled back the hand which had opened the car door. He had seen Liu Feifei standing behind him.

Chapter 292

Liu Feifei wore a white down jacket with a pair of blue jeans along with a pair of black boots. Her jet-black hair was worn down, and it made her look as animated as she had been when she was younger.

At that time, she left without a warning or goodbye. He ran to the airport to ask for the reason as to why she had broken up with him, but she did not even want to meet him.

She then disappeared for ten years.

Su Zhan used to think that when he met her again, he would lose his sanity as he would question her about why she had left so determinedly.

Why she did had not even given him a reason.

But in reality, he never thought that he would be so calm when he met her again. Maybe the time had healed his wounds.

He averted his cold gaze and opened the car door.

His grandmother gave Liu Feifei a side-eye as if she never saw her. She held Qin Ya's hands and urged, "Let's go."

Qin Ya felt how nuanced the atmosphere was, so she looked at Su Zhan to try to ask him what was happening. But before she could do that, Su Zhan interrupted her, "Someone unimportant. Let's go in."

"Su Zhan, are you angry at me?" Liu Feifei asked Su Zhan.

Su Zhan laughed, and his laughter was as cold as the harshest winter.

Qin Ya, who was standing by his side, could feel his immense rage at that moment.

Her hands trembled unwittingly, and Su Zhan's grandmother noticed. Su Zhan's grandmother held her hands and explained, "This is Su Zhan's ex-girlfriend. They broke up a long time ago."

Qin Ya took a look at Liu Feifei. Sure enough, Su Zhan's temper rose because this woman had a relationship with him. After Qin Ya had found out of the woman's identity, she started to feel uneasy.

Su Zhan's grandmother gave Liu Feifei a dirty look and announced, "Ah, the mood is spoilt so early in the morning. Ya, let's go. We'll go inside."

She pulled Su Zhan along as well and stated, "You'll come too."

Su Zhan did not want anything to do with Liu Feifei anymore. It had been ten years already, so he had lost all of his feelings for her. All that was left in him was the indignance that he had felt ten years ago.

Liu Feifei bit her lip, "Su Zhan, I had a reason as to why I'd needed to leave ten years ago..."

"You have already broken up with Su Zhan, and he is already married. Please don't disturb him anymore. Ms. Liu, I think that you're not an immoral person that wants to be a mistress, right?" Su Zhan's grandmother interrupted Liu Feifei.

"Grandma, I..."

"Don't call me 'Grandma'. I can't handle that," Su Zhan's grandmother's stance was firm. She only recognized Qin Ya.

This woman caused Su Zhan to be depressed for a very long time because he couldn't move on from the breakup, and now she wants him to take her back again?

Fat chance!

Su Zhan will never marry you!!

"Su Zhan..."

"We broke up ten years ago, so I don't have anything to do with you anymore. I also don't want to ask or talk about what had happened then." Su Zhan held Qin Ya's hands, "Let's go."

Liu Feifei frowned. She had heard that Su Zhan was unmarried and did not even have a legitimate girlfriend after all these years. How did a woman just appear out of nowhere? And besides that, they're even married?

No matter whether he's married or not, I'll get him back this time.

I've already made the wrong choice once, so I can't lose him again!

She had just come back and she wanted to pick out some furniture, but now she did not have the mood to do so anymore. She turned around and left.

Upon Liu Feifei's sudden appearance, the atmosphere between the three of them had changed. Qin Ya could feel that Su Zhan was more silent than he was before. When she asked for his opinion, he would say distractedly, "Whatever you like," humoring her.

Qin Ya looked down and suggested, "I think that we shouldn't spend our time here anymore. I want to go to the clothing store. I want to check on it since I've left it for a very long time."

"Just buy something since we're already here." Su Zhan's grandmother tugged on Qin Ya.

Qin Ya looked at Su Zhan, "If the heart is gone, no amount of expensive furniture or cozy decorations can keep it."

Su Zhan looked up and met Qin Ya's clear gaze. He froze for a moment. Qin Ya had never said that she had wanted anything, even after I've married her. Furthermore, I was the one who had tried to marry her by hook or by crook.

I shouldn't neglect her feelings after I've met Liu Feifei.

He gulped and explained, "She was my first love, and we used to love each other a lot. But, we broke up, so now we have nothing to do with each other anymore. I'm feeling emotional now not because I still love her, but because I'm shocked at this reunion after ten years."

Qin Ya felt that it would be petty of her to press the issue any further since Su Zhan was being so honest with her. Besides that, it has been ten years. Ten whole years. Over three thousand days. I'm sure that even the strongest relationship will dissipate after that amount of time.

She held his arms. Even though she had reasoned it out with herself clearly, she could not help but be afraid, and her voice trembled, "Do you know how much courage it took for me to marry you? If you still love her, just say it. But, you can't meet with her behind my back or lie to me when you know that you're still in love with her."

Su Zhan's thoughts were in shambles.

"Ya, don't worry. If he dares to meet Liu Feifei, I'll be the first one to break his legs. The Su family will only recognize you," assured Su Zhan's grandmother sternly.

Su Zhan patted Qin Ya's hands, "Don't worry. Even Grandma is on your side."

"I think that you should change your bed." Su Zhan's grandmother walked into a furniture shop that specialized in beds, "Su Zhan's bed is too narrow. It's not in trend anymore."

"Grandma, then what's the trend nowadays?" Su Zhan approached her, deliberately asking.

Su Zhan's grandmother thought about it for a while and pointed at a European styled bed with a white leather headboard, "I think that this one is good. It's suitable for you youngsters."

"Only youngsters with bad taste will like this," chastises Su Zhan.

She then slapped his body and questioned, "Then tell me which one looks good?"

"Let's go. I'll bring you somewhere." Su Zhan held onto Qin Ya, and the atmosphere was as light and cheery as it had been before. It was almost as if they had never met Liu Feifei.

"Where are you bringing us?" Qin Ya asked.

Su Zhan lowered his head and kissed Qin Ya on her forehead, "You'll know when we arrive."

Afterwards, Su Zhan brought them into a very large furniture shop. Oriental furniture was displayed there, and the furniture had a modern feel.

"This is called the Modern Chinese style, and it's in trend nowadays. Let's take a look?" Su Zhan asked.

Qin Ya eyes lit up, "Let's go."

Modern Chinese furniture uses a lot of hardwood, and they are often colored in deep tones. Along with their modern design, it made them look timeless, and it grew on Qin Ya the more she looked at it.

"I like that." Qin Ya took a fancy to a hardwood bed. The headboard was high, but it didn't have a lot of superfluous decorations on it. The bed was dark in color, so it made it look very grounded and tasteful.

"Since you like it, let's buy the whole set," Su Zhan passed her a catalogue and explained, "The whole set consists of everything in a house. Take a look at it."

Qin Ya took the catalogue and browsed through it, before saying, "But our house's style doesn't really fit this furniture."

"We'll renovate it after the new year," said Su Zhan's grandmother. New year's day is coming soon, so there is no time to renovate the house before then.

Su Zhan thought about it and suggested, "Let's buy a villa. It's big enough for our kids to have space to play around in the future. There's a lot of memories in our old house as well, so let's keep it still."

Su Zhan's grandmother looked at Su Zhan's belly and was so excited that she stuttered, "Y-Ya is pregnant?"

Qin Ya blushed and glared at Su Zhan, "You're spouting nonsense again and that made Grandma misunderstand you."

Su Zhan smiled, "It's only a matter of time."

"Yes, yes. I want to carry my grandchildren soon." Su Zhan's grandmother agreed.

Su Zhan decided to buy a new house simply because Qin Ya had taken a liking towards the set of furniture.

They were not browsing through furniture anymore. Instead, they were now buying a house.

After they stepped out of the furniture shop, Su Zhan sent his grandmother back home, before bringing Qin Ya to her shop. He looked at Qin Ya and said, "Just call me when you get off your work. I'll pick you up."

Qin Ya nodded, "Alright. Drive safe."

"Mm. I'll leave once I see you get in." Su Zhan's hands were placed on the steering wheel as he looked at Qin Ya.

Qin Ya smiled softly and headed to her shop.

Su Zhan only left after Qin Ya went in.

The law firm could still function without Su Zhan because all the lawyers inside were very competent. Su Zhan just wanted to check on it because he had not been there in a while.

"Boss, there's a lady looking for you. She's in the guest's room now." Su Zhan's assistant announced once Su Zhan stepped in.

Chapter 293

Lady?

Su Zhan did not put a lot of thought into it. He had not thought that it would be Liu Feifei, because they had only just met, earlier. He thought that she would not come to look for him here.

Besides that, he was a renowned lawyer, so there was a lot of people looking for him anyway.

"Make me a cup of coffee and send it in."

"Alright." The assistant went to the pantry while Su Zhan stepped into the guest room. He opened the door and realized that Liu Feifei was waiting on the sofa. She was looking at the

time, and she seemed to be quite anxious from waiting. She immediately looked up when she heard the door opening.

Su Zhan immediately turned around and left when he saw that she was here.

Liu Feifei caught up to him, "Su Zhan..."

He turned around and warned her, "Don't come and look for me anymore. I'm a married man."

Liu Feifei ignored Su Zhan's repulsion. She grabbed his arms and professed, "I went to your house to find you yesterday, but I couldn't see you."

"So what do you want?" His gaze was cold as he glared at her hands which were holding onto his arms. He articulated carefully, "Don't tell me, you want to get back together with me?"

His voice suddenly turned icily cold, "Liu Feifei, we've already broken up"

Why are you looking for me?

"If you want to disappear, disappear from my life completely. Don't show up for the rest of my life!"

Afterwards, Su Zhan shook her hands off.

"I didn't mean it..."

Su Zhan refused to listen to her explanation. When his assistant had arrived with the coffee, he bellowed coldly, "Don't allow this woman to come in the next time"

Su Zhan rarely lost his temper in front of his assistant before, so his assistant quickly agreed.

Liu Feifei held back her tears, "Alright, I won't ever show up anymore."

Afterwards, she headed out. She had seen the assistant, but she deliberately ran into him. The cup of coffee was shattered on the floor with a loud Crash, and hot coffee spilt all over her.

The assistant immediately started to help her wipe off the coffee, as he asked, "Are you scalded? This coffee is freshly brewed."

Su Zhan's hands clenched into fists on his side, and he seemed to be suppressing something.

Liu Feifei saw that Su Zhan was standing motionless, so she cried out, "If it was before, you would definitely check on me to see if I was scalded or not. Your heart would ache for me. You hate me just because I left, right?"

Su Zhan did not speak.

The assistant picked up the fragments of the shattered mug and retreated quietly. This woman had a relationship with Su Zhan. I shouldn't be a third wheel here.

"Su Zhan, I love you, and that has never changed. It's up to you if you believe it or not. Since you don't want to see me, I won't show up ever again." After announcing this, she turned around and left.

This time, she left without any hesitation.

Because she was sure that Su Zhan would chase after her.

He used to love me so much.

Su Zhan's head throbbed, and there was a voice in his head that told him that he should catch up to her to ask why she had left ten years ago. But there was another voice asking him to not catch up with her. "You're already married, so you shouldn't get involved with your ex anymore," reasoned the voice.

In the end, he followed her out, not because he loved her, but because he had wanted an answer.

Liu Feifei intentionally decreased her pace after she walked out of the law firm because she was deliberately waiting for Su Zhan to catch up.

"Tell me, why did you leave ten years ago?" Su Zhan stood at the door as the cold breeze ruffled his hair.

He looked at the silhouette of the one he had used to love.

Liu Feifei heard him, but she pretended not to. She hurried her footsteps.

At that moment, there was a car speeding down the road.

Liu Feifei's expression darkened. Su Zhan followed me out after so much hesitation, which means that he doesn't feel as strongly for me anymore. He is already married now, so the only reason why he wants to stop me from leaving is probably because of the feelings we used to have. It probably won't be enough for him to return by my side. She then steeled her heart and charged out to the road.

"Feifei-" Su Zhan raced towards her.

"Screech-"

The screech of the brakes was jarring enough to almost burst one's eardrums!

But the car could not stop in time. Liu Feifei's body was sent flying with a loud Bang.

The driver was so astonished that he froze.

Su Zhan ran over and carried Liu Feifei's head. There was blood on her forehead, and she had fallen unconscious.

He patted her face and called out, "Feifei, Feifei."

There was no response whatsoever.

At that moment, the driver stepped out of his car, clearly petrified, and he stuttered out of fear, "S-she's not dead right?"

Su Zhan casted a cold glance, "How do you even drive?"

"She was the one who ran out to the streets. I didn't want to ram into her. It's not my fault..."

"Stop talking nonsense. Send her to the hospital." Su Zhan carried her up. When he saw that the driver was still standing motionless, he bellowed, "Are you not starting your car yet? Do you see what's behind you? Do you believe that even if it's not your fault, I can make it your fault?"

The driver turned around and saw that a law firm was behind him. Is this guy a lawyer?

He immediately opened his car door.

Lawyers are morally ambiguous.

Skilled lawyers are cunning and adaptable, and they can twist the truth around and make falsehoods into truths.

It's a good thing if they want to help an innocent person. But if they wanted to help a criminal, the criminals will just remain unchecked by the law.

It's not a wise idea to offend these kinds of people.

The driver immediately drove to the hospital as Liu Feifei was sent to the emergency room. Su Zhan waited outside. The driver was scared that something would happen to Liu Feifei and that he would need to take responsibility for it, so he explained, "I was just driving normally until she suddenly ran out onto the road. It's really not my fault."

Su Zhan stared at him coldly, "If she's fine, it's not your fault. If she's not, don't expect to go away scot-free."

“W-what do you mean?” The driver pointed at Su Zhan, “Are you bullying me?”

Su Zhan smiled coldly and put the driver’s outstretched finger down, “Do you know that being so reckless is very incriminating?”

The driver immediately retracted his hand. He was so terrified that he did not dare to speak anymore.

After a while, the emergency room’s door opened and Liu Feifei was pushed out. Her wounds had been cleaned, but she was still unconscious.

The doctor walked out and remarked, “There are no serious injuries on her. She just had a mild concussion, and we have already treated her wounds. I prescribed some medicine, so just go take it from the pharmacist. She’s in the ward now, and she can be discharged once she wakes up.”

“Alright. Thank you,” addressed Su Zhan.

The driver patted his chest, “Thank God she’s alright. Thank God she’s alright.”

The driver was scared that something might happen to Liu Feifei and that he would need to pay for it.

Su Zhan took a look at him and threw the doctor’s prescription into his arms, “Go and take the medicine and send it up here.”

“About the money...” The driver looked at Su Zhan, “You should’ve seen it too. She was the one walking onto the street, and it has nothing to do with me. I shouldn’t be paying for this.”

Su Zhan took out his wallet and gave him some cash. It really was Liu Feifei’s fault. She seemed to walk away quickly because she wanted to avoid me. She must’ve been very angry to not see the car speeding on the road. “Keep your eyes on the road the next time,” Su Zhan said to the driver.

“Yes, yes.” The driver hurriedly agreed when he received the money. He could agree to anything if that meant that he did not need to pay.

Liu Feifei only woke up in the afternoon.

Su Zhan had asked the driver to leave.

After all, the driver was not responsible for the accident, and Liu Feifei was alright.

Su Zhan stayed because he could not walk away from an injured person, regardless of the problems between them.

“Urgh, it hurts.” Liu Feifei frowned as she reached for her forehead.

Su Zhan stopped her, "Don't touch it. There's a wound there."

Liu Feifei looked at him, "Su Zhan? -You're concerned about me?"

Chapter 294

Su Zhan retracted his hands and responded flatly, "We know each other."

Liu Feifei grabbed his hands tightly and protested, "No, you are concerned about me. You used to love me a lot..."

"That was in the past." Su Zhan's tone darkened.

Liu Feifei released his hands and her parched lips twitched, "If you don't love me anymore, why are you still here?"

"You're injured..."

"That's not an excuse!" Liu Feifei looked at him emotionally, "Su Zhan, do you remember the first time we kissed?" She did not care if he was listening or not as she rambled on, "It was a sunny and beautiful day, and it was right before we had graduated from our universities.

You came to look for me, and coincidentally the movie 'My Ex' was playing. You bought the ticket and asked me to come with you. The movie was about love and conflict, and the couple broke up because of something. You hugged me and said that you would be together with me forever."

Su Zhan lowered his head as he remained silent.

He remembered that he did say that.

Liu Feifei looked out of the window and continued, "It was very dark, and we sat at the front of the cinema. You kissed me. It was your first time, and it was mine as well." She turned to look at Su Zhan, "Do you remember?"

Su Zhan gulped, "Tell me, why did you leave?"

Liu Feifei looked relieved, as she smiled bitterly, "You're already married. What's the point of me saying anything anymore?"

She closed her eyes, and it seemed like she was tired and disappointed, "Just leave."

Su Zhan clenched his fists, "Let me send you back."

"No need. I can walk." Liu Feifei refused.

“Feifei...”

“Don’t call me like that because I’ll think that you still love me,” She opened her eyes slowly and looked at him, as tears streamed down her face, “I thought that you would always be waiting for me...I was wrong. I thought that our relationship would withstand the test of time, but it was just my wishful thinking.”

“If you had given me a reason, I would’ve waited for you.” Su Zhan stared at her.

Liu Feifei laughed. She did not explain why she had left and why she had returned. She ignored him, stepped out of the bed and put on a jacket. She pointed at the medicine on the table and asked, “Is it mine?”

Su Zhan responded with a ‘Yes.’

Liu Feifei stood up and headed towards the door. She opened the door and clutched her forehead as her body trembled.

Su Zhan helped her up, “What happened?”

Liu Feifei shook his arms away, “My health is none of your concern.”

“If you don’t want anything to do with me, why did you show up?” Su Zhan was angry as well. She was the one not explaining anything, and now she’s blamed me for not waiting for her.

“I was wrong. I shouldn’t have come to look for you. I will disappear from your sight.” Liu Feifei then walked out.

She looked very frail, and she walked slowly.

Su Zhan stood motionless for a few minutes, before he chased after her, grabbing her wrists, “You’re leaving just like that? You don’t get to call the shots this time!”

Wheeze~

Liu Feifei inhaled sharply.

Su Zhan let go of her urgently, “Did I hurt you?”

Liu Feifei shook her head.

“Where do you live. I’ll send you back,” offered Su Zhan.

He did not know what he was thinking. All he knew was that it was unsafe for her to go back alone.

“Dongta Street, Number 118.” Liu Feifei said flatly.

Su Zhan froze. That was a place that had almost faded in his memory.

“W-Why did you choose that place?”

“Because my memories are there. Beautiful, yet unforgettable, memories.” Liu Feifei looked at Su Zhan, “You must’ve forgotten, right?”

Su Zhan regained his senses. He avoided her gaze and put on a calm facade, “I’ll send you back.”

He took Liu Feifei by her arms and held her medicine for her.

Liu Feifei did not speak anymore, because she knew that what she had done was enough to sway Su Zhan’s heart.

When they reached the hospital entrance, Su Zhan stopped the car and helped Liu Feifei into the car. He sat in the passenger’s seat.

They were silent on their way there.

Su Zhan was silent, only returning from his wandering thoughts after the driver had reminded them that they had arrived.

He paid the driver and opened Liu Feifei’s door to help her out.

As they walked through the familiar corridor, Su Zhan’s body tensed up.

This was an old place, so there were no elevators here. Fortunately, this place was well-maintained and clean. The walls were even repainted.

When they arrived at Liu Feifei’s apartment lot, she took out her keys and opened the door. It was an apartment studio, and the rent was cheap because the entire place was quite old. Liu Feifei rented this place during university days using the money she had earned from part-time jobs.

Su Zhan was not rich back then as well. After he had graduated from his university, and after he had recovered from his slump after breaking up with Liu Feifei, he managed to become wealthy. During those years, all he did was lawsuits, and he had accepted all sorts of lawsuits. He became famous because of this, so he started a law firm and his business was booming because of his hard-earned fame.

After some time, he was very well-known in the industry and people thought highly of him.

The room was just as it was before. He used to come here a lot with Liu Feifei when they were still together. A loveseat was placed by the wall, and it was covered with beige velvet. It was not made up of very expensive material, but it was very comfortable to sit in. The white

curtains and the wooden bookshelf by the wall were still the same. She used to love reading books.

“I’m sorry. It’s quite messy today. I went to the furniture shop today because I had originally planned to replace these.” Liu Feifei poured him a glass of water.

Su Zhan’s voice was hoarse, “Why do you want to replace it?”

Liu Feifei took the glass of water and stared at the sofa, “I’ll think of things that I shouldn’t be thinking of when I look at it.”

Su Zhan’s hands clenched tightly.

Liu Feifei passed the glass of water to him and urged, “Go home after you’ve drunk the water. I’ve reached home anyway.”

Su Zhan did not take the glass of water from her hands. Instead, he carefully articulated his question, “Tell me, why did you come back?”

Liu Feifei replied in the same fashion as she met his gaze, “Would you believe it if I said that it was because of you?”

His voice was low, “I won’t.”

If she really loved me and cared about me, she never would’ve left so ruthlessly like that. She didn’t even give me a reason why she left.

Liu Feifei turned around and placed the glass of water on the table. As her back faced Su Zhan, she lamented, “It doesn’t matter if you don’t believe me. If I were to think about it again, I’d realize that I was being rash. I wouldn’t believe me if I were you either. It’s late now. You should go back.”

Su Zhan remained motionless.

Liu Feifei could see Su Zhan from the mirror and she smiled, “Your wife is still waiting for you at home, right?”

Su Zhan’s heart trembled when he thought about Qin Ya, “Take care of yourself.”

After which, he turned around and headed towards the door. As he reached the door...

Bang!

Su Zhan turned around and he saw that Liu Feifei had fallen down. The glass had fallen onto the floor as well. He turned around and helped her up, “What happened?”

Liu Feifei shook her head to show that she was fine, “I just blacked out suddenly. I lost my balance and fell.”

“The doctor said that you have a mild concussion.” Su Zhan helped her to the sofa.

“I’m a bit hungry.” Liu Feifei looked at Su Zhan, “Can you cook a bowl of noodles for me first before you leave?”

Su Zhan hesitated.

“Alright, I was being crass. I’ll do it myself. You can go back.” After which, she tried to stand up.

But Su Zhan pressed her down, “I’ll do it.”

He removed his jacket and went to the kitchen. It was an open kitchen. It was not big, but it had everything a cook needed.

Buzz buzz-

Suddenly, the phone in Su Zhan’s jacket’s pocket buzzed.

Liu Feifei took a look at Su Zhan and saw that he was busying himself in the kitchen, so he did not hear the buzzing. She took out the phone and placed it into her pocket as she declared, “I’m going to the bathroom.”

Su Zhan did not turn around. Instead, he just replied in acknowledgement.

Liu Feifei walked to the bathroom and closed the door. She took out the phone, and the words ‘Qin Ya’ was written on it.

Her expression darkened. His wife’s name is Qin Ya.

She pressed the accept button.

Qin Ya was standing outside of her shop’s door. She held her jacket in one hand, while she held her phone in another. Once the call went through, she immediately asked, “Su Zhan, where are you? Pick me up. I’m waiting outside the shop.”

“Hi. You must be Su Zhan’s wife. He’s cooking some noodles for me.”

Chapter 295

It was like a bolt from the blue to Qin Ya. Who’s this woman?

She had made some initial guesses, but she did not want to admit that Su Zhan would meet his ex behind her back.

But if he didn't meet her, who's this on the phone?

She clenched her phone tightly, and she did not speak.

"I'm Liu Feifei. We met outside of the furniture shop today." Liu Feifei took a look at the mirror. The woman in the mirror was still beautiful, and the only change in her appearance was that she had an extra wrinkle that had appeared next to her eyes. Nonetheless, it did not make her any less beautiful.

"He came to look for me and we spent some time together. I said that I was hungry, so he cooked for me personally. Even though he's married you, I think that he still has me in his heart," Liu Feifei deliberately spoke very softly so that Su Zhan could not hear her voice.

Qin Ya immediately kept her phone and hung up. She looked at the phone in her hands, and it was just like a hot potato to her. She wanted to throw her phone away.

Su Zhan is together with Liu Feifei!

Suddenly, she clenched her chest because she felt a sharp pain from within.

She did not know if the pain was from Su Zhan's deception, or because she already had feelings for him.

Ellen closed the shop's door and asked Qin Ya because she saw that Qin Ya was still standing outside, "Didn't you leave a while ago? Why are you still here?"

Qin Ya turned her head to avoid Ellen's gaze and said, "Um, I'm waiting for someone."

"Oh. It's so cold outside, so you should go back earlier. Oh right, you need to treat me to dinner some other time. After all, I couldn't even attend your wedding ceremony when you got married," Ellen did not notice Qin Ya's discomfort. She patted Qin Ya's shoulders and announced, "I'll get going."

"Yeah," replied Qin Ya.

After a few steps, Ellen suddenly stopped and turned around to look at Qin Ya, "Want me to send you back?"

Qin Ya shook her head hurriedly, "No need. You can just go first. He's coming soon."

"Alright. You've forgotten about your friends when you have a relationship right?" Ellen smiled and teased Qin Ya, before leaving on her car.

After Ellen left, Qin Ya walked to the side of the street and hailed a cab. Her thoughts were still in shambles after she got in the cab.

She did not know what to do.

On the other hand, she felt scared as well.

She was scared that Su Zhan would rekindle his flame with Liu Feifei.

She covered her mouth and nose and looked out of the window. Pretty lights flashed before her, but she was not in a mood to enjoy them. Her tears streamed silently down her face.

“Miss, we’re here.” While Qin Ya was still indulged in her thoughts, the driver had already stopped his car at the destination.

Qin Ya wiped her face clean and paid the driver.

She stood in the wind to dry the tears on her face. She patted her face to make herself look normal.

Even if she cried, she did not want to do it in front of Su Zhan, as she did not want him to see her like that.

She took out her keys and opened the door. When Su Zhan sent his grandmother back this morning, she gave Qin Ya a set of keys.

She then said, “This is your home. You need to have the keys to enter your home.”

She was being very considerate.

Su Zhan’s grandmother was sitting on the couch, and she saw that Qin Ya was back as she opened the door. She immediately stood up and approached Qin Ya, “Ya, you got off of work?”

Qin Ya deliberately avoided Su Zhan’s grandmother’s gaze by using the action of hanging her jacket. She responded softly.

“Did Su Zhan not pick you up?” Su Zhan’s grandmother then asked.

Qin Ya’s arms, which were hanging the clothes, suddenly trembled when she heard that. She then said, “He’s busy. He might be a little late.”

“What is there to be busy for? He doesn’t even need to do lawsuits anymore since he has so many subordinates.” Su Zhan’s grandmother’s expression darkened instantly, “I’ll teach him a lesson when he gets back. He has a wife already, and he still doesn’t have the concept of urgency.”

Qin Ya forced a smile.

“Come, let’s eat first. We’ll let him starve once he gets back.” Su Zhan’s grandmother brought Qin Ya to the dining room.

She caressed Qin Ya's hands, "You're too skinny. I'll fatten you up nicely."

Qin Ya did not know how to respond to her enthusiasm, so Qin Ya could only nod silently.

On the other hand, Liu Feifei came out of the bathroom. Su Zhan was still in the kitchen. She deleted the call history and placed his phone back into his pocket.

Su Zhan made some clear soup noodles for Liu Feifei and brought it out to the living room. He then placed it down, "Eat it while it's still hot."

Liu Feifei looked up at him, "Are you not eating with me?"

Su Zhan put on his jacket and replied, "No. Eat it on your own. Take care of yourself."

Afterwards, he turned around and walked to the door. When he was about to open the door, he stopped and declared, "This is the last time we'll meet."

"What if I miss you?" Liu Feifei stared at his back.

Su Zhan tensed up and his voice turned icy, "I remembered that you were not a clingy person."

"If you're not married, would you get back together with me?" Liu Feifei asked.

This question stumped Su Zhan.

If Qin Ya did not come into his life, he thought that maybe he would.

But he had her now, so he could not possibly hurt her.

He was the one who had insisted on marrying Qin Ya. His reasons did not matter; he just had to take responsibility for her and treat her well once he married her.

He was clear that no matter how deep his relationship was with Liu Feifei, it had already been mellowed out by their ten years apart.

If she did not want to say why she had left, he did not want to ask as well.

Let bygones be bygones.

We'll go on our own paths.

"There are no 'ifs' in this world." Su Zhan left her with these words.

"Ya, eat more strawberries. At this time of the year, strawberries are sweet and nutritious." Su Zhan's grandmother placed some freshly washed strawberries onto Qin Ya's plate.

Qin Ya sighed helplessly, "You have been giving me extra food since our meal started. I'm stuffed now."

Su Zhan's grandmother cared about her, so it would not be nice of her if she did not eat the food that Su Zhan's grandmother had given her. But if she did, Su Zhan's grandmother would take even more food for her.

In the end, she was absolutely stuffed.

"Look at how flat your tummy is. Where is your belly?" Su Zhan's grandmother looked at Qin Ya's stomach.

When is she going to give me grandchildren?

Su Zhan walked in and heard what his grandmother had said. He removed his jacket and said, "My wife has a slim waist. You'll need to compensate me if you fatten her up too much."

Qin Ya took a look at him and pretended that nothing was amiss.

If he was to take the initiative to explain it to her, she was willing to give him another chance.

After all, marriage is difficult.

Su Zhan hung his jacket and approached them. He took a strawberry from the plate and popped it into his mouth. It was the strawberry season, so the strawberries were sweet. He then asked, "Have you eaten dinner yet?"

"It's already so late. How could we not eat our dinner?" Su Zhan's grandmother was ruthless, "Are you that busy?"

She continued before Su Zhan could begin to say anything, "There won't be any food for you next time if you come back so late!"

Su Zhan thought that his grandmother was deliberately teasing him, so he asked Qin Ya, "You really ate dinner already?"

"Haven't you?" Qin Ya met his gaze and smiled, "You came back so late, so I was thinking that maybe you had eaten with someone else already."

She was insinuating something.

Su Zhan could naturally hear the sarcasm in her voice, so he asked, "What happened?"

Qin Ya stood up, "What could happen to me? I'll cook whatever you want for you."

"Are there any leftovers? I'll just simply eat something. You don't have to cook for me." Su Zhan approached Qin Ya. He felt warmth in his heart because he felt that they resembled a family.

He held Qin Ya's hands and looked down, "Your hands are delicate, so how could you cook? Your hands will get callused if you cook."

Qin Ya tore herself from his grasp, "Then will you cook for me?"

She wanted to calm herself down, but she had remembered Liu Feifei's words.

She could not control herself.

Su Zhan's grandmother thought that they were 'flirting' with each other, so she smiled at the side. She then asked the helpers to reheat the leftovers.

Su Zhan's heart trembled. Before he could speak, Qin Ya announced, "I'm tired. I'll go back to my room first."

After which, she went to her room.

She did not sleep. Instead, she sat at the side of the bed and waited for Su Zhan.

After about 30 minutes, Su Zhan came in after he had his dinner. He saw that she was sitting at the side of the bed and that she did not bathe yet, so he asked, "Why did you not bathe yet?"

As he said that, he bent down to kiss her lips.

Qin Ya avoided his kiss, "Why didn't you come and pick me up today?"

Chapter 296

Su Zhan froze as he slowly stepped back. He did not know why he had not dared to come clean to Qin Ya about meeting Liu Feifei.

He lied, almost out of reflex, "I forgot because I was meeting a customer."

Qin Ya was waiting for him to come clean, but what she had received was a lie.

Her heart sank violently. She panicked because she did not know what to do with her relationship with Su Zhan now.

She stood up and walked to the cabinet to get some clothes. Su Zhan then hugged her from behind and asked, "What happened? You don't seem like yourself today."

Qin Ya broke free and declared, "I'm sleeping in the guest room."

Su Zhan tugged onto her, "What are you doing?"

Su Zhan's grandmother knew that she had something to worry about once she heard that they were sleeping separately right after they had gotten married.

"I'm very tired today." Qin Ya's voice quavered.

She felt that she was wronged.

Su Zhan heart clenched as he reached out and held her face. She did not want to cry, but she could not help it. The pressure and indignance that she felt had festered, and she could not hold it back anymore.

Su Zhan panicked when he saw that Qin Ya was crying. He wiped her tears away and asked, "What happened? Did someone do something to you at the store? Did a customer give you attitude?"

Qin Ya sobbed even more uncontrollably.

"Don't cry. I feel so anxious when you cry. If you feel aggrieved, just quit the job. I'll take care of you." Su Zhan wiped away her tears.

Qin Ya looked down, "You don't have to take care of me. I can take care of myself. I just thought of something very sad, so I couldn't help but..."

Su Zhan took her into his embrace and consoled her, "Don't think about it anymore."

"Would you ever lie to me?" Qin Ya asked.

Su Zhan tensed up immediately. He then recovered instantly and replied, "No."

Qin Ya inhaled deeply and proclaimed, "I give myself two chances."

What she meant was she would give Su Zhan two chances as well. If there was a next time, she would divorce him.

This was the respect that she had given to their marriage.

"Why do you give yourself two chances?" Su Zhan was puzzled.

"Nothing." She broke free from his embrace.

"I want to be alone. I'll sleep in the guest room."

Su Zhan tugged onto her, "If Grandma saw you going to the guest room, she would definitely be worried about us because she would think that something happened to our relationship. How about this. I won't touch you tonight because you're in a sour mood. Can't you stay?"

Qin Ya did not compromise. She did not want to see Su Zhan, because all she could think of was Liu Feifei when she saw him.

“How about this. I’ll sleep on the floor tonight, and you’ll sleep on the bed. Please stay?” Su Zhan murmured.

“Grandma is so old now, so I don’t want her to worry about me.” Su Zhan’s voice was even softer now.

Qin Ya turned around and looked at him. All he’s talking about is his grandmother’s worries. Does he not want me to stay instead?

She smiled bitterly, “Alright.”

Since she had decided to give him another chance, she needed to bear this pain.

I was too soft back then when I’d agreed to marry him. Now, I’m reaping the rotten fruits that I’ve sowed.

She took her clothes and went to the bathroom.

Su Zhan noticed that something was amiss, but he could not pinpoint what had exactly gone wrong. He suddenly had a flash of inspiration, as he scrolled through his call history on his phone. She never called me. That means she couldn’t have found out that I met Liu Feifei today.

But her mood was so foul today. Is it really because we met Liu Feifei today?

Is she still worried about that?

Su Zhan was panicking severely because Qin Ya was like that, so he had decided to call Lin Xinyan to ask if Qin Ya’s mood was foul when they were in their store today.

Lin Xinyan did go to the store today. She had gone away for so long, so she needed to check on the store when she came back.

While Lin Xinyan was not around, Ellen accepted a few orders, and some of them were placed because of Lin Xinyan’s reputation. But because Lin Xinyan was not present, Ellen could not convince the customers to stay.

Lin Xinyan stayed in the store for the whole day because she had wanted to calm herself down after the Zhuang Zijin incident. Besides that, she needed to think of a way to improve their business, so that Ellen, Qin Ya, and the employees’ salaries can be raised.

Besides that, capital was required to keep the store afloat.

Zong Jinghao had money, but she did not want to rely on a man.

She decided to organize a fashion show after a year to attract customers. On the other hand, she wanted to flaunt the designers' talent.

After she contemplated for the whole day, she decided to visit the Lin family together with Zong Jinghao.

As she stepped out of the car, she realized that someone was calling her. It was Su Zhan.

Why is Su Zhan calling me?

He looked up at Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao closed the car door and approached her, "Who's calling you?"

"Su Zhan," answered Lin Xinyan.

"What happened to him?" Zong Jinghao took a look at her phone screen.

Lin Xinyan shook her head, "I don't know?"

After which, she answered, "Hello."

"Hey, it's me."

Lin Xinyan responded affirmatively.

"Was Qin Ya in a bad mood today in the store?" Su Zhan asked.

Lin Xinyan had stayed in her office the entire day, but she saw Qin Ya when she was eating lunch, and Qin Ya had seemed quite happy.

"No." However, it was obvious that Qin Ya was displeased if Su Zhan had asked this question, so Lin Xinyan questioned him, "Did you have an argument with her?"

Su Zhan denied it, "No. She seems to be in a bad mood now, so I was thinking if it was because of something about the store."

"No." Lin Xinyan answered.

"Oh. Alright then, I'll hang up now."

Lin Xinyan responded with a 'Yeah' and hung up.

Zong Jinghao could hear their conversation because he was standing near to Lin Xinyan. He did not ask her anything about it. Instead, he hugged her, "I'll take care of everything."

Lin Xinyan nodded.

She still thought that Zhuang Zijin should not remarry Lin Guoan.

The reason why Zhuang Zijin would suddenly be willing to marry Lin Guoan is definitely because Lin Guoan is threatening her. It definitely wouldn't be of Zhuang Zijin's own free will.

The reason she came here was to clarify this issue with them.

"Let's go." Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan and walked to the villa via the stone road.

This villa used to be someone else's, but Lin Guoan had bought it back.

Right now, this villa was still the Lin family's villa.

Ding dong.

The doorbell rang.

There were helpers in the house, and they were the ones who were opening the door. They did not recognize Lin Xinyan or Zong Jinghao because they had just started to work for the Lin family, hence they asked Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao, "Who are you looking for?"

Lin Xinyan looked into the house and saw that Zhuang Zijin was watching television along with Lin Guoan in the living room. There were even fruits placed on the table. It was a harmonious scene, and they really looked like a loving couple.

"Who is it?" Lin Guoan looked at the door and saw that it was Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao. He immediately smiled and stood up from the couch, "Yan is back."

He berated the helper, "What's the issue here? You didn't let Yan in."

The helper retreated to the side.

Lin Guoan smiled, and there was a hint of flattery on his expression when he apologized, "Sorry about that, President Zong. These ones have just arrived, so they don't recognize anyone."

All the previous helpers had been dismissed when the crisis struck the Lin family.

Zong Jinghao did not respond. After all, if it was not for Lin Xinyan, he would not have come.

Furthermore, he refused to have any ties with someone like Lin Guoan.

But Lin Guoan did not feel awkward at all. He smiled and invited them in, "Come inside."

Lin Xinyan walked inside.

Zhuang Zijin's heart clenched, and she stood up as well.

Chapter 297

“Yan...” Zhuang Zijin held her hands together. She was anxious because she had never thought that Lin Xinyan would come here.

She knew why Lin Xinyan was here even before she had said anything.

“Sit down,” Lin Guoan ushered them along enthusiastically.

Lin Xinyan sat down and took a look at Lin Guoan, “If I was not married to Zong Jinghao, would you have remarried my mother?”

Lin Guoan’s expression changed instantly, but he recovered in no time, “What are you saying? Even though we were divorced, we still have feelings for each other.”

Lin Xinyan smiled coldly, “Really?”

“Of course,” Lin Guoan sat in front of Lin Xinyan and tugged the standing Zhuang Zijin to make her sit beside him.

“If you don’t believe it, you can ask your mother.”

Lin Xinyan casted her gaze onto Zhuang Zijin.

Zhuang Zijin looked at her daughter and sat down beside Lin Guoan, before saying, “I still have feelings for your father...”

‘Did you forget how he had treated you in the past? Did you forget how Xinqi died?’ Lin Xinyan was livid. He had hurt her so much, and now she dared to say that she still had feelings for him?

Is she not hurt enough?

Does she want a second round?

Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan’s trembling hands.

Lin Guoan was dumbfounded, “Who’s Xinqi?”

Lin Xinyan smiled coldly, “What now? Did she not tell you...”

“Yan!” Zhuang Zijin suddenly stood up to interrupt Lin Xinyan. She then bellowed, “Am I not living a good life now? The reason why I remarried your father is because I still love him. It’s that simple!”

She wanted to hide the fact that Lin Guoan had a son from him because she wanted him to suffer and regret!

Zhuang Zijin rarely raised her voice at Lin Xinyan.

But now, she was this agitated for Lin Guoan.

Lin Xinyan's lips trembled, "Do you r-really want to remarry him?"

"Of course!" Zhuang Zijin did not dare to look at Lin Xinyan's expression of hurt.

"Ok, ok, ok! I'll give you my blessings!" Lin Xinyan stood up, "Just pretend that I never came here today."

After which, she had hurried out of the villa with Zong Jinghao tagging behind her in suit.

However, Zhuang Zijin still followed her out because she was worried.

Zhuang Zijin knew that she had really hurt Lin Xinyan today.

She must be heartbroken right now.

"I think she needs some time alone." Zong Jinghao looked at Zhuang Zijin.

Zhuang Zijin stood motionless as she looked down. She did not dare to meet anyone's gaze because she had felt guilty, "I'll leave it to you to take care of her."

"She's my wife, so I definitely wouldn't make her sad." His voice was very low, "You can tell me if you have any troubles, and I can help you..."

"I don't have any." Zhuang Zijin still did not back down.

If Zhuang Zijin doesn't want to say it, no one can help her.

But Zong Jinghao still felt that Zhuang Zijin had her reasons, it was just that she could not say it out loud.

Zong Jinghao took a look at her and got on the car. Throughout the whole trip, Lin Xinyan was silent as she leaned on the window, and it was as if something had really affected her. She thought that she could somehow reverse this situation, but Zhuang Zijin had let her know that all of this was just her wishful thinking.

This situation is immutable.

Judging by how I couldn't convince Zhuang Zijin, it's obvious that she had made up her mind to be together with Lin Guoan.

Whatever I say is useless.

Zong Jinghao could not console her using words, so he just held her hands and offered his soundless support.

Lin Xinyan wiped her eyes and said, "I'm fine."

I was just too agitated by it.

"As long as she's happy." She had her reservations, but she could only accept it because she could not change Zhuang Zijin's mind.

When they arrived, Zong Jinghao saw that there was a car parked in front of their entrance, so he frowned.

Lin Xinyan recognized the car too. It's...

Zong Jinghao and she exchanged a glance.

They both knew.

Their car stopped, so they opened the door and stepped out of it.

Zong Jinghao's expression was quite gloomy. He opened the door to their house and Mr. Feng was sitting on the sofa in their living room. Mr. Feng heard the door open, so he looked at its direction and stood up when he saw that it was Zong Jinghao. He greeted, "Young Master."

"It's already so late. What's the matter?" Zong Jinghao casually asked this question, but he knew that something must have happened. If that was not the case, Mr. Feng would not have come over.

More accurately, Zong Qifeng would not have sent Mr. Feng here if something did not happen.

"Isn't it New Year's Day soon? Mr. Zong asked you to bring your children to celebrate at his place." Mr. Feng acted as if he did not see Zong Jinghao's gloomy expression, as he smiled and announced this.

"We didn't go in the previous years." Zong Jinghao helped Lin Xinyan out of her jacket and asked her to go to the room.

But Lin Xinyan did not follow his instructions to go to her room. Instead, she looked at Zong Jinghao and suggested, "Maybe we should just go there."

Afterwards, she added, "Xi and Rui had always wanted a complete family, and that is something that we haven't been able to provide them. Now, they can have a complete family, so we shouldn't take it away from them, right?"

Lin Xinyan knew that Zong Jinghao had his reservations about Cheng Yuxiu, so she could never convince him if she did not mention their two kids.

Zong Jinghao pursed his lips.

Lin Xinyan continued, "I know that you're prejudiced against her, but you can't take away the right of our two children to reunite with their grandfather."

"That's right. Mr. Zong has aged quite a lot as well, so he should be enjoying his life right now. In the previous years, you were the only who didn't want to go back, so Mr. Zong didn't want to force you. But, this year is different."

Zong Jinghao still did not agree.

Lin Xinyan sighed. Why is this man so obstinate?

"Then I'll ask the two children to let them decide for themselves? Are you coming?" Lin Xinyan deliberately said because she knew that the kids would definitely agree.

They would agree not because they had a close relationship with Zong Qifeng, but because they looked forward to having a complete family; complete with their parents and grandparents.

The more they had lacked something, the more they would crave for that thing.

They had been lacking in love since they were young.

Even though Lin Xinyan could not fill the void left from their childhood, she could let them experience the warmth of a normal family.

And this coming new year's day was the perfect opportunity to do that.

To reunite the family.

"Just agree to it." Lin Xinyan tugged on Zong Jinghao's hands.

"And if I don't?" He squinted slightly.

He never thought that Lin Xinyan would behave like that.

She had been mentioning the kids the whole time, but I could feel that she is trying to convince me to go.

Besides that, she does not seem to hate Cheng Yuxiu.

She had always been wearing the bangle Cheng Yuxiu gave her.

His hands clenched unwittingly.

Lin Xinyan bit her lip and suddenly steeled her heart, "If you don't agree, I won't give you any more children."

She left right after she said that.

Mr. Feng was astonished, but he chuckled. He felt that her personality was quite good.

There aren't a lot of people who dare to show their temper to the Young Master. She's one of the rare ones.

Zong Jinghao gave him an icy glare, and he was immediately silenced. He did not even dare to let his gaze wander after that.

"Um..."

"I'll bring them tomorrow," said Zong Jinghao coldly. He then took a look at Mr. Feng, "It's very late now. You should get going."

"Alright," replied Mr. Feng. He was happy that Zong Jinghao had agreed to his proposition, and that made it much easier to explain to his employer. However, the most important thing was he felt that this was an interesting situation.

Lin Xinyan actually managed to threaten Zong Jinghao.

Chapter 298

Zong Jinghao returned to his room, and Lin Xinyan sat at the side of the bed. Her back faced him.

"Are we going back?"

Zong Jinghao stood at the door, and he did not step in the room. He looked at her silently, and he could not bring himself to ask if there was a secret between Yuxiu and her.

It was because he thought that if she wanted to say anything, she would have said it at the start, and she would not have kept it a secret until now.

"If you want to, I'll agree to it." His voice was very soft.

Lin Xinyan stood up, turned around and looked at him, "I just don't want your relationship with your family to be this tensed."

Zong Jinghao did not reply to that. Instead, he said, "It's getting late. You should get some rest."

Lin Xinyan approached him and asked, "Are you angry?"

Zong Jinghao looked at her, and after a while he finally relented, "No."

New Year's Day was coming soon, so the atmosphere all around was jolly and festive. Spring couplets were displayed on the doors of every family, and red lanterns were hung up everywhere.

The next morning, Lin Xinyan went to the store, because she wanted to give everyone a break since it was the new year's season. She wanted them to take this opportunity to rest up.

Qin Ya was quite listless, and she did not speak. Lin Xinyan received Su Zhan's call yesterday night, so she was worried that they had an argument. She approached Qin Ya and asked, "Are things alright between Su Zhan and you?"

Qin Ya seemed quite morose. She replied softly, "It's alright."

She did not want to talk about their problems, because she felt that she had needed to solve her problems herself, since she was the one who had agreed to marry him in the first place.

Lin Xinyan patted her shoulders and promised, "Just tell me if you ever need me."

Qin Ya smiled, "Alright."

At that moment, Ellen approached them, "Qin Ya, there's a woman looking for you outside."

Woman?

Who is it?

"Maybe she's a customer. She asked for you specifically, so I can't take your business away right?" Ellen winked at Qin Ya affectionately.

The someone asking for Qin Ya specifically must've recognized her designing skills.

Qin Ya stood up, "Then I'll go see her."

"Go ahead," Lin Xinyan waved her hands.

Qin Ya went downstairs. The clothes in the cabinets had already been covered up. They were scared that dust would settle on the clothes during the holiday season and that they would have to clean up when the store reopened.

Liu Feifei sat on the couch. When she heard footsteps, she saw that Qin Ya was approaching her.

Qin Ya hesitated when she saw that it was Liu Feifei waiting for her. However, she recovered herself very quickly because she knew that this woman was just trying to intimidate her.

Even if she lost to her, she could not lose in terms of assertiveness.

She maintained her smile, "Hi. Are you here for the clothes?"

Liu Feifei smiled too, "I think you already know who I am. Are you free? How about I treat you to coffee?"

Qin Ya rejected her in an indirect fashion, "Please excuse me. I am busy with something, so I'm afraid that I don't have the time to drink coffee with you."

'You're scared of me.' Liu Feifei provoked her intentionally.

"Why should I be scared of you?" Qin Ya frowned.

"If you're not, why won't you drink some coffee with me?"

"Why should I drink coffee with you when I'm not close to you?" Qin Ya retorted.

"We have never met before, but don't forget that I'm Su Zhan's girlfriend..."

"Ex," reminded Qin Ya.

Liu Feifei smiled, "Alright, ex it is then. But, we'd used to love each other. You're now his wife, so we both used to be together with the same man. We're connected in that way."

"You can just say what you want to say." Qin Ya did not back down.

She was filled with repulsion and fear when she faced Liu Feifei.

"Alright." Liu Feifei sat back down, "The location doesn't matter anyway."

Qin Ya looked at her, "What do you want to talk about? The love you used to have with Su Zhan? Please forgive me, but I'm not interested. If you're not here for the clothes, I'm afraid that I can't entertain you anymore. Besides that, we're already on a break, so if you need anything you should come after New Year's Day."

After which, Qin Ya turned around and went up the stairs.

"Do you know about Su Zhan's parents?" Qin Ya's footsteps stopped. Indeed, she did hear Su Zhan's grandmother talking to Su Zhan about that in the hospital.

She felt that Su Zhan was very repulsed, but she did not know exactly why.

"You are his wife, and he didn't even tell you about his parents?" Liu Feifei knew that Su Zhan really did not want anyone to find out about that.

She had guessed that Su Zhan would not tell Qin Ya about it.

If Su Zhan did not say anything, allowing Liu Feifei to be the one who had mentioned it, Su Zhan's relationship with Qin Ya would seem much weaker.

Qin Ya gripped the handrails tightly. Keeping secrets was a huge taboo between a married couple.

It was obvious that Su Zhan did not trust her, and that was why he did not take the initiative to tell her about it.

She had thought that their relationship was quite solid.

But it really is as fragile as a house of cards.

Once his ex appears, our relationship will crumble.

Her heart ached like crazy at that moment, but she did not show it to Liu Feifei.

"Of course I know about it." Qin Ya tried to conceal her pain, but it made it even more obvious. She tried to force herself to be calm and collected in front of Liu Feifei.

Liu Feifei smiled as her smile pierced through Qin Ya's facade, "Really?"

"Then tell me, how did his parents die?"

Qin Ya rebuked, "Don't you already know? Why are you asking me this?"

Liu Feifei smiled, "You're lying to yourself. You can deceive yourself, but you can't fake your relationship with Su Zhan. I'm telling you frankly now that I came back just to win him back."

Waves of emotions surged within Qin Ya, "You should tell him that instead."

"Of course I will tell him that. Besides that, we are planning to meet tonight." Liu Feifei looked at Qin Ya, "Let us see who he cares about more."

After which, Liu Feifei turned around and left.

Qin Ya was left alone on the stairs, and it described her predicament perfectly; neither here nor there as she was stuck in the middle. She was so upset she could not breathe properly.

She wanted to put her faith in her relationship with Su Zhan.

But it was obvious that not only the relationship was weak, they even lacked the most basic thing in a relationship – trust.

She wanted to believe Su Zhan, but Liu Feifei's questions had made her realize that he did not trust her at all.

"Is she looking for someone to design some clothes?" Ellen descended the stairs.

Qin Ya said stiffly, "She had looked for the wrong person."

Ellen frowned, "What do you mean wrong person?"

Qin Ya did not explain anything. Instead, she went down the stairs and said, "Tell Ms. Lin that I'm leaving."

She then ran out of the store before she could even hear Ellen's reply. She hailed a cab to get to the law firm.

She wanted to clarify things with Su Zhan. If he really wanted to get back together with Liu Feifei, she would just ask him to come clean with her. She did not want to be hurt by the secrets anymore.

Her thoughts were all jumbled up during the car ride, and she thought of a lot of things she had wanted to tell Su Zhan.

She wanted to let him know the insecurity and fear that she felt.

The car arrived quickly at the law firm, and Qin Ya paid the fare and stepped out of it.

She wanted to step in the law firm, but she coincidentally bumped into Su Zhan. He seemed to be in a hurry.

"Su Zhan." Qin Ya called out to him.

"Why are you here?" Su Zhan approached her as well.

"I'm here for you. I have something I need to ask you, and I have something that I need to talk to you about," said Qin Ya.

"I have something to do right now. Can you wait for me in the office?"

Qin Ya's heart sank instantly. She felt lightheaded immediately, and it was as if she could fall at any given moment.

What is he going to do? Is he meeting Liu Feifei?

She wanted to put on a better expression for him because she did not want to devalue herself in front of him. But, she could feel her heart beginning to shatter.

"It's cold outside. Go in first. I'll come back soon." Su Zhan patted her shoulders, and before Qin Ya could reply, he alighted his car and left.

Chapter 299

“Su Zhan!” Qin Ya called out to him, but the car had already left. Only the noxious fumes from the car were left behind.

She took out her phone and called him.

Su Zhan was driving, and his phone was connected to his car via Bluetooth. When his phone rang, the screen of the car showed the caller ID, and he realized that Qin Ya was calling him.

He accepted the call, “Hello, wait for me in the office. I’ll be back soon.”

“Where are you going?” Qin Ya clenched her phone tightly, “Can’t you come back now?”

“I have something that I need to do...”

“What is it about? Is it about work or is it something personal?” Qin Ya asked anxiously.

She was scared that he was going to meet Liu Feifei.

Su Zhan pursed his lips and lied, “It’s about work.”

“Alright. I’ll wait for you in the office. I’m not leaving until you come back.” Qin Ya then hung up.

Su Zhan parked his car on the side of the street and called the number from just now.

In the bar, Liu Feifei sat at the counter, and her phone rang incessantly. Her gaze was a little blurry, and she took another sip of alcohol.

The bartender passed her another shot, “Are you picking that up?”

She smiled, “I won’t catch the fish if I picked it up.”

“Catch the fish?” He understood immediately, “Is it the man you asked me to call just now to say that you were drunk?”

Liu Feifei gave him a dirty look and placed three hundred in cash on the table, “Don’t blow my cover when he comes later.”

The bartender put the money in his pocket and smiled, “Don’t worry. You can come and find me the next time you need something from me. If the price is right, I won’t even mind spending the night with you.”

“Don’t be too greedy,” Liu Feifei gave him another dirty look.

Su Zhan received a call saying that Liu Feifei was drunk and unconscious in a bar. The person on the other side of the phone said that he called Su Zhan because he found Su Zhan's contact on her phone.

There were people from all walks of life in the bar, so it was very dangerous if a woman had gotten drunk in the bar. That was why he rushed out of his office. However, Qin Ya did not seem to be in a good mood as well.

He wanted to pay the person who called him to send Liu Feifei home, but no one picked up the phone now.

He did not know what to do. On one hand, he was scared that something would happen to Liu Feifei in the bar, but on the other hand, he was worried about Qin Ya.

He was in a conundrum.

After a moment's thought, he continued to drive towards the bar. It's dangerous for Liu Feifei to be in the bar, and Qin Ya is safe in the office.

Besides that, I will come clean about Liu Feifei to Qin Ya when I get back.

He had actually known that Qin Ya was in a bad mood last night because of Liu Feifei's appearance.

He was married now, and he wanted to maintain the marriage with Qin Ya.

He always felt a sense of warmth when he was with Qin Ya. She gave him the warmth of a family.

He arrived at the bar. He stepped out of his car and hurried towards it.

It was very dim inside, and not a lot of people were in there. The bar was not very crowded, and that was probably because of the timing. He found Liu Feifei very quickly, and she was slumped on the bar counter. He hurried towards her.

She was still holding onto a glass of alcohol, and she had seemed very drunk.

"Are you here to pick her up?" The bartender asked Su Zhan as he shook the cocktail shaker.

Su Zhan took a look at him, "Were you the one who'd called me?"

The bartender stopped for a while, before saying, "Yeah. I saw that this lady was drunk, so I took her phone she left on the counter and called the number that was displayed on it. She had been staring at this number since she started drinking, so I figured that this was someone she knew. So..."

“Thanks.” Su Zhan then called out to Liu Feifei, but there was no response. He then asked the bartender, “Did she pay?”

“No.” The bartender shook his head, “How can I ask her to pay up when she’s already this drunk? I can’t ask her to pay with her body right?”

Su Zhan took out his wallet, “How much is it?”

The bartender took a look at Liu Feifei and smiled, “Two hundred.”

Liu Feifei’s eyelashes twitched. She was cursing the greedy bartender inwardly because she had already paid for her drinks. She had even paid him to call Su Zhan, and now that guy was asking Su Zhan for money again.

It was unfortunate that she was already ‘drunk’, so she could not possibly chastise him. She was afraid that he would call her bluff out to Su Zhan, so she had to tolerate it.

Su Zhan placed two hundred in cash on the table. After he kept his wallet away, he carried Liu Feifei into his car.

He got in his car as he planned to send Liu Feifei back to her place.

They arrived at their destination in no time. He got off the car and carried her to her apartment lot. He then realized that the door could not be opened without the key, so he had to ask Liu Feifei, “Feifei, where’s the key?”

Liu Feifei moaned in his arms and murmured, “What keys? I want to drink, I want to drink...”

The strong scent of alcohol assaulted Su Zhan and made him frown, “How much did you drink for you to be like this?”

“I didn’t drink. I’m not drunk,” Liu Feifei acted like she was drunk as she grabbed Su Zhan’s wrists and thrust her face into his neck. She then started to murmur her ‘drunken’ words. For example, “Who are you?”

Su Zhan tensed up and distanced himself from her, “Where’re the keys to your home?”

“Home? I don’t have a home. The person I love is married now, and he doesn’t want me anymore.” She then cried piteously, “He didn’t wait for me and he got married...”

Su Zhan felt a plethora of emotions, not because of the woman herself, but because of the relationship that they used to have.

He had never thought that Liu Feifei would appear in his life once again after he had already moved on from her. Now, his heart did not flutter, and he did not feel his heart ache when he saw that she was crying in his arms.

He just felt that he could not possibly ignore her when she was distressed because they used to love each other.

“You’re drunk.” Su Zhan ruffled through her pockets and found the keys in the pocket of her down jacket. He then successfully opened the door.

He placed her on the couch and made some honey water for her in the kitchen. He passed it to her and say, “Drink some honey water to sober up.”

“I’m not drinking it!” Liu Feifei waved her hands and slapped the glass in Su Zhan’s hands away. The honey water splashed all over the floor. The glass shattered with a loud Crash on the floor as well.

Su Zhan’s pants were wet now. He frowned as he picked up the glass shards, throwing them into the dustbin. He then took a mop out from the bathroom and mopped the floor clean.

After washing his hands, he went back to the living room and looked at the woman who was lying on the couch, “You’re drunk. Just have a good night’s rest and you’ll feel better.”

After which, Su Zhan had wanted to leave.

Because Qin Ya was still waiting for him.

“Don’t go.” Suddenly, Liu Feifei stood up from the couch and hugged Su Zhan from behind, “I’m begging you, please don’t go. Please don’t leave me anymore. I’m so scared of being alone.”

Su Zhan pulled her arms apart. But Liu Feifei held on even tighter, “Su Zhan, I love you.”

“You’re drunk.” Emotions did not surge in Su Zhan’s heart when he heard the words ‘I love you’ because he knew that he did not love her anymore. That was the reason why he was so calm.

“I’m not drunk, I’m not drunk, I just miss you too much. Whenever I realize that you’re already married, my heart aches like crazy.”

Chapter 300

Su Zhan’s head suddenly throbbed, and he raised his voice, “I came here today just because we’d used to be close. You were the one who left, who abandoned me, and now you want to blame me for not waiting for you and getting married? Liu Feifei, I am only a human being, so it is impossible for me to wait for you in the same spot forever.

I’m very clear that I don’t love you anymore. I’m not the kid ten years ago who couldn’t get over a breakup anymore. I’m very clear about what I want now, and what I want is my wife.

We haven't really dated before, but I really like her. She's very innocent and she has a sharp mouth that she uses to tease me. I really find her charming, and I am really attracted to her."

He did not just age physically over the past ten years; he gained a lot of experience as well, and he was much more mature now than he was ten years ago.

He knew what his heart had desired.

Liu Feifei trembled. Su Zhan doesn't love me anymore?

Actually, she had already known about that. But she had been dumped by that guy, and she had aborted countless times over the past ten years merely for that guy's sake.

Su Zhan was just a law graduate ten years ago, and he did not have a background. She liked him a lot back then, but she liked material wealth better.

Even if Su Zhan was to start working back then, he would not have been successful after just a few days.

Besides that, there was a chance that he might not have even been successful in the first place.

Back then, there was a wealthy man who liked her. He was not as good-looking as Su Zhan, but he was wealthier.

When faced with two choices, money or love, she chose the former. She did not dare to let Su Zhan know, so she was unwilling to even meet him when she left.

Actually, she did not even go overseas. She just went to a different city. She pretended that she was going overseas because she did not want Su Zhan to come looking for her.

Throughout those years, the wealthy man had treated her badly even though he had given her a lot of money. Besides that, he had gotten married to a lady from another prominent family two years ago.

His wife had asked people to beat her up after she found out about Liu Feifei's relationship with the man.

Liu Feifei was pregnant then. She had aborted a lot of times before that, and that beating had caused her uterus to be prolapsed. She was deemed infertile after that incident.

The man did not want her anymore because she was older and she was not as pretty anymore, so he dumped her.

While she was recuperating, she unintentionally heard about Su Zhan. She had only found out that Su Zhan had struck gold back then, and that he was a renowned lawyer that had his own law firm now.

That was why she had returned to B City after she recovered. She wanted to win Su Zhan back.

She heard that Su Zhan did not get married, so she felt like she still had a chance.

Besides that, Su Zhan treated her very well back then, so she wanted to win back the heart of the man who used to adore her.

She had nothing left right now. All she wanted to do was to win him back.

"I don't want you to leave." Liu Feifei did not let go of him. No matter what, I will be with him tonight.

Even if he likes his wife, what will happen if the wife proposes a divorce?

Su Zhan's voice deepened, "You're not drunk, right?"

He could feel that she was somewhat sober.

"Are you lying to me?" His voice was even lower now.

"Su Zhan, I love you." Liu Feifei tore his clothes apart and kissed his neck. He then pushed her away and exclaimed, "You've changed."

Liu Feifei did not expect that she would be shoved, so she took a few steps back, "Don't tell me you haven't changed?"

Her hair was messy as her face was flushed. Was that the result of the alcohol or her agitation?

She wailed as she looked at Su Zhan. She felt a strong pang of regret because she regretted making the wrong choice. If she did not get together with the wealthy man, she could have had both money and Su Zhan, but now she did not have anything left.

She lost her youth, beauty, and money, and now she was about to lose the man who had treated her well.

No, no, I can't lose Su Zhan. If I win him back, I'll get what I wanted, "I lied to you. I had a reason for leaving you ten years ago."

"What's the reason?"

Liu Feifei lowered her head as she thought about it for a while, "I was scared to burden you."

"What do you mean?" Su Zhan was even more puzzled now.

We used to have nothing back then. How could she even burden me?

"I'm infertile, so I can't give you any children. I didn't want you to not have children for the rest of your life, but I was scared to tell you about it. I was scared that you wouldn't let me go, and I was scared that you would act impulsively. That was why I left without telling you anything."

After which, she slumped onto the floor, "I had always loved you. I thought that I would forget about you as time passed, but I realized that I couldn't ever forget you. I kept thinking about the days when we used to be together."

She wept softly as she cast her gaze on the sofa by the window, "Do you remember what happened here?"

Su Zhan was silent.

They were young and wild, and they had tasted the forbidden fruit on that sofa. From that day onwards, the boy became a man, and the girl became a woman.

The first time was very hectic, but it was beautiful as well.

It was very hard to forget.

He remembered. He would probably remember it for the rest of his life, but that did not mean anything, because there would always be a few memorable incidents throughout a person's life.

Those things were unforgettable.

But, he was flustered right now because he had found out that Liu Feifei had left him due to her own infertility.

He would not be so conflicted right now if she had said that she liked another man.

He did not know what to do with the truth. This was the answer that he had been searching for, but he could not accept it right away.

He did not know about 'acceptance' because he did not love Liu Feifei anymore.

"Why didn't you tell me the truth?" Su Zhan grumbled, "I wouldn't have minded. I wouldn't care if I wouldn't have any children for the rest of my life. What is the point of you telling me the truth now?"

I'm already married, and now she tells me that she left me because she was infertile.

Not because she didn't love me. Not because of any other reason, but because of her own disabilities.

He found it amusing.

“You’re so self-centered.” Su Zhan regained his cool, “I wouldn’t have minded in the past, but now, I won’t accept that anymore.”

When he brought up the topic of having children to Qin Ya, he would always fantasize about what his children would look like if she was pregnant.

He had his hopes and dreams.

If he was a little younger, he would not have cared about all of this. He would be satisfied if he was with the person he loved.

But everything has changed now.

Time has changed everything.

“We can’t go back to what we were before. Since the day you’d left, that option has been closed.” Su Zhan’s stance was clear. No matter what, he would never get back together with Liu Feifei, hurting Qin Ya.

“Rest well.” After which, Su Zhan opened the door.

“If you leave, I’ll die here!” Liu Feifei ran towards the kitchen and put a knife to her neck.

Su Zhan turned around to look at her, “Are you out of your mind?!”

Liu Feifei looked at him in the same way he looked at her, “Yes I am. I can’t accept that you don’t love me anymore.”

Su Zhan was livid. He was infuriated by Liu Feifei’s actions.

Liu Feifei did not dare to push Su Zhan’s limits, so her tone softened, “You know how much I loved you. I just can’t accept that you don’t love me anymore. I know I’m being unreasonable, but if you stay the night with me, I promise I won’t appear in front of you ever again. Ok?”