

CHAPTER 81.

"Let go of me." Lin Xinyan's eyes widened. She stopped the body that held her down using her hands.

"Let go?" Zong Jinghao emphasized the two words and thought it was ridiculous. He was irritated that she wanted to make a clean break with him when she first came. She also merely believed her own son to be innocent and doubted him. He was furious.

Lin Xinyan looked away and was afraid to look at him. She could feel the heat of his brawny body that was stronger than hers, as well as his familiar and heavy breaths that were so close to her. She closed her eyes and said, "My son is just five years old..."

He won't be able to do something like this.

When she looked away, the blue veins on her long and slim neck could be clearly seen and were beating. Her rapid breathing due to nervousness sounded like some enticing musical notes. Zong Jinghao wanted to scare her at first, but the blood in his entire body seemed to be boiling after staring at her.

He lowered his head and put his lips close to her neck.

His lips were soft and slightly cold.

Panicked, Lin Xinyan pushed him with all her strength and said, "Let go of me, you shameless idiot!"

"Shameless? I'm embarrassed by your son. Why would I care anymore?" His head was still buried in her neck while he murmured.

He loved her smell which was familiar and addictive to him.

He almost couldn't resist merging his body with hers now.

"Are you a witch? If not, why am I not myself when I'm around you?"

Lin Xinyan didn't utter a word. Tears streamed down her face slowly and dropped on her hair near her ears.

Felt that she was sobbing; Zong Jinghao looked up straight at her face and said, "Did you just feel aggrieved from my kiss?"

Her eyelashes twitched slightly and eyes opened slowly. Tears could still be seen in her eyes. She asked in a rough voice, "Do you think I'm a woman who will casually sleep with another man?"

Zong Jinghao was stunned and replied, "... No."

"Yes you do, and you've never respect me." She continued as tears that she was holding back streamed down her face, "You think that I slept with another man when I was eighteen and got pregnant, and so I'm a lascivious and unchaste woman. I'm not. I'm not the kind of woman you think I am, and I simply had no choice."

Zong Jinghao unknowingly panicked and quickly wiped her tears away. He admitted to himself that he did think of her that way.

Lin Xinyan turned away and didn't want him to touch her.

His hands stopped at her ears, gently tucked her hair behind her ears, and said, "I won't mention your past, and you'll forget it as well."

"What do you want?" Lin Xinyan was holding back her emotions.

"Like I said, You will be who you used to be again..."

"What about my kids? Are you prepared to be their stepfather?" Lin Xinyan interrupted him.

She knew that Zong Jinghao was a man of pride.

Accepting her even though she's not a virgin was already his limit.

He could never accept her kids.

"Can such a proud man like you accept that the kids of another person call you dad? Can you raise them for another person? You just can't..."

"Stop it!" He stood up suddenly.

Yes, Zong Jinghao just wished that Lin Xinyan could return to him, but never thought about any arrangement for her children.

Lin Xinyan was right. It was already his limit to accept Lin Xinyan who's not a virgin.

He never thought about becoming a stepfather to raise the children for another person. And he can't do it!

Lin Xinyan stood up and tidied up her messy clothes. She looked up at the man who turned his back on her and said, "We, shall divorce, and go back to where were. These are the right things that we should do."

"How do you know which is correct?" He said gloomily, clearly in a bad mood.

Lin Xinyan stood up and said, "I don't know. But I do know about my own feelings, that I don't love you. And since you can't accept my children, ending our relationship would be the best option."

Some of the words that she said just now were ringing in Zong Jinghao's ears. I do know about my own feelings, that I don't love you.

I don't love you. Ha. I don't love you.

He turned around, grabbed her by her collar and said, "Say it one more time?"

It hurts. Her neck hurts.

She was lifted by Zong Jinghao, yet didn't flinch at all when looking into his slightly puffy eyes. She struggled and said, "I don't love you. Do you want me to be dishonest and lie to you? You surely won't tolerate it, will you?"

Even though Lin Xinyan was not with this man for long, she really understood him very well.

How could such a proud man like him be made abject by some lies?

But still, he was unhappy and very disgruntled.

He almost went insane!

Lin Xinyan remained quiet and didn't resist nor provoke him.

She bore her pain even though her neck hurt very much.

Her face turned red as she held her breath. She couldn't breathe anymore as Zong Jinghao grabbed her by her collar too tightly.

Zong Jinghao let her go furiously and said, "Don't act smart."

After falling to the ground, she quickly took some deep breaths with her hands holding her chests. She stood up after quite some time when she felt better, and said, "When you've made up your mind, ask Mr. Guan to meet me anytime."

After finished speaking, she turned around and walked towards the main door.

She then stopped, glanced at the piano next to the window, and said without even turning around, "I appreciate it that you didn't throw away the things which I had left here. I will move them away as soon as possible."

She strode away again once she finished speaking.

Once she was outside of the villa, the determination that she made up almost collapsed right away..

One of her hand propped herself against the wall, while the other held her chests.

She wasn't sure why it was heartbreaking to her.

"Ms. Lin, are you alright?" Guan Jing who was scrolling on his phone quickly came up to her once he saw Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan shook her head and said, "I'm fine."

"Okay. Get into the car, and I will drive you home." Guan Jing walked towards the car and opened the car door.

Lin Xinyan got into the car after thanking him.

Guan Jing looked in the rearview mirror, caught a glimpse of Lin Xinyan and said, "You don't look well. Did you have a quarrel with Mr. Zong."

Lin Xinyan looked at him and suddenly thought of the news that Zong Jinghao showed her. She took out her phone to search through the news from the front-page news to local news and found it. She frowned, passed it to Guan Jing and asked, "Were you there at that time?"

Guan Jing sneaked a peek at the news and realized that he read it too when he was scrolling on his phone.

It was only until now that he knew why Zong Jinghao didn't want him to stop the personal assistant from taking photo at that time.

Even if he did take a photo, it won't appear in the news if Zong Jinghao didn't want to see it.

Now that the photo appeared, Zong Jinghao must have deliberately allowed it to be shown.

But the reason behind it might be related to Lin Xinyan?

Guan Jing nodded and replied, "When Mr. Zong was discussing with Mr. Li from Shengda Group, your son came in with that stuff and said Mr. Zong dropped it."

Lin Xinyan clasped her phone tightly and asked, "Does Zong Jinghao have such a habit?"

She found it odd to ask such a question herself. What kind of people would carry such kind of stuff regularly?

Even if he planned to use it, he wouldn't be carrying it with him all the time.

This doesn't look like what a normal human being would do.

And Zong Jinghao is obviously a normal person.

"Nope." Come to think of it, it isn't Zong Jinghao's style. His jaws dropped when Mr. Zong admitted it.

Lin Xinyan took her phone back. She must dig into it to know the truth.

Since Lin Xichen is only five years old, if he really...

She held her forehead and felt distressed.

Soon the car pulled over where she lived. As she couldn't wait to find out the truth, she didn't even thank Guan Jing when she pushed open the car door.

When she opened the door, Zhuang Zijin was tidying up the things that they brought along.

"Where is Xi?"

"In the bedroom." Zhuang Zijin felt that she didn't look well and asked, "Are you not feeling well?"

"No." Determined to find out the truth, she walked towards the door of the bedroom and pushed it open.

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With plain blue as the main color, the specially decorated room was kid-friendly and warm.

Lin Xichen was sitting at the bedside in front of the window. He lowered his head to watch something and was so engrossed that he didn't realize someone walked into the room.

Lin Xinyan treaded lightly to see what Lin Xichen was watching behind him. When Lin Xinyan realized what he was browsing through on the tablet, she almost collapsed.

"Lin Xichen, what are you watching?!"

Lin Xichen was startled to hear someone shouted at him. His instinct told him to close the webpage immediately, or he would be finished once his mother saw it.

As he was too nervous, the tablet wasn't held firmly and fell to the ground. Since the webpage that he browsed was still shown, Lin Xinyan tried to block Lin Xinyan's view by standing in front of her.

"Mom."

Lin Xinyan grabbed her son by his shoulder to pull him aside and bent down to pick up the tablet. The Baidu homepage was showing the keywords that were searched: What's the use of Durex.

The search results covered the entire screens with several unsightly images of men and women hugging each other.

He was just five years old!

Lin Xinyan was trembling with rage.

"Lin Xichen, tell me, why would you watch such things? Who taught you to do it?" Lin Xinyan was extremely furious.

Knew that he was at fault, Lin Xichen lowered his head and apologized to her immediately, "Mom, I'm sorry."

Sorry?

Just apologize and she will not dig into it anymore.

Lin Xinyan switched off the tablet and sat at the bedside. She will figure this out.

“Tell me, why would you watch such things. Also, who taught you to do it?”

Lin Xichen thought that he must not tell her about his teacher, or else his teacher would not help him anymore.

To take revenge on the heartless man, he would still need his teacher’s assistance.

He replied while lowering his head and fiddling with his own fingers, “When I was playing some games, an advertisement called Durex suddenly popped up. So, I searched it on Baidu to find out what it is and its function.”

“Is that so?” Lin Xinyan obviously didn’t believe him.

“Then, tell me what this was all about.” Lin Xinyan found the news, showed it to him and asked, “Tell me, why did you do that. Also, who taught you to do that.”

Lin Xinyan didn’t believe that he could do this all by himself.

Lin Xichen first denied that someone helped him and said, “Yes, it was me in the news. No one taught me to do anything, but instead I wanted to do it myself.”

Lin Xinyan sneered, “Well then, tell me why you would want to do it?”

He said softly after a thought flashed through his mind, “When I was playing some games and watched this advertisement, I searched on Baidu and figured out what it is used for. When I saw that bastard at lunch, I went to buy it from the supermarket and purposely said that he dropped it to shame him.”

Actually, he just found out what it was and its function on Baidu.

Lin Xichen explained it perfectly. He did it all by himself and no one taught him anything.

Lin Xinyan was even more furious. How could a five-year-old kid do such thing?

“Why do you hate him so much? You did it last time...”

“I just hate him!” Lin Xichen looked up her all of a sudden and said, “He bullied my mom, and so I want him to make a fool of himself and be shamed before everyone!”

Lin Xinyan frowned. He wasn’t like this before. However, he now seems to have kept the whole thing about Zong Jinghao in mind. This isn’t good to him.

“Don’t do this ever again.”

“No way. He is a bastard, why can’t I take revenge on him?” Lin Xichen was recalcitrant. Since the heartless man abandoned them, why should he respect him? Impossible!

Lin Xinyan never expected him to react so strongly. She frowned and talked to him patiently, "Xi, what you did wasn't right."

"Who says it wasn't right!" Lin Xichen believed firmly that Zong Jinghao was the heartless man who abandoned his mother and him.

He returned now to take revenge on him, or else what's the point for him to come back if he just sits tight and do nothing?

Lin Xinyan was irritated and said, "Tell me that you're sorry."

"I didn't do anything wrong."

Infuriated, Lin Xinyan lifted her arm and was about to hit him, yet couldn't do it after looking at her son's cute face.

Lin Xinyan confiscated his tablet, smartwatch and all of his electronic products out of anger, and said to him, "No dinner today. You can have your dinner only after you've reflected on your own mistakes."

Lin Xichen didn't refute her since he would never listen to his mom and stop causing him trouble anyway.

Skipping a meal or two won't starve him to death anyway.

But since mom confiscated his smartwatch, he could not keep in touch with his teacher anymore.

"What's wrong? Why are you so angry?" Zhuang Zijin asked her daughter when she saw her came out of the room.

It was the first time that Lin Xichen raised her voice to him.

"Mom, take care of him at home from today onwards. Don't bring him out." Lin Xinyan locked away the things that she had confiscated in a drawer.

Then, she helped Zhuang Zijin cleaned the house.

Since the house was fully furnished, they only need to put and arrange their belongings properly.

"Since he's just a kid, why did you have to be so angry at him? Besides, Xi's very thoughtful now and more mature than his peers."

"He's now very stubborn precisely because he's too mature. A kid should behave like a kid." Lin Xinyan was infuriated as soon as she thought about the things that Lin Xichen watched.

She rarely saw Lin Xinyan getting so infuriated at someone. Perhaps Lin Xichen really made a huge mistake.

Zhuang Zijin deliberately changed the subject and said, "I'll go to the supermarket later to buy something, including some flowers to decorate the house."

After putting Lin Xinyan's trophies in place, she turned around, looked at her daughter and asked, "Do you need anything? I can buy it for you?"

Since they had just moved in and would need a lot of things, Lin Xinyan prepared a checklist for Zhuang Zijin and said, "I need these."

Zhuang Zijin took a glance, kept it well and said, "It's good to write it down so that I won't forget. I'm sure you're tired as you haven't really taken a rest since you got home. I'll bring them along later, and you can take a nap at home."

Zhuang Zijin took Lin Ruixi's trolley as it would be convenient for her to shop for groceries later.

Lin Xinyan was indeed tired, yet was worried that it would be inconvenient for Zhuang Zijin to bring the kids along. She said to her, "I can take care of them at home."

"This isn't the first time I bring the two kids out."

Zhuang Zijin took care of them when they were in Country A. Lin Xinyan nodded and said, "Don't bring Xi along. Let him reflect on his own mistakes at home."

Zhuang Zijin turned around and said, "I know. Now go and take a nap."

After cleaning the house, she put Lin Ruixi who was asleep in the trolley and went to check out Lin Xichen. Meanwhile, Lin Xichen was standing still next to the bed, and almost never moved since Lin Xinyan left the room.

Zhuang Zijin caressed his hair and asked, "Did you make your mom angry?"

Lin Xichen lowered his head and didn't answer her.

Zhuang Zijin heaved a sigh and said, "It'll be fine, she won't be really angry at you. I'll bring you out and check out whether the local supermarket is the same as the supermarket in Country A."

"My mom..."

"She's taking a nap. Also, how can she stop me from bringing my grandchildren out?"

Zhuang Zijin said firmly, "She can give orders to you because she's your mom, but how can she refuse to listen to me who happens to be her mom?"

Lin Xichen smiled and nodded vigorously. He wanted to go around the city too.

Their house was indeed located in a strategic place which was near the shops and megamall.

Lin Ruixi was awake when they were still on their way and was pretty excited, knowing that they were going around the city.

Their first stop was the first floor where groceries were found, as Zhuang Zijin planned to buy some vegetables and meat.

“I want to eat this.” Lin Xichen pointed at the freshwater shrimps and said.

Aunt Yu who happened to be shopping here heard the loud and cute voice. She looked up and saw the boy in front of her. He was very handsome, and his eyes in particular looked like young master’s when he was a boy.

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As Lin Xichen loved shrimps, Zhuang Zijin looked at him with a pampering smile and said, “Okay, I’ll buy it.”

“I want some too.” Whatever her brother wanted, she wanted it too even though she might not really like it.

“Fine, I’ll buy it.” Zhuang Zijin had been used to it.

Aunt Yu looked with surprise at Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi who was talking. These two kids were so good-looking and even had a pair of bright eyes that looked exactly the same as Zong Jinghao’s when he was young.

“I know which stall always sells fresh shrimps.” Aunt Yu walked over while looking at the two kids, and said, “They are....”

Zhuang Zijin was used to having someone struck up a conversation with her. As long as she was with the two kids in the past, the people would look at them and even come up and talk to her.

She was used to deal with this kind of situation.

“My grandchildren.”

“They are good-looking.” Aunt Yu just couldn’t take her eyes off these two kids as they were really adorable.

Zhuang Zijin smiled. Yes, they are the ones who motivated her to live. To take care of them for her daughter will be her responsibility for the rest of her life, and the happiest thing that she has ever done.

“Hello aunt.” Lin Xichen was particularly sweet.

“Hello.” Aunt Yu touched his head and asked, “What is your name?”

“My name is Lin Xichen.”

“What a pleasant name.” Aunt Yu thought that this boy didn’t just look handsome, but the name given to him was pleasant too.

“Why didn’t you ask me, aunt?” Lin Ruixi was a little unhappy as she looked at Aunt Yu while blinking her eyes.

Since she asked her brother but not her, was she not as good-looking as him?

“I’m definitely going to ask you.” Aunt Yu smiled. This kid was too adorable as she would get jealous of her brother even though she was so young.

“What’s your name?” Aunt Yu asked her smilingly.

“I’m Lin Ruixi. My brother and I took our mom’s surname.” Lun Ruixi said happily.

Aunt Yu was stunned. They were given mother’s surname?

“Which stall did you say have fresh shrimps?” Zhuang Zijin interrupted her when she was pondering it. Since children normally bear their father’s surname, those who heard that they took their mother’s surname would try to dig into their family matters.

But she didn’t like to have strangers delving into their family matters.

“Oh.” Aunt Yu pointed at somewhere which was not far from here and said, “That stall. I can lead the way. Since I’m their regular customer, they surely won’t cheat when I’m present.”

Aunt Yu was very eager to help and immediately walked ahead to lead the way for them.

Zhuang Zijin pushed the trolley and followed her.

When they reached the stall, Aunt Yu greeted the boss and asked, "Are the shrimps fresh today?"

"Definitely fresh. Please take a look." The boss used his small fishing net to pick up some shrimps, which were all jumping vigorously.

"Since you are my regular customer and it's not the first time that you buy shrimps from me, I'm sure you know whether my shrimps are fresh enough." The boss said eloquently, "If you are buying shrimps from me, I'll give you the best offer. How about 48 per catty? I won't simply give anyone an offer lower than 60."

"Two catties for me, please." Aunt Yu readily said.

She had money.

She wasn't an extravagant person and would normally bargain before purchasing anything. But she knew the boss very well, and other stalls would really not sell their shrimps below 60 per catty.

She always purchased shrimps from his stall and knew that he would not lie to her.

"The price of two catties and three tails would be..."

"110.4." Lin Xichen had finished calculating and said it even before the boss could.

The boss was stunned for a while before he continued to press 'enter' on the calculator, and the number shown on it was exactly 110.4.

"How old are you? You are so smart." The boss laughed. It was his first time to see a good-looking kid who was very smart as well.

"I'm five years old." Even though Lin Xichen was praised by him, he didn't hold his head up as it was just a simple math question.

The boss handed the shrimps over to Aunt Yu and said, "Are they your relatives? How fortunate to have such an outstanding child."

Aunt Yu took the shrimps but was unknowingly upset after hearing it from the boss, because he and the beautiful girl were not her relatives.

Her face slightly clouded over as she handed the money to him and said, "Here's the money."

The boss was not upset at all and remained cheerful.

Aunt Yu handed the pack of shrimps over to Zhuang Zijin and said, "This is for you."

Zhuang Zijin immediately shook her hand and replied, "We can't have this. I can buy it myself."

"This isn't something precious anyway. I'm giving it to you because the children are adorable, and definitely won't give it to anyone else." She put it into their trolley and wouldn't take no for an answer.

"It's not necessary." When Zhuang Zijin was about to take the pack of shrimps and return it to Aunt Yu, Lin Ruixi suddenly said, "Thank you Aunt."

Zhuang Zijin was speechless. Oh, this kid.

"Oh, you're welcome." Lin Ruixi's sweet voice cheered Aunt Yu up.

Since Lin Ruixi said so, Zhuang Zijin found it hard to reject her kindness and said, "You shouldn't have! Thank you so much."

Aunt Yu immediately shook her hands and said, "You're welcome. Don't mention it."

"Sorry, we have to get going to shop for other groceries." Zhuang Zijin said.

"Sure." Aunt Yu stared at Lin Chenxi and really wished to have more time to talk to the two kids. But considering the fact that they were not her children and it was only the first time they met, she was already rather passionate. If she requested more from them, they would surely be annoyed by her and even thought that she was a human trafficker.

She heaved a sigh as she thought about the man whom she took care of since he was young. As a thirty-year-old man, he never remarried since he divorced his wife, and so didn't have a wife until today, not to mention a child.

Her face clouded over in disappointment. If they didn't get a divorce, he might already have a child since Lin Xinyan was pregnant at that time.

All this happened due to Zong Jinghao.

Everyone's gone, and now he was left with nothing.

Aunt Yu was now not in the mood for shopping anymore. Since there were some ingredients at home and Zong Jinghao might not even come home, she left the supermarket.

When the driver realized that Aunt Yu didn't buy anything, he looked back at her and asked, "Are you going back without buying anything?"

Aunt Yu looked disconsolate as she said, "I'm in no mood to eat now. Let's go."

The driver remained silent.

When Aunt Yu reached the villa, she felt that the huge villa was rather empty and not lively at all.

It didn't feel like a real home as it lacked the lady of the house and several children.

She carried her empty purse and put it on the table. She sighed repeatedly when she thought about Lin Xichen's face and took out a photo from the drawer of the table. The little kid in the photo was the young Zong Jinghao.

As he didn't really like to take photo, this was his one and only photo taken when he was a kid.

Aunt Yu looked at the photo closely as she recalled Lin Xichen's face and noticed that he looked like the kid in the photo.

They look exactly alike. Why is that so?

Zong Jinghao was the only descendant of the Zongs as the lady of the house only gave birth to him then. Later, Zong Qifeng remarried but didn't want to have any children.

Therefore, Zong Jinghao didn't have any sibling.

And surely he was not a child of one of his relatives.

Is it really possible that two persons without any blood relation can look so much alike in this world?

Aunt Yu was lost in thoughts and didn't even notice that someone knocked on the door.

Zong Jinghao put his jacket away and came up to Aunt Yu to check on her.

She was totally unaware that someone had entered the villa.

He raised his eyebrows when he realized that she was staring at his photo and asked, "What reminded you of the photo?"

Aunt Yu was shocked when she heard someone talking beside her. After recollecting herself, she looked at him and said, "I saw two kids today, and they looked exactly like you when you were young."

She stressed the words 'looked exactly like you'.

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She stressed the words 'looked exactly like you'.

"So, what are you trying to say?"

He squinted at her with a serious look on his face.

Aunt Yu didn't notice that she was holding the photo tightly.

"You, do you have a love child out there..."

"Nope." Zong Jinghao denied it even before Aunt Yu could finish her words.

He only slept with one woman in his life until today.

It's totally impossible for any other woman to bear him a child.

A love child? Out of the question.

"So Aunt Yu, we won't be having dinner tonight?" As he looked at the empty kitchen, the dining table looked like a mirror in which he could see his own reflection but nothing else.

Usually, Aunt Yu would be preparing dinner at this hour, or had finished preparing it. She didn't seem so right today.

Eat?

Aunt Yu's mouth twitched slightly as she said, "Are you still in the mood to eat?... Are you happy now that everyone's gone?"

She put the photo back as she was speaking. She didn't intend to merely touch on it but wanted to dig into the entire matter.

Zong Jinghao frowned and thought to himself. What's wrong with her?

"Look at our home. Does it really look like a home? The house is huge, but is there anybody in here? What's the point of being wealthy when there is only an old mother who knows how to do house chores and a thirty-year-old bachelor in this house?" Aunt Yu closed the drawer. She was furious and really thought about not preparing any food for him.

But she just couldn't do it.

Soon, she went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Zong Jinghao glanced at Aunt Yu who was upset from behind and pulled out the drawer to get the photo. As he didn't like to take photo, he could hardly recognize this photo too. In fact, he had actually forgotten about it if it wasn't for Aunt Yu.

He held the photo and watched it closely. The eyes, the face...

Buzz...

The phone in his pocket rang. When an image of a face suddenly flashed through his mind and he wanted to compare it with the face in the photo, his thoughts were interrupted by his ringing phone.

He put down the photo, closed the drawer and picked up the phone. It was a call from Guan Jing about work.

As he was talking to Guan Jing over the phone, he unbuttoned his shirt and walked towards the bedroom.

At the Golden Harbor.

When Zhuang Zijin finished preparing dinner and wanted to tell Lin Xichen to come out and have dinner, Lin Xinyan stopped her and said, "Let him ponder over and admit to his mistakes, or else no dinner for him."

"He's just a kid. It's good enough to frighten him, but we shouldn't use no dinner as punishment." Zhuang Zijin didn't agree to it since he was growing up and shouldn't skip any meal.

"No dinner if he doesn't admit to his mistakes." Lin Xinyan didn't explain anything to her but was very determined about it.

She can overlook some of the things. But on this occasion, she mustn't simply let it go.

He's already watching the indecent contents even though he's merely a kid. What kind of a man would he become when he grows up?

"Yan..." Zhuang Zijin still wished to persuade her.

However, Lin Xinyan was determined and couldn't be moved at all. If she does not set the rules for him now, it would be even harder to discipline him in future.

Lin Ruixi carried Lin Ruixi and said, "Let's go and have dinner now."

Zhuang Zijin was standing still, as if pondering over Lin Xinyan's words to figure out if there was any alternative.

Lin Xinyan looked back at Zhuang Zijin and said to her with the answer, "I'm serious now. Pleading for him would be a waste of time."

Zhuang Zijin came up to her and asked gently, "What did Xi do that made you so angry?"

Zhuang Zijin didn't believe at all that Lin Xichen would commit a huge mistake since the kid was smart and thoughtful.

She was rather surprised that Lin Xinyan would be so infuriated now.

Lin Xinyan was lost for words when she recalled the stuff that her son watched and the things that he did. After a while, she replied, "Mom, don't ask about it anymore. Come and have dinner now."

Lin Xinyan was sitting at the dining table and feeding her daughter while holding her in her arms.

Lin Xinyan apparently didn't want to talk about it, and so Zhuang Zijin didn't continue to ask her.

After dinner, Zhuang Zijin did the dishes whereas Lin Xinyan brought her daughter out to walk around the neighborhood.

She had to familiarize herself with the environment since they just moved in.

When her daughter left, Zhuang Zijin quickly peeled some shrimps, put some rice in a bowl and took it to the bedroom for Lin Xichen.

He was extremely bored as both his tablet and phone were confiscated. As he couldn't play any games or call his teacher to talk, he cuddled himself up at the bedside and looked rather pathetic.

Zhuang Zijin put the bowl of rice on the table and said, "Come quickly and eat before you mom comes home."

Lin Xichen didn't move at all.

Zhuang Zijin dragged him out of bed and said, "You really don't want to eat? You'll be hungry at night. Well, your mom won't know anyway if I don't tell her about it."

Lin Xichen swallowed his saliva as he stood in front of the table and stared at the rice.

He was actually hungry.

"I've peeled the shrimps that you love the most. Eat now, and I'll bring you a cup of water." Zhuang Zijin left the room with the excuse as she thought he might be shy to eat.

Lin Xichen licked his lips. If he's starved to death, how can he take revenge against the heartless man? He has to eat.

He sat on the chair, held the bowl and immediately picked up the rice.

He was eating very fast as he was afraid that Lin Xinyan would realize it.

When Zhuang Zijin entered the room with a cup of water and saw Lin Xichen wolfing down his food, she almost laughed out loud. Those who don't know them might even think that he has been starved for many days.

"Eat slower and don't be choked by the food." Zhuang Zijin handed the cup of water over to him and let him drink.

Lin Xichen grinned and babbled with his mouth full of food, "Thank you grandma."

"Take your time. Your mom won't be back so soon." Zhuang Zijin stood at the door and said, "I'll keep an eye on her for you."

Lin Xichen was having his dinner like a thief.

The environment of the neighborhood was not bad as there was a huge green space even though it was located in the downtown area. The facilities were rather complete with kindergartens, elementary schools, shopping malls and subway stations.

When Lin Xinyan was walking around the neighborhood, Lin Ruixi fell asleep in her arms. As she got home with her daughter in her arms, Zhuang Zijin had done the dishes and was adding some hot water in the bathroom.

When she opened Lin Xichen's door, Lin Xichen was still sitting at the bedside and huddling himself up like a poor and abandoned orphan.

"Do you want to apologize?" Lin Xinyan looked at him and asked.

Lin Xichen held his legs in his arms, lowered his head and said, "I did nothing wrong."

"Fine. You did nothing wrong, didn't you? I'll just wait and see when you will apologize to me." Lin Xinyan closed the door furiously and carried her daughter to another room to sleep.

Lin Ruixi had a sleep habit. She had to hold Lin Xinyan's breast, or else she couldn't sleep soundly.

Lin Xinyan was used to her daughter's sleep habit.

As they were twins, her breast milk was insufficient and could only feed one of them. Lin Ruixi was fed with breast milk as she was given birth later than her brother and looked rather skinny. When she was being fed, she would always hold her another breast.

Therefore, she eventually had this sleep habit.

Lin Xinyan was patting her daughter gently on her back, yet she couldn't sleep too because Lin Xichen would usually go to bed with her.

She never thought that this kid was so stubborn and had no idea that he learned it from whom.

The next day, Lin Xinyan left her house rather late. As the shop was still being renovated, she was rather free at the moment.

She planned to stay home and accompany her two children when she still had time but had to go out only after receiving a call from Qin Ya that someone wanted to meet her.

As she had familiarized herself with the environment and knew that she could take the subway to her shop, she went to the counter to buy a ticket.

"Ms. Lin." Yu Doudou wriggled his way through the crowd and rushed towards her as soon as he saw her.

He called her Ms. Lin as he heard that Guan Jing called her with this name as well.

He had been waiting for her here since early in the morning in the hope of talking to her but didn't expect that she only left her house now.

Even she's going out; she wanted to take the subway and not a cab.

Luckily he was fast enough, or else he would miss her.

Lin Xinyan turned around when she heard some noise. Realized that it was him, she frowned as she wasn't sure why did he follow her.

As Yu Doudou was running with all his might, he was extremely tired and panting when he stood in front of Lin Xinyan. He bent down with his arms akimbo and said, "Can I talk to you for a minute?"

"No." Lin Xinyan refused and clearly wasn't interested to look back.

Yu Doudou replied confidently, "Once you see this, you will be willing to talk to me."

He took out a stuff from his pocket and handed it over to Lin Xinyan.

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Lin Xinyan looked down and saw a memory card in his hand. She frowned and asked, "What is this?"

Yu Doudou's face looked more solemn as he said, "My brother didn't commit suicide, but was murdered instead."

Lin Xinyan was not interested in the same remarks repeated by him.

"Excuse me. I have some other matters to attend to and have to get going." After making the payment, she took her ticket and walked towards the entrance.

Yu Doudou grabbed her by her arm in desperation and said, "Six years ago, my brother received some money given by a woman. She instructed him to crash into a woman to kill her."

Bang!

It was a bolt from the blue to Lin Xinyan.

Someone wanted to harm her six years ago?

"You were the woman that my brother wanted to kill, but luckily you survived. Am I correct?" Yu Doudou told her what's on his mind.

Yu Doudou finally understood why Lin Xinyan would hate and detest him whenever she saw him only after obtaining the recording.

Lin Xinyan grabbed the memory card from his hand and looked at it closely. She thought that it should be a memory card for old-fashioned phones, since the smartphones nowadays were equipped with huge internal memory and wouldn't require such a device. She put the memory card back on his palm and asked, "Is the evidence stored in it?"

"We can talk about it when you have time." Yu Doudou was certain that Lin Xinyan would agree to it.

Lin Xinyan indeed agreed as she wanted to know who the culprit was who harmed her in the past.

The accident almost took away her child's life.

"I know that there's a cafe nearby. Why don't we talk about it in there?" Lin Xinyan walked ahead to lead the way.

Yu Doudou followed her.

The cafe, which was noticed by her last night, was near to her neighborhood.

Soon, they arrived at the cafe. Lin Xinyan looked for a quiet corner and took a seat.

“Would you like some drinks?” Although Lin Xinyan was eager to know the truth, she could see that Dou seemed to be very thirsty.

“I’d like to have some water.” He was indeed thirsty.

Lin Xinyan handed over the order form to the waiter and said, “Can I have two glasses of water? We will ask you for help when we need something else.”

“Sure.”

After the waiter served them with two glasses of water and left, Yu Doudou immediately gulped down his drink. Lin Xinyan then asked him, “Tell me what this is all about.”

“Listen to it first.” Yu Doudou took out a phone in which a memory card could be inserted. After inserting the memory card, he switched on the phone and played the recording.

It was just a part of a conversation, presumably recorded when they were in the middle of their discussion.

“If I do as you said to crash into the woman and kill her, would I go to jail?”

“No worries. I would make sure that you wouldn’t face any lawsuit, not to mention going to jail. We will tamper with your car’s brake in advance to make it look like an accident caused by brake failure, so that you won’t have to bear any responsibility. Since you are suffering from an illness, we will help you by giving you a large amount of money once you’ve completed the task. Since you won’t be able to earn that much of money in all your life, I’m sure this is the best deal you can ever get.”

“Rest assured. Even if you go to jail, I promise to get you out of it by any means necessary.” The woman was desperate to convince him.

He Ruilin didn’t only want Lin Xinyan to feel the pain caused by an accident, but also wanted her dead.

She wanted to ensure that Lin Xinyan would meet her death once and for all when Zong Jinghao divorced her. By doing so, no one could ever threaten her again, and Zong Jinghao would finally belong to her.

But she didn’t expect that someone would save her.

That person even brought her to leave B City. Six years had passed since she left, and she even had children now.

“Based on the recording, I think this woman knew that my brother needed money. Since he was a van driver, she looked for him and plotted the accident.” Yu Doudou said while keeping his phone.

Lin Xinyan propped herself on her elbow and recalled the woman’s voice in the recording. It was very clear and familiar to her, so much so that she could almost immediately recognize who it was.

She was Bai Zhuwei, and now called He Ruilin.

Zhuang Zijin suffered from mental disorder because of her, and her illness was later controlled by He Ruize. Since she could live a normal life now, she didn’t intend to hold her responsible for it.

And the reason behind it was that she was He Ruize’s sister.

Now...

She always believed that the accident was merely due to brake failure, and never thought otherwise.

“Do you know who’s the woman in the recording?” Yu Doudou tried to ask.

Fiddling with her cup, Lin Xinyan looked up but didn’t answer him. Instead, she asked him, “I was wondering how you got the recording.”

Yu Doudou’s face darkened as he lowered his head.

“You don’t wish to tell me?” Lin Xintan loosened her hands, stood up and said, “Thank you so much for telling me this.”

Yu Doudou looked up at her immediately and asked surprisingly, “You don’t want to hold her responsible for what she did? Someone wanted to harm you.”

Lin Xinyan looked at him calmly as he got nervous, and replied, “To hold her responsible to her crime or not is solely my business.”

“But, don’t you think there’s a better chance of success if both of us cooperate?” If they cooperate with each other, he could hold her responsible for murdering his brother, while she can take revenge against her too. Wouldn’t it be killing two birds with one stone?

Why did she remain composed after hearing all this?

“You have doubts about me, am I correct?” She was indeed shocked by the revelation but wouldn’t lose her mind just because of that. Also, there was something that he hadn’t come clean about.

Yu Doudou lowered his head while clasping his hands tightly and rubbing them nervously.

“I’ll consider cooperating with you only after you’ve come clean about it.” Lin Xinyan looked out the window and said with disappointment, “That person won’t be arrested so easily even you have the evidence.”

The situation is different from that in the past. Now that she’s a member of the He family, which is wealthy and powerful, holding her responsible for her crime is easier said than done.

“Wait...” When Lin Xinyan reached the door, Yu Doudou stood up, looked at her from behind and said, “Take a seat.”

Turned around, Lin Xinyan looked at him and asked, “Have you made up your mind to talk?”

Yu Doudou pursed his lips tightly and nodded.

Lin Xinyan sat down on her seat again.

“If you want to cooperate with me, please tell me everything that you know.”

After taking a deep breath, Yu Doudou looked at Lin Xinyan and said, “I’ve been investigating the cause of my brother’s death; yet found no clue at all until I received a phone call.”

“What was the phone call about?”

“My brother kept some of his stuff in Ping An Insurance but didn’t retrieve it when it came due. So, their staff called me.” Yu Doudou said honestly, “Since my number was given as an alternative number, they called me after failing to contact my brother.”

Lin Xinyan didn’t interrupt him but listened carefully to what he had to say.

“It appears that my brother kept it on purpose.” Yu Doudou lowered his head as he said.

“Why would he do that?” Lin Xinyan asked while staring at him.

To respect the dead, he was reluctant to reveal his half-brother’s disgraceful behavior when he was still alive.

He lowered his head and remained silent.

Lin Xinyan waited for a few minutes, yet he still didn’t open his mouth.

“If you don’t tell me the truth, I won’t get to the bottom of the entire incident. In that case, how can we possibly cooperate? Since you don’t trust me after all, what’s the point of asking me to stay?”

“Not at all. I trust you.” Yu Doudou immediately denied it.

“My brother might have purposely recorded it when they were having the conversation. After completing what she asked for and receiving the money, he might have blackmailed her to demand more money, and so was murdered.”

To cut a long story short, greed led to his brother’s death.

Lin Xinyan finally got to the bottom of the entire incident. His brother was the driver who was bribed by He Ruilin to crash into her and kills her. After the accident, she went overseas. On the other hand, as his brother was too greedy, he was murdered for blackmailing He Ruilin again after receiving his money.

“What do you have in mind? You won’t just let the person who harmed you go easily, right?” Yu Doudou asked her impatiently.

“Even though we are clear about the incident, but to reinvestigate and hold the culprit responsible for it is not easy.” Lin Xinyan stood up and said, “I have other matters to attend to.”

“I can give you a lift.” Yu Doudou stood up as well and said, “I’ve a car.”

Lin Xinyan looked at him and nodded.

After getting into the car, Yu Doudou wrote down his contact number on a card and said, “This is my number, and you can call me anytime. Let me just introduce myself again. My name is Yu Doudou.”

Lin Xinyan received the card and replied, “Got it. You can just call me Lin Xinyan.” “Alright.”

Yu Doudou was driving attentively. Soon, the car pulled over at the entrance of the shop that was being renovated.

Waiting anxiously at the entrance, Qin Ya saw Lin Xinyan running towards her and said, “What took you so long?”

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"Sorry, I was held up." Lin Xinyan explained to her.

"Stay in touch." Yu Doudou made a hand gesture for talking over the phone to Lin Xinyan and said, "You can also call me if you need a lift."

Perhaps due to the common enemy, their relationship unknowingly became closer.

Lin Xinyan nodded her head.

"Fine. I'll leave you to it. I've to get going." Yu Doudou waved his hand and drove away.

He would have no income if he stopped driving.

"Ms. Lin, who is he?" Qin Ya asked out of curiosity.

How did she make a friend so easily by just taking a cab?

As Lin Xinyan didn't want to talk about it, she just said calmly, "Why are you so anxious? Who wants to meet me?"

Qin Ya patted herself on her head and said, "I've almost forgotten the most important thing." Lin Xinyan pulled Lin Xinyan and continued, "I've invited her to wait in the office since it is the least messy place."

The office was Lin Xinyan's, and she cleaned it up earlier on.

If not, there would be no other places for them to stay.

Lin Xinyan was curious to know who wanted to meet her.

"Who is that? A man or a woman?" Apart from He Ruize, she had no friend in the country.

"It's a woman who calls herself Madam Zong. She's rather beautiful and elegant." Qin Ya peeked at Lin Xinyan to see her expression.

Her ex-husband is Zong Jinghao.

Is this Madam Zong her ex-mother-in-law?

Lin Xinyan frowned and thought to herself. Madam Zong?

There was no wedding nor ceremony when Zong Jinghao and her got married. She had not even seen any of Zong Jinghao's family members.

Madam Zong? But based on what she knew, Madam Zong passed away a long time ago. Would she be... Lin Xinyan seemed to know who she was.

Aunt Yu said before that Zong Jinghao's father remarried not long after his mother passed away.

Therefore, she could call herself Madam Zong.

But what does she want from her?

Lin Xinyan had lots of doubts.

"She's inside. Call me if you need anything." Qin Ya brought Lin Xinyan to the door of the office but didn't intend to enter the office.

Lin Xinyan nodded. She opened the door only after Qin Ya left.

The office was tidied up with an office desk, a couch and a coffee table. The floor was swept too. The entire office looked rather empty and not even drinks could be served.

An elegantly dressed woman was standing in front of the sliding windows. Although Lin Xinyan couldn't see her face, she had long hair with a bun and apparently kept her body in good shape.

As she turned around after hearing some noise, she saw Lin Xinyan standing near the door and asked, "Are you Lin Xinyan?"

Lin Xinyan could see her face clearly as soon as she turned around. She certainly withstood the test of time as she was still outstandingly beautiful.

She clasped her hand gently above her waist. She was wearing an Omega watch on her wrist, a plaid dress and a pair of black high heels and carrying a black shoulder bag on her right arm.

She might have dressed plainly as she was not wearing any superfluous jewelry, yet radiating her natural refinement.

"Yes, I am." Lin Xinyan walked into the room and asked, "Is there anything I can do for you? I don't really know you."

Yuxiu smiled softly and said, "We should have already met when you're married into the Zong family, yet..." Because the relationship between Zong Jinghao and them was not good, he didn't bring Lin Xinyan back to meet them.

After registering their marriage, Zong Qifeng did make a call to Zong Jinghao and asked him to bring Lin Xinyan to meet them, yet Zong Jinghao declined their invitation.

The divorce that happened afterwards was also decided merely by Zong Jinghao. They only received the news when everything was done and dusted.

Lin Xinyan gave her a knowing smile and replied, "I know."

Since the marriage with Zong Jinghao was merely a trade, it was nothing unusual that he didn't introduce her to his family.

"Please have a seat." Lin Xinyan gestured Yuxiu to sit down.

Yuxiu nodded lightly and sat on the couch.

Sitting in front of her, Lin Xinyan was silently waiting for her to open her mouth.

Since she wanted to see her, she must have something important to tell her.

Yuxiu sized up Lin Xinyan and thought that she was very young and beautiful. She finally said, "I heard that you're 18 when you're married to Jinghao."

Lin Xinyan nodded and replied, "Correct."

They fell silent for two seconds.

"Do you know that Jinghao was supposed to be engaged to someone else?" Yuxiu asked.

She was gazing at Lin Xinyan as she spoke.

She wanted to see the change of her facial expression.

Lin Xinyan answered honestly, "Yes, I do."

"And he broke off the engagement afterwards. Do you know that too?"

"I do." Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes and pondered over the reason that she wanted to meet her.

Judging from what she said, it could be related to Zong Jinghao.

"Well, do you also know the reason that he broke off the engagement?"

Lin Xinyan didn't know the reason behind it.

She looked up at Yuxiu and replied, "I don't know."

She pointed at the office and said, "As you can see, I've just come back from overseas. I'm not really sure about the things that happened here, particularly due to the fact that we were divorced."

Although it wasn't stated in black and white, Lin Xinyan had always believed that they were divorced.

She remembered what Zong Jinghao said at that time. Let's get a divorce.

Once he said that, their marriage was over.

Yuxiu surprisingly said, "You don't know that?" She obviously couldn't believe that Lin Xinyan wasn't aware of it, and continued to ask, "Don't you know that he broke off the engagement because of you?"

Lin Xinyan was now surprised instead.

He broke off the engagement because of her?

Isn't it nonsense?

"I think there might be some misunderstanding. As you are aware, how could it happen because of me as we were divorced for many years?"

Yuxiu shook her head and was confident that there was no misunderstanding about it. Based on Mr. Feng's investigation, Zong Jinghao broke his engagement with He Ruilin when he saw her in Country A

He might have really fallen for her after they were married. Hence, when Zong Jinghao saw her and felt that his love for her rekindled, he subsequently broke the engagement with He Ruilin.

"You must have heard of the Zong and He families, which are the prominent families in B City. If the two families can come together due to the marriage, it will indeed be a strong union of two families. This will be beneficial for both the He and Zong families." She looked at Lin Xinyan and said with a soft voice, "Before he went overseas and met you, he was willing to marry Ms. He. Since they knew each other for so long, both of the families valued the marriage very much."

"So, are you trying to persuade me to leave Zong Jinghao?" Lin Xinyan wanted to laugh it off and said, "I think you've misunderstood something. We had never been together. "

They had never been in a real relationship.

It appears that she got the wrong person.

Yuxiu slightly frowned as she said, "Both of you hadn't been together?"

Lin Xinyan nodded and said confidently, "No."

"To break off the engagement, he... hurt himself. I didn't witness it but heard it from Mr. Zong. He grabbed a fruit knife and plunged it into his chest... so that he could break off the engagement."

"What?" Lin Xinyan stood up suddenly.

How did he get the wound on his chest?

He harmed himself? Was he insane?

Yuxiu was observing Lin Xinyan's reaction and believed that she really wasn't aware of it.

"Why would he do that?" Lin Xinyan couldn't get it.

"His engagement to Ms. He was in the news. As there was a close business relationship between the two families, he certainly had to bear certain responsibilities if he was the one who broke the engagement. Also, since Ms. He saved him by accident in the past and worked for him for a long time, he would feel guilty towards her as ending the engagement would bring about huge impact on her." Therefore, when He Ruilin said she wanted him dead, he really complied and did it to himself.

He might hope that by doing so, he wouldn't be indebted to her.

Yuxiu heaved a sigh and said, "I heard that as Ms. He loved Jinghao deeply, she went to pieces when she got the news that their engagement was going to end."

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Lin Xinyan lowered her head and remained silent as she was stunned after hearing what Yuxiu said.

She didn't take it seriously when he said that he had ended his engagement. She never thought that he really did it.

"After he returned from Country A, his father was furious as he wanted to break off the engagement. They had bitter quarrels for a lot of time, and so their relationship went sour since then."

Yuxiu was dismayed too whenever she recalled her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan clasped her hands tightly and asked, "You...how did you know all this?"

How did she know that Zong Jinghao wanted to break off the engagement because of her?

"Since he wanted to break off his engagement all of a sudden, his infuriated father instructed Mr. Feng to investigate the matter. That's why I've come to see you." Yuxiu explained it frankly.

Holding back her emotions, Lin Xinyan asked calmly, "You're here today to..."

"I simply want to meet you. Initially, we instructed Mr. Feng to investigate the matter in the hope of stopping him from breaking the engagement. But since he went as far as harming himself to break it, we can hardly do anything about it. Considering that he was willing to abandon a woman who had been with him for so long, he must be very resolved in doing this. His father could do nothing about it but just let it be." Yuxiu looked at Lin Xinyan and said, "I'm here to see you of my own free will. No one knows about it."

She felt Lin Xinyan must be the reason that Zong Jinghao was so determined to cancel the engagement.

As she knew that Zong Jinghao ended his engagement because of his ex-wife, she was curious to know what kind of woman would Zong Jinghao's ex-wife be.

As she didn't have the chance to meet her when they were married, she looked for her now as soon as Mr. Feng found out some information about her.

Lin Xinyan was lost. She initially thought that she was here in the hope of asking her to leave Zong Jinghao, so that his engagement with He Ruilin could stay intact.

It turned out to be an entirely different story.

Yuxiu could see that Lin Xinyan was confused, and smilingly said, "Since Jinghao and you were not married for long, you might have not fully understood him. No one can stop him from doing anything that he wants. Even if Mr. Zong didn't agree to the breaking of engagement, in the end, he still had to no choice but to compromise."

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes, and a thin smile could be seen on her face. Even though their marriage wasn't long and they didn't have much time to be together, she knew rather well about his style and behavior.

Why would she return to the country?

If it wasn't for the fact that Zong Jinghao did something, she surely won't return.

Obviously, he is determined to achieve what he wants to do by any means necessary.

“Sorry for taking up your time today.” Yuxiu stood up and said, “I’ve been out for quite some time. It’s time for me to go home.”

Lin Xinyan stood up too and said, “I’ll send you out.”

Yuxiu smiled and didn’t refuse.

“Watch your steps.” As the finishing materials were all over the floor, Lin Xinyan reminded her of it when they were leaving the office to make sure that she wouldn’t be tripped over the materials.

Yuxiu looked at Lin Xinyan and smiled gently. She apparently had a good first impression of her. She said to her, “I hope you won’t tell anyone that we met.”

Her relationship with Zong Jinghao wasn’t good.

It might lead to some unnecessary misunderstanding between them if he found out that she met Lin Xinyan.

“Understood. I won’t tell anyone.” Lin Xinyan agreed.

The driver saw Madam Zong as soon as they stepped out of the room. He quickly opened the car door and said, “Ma’am.”

After Yuxiu bent and got into the car, the driver closed the door. Then, she rolled down the window, looked at Lin Xinyan and said, “I’ve never seen Jinghao fell in love with a woman so deeply.”

She was in a pickle.

After knowing that Zong Jinghao broke off the engagement because of her, she would be lying if she said that she had no feelings for him.

But she wasn’t sure about her feelings for Zong Jinghao.

Yuxiu wanted to say something, but changed the subject and said, “Since his mother passed away early, his attitude towards me... Please take care of him, if you will.”

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips and didn’t want to simply agree to it.

Take care of him?

It is still impossible for them to be together even if he really broke off the engagement.

There were too much of obstacles between them.

“He has someone to take care of him. I won’t do it.” Lin Xinyan refused.

Yuxiu heaved a sigh. She understood that since they were divorced, it would take time for them to be back together. So, she changed the subject and said smilingly, “Alright. When will your shop open? Don’t forget to send me an invitation.”

“Sure.” Lin Xinyan laughed too.

“Let’s go.” Yuxiu told driver gently.

“Yes, ma’am.” The driver soon drove the car away.

Lin Xinyan stood at the roadside and watched as the car left. She felt that she couldn’t really understand Yuxiu.

She knew from Aunt Yu that the relationship between Zong Jinghao and her wasn’t good.

She thought that Zong Jinghao’s stepmother would be like Shen Xiuqing, a woman who was good-looking but wicked.

But after talking to her, she felt that the woman was entirely different.

She was polite, elegant and totally different from those coquettish women.

She was entirely different.

She virtually upended her impression of a mistress.

“Ms. Lin.” Qin Ya walked out from the shop. She stood beside her and asked her curiously, “Why did she want to meet you?”

If it wasn’t for the fact that Zong Jinghao was so determined, the engagement would remain intact, and she would be here asking her to leave Zong Jinghao.

Pathetically, Zong Jinghao and she had never been together.

But in the eyes of others, she was the culprit who made Zong Jinghao break off his engagement.

It’s so unjust for her, isn’t it?

She mentioned that she merely wanted to meet her and hoped to keep it a secret.

“Nothing much actually.” Lin Xinyan turned over to look at Qin Ya and said, “I’ll treat you to lunch. Sounds good?”

“Of course.” Qin Ya hugged Lin Xinyan and said, “I’m extremely tired now since I even have to supervise the renovation work. I don’t want just an ordinary lunch but a slap-up meal to reward me for my hard work.”

She might be complaining, but in fact looked joyous.

Why wouldn’t she be happy when someone wanted to treat her to lunch?

“Fine. You pick the restaurant.” Lin Xinyan agreed to it. Even though she was joking, Lin Xinyan knew that she was really tired.

She had to supervise almost everything in the shop.

“Really? I can pick any restaurant?” Qin Ya smilingly asked.

“Of course.” Lin Xinyan laughed too and answered affirmatively, “Why would I lie to you when I say I’m going to treat you to lunch?”

“Alright.” Qin Ya pointed at the Kangting Hotel and said, “I want to have lunch there.”

“...” “Too expensive?”

Qin Ya held Lin Xinyan in her arms, rested her chin on her shoulder like a spoiled child, and said, “Ms. Lin, you can’t be too stingy. You promised me.”

“Hmm. I promised you and I will do it. Let’s go.” Although she earned quite a lot, she wasn’t extravagant as she had two kids.

She would spend her money without hesitation only if it was meant for her children.

She was rather stingy to herself.

“Are you sure?” Qin Ya was just joking around. She knew that other than necessary expenses, she would save most of her money that she had earned.

“Of course. I promised you.” Lin Xinyan held Qin Ya’s hand to cross the road when the traffic light turned green.

“Ms. Lin, I was just joking with you. Since Xi and Rui are growing up, you will need to spend a lot of money. Don’t waste your money on this.” Qin Ya pulled Lin Xinyan to walk back.

“I won’t become poor just because of one meal, right?” Lin Xinyan pulled Qin Ya closer to her and said, “Actually I haven’t been to such a place alone to spend my money. Just pamper us once and let’s find out whether the five-star hotel in our country is the same as overseas.”

She went to five-star hotels for many times but didn't have to spend her own money. Since she was a well-known designer, she had to attend events or socialize with guests in such places.

"Can I order Australian lobsters then?" Qin Ya asked Lin Xinyan in a whiny voice like a child.

"Sure..." Lin Xinyan laughed. As she looked up, she noticed that a woman who folded her arms across her chest was giving her a cold-eyed stare at the entrance of the hotel.

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He Ruilin was wearing a greyish-pink dress and white high heels, with delicate makeup and wavy hair.

She was standing at the entrance and staring at her with her folded arms, as if she had noticed Lin Xinyan long ago.

Lin Xinyan didn't want to have any argument with her. Although she wasn't afraid of her, she dragged Qin Ya over and entered the hotel from the side to avoid confronting her.

But He Ruilin didn't want to let her go easily.

If it wasn't for her, why would Zong Jinghao break off his engagement with her?

She stood right in front of them wherever Lin Xinyan wanted to go.

"Is there something wrong with you?" Qin Ya was infuriated after they were being blocked several times.

"There's something wrong with you!" Staring at her, He Ruilin's gorgeous face was slightly contorted with anger.

"Why are you blocking our way if you are alright?" Qin Ya was staring at her too.

I'll stare at you too!

"It appears that Miss He and Ms. Lin are there." As Guang Jing passed by and saw a few people arguing at the entrance of the hotel, he pulled over and told the man who was sitting at the back.

Zong Jinghao was going through some documents, with those that hadn't been read on his legs. He wore a white suit that looked untucked, while his jacket was put aside on the seat. The top two buttons from his collar were undone, revealing his long and slim neck as well as partly visible collarbone. He seemed to be rather busy, or else he wouldn't read the documents even when he was in the car.

As he heard Guan Jing, he rolled down the window and looked over there.

It was indeed the two of them.

Zong Jinghao's slightly lowered his eyes as soon as he glanced at He Ruilin. After folding the documents, he neither got out of the car nor continued reading the document.

Guan Jing asked him cautiously, "Do you want to get out of the car and take a closer look?"

After Zong Jinghao gave him a cold-eyed stare, Guan Jing curled his lips and stopped talking unwillingly.

Lin Xinyan pulled Qin Ya over and said, "We'll go to another restaurant."

"You want to run off? No way!" He Ruilin spread her arms to block Lin Xinyan. She was still exasperated because Zong Jinghao broke off his engagement with her.

How could she let the culprit go so easily?

Lin Xinyan's face darkened completely as she said, "Make way!"

He Ruilin sneered several times and said, "Make way?" She suddenly turned ferocious and said, "No way, Lin Xinyan! How can I let you off the hook since you ruined my happiness and my future? I'm bursting to tear you apart and feed you to the dogs."

"I'm afraid even the dogs won't eat you if you're being fed to them." Qin Ya couldn't stand her arrogance.

Smack!

He Ruilin slapped Qin Ya on her face right away. Then, she pointed at her finger and said, "Who are you to talk to me?"

Qin Ya was stunned after being slapped on her face. It was extremely painful.

Infuriated, Lin Xinyan clenched her hand and slapped He Ruilin on the left side of her face using her right hand with all her might.

Smack!

It was louder than just now.

She didn't want to confront her, but that didn't mean that she was a pushover.

Assaulting Qin Ya equals to assaulting her!

Exasperated, He Ruilin couldn't believe that Lin Xinyan would dare slap her and said, "You dare to hit me?"

Lin Xinyan clenched her hand and realized that her hand and shoulder were numb as she used up all of her energy just now. Nevertheless, she remained composed and said, "Don't mess with me and I won't mess with you. But, it was you who provoked me in the first place. Do you think you're all-powerful just because you're the noble and rich girl from the He family? We are all equal human beings, and no one is nobler than the other. Since you assaulted someone, you reaped what you sowed."

I reaped what I sowed?

"You're exactly the one who will reap what you've sown!" He Ruilin sprang upon her frantically and screamed, "Lin Xinyan, I will kill you. I will kill you..."

He Ruilin's hatred that was buried deep in her heart was finally vented on Lin Xinyan unstopably. She looked like a maniac.

"Are you sure you can defeat both of us?" Lin Xinyan was calmed and stood still.

Qin Ya was now holding a stick and staring ferociously at He Ruilin. As soon as she dares move an inch, she will hit her on her head.

He Ruilin stopped. Ever since she's part of the He family, who would dare mess with her?

She is always being feared and flattered in the past and has never been bullied like now.

She was completely pissed off.

Her body shivered due to extreme anger.

"Who are you staring at? Your eyes might just pop out of your head." Qin Ya swung the stick and pretended to hit her.

He Ruilin was frightened and shielded her head with her hands.

It was her natural reflex.

But she looked particularly ridiculous.

"Haha." Qin Ya laughed at her.

"Lin Xinyan, I won't let you go!" He Ruilin was exasperated and screamed hysterically.

Hah. Lin Xinyan sneered.

Let go?

When did she ever let her go?

“He Ruilin, my mother suffered from mental illness because of you. I met a car accident and was almost dead because of you. Did you ever have mercy on me and let me go?” She initially hesitated as He Ruilin was He Ruize’s sister. If she really wanted to go after her, she would feel sorry for He Ruize.

He Ruize cared about his sister very much.

But it seemed that her hatred against her was entrenched, so much so that she wouldn’t let go of her so easily. Since she harmed her once, she might do it again and again.

Plus, it was a different situation for her now as she had to ensure the safety of her two kids.

Who knows if He Ruilin could be ruthless enough to harm her kids?

At this moment, Lin Xinyan was resolved to cooperate with Yu Doudou to reveal the truth behind the accident and his brother’s suicide.

Perhaps she could only live her life peacefully by holding He Ruilin responsible for what she did.

Stunned, He Ruilin squinted her eyes and asked, “You knew that I plotted the car accident?”

It happened many years ago, and no one knew about it.

“Truth will come to light.” Lin Xinyan emphasized each and every word.

“Did my brother tell you this?” She only told He Ruize about this.

She felt betrayed by the whole world. After Zong Jinghao abandoned her, even her brother who loved her very much revealed her secret to this woman.

Lin Xinyan was shocked. He... He Ruize knew that she plotted the car accident?

But he did say that it was an accident.

Did he say it on purpose for his sister?

Lin Xinyan suddenly noticed that there was something unusual about what He Ruize said earlier that day. If one day you find out that I’m not as good as I was, will you hate me?

Would he be referring to this incident since he looked heavy-hearted that day?

Lin Xinyan's silence was seen as acquiescence to He Ruilin.

"Hehe. Hehehe..." He Ruilin laughed frantically to the extent that tears streamed down her face, and said, "Hypocrites. All of them are hypocrites."

She thought He Ruize sincerely cared about her.

She never thought that she was nothing compared to this woman.

Why her?

Why would everyone love her?

Qin Ya was frightened by He Ruilin's reaction and whispered, "Ms. Lin, is she mentally ill?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head.

"Lin Xinyan." He Ruilin suddenly stopped laughing, stared at Lin Xinyan with a vicious look, and said, "Lin Xinyan, just wait and see!"

Since she's now a member of the He family, she has plenty of chances to go after her.

She had many chances in the past.

Now she has even more.

"I'll wait." Lin Xinyan stood straight in an imposing manner that surpassed He Ruilin's.

He Ruilin knew that she couldn't do anything if she continued to find fault with her. So, she left and had to make other plans.

She was too careless and underestimated Lin Xinyan.

Therefore, she made herself look disheveled instead.

When she was walking down the stairs to her car, she saw a man walking towards her. She was lightened up right away and rushed towards him, "Hao..."

CHAPTER 89.

When He Ruilin saw Zong Jinghao, she virtually ran frantically towards him and wanted to hug him with her arms wide open.

Unexpectedly, Zong Jinghao turned his body and walked sideways all of a sudden. She failed to hug him and couldn't stop herself as she ran too fast. As a result, she stumbled and sprained her ankle.

"Ah..." She screamed as her legs gave way and fell down.

Guan Jing who was standing beside her could have held her by her arm, but he didn't reach out his hands.

Before she became a member of the He family, she used to flatter Guan Jing willingly since he was Zong Jinghao's most trusted person.

But ever since she's in the He family, she always put on airs and graces in front of Guan Jing.

Guan Jing felt uncomfortable because of that. His feelings towards her were not as strong as before.

Since she's now a noble and rich girl, an assistant like him was way out of her league.

He Ruilin fell and bruised her knees. She looked rather disheveled as her freshly trimmed hair was in a mess.

She looked up at Zong Jinghao and said, "Hao..."

She couldn't accept his indifference and ignorance towards her.

He loved her.

But his attitude towards her now completely devastated her.

She couldn't accept it.

Shivering, she looked at the man standing in front of him and said, "Hao..."

Her eyes misted over. She felt aggrieved and wanted to ingratiate herself with him.

Zong Jinghao came up to her, kneeled down and tidied up her disheveled hair that covered her face.

He looked at her face closely, as if trying to figure out whether she was evil-hearted by judging her facial features.

"Hao..." "Don't call my name." He interrupted He Ruilin when she called him.

He Ruilin was shocked and couldn't accept it.

"How much have you been hiding from me?" He spoke in a low voice, as if suppressing him from doing something.

He Ruilin racked her brains to recall her memories and ponder over Zong Jinghao's words.

Suddenly a thought flashed through her mind and she was shocked. Did he hear the conversation between Lin Xinyan and her just now?

"I hid nothing from you." She denied it immediately.

"Nothing?" Zong Jinghao sneered.

Since she rescued him in the past, he trusted her somewhat and didn't really bother even when he found out her nasty tricks. Also, he never held her responsible for almost anything.

That's because he was indebted to her.

But she could always upend his impression of her.

She was so good at lying. Even the accident that Lin Xinyan met in the past was plotted by her.

He underestimated her. He used to think that she would just occasionally play some nasty tricks but never imagined her to be so... wicked.

"I didn't... I didn't hurt Lin Xinyan. She was talking nonsense." Tears streamed down from He Ruilin's face as she grabbed Zong Jinghao by his arm and said, "Hao, you've to trust me."

His gaze fell upon her face fixedly for a few seconds. Face darkened, he didn't utter a word but loosened her hands.

He Ruilin didn't want to let go, yet she couldn't even struggle as Zong Jinghao was too strong.

"Hao." He Ruilin wrapped her arms around his legs and said, "I really didn't do it. Trust me. Even if I did something wrong, I did it because I love you. Is it wrong that I fell for you?"

Hehe.

Zong Jinghao sneered, as if mocking himself. He replied her softly, "You didn't do anything wrong. I did."

He shouldn't have treated his responsibility to her as love.

“No. No.” He Ruilin shook her head non-stop and said, “You did nothing wrong, and neither did I. She’s the one who’s at fault.”

Lin Xinyan turned over, pointed angrily at Lin Xinyan who was standing at the top of the stairs, and said, “It’s her. She’s the b****.”

“You’re the...”

Qin Ya wanted to talk back but was stopped by Lin Xinyan. It was unnecessary to argue now.

The thing that she was afraid of the most was her losing Zong Jinghao.

Hit a person where it hurts. Zong Jinghao is exactly the spot where she will be hurt the most.

Lin Xinyan walked down the stairs in high heels towards Zong Jinghao. She put her hair behind her ear, winked coquettishly, rested one of her arms on Zong Jinghao’s shoulder and said gently, “Darling.”

Lin Xinyan felt sick. It wasn’t a pleasant way to call him.

But since they hadn’t registered for divorce, it wasn’t wrong for her to address him that.

She just wanted to piss He Ruilin off.

Look at that. He Ruilin’s face turned red like cooked shrimps.

Zong Jinghao lowered his eyes slightly and looked at Lin Xinyan’s arm that was rested on his shoulder. Her arm was slim, fair-skinned, and so close to him that he could even see the soft hair on her arms.

This was the first time that Lin Xinyan voluntarily came so close to him.

She even called him using the term of endearment.

He felt rather joyous and didn’t stop her from calling him that.

He knew that she did it on purpose but didn’t push her away.

He simply let her rest her arms on him.

“Don’t you put a feather in your cap!” He Ruilin was completely pissed off by Lin Xinyan when she called him darling.

She stood up and said while attempting to slap her, “You are such a b****. Don’t touch Hao.”

When she was about to slap her on her face, Zong Jinghao grabbed her by her wrist.

As soon as their eyes met, He Ruilin was startled when she was given a cold-eyed stare by him.

She had never seen him to be so emotionless.

“Guan Jing.” Zong Jinghao let go of her arms.

Guan Jing understood what he wanted. He came up to her and held her back.

He Ruilin was unwilling to be held back by Guan Jing, not to mention looked at Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao who were so close to each other.

“Guan Jing, let me go!” He Ruilin only wanted to loosen Guan Jing’s grip from her and pull Lin Xinyan away from him.

She can’t touch him!

Zong Jinghao belongs to her.

No one can touch him!

“Ms. He, aren’t you disgracing yourself?” Guan Jing said as he frowned.

“Guan Jing, you’re just nobody. Who are you to teach me?” She bellowed.

As Zong Jinghao couldn’t be bothered to deal with her, he simply told Guan Jing coldly, “You’ll deal with it.” Then, he walked away with Lin Xinyan.

“Hao...” He Ruilin was completely panicked when Zong Jinghao was leaving.

She punched and kicked Guan Jing and said, “Let me go. Let me go now.”

Guan Jing was still holding her back and didn’t even move an inch. He said to her, “Please calm down, Miss He. Your engagement with Mr. Zong was broken off.”

“You know nothing about the love between Hao and me. Even after the engagement was broken off, he still loves me.”

Guan Jing thought that she was ridiculous.

Love her?

Even an outsider like him could clearly see that Zong Jinghao never loved her in the past.

He just felt responsible for sleeping with her that night and indebted to her for rescuing him when they were young.

Love? Bullshit.

“A maniac.”

“You are a maniac and a dog. You are just a guard dog beside Hao that can bark!”

Guan Jing’s face darkened and sneered, “Of course. I’ll never be as noble as you, Ms. He!”

Guan Jing emphasized the word noble strongly.

Why would a person change her personality just because her status is changed?

No. She has always been that type of person since the beginning. She just hid her true self very well in the past.

Now, she is just revealing her true nature.

As the saying goes, a leopard can’t change its spots.

Zong Jinghao let go of He Ruilin after Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan got into the car.

He gave her a cold-eyed stare and said, “Mr. Zong would never fall for a woman like you.”

He Ruilin shivered in anger. As Guan Jing was about to leave, she rushed towards him, grabbed him by his arm and bit him.

Humph! It hurts.

He lifted his leg to kick the mad woman and said, “Now you are a dog that bites.”

Guan Jing looked at the back of his hand where she bit but didn’t bleed. He spat in the face of the woman who was kicked by him.

He turned around and left.

He Ruilin was lying on the floor with her fists clenched. She swore to pay her back for the humiliation today.

“Let go of me.” Lin Xinyan who was dragged away was nervous. She just wanted to deliberately irritate He Ruilin just now.

Zong Jinghao didn’t reply but forcefully brought her into the car.

Lin Xinyan struggled.

Zong Jinghao clasped her hands and said, “Be quiet.”

Lin Xinyan wriggled in an attempt to escape from him and said, "Where are you bringing me to?"

CHAPTER 90.

As Zong Jinghao came up close to her, she instinctively moved backward. But there was not much space for her to retreat as she was already leaning against the seat.

Soon, his sturdy chest muscle held down her body almost completely, and his heat could be clearly felt by her. Her body was stiff as she didn't dare move an inch.

Zong Jinghao put her hair behind her ear while moving his lips close to her cheek. He lowered his voice and said slowly, "You want to leave after using me just like that without repaying me?"

"..." At this moment, Lin Xinyan regretted to use him to take revenge against He Ruilin.

Zong Jinghao moved slightly away from her and buckled her up. Lin Xinyan didn't dare resist him throughout the process.

That's because she indeed used him.

Zong Jinghao moved away from her and started the car to leave this place.

She leaned against the window and contemplated for quite some time before she said, "I was rude to use you just now without your permission. How much do you want?"

"..." Zong Jing Hao thought of yelling at her. Does he look like he needs the money?

"I don't need money." Lin Xinyan was getting little nervous and asked, "Then, what do you want in return?"

He gave her a sidelong glance gently and rather flirtatiously, "How about... repays the debt of gratitude with your body?"

"..." Lin Xinyan had only one thing in mind: To escape from him.

Why didn't she notice that he is so... shameless?

Is he a hooligan?

Zong Jinghao laughed as he glanced at her and said, "Are you scolding me quietly?"

Lin Xinyan was startled. Did she speak her mind?

Did he hear it?

She stammered as she was trying to explain, "Nope. I didn't scold you."

Zong Jinghao quirked his lips and didn't reply.

Feeling guilty, Lin Xinyan tried to change the subject and said, "Where are we going?"

"I'm hungry." He didn't look at her at all.

"..." Lin Xinyan was frightened and didn't dare open her mouth.

She felt that he would distort whatever she said.

"What are you thinking about?" Zong Jinghao gave her a sidelong glance.

He felt that there was something wrong with her. But he softly, as if understood something, and said, "Not gonna eat you up. We'll have lunch."

"..." Lin Xinyan's face turned pink as she blushed. Why did she think about something else just now?

It's still fine to think about something else.

But her mind was read by someone else.

It was so embarrassing. She really put her foot in her mouth.

She lowered her head and wanted to hide herself.

Zong Jinghao's lips quirked as his gaze fell upon her soft pink lips.

Soon, he pulled over the car in front of a restaurant.

Lin Xinyan looked out the window and glanced at the Chinese restaurant.

She unbuckled the seat belt and opened the door to get out of the car. Zong Jinghao was waiting for her in front of the car and said, "The food served by this Chinese restaurant is good."

Lin Xinyan responded affirmatively but didn't dare to glance at him.

She suddenly looked up as if a thought flashed through her mind, and said, "My treat this time."

Zong Jinghao came up to her, rested his arm on her shoulder like what she did just now, and said noncommittally, "You want to send me way with one lunch?"

She could feel his breath blowing her hair near her ear.

He seemed to be flirting her.

Lin Xinyan slightly looked away and regretted her decision earlier.

If she knew what would happen next, she would definitely not mess with him to take revenge against He Ruilin.

She felt that she had shot herself in the foot.

He Ruilin was indeed irritated.

But what about herself?

And now she was teased.

"I just used your name. A lunch is sufficient to repay your help." Lin Xinyan shrugged her shoulder, and Zong Jinghao had to put his arm down.

"Let's go." Lin Xinyan walked first into the restaurant.

She realized that she's always the passive one when she's with Zong Jinghao.

This shouldn't continue forever.

Once he dominates the whole thing, this will never end.

She must seize the control.

"..." Looking at her slim body from behind, Zong Jinghao touched the corner of his lips and smiled.

After entering the restaurant, Lin Xinyan picked a seat by the window and sat down.

Zong Jinghao entered unhurriedly and sat in front of Lin Xinyan.

A waiter came up to them and handed over the menu.

After receiving the menu, Lin Xinyan passed it to Zong Jinghao and said, "I haven't been here before and don't know what the specialties of the house are. You'll order."

Zong Jinghao glanced at her. He knew what she was up to but didn't expose it. After taking the menu and ordering several featured dishes, he folded the menu and said, "That will be all."

The waiter took the menu back and said, "Alright. Please be seated, and we will serve the food soon."

The waiter left their table.

While waiting for the food to be served, Zong Jinghao propped himself up on one of his elbow, while his gaze fell upon Lin Xinyan's face to scan her again and again.

Lin Xinyan was uncomfortable when he was staring at her. She touched her face and asked, "Is there something on my face?"

"Nope."

"Then, why are you staring at me?"

"Good-looking."

"..." Lin Xinyan averted his gaze and said, "Stupid."

Soon, the waiter served them with their dishes.

The dishes were indeed specialties which Lin Xinyan never tried before. She salivated at the food even though she wasn't sure if it tasted good.

Zong Jinghao filled a bowl of soup for her and said, "Try this."

She couldn't see any ingredient in the soup that looked white and thick as well as smelled pleasant.

She was supposed to have lunch with Qin Ya, yet they accidentally met He Ruilin. Since it took up a lot of their time, she was really famished now.

She salivated particularly after smelling the soup.

She tried a spoonful of soup and found that it tasted fresh and smooth.

"Is the soup nice?" Zong Jinghao was observing her facial expression.

Lin Xinyan nodded and replied, "Very nice."

The soup really tasted good.

"And this." Zong Jinghao picked up a piece of shrimp cake and put it in her plate.

She lowered her eyes to look at it while still eating her soup.

She wasn't used to Zong Jinghao's kindness and care.

She lost her appetite and was puzzled.

"Why did you break off your engagement?"

Were the things that Yuxiu said true? Was it because of her?

Zong Jinghao took a sip of his drink and asked, "Why are you asking about it all of a sudden?"

Lin Xinyan looked up at him and said, "I want to know."

Slowly put down his cup, Zong Jinghao glanced at her and said, "I broke it off because we were not a good match. It's as simple as that."

Whenever there is hope, disappointment might just follow.

Just as she thought.

How would it possibly happen because of her?

She gave herself a self-mocking laugh.

She laughed at herself for daydreaming.

She knew very well that it's impossible, yet she still looked forward to it.

"Ms. He was with Mr. Zong for a long time, yet you just abandoned her easily. What a heartless man."

Munching a piece of shrimp cake, Zong Jinghao put down his chopsticks, as if pondering over something.

After quite some time, he slowly opened his mouth and asked, "What did you call me just now?"

"Mr. Zong." Lin Xinyan answered him almost subconsciously.

He replied like he was evaluating something in a serious manner, "I don't like the way you called me."

"How about this, President Zong?" Lin Xinyan called him with another title.

"Not good either."

“ ... ”

He picked up and ate another piece of shrimp cake that was as white as snow. As he was munching it slowly, his lips slightly moved when he said, “I think darling would be just nice.”