

CHAPTER 121.

Zong Jinghao, "..."

Lin Xinyan raised her head and looked at him. She seemed to be asking what was going on.

At this moment, Zong Jinghao understood what Lin Xichen's words meant. Those were the words that he was hesitant to say.

He was young, so how could he think so deeply?

"Boy, you won't grow tall like this."

"I'll definitely grow taller than you. Anyway, you won't grow taller anymore." It was like he became confident enough to speak when Mommy was by his side.

Was this kid going to burn the bridges after he got what he wanted?

"What the hell is going on!" Suddenly, Lin Xinyan stood up abruptly. From the way they conversed, they seemed to be quite familiar with each other.

Didn't Lin Xichen detest him?

Why would they be in contact with each other?

Did Zong Jinghao contact her son privately without her knowledge?

What was his motive?

"Explain it to me clearly!" Lin Xinyan did not stay courteous anymore, and she displayed a stand that she would not let the matter rest unless she got a clear explanation.

"You'll tell me!" Lin Xinyan pointed at her son.

Lin Xichen blinked and told the truth, "Mommy, I know you were bullied by He Ruize."

Lin Xinyan's heart jerked and she could not speak. How did he know?

"Xi."

"He told me." Lin Xichen pointed at Zong Jinghao, "When He Ruize went to our house and wanted to take us to dinner, I thought he had some unkind intentions; so I called Zong Jinghao for help. He asked me if I wanted to avenge you and I said yes. Then he suggested that I should be taken by He Ruize, so that he can find the evidence of He Ruize's crime."

Lin Xichen knew that Mommy cared about him. Hence, even if He Ruize bullied her, she would never take a gamble on his safety.

Originally, he wanted to tell Zong Jinghao at that moment, but he had abandoned Mommy before so Lin Xichen did not tell him since Mommy would definitely be angry.

This was what he expected.

“Is that so?” Lin Xinyan asked as she stared at Zong Jinghao with coldness bursting out from her heart.

Undeniably, Zong Jinghao was not someone who dared not take responsibility for what he did.

“Yes.”

Lin Xinyan was very angry, but she did express her anger in front of her son. Instead, she asked him to take a good rest, “Xi, you can sleep a bit more. Mommy will return to our residence to get your clothes.”

Lin Xichen nodded obediently and pulled up the quilt. He glanced at Zong Jinghao secretly and subtly showed a pleased smile for his success.

He thought to himself, “My mom is angry now. Let’s see how you can kiss her.”

“You’ll go with me.” Lin Xinyan left the room after speaking.

Zong Jinghao glanced at Lin Xichen, “Boy, are you trying to frame me?”

“I’m telling the truth. How could it be framing you?” Lin Xichen pulled the quilt to cover half his face, showing only two eyes that kept flickering, “It was true that you put me in a position to be captured deliberately.”

In the latter sentence, his voice toned down.

It seemed quite untrue.

Zong Jinghao helped him to punish the bad guy.

But he was also in the wrong indeed.

Thinking about this, Lin Xichen did not feel apologetic towards him anymore.

“Okay.” Zong Jinghao’s voice fell. Then he raised his lips and chuckled, “I admit it. But-”

His smile grew wider, and he said unpredictably, “Do you think I can appease your mommy so that she isn’t angry with me?”

“No.” Lin Xichen was very confident as Mommy loved him very much.

“Mommy gave birth to me and she loves me very much.”

Ah.

Zong Jinghao laughed when he heard about this logic.

Only the child that she had given birth to could share the closest bond with her?

Supported by his hands placed on both sides of Lin Xichen, he leaned downwards. When their eyes met, he said “Boy, you can never give what I can give to your mommy.”

“What is it?” Lin Xichen met his determined eyes and panicked.

Zong Jinghao then moved to stand upright, as if the previous exchange of stares had never happened. He stroked his unwrinkled collar slowly, “Your mommy is still waiting for me.”

“You must explain things clearly!” Lin Xichen sat up abruptly.

Was he angry?

Zong Jinghao walked out of the room with calm and steady steps, ignoring Lin Xichen’s shouts.

Lin Xinyan was waiting for him outside. When she saw him coming out only now, she asked, “What were you doing? Why did you take so long?”

“I was talking to your son.” Zong Jinghao held the key in his hand and pressed it to unlock the car that was parked at the gate. After a beep, an unlocking sound of the doors was heard.

“Let’s go.”

Lin Xinyan followed him into the car.

After driving some distance, Lin Xinyan said, “Please stop the car. I have something to say.”

Zong Jinghao pulled the car over at the side of the road and stopped.

“Do you know what you did that crossed the line?” Lin Xinyan turned her head and looked out the window as she did not even have the courage to look at him. She was disappointed. She did not expect him to love his child, and she did not expect him to accept her child.

However, she could not accept that he risked her child’s safety.

"They're very important to me." Lin Xinyan clutched her chest and there seemed to be a hole poked through her heart. She could feel the wind passed through her heart and brought chills to her entire body.

"How could you use his life as bait? Have you ever thought about the possibility of accidents and unexpected outcomes?" She lowered her head, "I am not you. You have had enough fun. You can have many women that you like, and you can have many children of your own, but I only have them."

Zong Jinghao's expression changed drastically after hearing Lin Xinyan's last sentence.

Dark clouds swept across his eyebrows, "Lin Xinyan, tell the things that you have just said to me again!"

He rarely called her by her given name, and it was even rarer for him to call her by both the given name and the last name.

He squeezed her chin to turn her face to himself, and said every word clearly, "Tell me again about what you have said just now!"

When Lin Xinyan looked into his disappointed eyes, she was stunned for a moment. Then she laughed mockingly, "Aren't you interested in me because I'm new to you? In your world, what kind of woman you had never seen before, and there were many with matching family backgrounds. Why were you interested in me?"

Why her?

There were many who were prettier than her.

"There must be no woman by your side, who has given birth to a child, right?" She spoke each word with sarcasm.

Zong Jinghao was so angry that he laughed, "Is it because I'm so kind to you that you think I'm an easy-going person to talk to? Huh?!"

"Did you forget that you promised me something?" He approached little by little. His breath as he spoke, and his fierce eyes were so close within reach.

Lin Xinyan held her breath, "But you also promised me not to touch my children."

"Did I touch them?"

"But you used him."

"So, what are you going to do?"

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes. Indeed, what could she do to him?

She has no ability or strength against him.

She would not care if it was her who needed to compromise and tolerate, but she would never compromise when her child was concerned!

“If you dare to use them again, I’ll kill you.” She said very firmly.

“Kill me?” Zong Jinghao had never seen anyone who dared to threaten to kill him so arrogantly and did it right in front of him.

And it was a woman who did that.

Instead of being angry, he smiled.

He appreciated the stubbornness and courage within her. Despite not having any ability against him, she still threatened him.

“Okay, if it happens one more time, you’ll kill me.” He loosened his grip on her chin. His hand brushed her shoulders and held her waist tightly. With a strong pull, he hugged her from across the dashboard.

Lin Xinyan exclaimed.

“What are you doing?”

“Shhh! Be quiet.”

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Lin Xinyan thought there was someone, so she kept silent.

But she found there was no one around here.

It was very quiet instead.

“What are you doing?” Lin Xinyan asked.

Zong Jinghao lowered his eyes and his eyelashes quivered slightly. Lin Xinyan followed his gaze and looked down, and she discovered that the buttons in front of her chest were unbuttoned. Her lacy bra was exposed and her cleavage could be seen vaguely.

She was sitting on his lap in a riding position at the moment.

The posture was extremely intimate.

Her face blushed immediately, and even her neck became as red as a cooked shrimp.

“You...you-”

Lin Xin stretched out her hand to cover her exposed bra, but Zong Jinghao grabbed her wrists, and she could not move as a result.

Zong Jinghao’s Adam’s apple moved. His black pupils revealed a touch of brightness like water and fog, filled with desire.

He grinned in a hoarse voice, “If you’re going to kill me, you can’t let me die with regret, can you?”

Lin Xinyan’s mind was blank.

At this moment, she forgot how to react and lost the ability to think.

“When can you accept me?” His lips approached slowly and pressed on her collarbone. The moment their skin touched; Lin Xinyan trembled. There seemed to be an electric current flowing from his lips, piercing into her flesh, and spreading to every part of her body.

Her eyes were veiled with a layer of mist which is thin and light.

“I don’t know.”

“But I can’t wait anymore.” His passionate gaze was like the scorching sun in a tropical desert, grilling her and making her speechless for a long time.

“If you don’t speak, I’ll consider it a silent consent.” His lips outlined her neck, collarbone and all the way down.

The other hand stroked down her back, her waist, her thighs and calves, and reached under her skirt-

A dazzling light was reflected from the rearview mirror and hit Lin Xinyan’s eyes. She became sober immediately and pushed the man away, “No, I’m not ready yet. You agreed that you’ll get my consent first.”

“You just gave me your silent consent.”

Lin Xinyan, “...”

“I didn’t.” She denied.

“There seems to be someone.” Lin Xinyan looked through the rear glass and saw a black car stop behind their car.

Zong Jinghao thought she was merely making excuses, and bit on his lips, “Don’t lie to me.”

Lin Xinyan’s expression became serious, “I didn’t lie to you. There’s a black car with the license plate number ZQ6668.”

Zong Jinghao’s movements paused and he looked back.

Sure enough, there was a black car parked behind theirs.

His expression darkened slightly, and the initial passionate atmosphere became colder.

“Do you know whose car is that?” Lin Xinyan saw the change on Zong Jinghao’s face.

He said yes faintly.

It was his father’s car so how could he not know it?

Why was he here at this time?

He buttoned up Lin Xinyan’s clothes and instructed, “Stay in the car and don’t move.”

Lin Xinyan nodded.

He got Lin Xinyan tidied up, opened the door and got down from his car. Then he walked towards the car behind.

“It’s really Jinghao.” Yuxiu said to her husband.

Zong Qifeng said calmly, “What is he doing here at this time?”

Why was he becoming less steady in his behavior?

Originally, Zong Qifeng planned to come and look for Zong Jinghao alone, but Yuxiu was worried that they would quarrel, so she came along.

Uncle Feng got out of the car and said to Zong Jinghao respectfully, “Young Master.”

Zong Jinghao did not pay attention as he looked at the people in the car.

“Are you free?” Zong Qifeng asked.

Zong Jinghao’s response was neither cold nor warm. He casually said, “Did something happen?”

“Nothing happened. Can’t I come to see you?” Zong Qifeng wanted to talk to him calmly and peacefully, but he always looked cold towards him.

As such, Zong Qifeng began to get angry when he saw him like this.

Yuxiu grabbed his hand and comforted him silently to keep him from getting angry.

Zong Jinghao laughed, “Do you have the time?”

When he was 20 years old, Zong Qifeng stepped down from his position and left the company in his hands.

Since then, he had not asked anything about the company. All he did was spend romantic time with this woman at home.

Zong Jinghao often thought if he had a child with this woman, he would definitely leave the company to their child, wouldn’t he?

He did not care about all these. However, he could not accept Zong Qifeng’s unfaithfulness.

He married this woman in just less than a month after Zong Jinghao’s mother died.

Obviously, they were together before his mother died.

“What kind of attitude is this?” Zong Qifeng frowned.

Facing such an upfront sarcasm, it was hard for him not to get angry.

Yuxiu glanced at her husband and sighed helplessly. Both father and son always faced each other with such animosity.

She pushed open the door and got out of the car. She kept her attitude very humble, “He Wenhui went to look for your dad because of the news.”

Zong Jinghao said abruptly, “I don’t need the both of you to care about my business.”

Then he walked away right after he spoke.

“We’re just concerned about you.” Yuxiu looked at his tall back, and her eyes felt slightly warm, “Although the He family is in a low ebb now, they still have reputation and connections. If things really get ugly, I’m afraid that it may be disadvantageous for you.”

Zong Jinghao did not seem to hear her, and his footsteps did not stop at all.

“Stop!” Zong Qifeng said sternly and then he sighed, “Which woman are you with now?”

Zong Jinghao's footsteps stopped. After standing for a moment, he turned around slowly and looked at the man whose sideburns had turned grey, "Have I ever asked you which woman you are with?"

Zong Qifeng was so angry that he trembled, "You should let it go after so many years!"

"I leave you alone and you should let me be." Zong Jinghao did not come on too strongly this time, but his tone was cold and without any feelings, as if he was talking to a stranger.

After speaking, he turned around again and paused after taking two steps. Without turning around to face Zong Qifeng, he said, "I know what to do about the news."

Zong Qifeng was furious, "Let's go home."

Yuxiu stood on the side of the road and did not move. She just watched that tall figure moving farther and farther away.

"Let's go." Zong Qifeng went to hold Yuxiu's hand.

He believed in Zong Jinghao's ability and trusted that he could handle the matter.

He took over Wanyue Group at 20 years old. His growth from a fresh university graduate to what he was now, and his achievements made Zong Qifeng proud.

"I just want to see him." Yuxiu wiped the corner of her eyes.

Zong Qifeng stood beside her while holding her hand, and looked at the departing figure as well, "You should be happy."

Yuxiu was slightly melancholy. Indeed, she should be happy.

Zong Jinghao returned to his car and drove away silently.

Lin Xinyan could tell that he was in a bad mood, so she did not ask anything and sat quietly on the side.

He did not have a sense of direction and he just drove randomly in the city. Lin Xinyan reached out to hold the back of his hand.

She understood how he felt.

She had heard a bit about his discord with Zong Qifeng from Aunt Yu in the past.

Among the people who got off from the car just now, she knew Yuxiu since she came to look for her before.

She did not have a bad impression of Yuxiu. She seemed different from the mistress that Lin Xinyan imagined.

But it was the mistress who prevailed after all.

“My dad abandoned my mom, so I know how you feel.”

Zong Jinghao stared at the hand that she was holding, turned the steering wheel and stopped the car on the side of the road. He stretched out his arms to hug her. When he embraced her warm and soft body, he felt that his heart was less empty.

He buried his head in her neck, covered by her hair, and whispered, “Let me hold you for a while, just for a while.”

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He would be fragile for a while, in a dark night with no one else, and in front of this woman.

Some people said that one who had not experienced something could never empathize with those who had.

She believed that. If she had never experienced being abandoned by her father, she could not understand how he felt at this moment.

Perhaps they felt empathetic towards each other because they had the same experience.

Lin Xinyan reached out and patted him on the back.

Without too many words, she comforted him silently.

Zong Jinghao was not an emotional person. He would not have shown his fragile side if it was not Lin Xinyan who was with him at this moment.

“Shall we go back?” His voice came dully from Lin Xinyan’s neck.

“I said I went back to get the clothes. If I didn’t take them, I’m afraid that Xi would think too much about it as he’s a sensitive child.” Lin Xinyan thought of her son and her tone became more solemn, “From now on, don’t put Xi’s safety at risk. I am serious.”

“Yes.” He really did not think about what to do if an accident happened.

Once Zong Jinghao calmed down, he started the car and drove.

It did not take long for the car to arrive at Lin Xinyan's residence. She got out of the car, and Zong Jinghao followed.

Lin Xinyan turned back and looked at him, "Are you going up too?"

"I want to take a look at your residence." He had not been there before.

Lin Xinyan walked in front of him. When they arrived at the door, she took out her key to open the door.

The place was not very big, but the decoration created a warm atmosphere and it felt very homely.

Lin Xinyan went to Lin Xichen's room first to get his clothes, and then she went to her own room to get Lin Ruixi's clothes.

When she was packing the clothes, Zong Jinghao walked around the house freely. This place was not very big, and the two children kept it clean and neat. On the side cabinet, there was a photo of Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi.

He stretched out his hand and picked it up. The background in the photo was a grass field. The children looked slightly over two years old and they were playing with bubbles.

Lin Xinyan saw the photo in his hand and said with a smile, "This was taken when they just learned to walk. Though Xi is very smart, he only started walking at one and a half years old, and he could walk steadily only when he was over two years old."

She had light in her eyes when she talked about her children.

Her entire body exudes the brilliance of maternal love.

It was warm and gentle.

Zong Jinghao put the photo down. The smile like this could only be seen when she was in front of her children, right?

"Please take a seat. I'll go over there." Zhuang Zijin's room was next door, and she had to go and clean up the room.

Zong Jinghao gave a light hum.

After Lin Xinyan left, he sat down by the bed. Perhaps because she was taking care of the children, the bed was covered with a cartoon bedsheet, which was very clean and tidy.

The drawer of the bedside cabinet was half open, and there was a pink book in it. He opened the drawer and saw that the book was actually a photo album.

He stretched out his hand, took the photo album out and opened it. A picture showed a very small baby wrapped in a pink quilt and was wearing a little pink hat. She had a soft and tender face, and she looked very cute.

He continued to turn the page. This page contained photos that were taken when Lin Xichen was a child. Similarly, he was wrapped in a little blue quilt, and was wearing a little blue hat. He also had soft pink cheeks just like his sister.

The photo seemed to be taken just shortly after birth because he looked really small.

Lin Xinyan took photos of them every year. She kept the memories of them when they learned to walk, when they had their first teeth, when they first spoke, and the first sentence they spoke.

She took note of all these carefully.

Click!

A photo fell from the album and landed on the ground.

Zong Jinghao picked it up. This was a photo of Lin Xinyan and her two children. She was sitting on the carpet and the children were playing with building blocks. She looked at her two children and smiled tenderly.

He held the photo in his hand and looked at it closely for a moment. When he was about to put it back into the album, he discovered that there were handwritings behind the photo through the light. Hence, he turned it around and saw a paragraph written with a black pen on the back of the photo.

My precious babies, I am sorry that I did not give you a complete family. You only have Mommy and Grandma in your home, but I will love you very much. Thank you for coming to my world. You brought light to my gloomy world, and I am no longer lonely and afraid.

When he became engrossed while looking at the beautiful handwritings, he heard a noise. Then he put the photo back to where it was and closed the album.

Lin Xinyan held a bag in her hand and popped her head out from the door, "I'm done."

Zong Jinghao stood up and his tall body immediately created a shadow. He looked at her and asked, "Have you finished packing?"

"Yes." Lin Xinyan nodded.

"Let's go."

Lin Xinyan nodded. Zong Jinghao walked to her and reached out to take the bag that was in her hand, "I'll carry it for you."

“You don’t have to. It isn’t heavy.” There were just a few clothes and some daily necessities in the bag.

“Give it to me.” He took it over.

Lin Xinyan turned her head to look at him. She lowered her eyelids slowly and followed him without saying anything. Then she locked the door and walked out of the residence.

His family’s residence.

Their maid went out to buy groceries, and when she was back, people threw eggs at her.

“What happened?” Xia Zhenyu looked at the disheveled maid, and her eyes widened.

The maid lowered her head and said, “I came back after buying groceries, and people smashed me with eggs when I was at the gate. They also said that I shouldn’t work for you all as a maid.”

In fact, what they said was actually worse. They said that she should not serve these dogs who bullied children. Any other jobs were better than this.

“Madam, you better not go out during these few days, so as to avoid encountering any radical people who may do something bad to you.”

Xia Zhenyu took several steps back and the maid came forward hurriedly to support her, “Are you okay?”

She shook her head. If people came to smash them at their residence’s gate, what the company’s office was facing would be much worse, wouldn’t it?

Indeed, the situation in the company was even more miserable. Many of their stores had been boycotted. When people heard that the stores belonged to Pioneer Group which was the He family’s corporation, they would not enter at all, let alone spending money there.

The He family had chain stores in every city in the country, and the bad situation was expanding bit by bit.

Sales fell by 20 percent in just one day, which was a very fast rate of decline.

He Ruixing drove He Wenhui back home, “I’ll go and find Zong Jinghao to see what conditions he’ll propose. We can’t let this issue continue to spread.”

He Wenhui was also anxious. Credibility and reputation were very important when it came to doing business. Once credibility had landed in crisis, no one would want to invest and buy their stocks.

“Well, if he doesn’t let go, you can plan for the worst.” This was also what he expected when he planned for the worst.

In this case, Zong Jinghao came on strong and hardly gave him any room to mitigate, which showed that he was really angry.

The reason why he would be so angry was nothing but what He Ruilin and He Ruize did, which had crossed his bottom line.

Since Zong Jinghao wanted to punish them, he would just push the both of them out. They had not committed a serious crime such as homicide. At most, they would be interrogated and detained for two days.

When Zong Jinghao was appeased and calmed down, this matter would pass.

“Dad, there’re many people at the gate.” He Ruixing was driving the car and he saw from a distance that there were many people around his gate.

Most of them were cursing and ranting about how the He family bullied the weak, how evil they were, and so on.

In short, the things they said were as bad as they could be.

“Let’s enter from the back door.” He Wenhui had a sullen face and he was furious.

“Zong Jinghao was too savage!” He did not give any warning at all, and moved against the He family directly, which left him completely unprepared.

“That’s his style of doing things, and it’s well-known in the industry.” He Ruixing was part of the business circle, and naturally had heard some things about Zong Jinghao’s style of doing things.

Decisive, bold, and vigorous!

When the car stopped, He Wenhui entered the door angrily. Xia Zhenyu was about to call and warn them about the people at the gate so that they would enter from the back door.

Seeing them coming in, Xia Zhenyu put the phone down and greeted them, “Are you all right?”

“We’re okay. We entered from the back door.” He Ruixing sighed, “This matter has affected us too much. I won’t eat dinner at home tonight. I’ll go out.”

“Where are you going?” Xia Zhenyu asked.

“I’ll go and talk to him.” He Ruixing’s voice toned down slowly, because he was not confident and was not sure what to do.

“I’ll leave this matter to you then.” He Wenhui was out for the entire day and he was looking very tired. Xia Zhenyu helped him into the room.

Seeing He Wenhui entering the house, He Ruilin came down from the second floor, “Brother, I’ll go with you.”

“What are you going to do when you’re there?”

He Ruixing looked at her coldly, “It’s all because of you that this happened. Things will be worse if you go.”

He Ruilin had become accustomed to being denied by him and was not angry. Instead, she walked down step by step in her slippers and looked at He Ruixing, “I have something in my hand that’ll make him willing to talk to us, or even give in.”

“What is it?” He Ruixing asked dubiously.

He Ruilin had a well-thought out plan and she was confident, “You take me there and I’ll show it to you. How about that?”

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He Ruixing’s expression turned colder. He did not like her talking about terms and conditions with him. “Don’t forget that this was a problem you started. You have the responsibility to deal with it. How dare you threaten me and try to discuss conditions with me? If dad knows about this, he would be angry.”

He Ruilin gave a short laugh. “Ruixing, aren’t you just afraid that you won’t be credited?”

“What a joke.” He Ruixing did not want to bother with her. “You think it’s easy to blackmail Zong Jinghao? If you really had something to blackmail him with, why not just force him to marry you instead of making this mess? Are you crazy?”

Now that He Ruixing was calm, he did not believe that He Ruilin had anything to blackmail Zong Jinghao with.

If she did, she would have blackmailed him into marrying her. He would not have broken off the engagement and she would not have made this mess.

"You're crazy!" He Ruilin was furious. "I wanted to help you, but since you're not keen on it. Don't blame me for what happens next."

She turned and went upstairs.

He Ruixing gave a cold snort. "Be obedient and stay at home. Don't keep making dad angry."

When Xia Zhenyu came out of the room, she heard He Ruixing shouting, so she quietly scolded him. "Your dad has been in a bad mood recently. Don't talk so loudly at home or else he'll be angry."

It took her a lot of effort to console him and made him rest in his room.

"Okay." He Ruixing walked into his room to change. He took his clothes out but he did not change immediately. He sat on his couch and dialed Guan Jing's number.

He cleared his throat as he pondered how to tell him. Guan Jing might not pick up his phone or meet him. It was obvious that he was calling because of what was on the news.

The phone kept ringing until it reached the voice mailbox, and still no one had picked up the call. He Ruixing gripped onto his phone. Instead of feeling defeated, he put down the phone. He unbuttoned his suit and went to the bathroom for a shower. He changed then went out.

He Ruilin stood by the second floor's window. Her hand was holding onto the curtain as she watched He Ruilin left through the back door. He drove his car and went off.

Regardless of whether Zong Jinghao had loved her not, she had been with him for a long time. She knew that Zong Jinghao would not reject seeing him.

The corner of her lips was turned upwards. "Ruixing, I've given you a chance. It's you who didn't take it, you can't blame this on me."

She took out her phone and sent a video to Zong Jinghao's number. She sent another copy to his personal email, just in case he had not looked at his phone.

At the villa.

Aunt Yu had cooked a whole table of food, as if it was Chinese New Year.

Zhuang Zijin was helping to fill the bowls with rice. Lin Ruixi was in the living room playing by herself. Lin Xichen was still in his room, refusing to come out because he said that his face was too ugly to be meeting with people.

A white light shone in and a black car drove in from outside. Soon, Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao came down from the car and went into the house together.

When Lin Ruixi heard the door open, she immediately poked her head above the couch to look at the door. When she saw the people who were at the door, her eyes turned bright.

Xichen said that this was dad.

She skillfully slid down from the couch and ran towards the door with short legs. Lin Xinyan thought that she was here to greet her, so she crouched down to welcome her. "Ruixi."

Instead of running to her embrace, Lin Ruixi stopped in front of Zong Jinghao. She looked up at the tall man and blinked her eyes. He was so tall and handsome.

"Dad."

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

And so was Zong Jinghao.

"Dad." Lin Ruixi reached out to hug Zong Jinghao's leg. "Dad, hug."

Lin Xinyan tried to coax her daughter. "Ruixi, be a good girl and come over to mommy."

She shook her head. "I want a hug from dad."

Lin Xinyan felt awkward and heartache. Although the girl had lacked the love of a father, she had never called anyone else her dad.

"Ruixi, come over to mommy. This man is not dad."

"I want dad." As if she had not heard Lin Xinyan's words, Lin Ruixi hugged his leg tighter. She leaned her face on Zong Jinghao's face and blinked her bright eyes at him. "Dad, can you hug Ruixi?"

The moment that Zong Jinghao's leg was hugged by her, he had stiffened. He lowered his head to look at those eyes that were looking at him. It was like there was a lake in her eyes, the clear water was slowly rippling and shimmering with hope.

He bent down to carry her up. Perhaps it was because she was light, it took little effort for Zong Jinghao to carry her.

Lin Ruixi fell into a trance looking at the man so close to her. Dad was handsome!

She reached out to hug his neck tightly, as if afraid that he would put her down. She buried her neck in between his neck and shoulders.

Lin Xinyan wanted to carry her. "Ruixi..."

"Mommy, I want dad to carry me." There was a brittle tone in her voice. Deep in her, she wanted she have a dad. She wanted to be hugged by her dad.

She wanted a dad to call.

“I’ll carry her.” Unlike what she expected, he did not reject her daughter. She was such a sweet girl, no one could bear to reject her.

Lin Xinyan felt at a loss. “She had never been like this.”

Zong Jinghao looked at her, there was a mocking smile on his face. “She doesn’t have a dad, of course she’ll want some love.”

Lin Xinyan stood still. Her face was calm, but she felt like a claw had gripped onto her heart so tight that she could not breathe and could only feel the pain.

She lowered her head and went in to put her things down.

Zong Jinghao carried Lin Ruixi to the living room. He put her on his lap and he looked at her face carefully. She looked a lot like Lin Xichen, but she looked cuter than Lin Xichen.

Her face was fair like smooth china. It was also soft, tempting others to pinch on her cheeks.

Just as he thought of it, Zong Jinghao did it. The cheeks under the finger were elastic and soft. “You’re called Ruixi?”

Lin Ruixi nodded her head. She opened her pink mouth and showed her white little teeth. “Mommy said, Rui for beautiful and soft, and Xi for the hope that the morning sun represents.”

Lin Xinyan had wanted her daughter to be beautiful and as cheerful and bright as the sun.

She was her daughter. She wished she would never see the dark and would always be in the sun.

She blinked her eyes and looked at Zong Jinghao. “Does it sound nice?”

“Yes.”

It was not a half-hearted reply, he really did think that it sounded good. Lin Xinyan had given her a good name.

Lin Ruixi happily smiled and fell into his embrace. Her small face was leaning on his chest and she was listening to his heartbeat. “Dad.”

Zong Jinghao tensed. This was the first time he had heard this word in his life.

There was an inexplicable excitement in him.

Like a stone abruptly thrown into stagnant water, the stagnant water in him started rippling.

He could not calm down.

Lin Ruixi reached her hands into his shirt and started moving her hand around.

Zong Jinghao lost his words.

He reached out to grab her hand but Lin Ruixi did not want to let go of his shirt. "Ruixi wants milk."

Zong Jinghao was speechless.

He did not have that.

"Mommy has it." She blinked. Why did dad not have it?

Lin Ruixi continued moving her small hands and touched his chest all over. It was so flat and hard.

"Mommy's is soft. Why don't you have it?" Lin Ruixi felt upset.

Zong Jinghao's expression tensed further.

He tilted his head upwards and sighed.

Was she not twins with Lin Xichen?

Why were they polar opposites?

It was obvious that Lin Xichen was an independent boy and she was a clingy girl.

At this moment, the phone in his pocket rang, but he did not have the mood to look at it.

Lin Ruixi felt strange and reached out to touch his pocket. She reminded him, "Dad, your phone is ringing."

"Yes."

"I'll take it for you." Lin Ruixi said, trying to appease him.

She wanted dad to like her, so she had to perform well.

Lin Ruixi took out the phone. There was a video message on the screen. She blinked and she accidentally clicked on it.

The video played.

"Mommy, milk." Lin Ruixi recognized the person in the video.

Zong Jinghao frowned and looked at the video.

CHAPTER 125.

Zong Jinghao frowned and looked at the video. Lin Xinyan was on a black couch, and He Ruize was slowly unbuttoning her clothes...

To reveal her skin and her perky breasts.

“Mommy, milk.” Lin Ruixi did not understand what was going on. She repeated when she saw mommy and her milk.

Zong Jinghao quickly snatched the phone away from her small hands. When her hand was emptied, Lin Ruixi was stunned for a moment. She blinked and quickly it was covered with a layer of tears. She looked pitiful and innocent like a doe. “Dad, do you not like me?”

Why did he have to snatch it away?

Zong Jinghao’s expression was at its grimmest. It was as dark as the void. It was obvious that this video was filmed when He Ruize was about to assault Lin Xinyan.

The veins on his neck and temple were tensed and it was twitching.

Although Lin Ruixi was naive, she could read expressions. It was obvious that dad was not happy.

Was it because he did not like her?

She lowered her head and fidgeted her fingers. Her tears started to fall on the back of her hand.

Her soft voice had a hoarse tone. “I didn’t mean to make dad angry.”

Lin Ruixi’s shoulders were shaking as she sobbed quietly.

The girl looked pitiful as she cried, as if she was abandoned.

Zong Jinghao took a deep breath and reached out to wipe her tears away with his thumb. “Don’t cry, I’m not angry with you.”

Instantly, Lin Ruixi raised her head up to look at him with hopeful eyes. “Really?”

Zong Jinghao patiently said, “Really.”

He had never coaxed a child as patiently as now. This was his first time.

Lin Ruixi was so happy that she had not wiped the snot from her nose before she hugged Zong Jinghao’s neck and kissed him.

The girl was so quick that Zong Jinghao did not react in time before her lips were on his face. It was a wet sloppy kiss.

He frowned.

When Lin Ruixi moved away, there was a clear line sticking between her nose and his face.

It was Lin Ruixi’s snot.

Although Zong Jinghao was not a germaphobe, he still could not take it when her snot was on his face.

He felt goosebumps form on his arm.

The wetness on his face seemed warm.

Lin Ruixi realized that dad did not seem happy and she hurriedly reached out to wipe it. “I’ll wipe it clean for dad.”

It was better if she had not wiped it; she wiped it all over his face instead.

After putting her things into place, Lin Xinyan had walked in to find her daughter rubbing her hands all over Zong Jinghao’s face. Zong Jinghao did not look happy as he stared at Lin Ruixi.

Lin Xinyan was worried that Zong Jinghao was angry, and she quickly moved over to carry her daughter away.

However, Lin Ruixi did not want to leave. She reached out her hands for Zong Jinghao to hug her again. “I want dad.”

It was so difficult for her to have a dad. She could not leave. What if dad was gone again?”

“Ruixi, be a good girl.” Lin Xinyan tried to coax her.

“No, no, I want dad.” Lin Ruixi kept waving her hands in the air trying to grab onto Zong Jinghao. “I want dad.”

Lin Xinyan frowned harder. What was going on with this child?

Zhuang Zijin put down the soup in her hands and wiped her hands. She walked over to carry Lin Ruixi. "There's yummy food today."

Even yummy food could not appease to the little glutton. She just wanted her dad.

She stared at Zong Jinghao as her tears fell. "Dad, do you not like Ruixi?"

Zong Jinghao felt pressured.

He had never felt this pressured in his life.

In Lin Ruixi's eyes, his silence was an agreement to her words. Her tears fell faster and she sobbed loudly. She hugged Lin Xinyan, feeling disappointed and upset. "Mommy, dad doesn't like Ruixi. What am I going to do? Is it because I'm not a good girl and I'm ugly, that's why he doesn't like me?"

"No." Lin Xinyan caressed her hair as she soothed her. "No, no. Ruixi is the cutest and the best girl—"

Before her coaxing words were finished, she was suddenly shrouded by a shadow. She did not know when Zong Jinghao had stood up. He reached out for the crying girl. "Hand her to me."

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment before she rejected him. "It's alright, she just needs a little soothing."

"I want dad." Lin Ruixi, who was still crying, turned her head immediately when she heard Zong Jinghao's voice. She reached out for him to carry her.

Lin Xinyan said nothing.

Zong Jinghao carried her in his arms. "Don't cry."

He had probably used up all his patience on this girl.

Lin Ruixi instantly stopped. Now she had the occasional hiccup. Her face was filled with tear tracks and snot.

"Ruixi, be a good girl, don't cry." Lin Ruixi sobbed. Her eyelashes had tears on it.

Zong Jinghao sighed. "Let's go have a wash."

He was going mad. He felt extremely uncomfortable with the snot on his face.

Lin Xinyan froze in her spot. She felt anxious; Lin Ruixi had never been so clingy to someone.

Zhuang Zijin also felt anxious. "These two children never had a father, so it's normal for them to want a dad, but—"

This man was not their father. How long could he patiently coax her? How long would they be able to keep this up?

"How do we tell her that this was not her dad? How disappointed and upset would she be?" Zhuang Zijin's eyes turned red as she said.

It was a regret to never have a father in their life.

They would want it; they would wish they had it.

Lin Xinyan was worried about this as well. Lin Ruixi had never called any other men as dad.

She had never thought she would cling onto Zong Jinghao, whom she had only seen once.

"I'll go take a look at them." Lin Xinyan walked towards the bathroom.

In the bathroom when Zong Jinghao was washing his face, Lin Ruixi had grabbed onto his hand and said, "I'll help dad wash."

She tiptoed and reached for the water. She was not tall enough to reach the tap, so she had to tiptoe for it.

Zong Jinghao suddenly laughed, feeling helpless. "Your mother is a woman sent to bewitch me, and you're the little girl sent to torture me."

He carried the little girl to sit on the sink. Lin Ruixi smiled happily, revealing her white teeth and crescent eyes. She looked adorable.

She wet her hands and wiped on Zong Jinghao's face. She looked at her dad carefully. He had deep-set eyes, a high nose, sharp face, and sexy lips. He looked handsome with his outstanding facial features.

"Dad is good looking."

Lin Ruixi was successful in making Zong Jinghao laugh. He looked at himself in the mirror and her serious face. His tense expression gradually relaxed. He reached out to squeeze her cheeks.

"Who said your mommy has a tough life?" She must have been a saint in her previous life to have such a cute kid.

Lin Ruixi did not understand what he meant. She took the towel to wipe his face. And that was the scene that Lin Xinyan saw when she walked over.

She slowly walked over and stood by the door of the bathroom as she looked at Zong Jinghao. "I'm sorry, Ruixi—"

"It's okay." Zong Jinghao was leaning down, seemingly enjoying the girl's "service". He joked, "I'm fine. I'm getting a free daughter. I'm suddenly a 'dad'."

CHAPTER 126.

It was obvious that he was just teasing.

Fortunately, he did not reject Lin Ruixi on the spot and made her sad. The teasing was nothing in comparison.

Lin Xinyan turned her head. She felt her throat tighten. "Thank you."

She was about to turn away and leave when Zong Jinghao grabbed onto her wrist. He turned over to face Lin Ruixi. "Dad has something to tell your mommy. Can you go out first?"

Lin Ruixi was an obedient girl. She nodded and climbed to the table top before sliding herself down. Lin Xinyan was afraid that she would fall off so she reached out to catch her. The girl did not let her. "I'm fine, don't need to catch me. Go and talk to dad."

After her sentence, she lifted her short legs and walked off.

Lin Xinyan looked at her daughter's figure, feeling more and more anxious every second. What would happen to her when she realized her dad was not actually her dad?

Lin Xinyan did not dare to think further.

Why did she think Zong Jinghao was her dad?

It was absurd!

Lin Xinyan fell into a trance. Zong Jinghao pulled, and she fell forwards into Zong Jinghao's arms. Zong Jinghao circled her waist and pulled her again until her body was completely on him.

Lin Xinyan was shocked. "This is your house. There are people outside."

Zong Jinghao ignored her words. He just reached out another hand to close the bathroom door.

Her heart dropped along with the sound of the door closing.

“W—W—What are you trying to do?”

Zong Jinghao did not answer her; he just looked at her from above.

Lin Xinyan anxiously looked away from his eyes. “The food is ready, it’s time to eat.”

Zong Jinghao hooked her chin and forced her to look at him. His pupils were dark and in it were stormy waves.

Lin Xinyan’s heart skipped a beat and she asked carefully, “Are you not happy?”

Zong Jinghao remained silent.

Lin Xinyan felt even more anxious. “Is it because of Ruixi? She never had a dad, so she might have mixed it up. Don’t mind about it, I’ll—”

“That night, did you lose your virginity?”

She could not understand his sudden words.

She looked at him, stunned, for a few seconds.

“Did you mean—” She tensed. She seemed to know what he was talking about.

She had been passed out. By the time she woke, her clothes had been taken off and her pants had been unbuttoned.

The only thing that she was sure of was that she had not lost her chastity. However, she did not know as to what He Ruize had done to her while she was unconscious.

She looked straight into Zong Jinghao’s eyes, and said, “I don’t know what he did to me. All I know for sure was that he had not touched me.”

To be more accurate, it was not that he had not touched her, but that she had woken up when He Ruize was about to touch her.

If she had woken up a few minutes later, she did not know what the consequences would have been.

She lowered her eyes and hid her tears away. “I’m sorry.”

Zong Jinghao thought about the video where her clothes were stripped off, and the blood rushed into his brain.

“What are you sorry about?”

“I don’t know.”

She did not know; her mind was in a mess.

She did not know why she was saying this nor why she had to apologize to him.

She reached out to push him but instead of letting go, Zong Jinghao grabbed her head and kissed her lips.

Her lips were in his mouth and it was as if something exploded in Lin Xinyan’s brain as her world turned upside down. She pushed Zong Jinghao. “Why are you asking me this?”

Did he find out something about that day?

Something that even she did not know about?

Instead of answering her, Zong Jinghao renewed his grasp on her head and kissed her lips again. Lin Xinyan wanted to ask him to clarify. She pushed his firm body with both hands. “Mm— Tell me— Did— Did you find out about something?”

Her resistance invited him to become wilder in his kiss. He pressed harder onto her lips until there was no empty space in between and took away her breath. She lost her ability to speak and could only take in the air from his mouth.

The passion was filling up the narrow space.

He moved closer towards her and Lin Xinyan had to move backward. Bang. Her back had hit the bathroom door behind her and it made a loud sound.

In the living room, Aunt Yu and Zhuang Zijin who were accompanying Lin Ruixi looked at the bathroom at the same time.

They seemed to know what was going on.

Aunt Yu smiled. “Young people.”

Zhuang Zijin was not as happy as Aunt Yu. She only felt a deep sense of sorrow.

She scooped a spoonful of egg custard into Lin Ruixi’s mouth. “They’re divorced. It’s not so appropriate.”

“They can remarry after divorce.” Aunt Yu felt that they were suitable for each other.

She had never seen Zong Jinghao so patient to any other women.

His mood was terrible after she left. He would go into angry outbursts suddenly.

She had never seen Zong Jinghao so quick-tempered than that time.

Zhuang Zijin said quietly, "It won't be easy."

These two children were the biggest obstacles.

She did not believe that Zong Jinghao would accept the two children. It was not his style.

And it was not only Zong Jinghao. Many men would not be able to accept it either.

It was not like there were no other women in the world, why would he look for a woman who had two children?

To be honest, if her son was still alive and he had looked for a woman who already had two children to be his wife, she would not be happy.

Furthermore, he was part of the Zongs. The Zong family would be even more less accepting.

They had wealth and a powerful family business. They would not let outsiders in.

In Aunt Yu's eyes, Zhuang Zijin's disagreement was because she was still angry about Zong Jinghao divorcing Lin Xinyan. It had become a stone in her heart.

"Don't worry, they'll be better to each other soon." Aunt Yu was thinking of looking for Zong Qifeng when Lin Xichen was feeling better. She wanted him to see if these two children were Zong Jinghao's.

Aunt Yu still believed that the two children were Zong Jinghao's. They obviously look so similar to him when he was a child.

There was something called DNA nowadays. She just needed to check it and all would be clear.

She had heard that hairs could be tested for DNA now.

Aunt Yu looked towards the bathroom. "The engagement that Madam had arranged for Young Master is good."

When Zhuang Zijin heard this, she lifted her head to look at Aunt Yu. She opened her mouth but only sighed. She did not want to keep mentioning the past. She lowered her eyes and continued feeding Lin Ruixi more egg custard.

In the bathroom, Lin Xinyan was panting, and her face was red. She was going to suffocate. She kept smacking the brutal man but he ignored her.

Lin Xinyan steeled her heart and bit him.

Zong Jinghao loosened his grip with a suppressed hum, and Lin Xinyan took the opportunity to break free of him. "We're at home."

Everyone was outside. How awkward would it be if they knew.

Zong Jinghao did not get angry from being pushed away. Instead he looked at her and asked, "So it's fine if it's not at home?"

Lin Xinyan could not find her words.

"You—" She could only squeeze out three words. "You're mean."

Zong Jinghao laughed and touched her swollen lips. "How do I mean?"

Lin Xinyan lowered her head. How could he be so shameless?

Where was his dignity?

Where was it?

Did he no longer want it?

Was he a thug?

"I don't want it."

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She looked at him in shock. How— How did he know what she was thinking about?

Was he living in her head?

Zong Jinghao cleared his throat and said seriously, "There are two words written on your face."

"What is it?" Lin Xinyan asked.

"You thug."

This was the first time Lin Xinyan saw him say nonsense with a serious look.

Lin Xinyan looked away from him. She did not dare to look into his eyes as she denied, "No."

Her voice was soft. She did not have the confidence to say it out loud.

Even though she had just scolded him that internally.

At this moment, Zong Jinghao's phone rang in his pocket.

Even without looking, Zong Jinghao knew who was calling him. He had sent him the video earlier, but he had not replied to him. He should be impatient by now.

"Your phone is ringing, aren't you going to pick up the call?" Lin Xinyan asked when she saw him not picking up the phone.

Zong Jinghao slowly raised his hand and smoothed the mess by her collar. "You should go out first."

Lin Xinyan nodded and turned to leave.

The moment the bathroom door closed, Zong Jinghao's expression darkened. There was no longer any hint of smile, only endless cold.

CHAPTER 127.

At He family estate,

He Ruilin had been turning around on the bed. She could not fall asleep. She looked at her phone every few minutes, but no call nor messages came in.

Finally, she could not lie still. She sat up and took her phone. After a moment of hesitation, she dialed a number.

She held onto her phone with trembling hands. She was nervous and excited.

That night, she had installed a video surveillance in the room. He Ruize did not know about it.

This was the only thing she had to blackmail Zong Jinghao.

If he cared about Lin Xinyan, he would not let this video where Lin Xinyan was being stripped spread on the internet as porn video.

Zong Jinghao looked at his phone as his thumb rubbed on the screen. Just as his phone was about to stop ringing, he picked up the call.

"Hao." He Ruilin said excitedly.

She thought Zong Jinghao would not accept her call.

Zong Jinghao did not answer her. Her feelings did not affect him.

Slowly, He Ruilin calmed down. The hand on the blanket tensed and relaxed a few times before she opened her mouth. "Did you receive the video? Was it exciting?"

Zong Jinghao's eyes were half-closed. As if time had stopped, the storms in his eyes had been paused.

"Let's meet. I've booked a room at Shanghuang Hotel. Room 108. I'll be waiting for you. You can choose to not come, but I can guarantee you that the video in which Lin Xinyan was being stripped would be all over the net. She would be the target for horny men."

She ended the call but her heart was still thumping loudly.

She was nervous.

Yet when she thought about meeting him, she was excited.

She stood up from the messy bed and ran to the wardrobe barefooted. She started to look for the clothes she was going to wear tonight.

The wardrobe was filled with expensive suits and dresses but none of it was what she wanted. She felt that none of it was pretty enough for tonight.

Yet it was too late to buy clothes now, so she took them all out and tried them one by one.

Her excited look right now was like a young lady who had just fallen in love and about to meet the man of her dreams. She had to become more beautiful so that she could present him the most beautiful look of hers.

To make him surprised and fall in love with her.

It was her dream for Zong Jinghao to fall in love with her.

Lin Xinyan went out of the bathroom and saw Aunt Yu enthusiastically greeting her. It was written all over Aunt Yu's face that she knew what had happened in the bathroom earlier.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head in embarrassment and gave herself an excuse to leave. "I'm going to check on Xichen."

She walked into the room.

She could not withstand that enthusiastic look from Aunt Yu.

"We'll be eating soon." Aunt Yu told her.

Lin Xinyan pretended not to have heard her and went into the room.

She only came out when it was time to eat.

Now that Lin Ruixi had a “dad”, she did not even want Lin Xinyan anymore. When she was about to eat, she ran to sit beside Zong Jinghao. “I want to sit with dad.”

Zhuang Zijin went to carry her away. “Sit with grandma.”

She was afraid that the little girl would not be able to leave Zong Jinghao eventually.

This was not good. After all, Zong Jinghao was not really her dad.

“No, I want to sit with dad.” She pulled Zong Jinghao’s arm and hugged in tightly.

No one could separate her from her dad.

“Ruixi—”

“Let her be.” Zong Jinghao said quietly.

Zhuang Zijin was silent for a moment. “The girl isn’t being thoughtful. Don’t mind her.”

“I don’t mind.” Zong Jinghao let her sit beside him. “You can be yourself here. Treat this like your home. I’m sure you were unhappy about my divorce with Lin Xinyan.”

Zhuang Zijin’s attitude towards him had been ambiguous and Zong Jinghao could sense it.

Zhuang Zijin was honest; everyone knew what was going on. “You are divorced, technically we should not come to disturb you—”

“I think you’ve mistaken about the divorce.” Zong Jinghao was not in a hurry to explain. He slowly said, “Lin Xinyan and I—”

His gaze turned to Lin Xinyan. “Lin Xinyan and I had not gone through the divorce officially, so we were not planning to divorce.”

“What?” Zhuang Zijin looked at her daughter in shock as she asked, “Is this true?”

Lin Xinyan nodded honestly.

Zhuang Zijin was in disbelief. She had always thought that Lin Xinyan no longer had a relationship with Zong Jinghao.

“So, officially we are still husband and wife.” He was hinting to Zhuang Zijin that Lin Xinyan’s staying here was normal and legal.

“Aunt Yu, I’ll be going out tonight.” He had not been planning to eat at home, but he did not want Zhuang Zijin to be staying here anxiously, so he told her his plans.

“You’re not eating at home?” Lin Xinyan was the one who asked this but she regretted it as soon as it left her mouth. It seemed pointless.

He gave a soft laugh and faintly hummed in response. “I have something to do. You’ll be staying in the room you once stayed in. Xichen is already inside, so it’ll be easier for you to take care of him.”

Lin Xinyan felt grateful for his arrangement. She nodded and said again, “Thank you.”

“We’re husband and wife, you don’t need to be so polite to me.” He said the first five words louder. It seemed like he was emphasizing to Lin Xinyan, and also to Aunt Yu and Zhuang Zijin. He wanted them to understand his relationship with Lin Xinyan.

Zong Jinghao stood up and Lin Ruixi held tightly onto his arm. “Where is dad going? Can I follow you?”

She blinked her eyes as she looked up.

Zong Jinghao pinched her tiny nose and rejected her. “No.”

“Why?” Lin Ruixi asked, disappointed. She wanted to follow her dad.

What if he did not come back after he left?

Then she would not have a dad anymore.

No, she could not let dad just leave.

Zong Jinghao coaxed her patiently. “Do you want me to like you?”

Without hesitation, Lin Ruixi nodded. “Yes.”

“You’ll have to listen to me, then I’ll like you, right?”

“Yes.”

“So, you have to wait here at home like a good girl.”

Lin Ruixi felt a little unwilling, but she still nodded. “Okay, come back early.”

If she was not a good girl, she was afraid that dad would not like her.

Zong Jinghao went upstairs to change. The shirt he had just now was wet when Lin Ruixi was washing his face. It felt uncomfortable sticking to his skin.

Under the light, he looked handsome, charming, and eye-catching under the pure black suit.

However, he had a cold look on his face, which gave off a sense of suppressed desire.

Lin Ruixi stared at the man who came down the stairs and fell into a trance.

Zhuang Zijin had been feeding her but she was too lost to remember opening her mouth. Her big eyes were staring right at him.

“Ruixi.” Zhuang Zijin reminded her.

Lin Ruixi came back to her senses and sighed. “Dad is so handsome.”

Her dad was the most handsome person in the world.

Zhuang Zijin was surprised by her granddaughter’s action. She seemed a little too young to be fangirling.

When Zong Jinghao reached the entrance, Lin Ruixi suddenly slid down the chair and ran over. She stood nearby, looked at him, and asked, “Dad, will you still come back? Will you abandon us? Will you not want us anymore?”

Lin Xichen had told her it was dad who did not want them. She was afraid that dad would never come back after he went out this door, abandoning her, Xichen, and mommy again.

Her eyes were red and her voice was hoarse as she said, “Don’t leave us.”

She was afraid, so afraid.

She did not want to leave dad.

Looking at her anxious eyes, Zong Jinghao walked over to pat her head. With a determined tone, he said, “I won’t.”

The girl was happy again. She smiled as she said, “Kiss!”

She tiptoed and reached out her hands for a hug, signaling him for a kiss.

Zong Jinghao lowered himself down and Lin Ruixi circled her arms around his neck. Smack! A wet slobbery kiss on his face with some rice that she had not swallowed.

Zong Jinghao lost his words.

I must have done terrible things in my past life. Why else would Lin Xinyan and her two children come to torture me in this life, he thought.

CHAPTER 128.

Lin Xinyan handed him a piece of wet tissue.

Instead of taking it, Zong Jinghao just looked at her with an indifferent gaze.

Her daughter did this, should she not do something about it?

Lin Xinyan understood what his gaze meant. She reached out to wipe his face but Lin Ruixi interrupted her by pulling her shirt. "Mommy, give it to me. I want to wipe for dad."

Zong Jinghao looked at the two of them in silence.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and looked at her daughter. Her little eyes were begging her desperately.

Lin Ruixi grabbed onto her shirt and said in a cute voice, "Mommy, give it to me. I'll wipe it for dad."

Lin Xinyan could not reject her. Just as she was about to pass the wet tissue to her daughter, Zong Jinghao reached out to snatch it away and wiped his own face.

Lin Xinyan looked at him in silence.

In a gloomy voice, she said, "My daughter is not the devil."

"She's something like one."

After wiping his face, Zong Jinghao passed the wet tissue back to Lin Xinyan. "I'll be leaving."

Lin Ruixi was furrowing her brows and wondering what their words meant. She could not understand what it meant even when the door had closed, so she looked at Lin Xinyan and asked, "Mommy, who is the devil?"

"No one is. Let's go eat." Lin Xinyan carried her back up on the chair. "Listen to grandma."

Lin Ruixi turned behind and looked at the closed door. She wondered when dad would be back.

Although she was fed by Zhuang Zijin, she was absent-minded throughout the meal.

All her thoughts were on Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan looked at her daughter and sighed. What was she going to do with this girl?

She could not immediately bring Lin Ruixi away and stopped the interaction between her daughter and Zong Jinghao. Their safety was of utmost importance. She could only improvise.

Lin Xinyan was bringing food to her son. One of her hands was holding the tray and the other pushed open the door. Lin Xichen was standing by the window. His hand had pulled the curtain apart and he was looking at Zong Jinghao leaving in his car.

“What are you looking at?” Lin Xinyan walked over.

Lin Xichen hurriedly let go of the curtain and it covered the window. He shook his head. “Nothing. I’m just bored in here so I’ve been looking outside.”

“If you want to come out, just come out. The swelling on your face has gone down quite a bit. No one would realize.” She said as she placed the food on the table. Lin Xichen came over, climbed up the chair, and sat down.

“No. I’m too ugly. I can’t let anyone see me.” Although Lin Xichen was a small boy, he had a big ego.

Lin Xinyan pushed the milk in front of him. “What do you want to eat? I’ll make it for you tomorrow.”

Lin Xichen shook his head and lowered his eyes. He sent the food into his mouth mechanically, seemingly down.

Lin Xinyan moved over to hug him. She asked, “Xichen, what’s wrong? Does the wound on your head hurt?”

“No.” The reason why his mood was bad was not because he was hurt, but because Lin Ruixi had called that heartless man dad.

He had never raised them.

Why did she have to call him dad?

He gripped his chopsticks. When Lin Ruixi had called Zong Jinghao, he had felt uncomfortable.

“What is it?” Lin Xinyan lowered her head to look at her son.

“Nothing. I just feel upset because I’m hurt.”

Lin Xinyan kissed the top of his head. “Sorry, mommy should have protected you better.”

“It’s not mommy’s fault.” To stop Lin Xinyan from worrying more, Lin Xichen tucked his emotions away and started eating his food.

Zong Jinghao’s car stopped at Shanghuang Hotel.

He sat in the car as he watched the video where Lin Xinyan was stripped. The video had no sounds but it was obvious that He Ruize had said something when he was touching her. However, Zong Jinghao could not focus on anything else by He Ruize’s hand. The corner of his eyes twitched.

The video stopped when He Ruize was unbuttoning Lin Xinyan’s pants.

He exited the video and called Guan Jing.

When the call went through, the first thing that Guan Jing said was “He Ruixing had called me. I think he’s looking for you, so I didn’t pick it up, but I don’t think he’ll give up so easily.”

This was not an easy matter to settle. The He family’s reputation was in ruins and their century-old business was collapsing. It would be odd if they were not panicking.

“Send a man to Shanghuang.”

Zong Jinghao did not answer his questions and it confused Guan Jing.

Guan Jing was silent for a moment.

What was going on?

He finally reacted after a long while. “What— What kind of man?”

Handsome or ugly?

Tall or fat?

The main question was, why did he want a man?

It was not like he had these kinds of preferences.

Zong Jinghao did not explain himself. He just said, “I’ll give you half an hour.”

Then Zong Jinghao ended the call. He came down the car and went towards the hotel.

He Ruilin had already arrived long ago. He Wenhui did not allow her to go out; she had sneaked out when there was no one in the living room.

Not only did she want Zong Jinghao, but she had also wanted He Wenhui’s trust. If she could use this opportunity well, perhaps she will have the chance to show He Wenhui that she was also capable. It was not only He Ruixing who was capable in the He family.

To calm herself down, she had drunk some wine. Now, her face was a little red.

Ding dong!

The doorbell rang. He Ruilin's heart skipped a beat and she quickly stood up. She looked at herself in front of the mirror, checking if the clothes she had were not wrinkled nor was her makeup flawed.

She smiled at herself in the mirror. Her lips were as red as roses and her teeth were pearly white. She looked enchanting and it was perfect.

She made sure that there was nothing out of place before she went to open the door.

There was a tall man with a cold look standing outside the door. He looked at her as if she was a stranger.

He Ruilin felt as if her heart was stabbed by needles.

She tucked her emotions away and she moved aside. "Come in."

Zong Jinghao's hand was in his pockets and he strode in with confident steps. He Ruilin closed the door, turned, and looked at the figure that took her breath away. After returning to her senses, she pounced onto him and hugged him from behind. "Hao."

Her face leaned onto his strong, warm back.

She could only smell his crisp scent.

Zong Jinghao pulled away her hand and said coldly, "Talk if you have something to say. I don't like women who throw themselves over men."

He Ruilin was not as strong as Zong Jinghao. It took him little effort to pull her hands away.

She swayed where she stood. She looked at Zong Jinghao and asked, "What about Lin Xinyan? Is she purer than me? Is she standing on a higher ground?"

She sat on the bed and laughed. "At least with me, I gave up mine for you. What did she give you? The two children who aren't related to you?"

She gave a sharp laugh. "Why, are you going to become their stepdad?"

Zong Jinghao was not angered by her words. He knew these all along.

He reached out, took the wine glass and swirled it. The red liquid swayed from his actions.

He raised it to his nose and smelled it. It was aromatic and crisp with no strong alcohol scent. "This wine doesn't suit you."

He Ruilin walked over and placed her arm on his shoulder. "Then what suits me?"

Zong Jinghao did not answer her. He just gave a short laugh.

At this very moment, the doorbell rang again. She looked up at Zong Jinghao and asked, "What's this?"

"It's for you. You'll know when you see it."

He Ruilin was pleasantly surprised. "You're giving me a gift?"

Zong Jinghao reached out to hold a strand of her hair in his hand. He had a faint smile as he said, "You've given me a big gift. Shouldn't I return one to you?"

He Ruilin's face turned pale. "What— What do you mean?"

Zong Jinghao tucked the strand behind her ears and smiled. "What are you afraid of? You look better when you're smiling."

CHAPTER 129.

He had a smile on his face, but it gave out a sense of eeriness.

He Ruilin took a step back to distance herself from him.

This was the first time she wanted to stay away from him.

The doorbell rang again and a voice accompanied it. "Is there anyone in there? I'm here to send the wine."

When she heard that it was wine, He Ruilin sighed in relief. She looked at the door and said, "My wine is already here—"

"It's mine." Zong Jinghao leaned in front of the cupboard. The wine glass in his hands tipped forward and the red liquid flowed down the table. He furrowed his brows in dismay, as if unhappy with the wine. He slowly raised his eyes. "I think there are better wines that suit us. What do you think?"

“W—Wine that suits us?” He Ruilin could not comprehend for a moment. Was he going to drink with her?

Was he not disgusted with her?

Did he change his mind?

Did he finally realize that she was good?

He Ruilin tried her best to hide her joy. “I’ll go and open the door.”

Her steps were quick.

The hotel server was standing by the door with two bottles of wine in his hands.

He Ruilin was stunned for a moment before she said, “Bring it in.”

“Okay.” The server brought the wine in and placed it on the table. He opened the bottle cap and poured it into the wine glass he brought it.

After pouring, the server straightened himself. “If there’s anything you need, please call me. I hope you enjoy your stay.”

The server left, closing the door behind him.

He Ruilin stood in front of the table and looked at the wine. She swallowed. “White wine is too strong. I think red wine fits the moment better.”

“I like it strong. Would you dare to accompany me for the drink?”

His face relaxed, and he looked more approachable. The corners of his eyes were raised and his dark eyes were shining. He was a man that could bewitch.

He Ruilin’s heart skipped a beat.

As if her mind was no longer hers, she nodded. “I would.”

Zong Jinghao bent over and handed her a glass of wine.

He Ruilin reached out and took it.

He tilted his head backwards and finished his glass, and so did He Ruilin.

Unlike the gentleness of red wine, white wine burned all the way from the throat into the stomach. It turned the stomach.

She covered her nose and said in an upset tone. “It’s hot.”

Zong Jinghao continued pouring into the cup.

It was said that alcohol boosts one's courage and perhaps it was true. Alcohol did stimulate a person's brain and made them excited.

For those with low alcohol tolerance, a glass of white wine with high alcohol content would make them pass out.

With alcohol to boost her confidence, He Ruilin leaned her face onto his chest to listen to his powerful heartbeats.

Zong Jinghao had not pushed her away and she was overjoyed. She hugged his neck and said, "Hao, I love you."

"Is that so?" Zong Jinghao handed her a glass. "Prove it to me."

He Ruilin stared at the wine in front of her and took it from him. Instead of drinking, she spilled it on the floor. The room was instantly filled with the scent of wine. She pointed to her heart. "You want me to prove it to you?"

She laughed with a mocking tone. "Let me prove it to you."

She grabbed the wine bottle from the table and stared at Zong Jinghao with hazy eyes. She seductively curled her lips and slowly undid her dress straps. The red silk dress smoothly slid down from her and revealed the black alluring lingerie underneath.

She tilted her head back and drank from the bottle.

The strong alcohol burned in her throat but she bore the pain. Zong Jinghao must have been testing her love for him. And if she could finish it...

He would definitely fall in love with her! He would for sure!

Zong Jinghao turned his head slightly away, avoiding the sight of her body.

Crash!

The wine bottle fell from her hands and onto the floor.

The unfinished white wine was all over the floor with the broken glass pieces from the wine bottle.

He Ruilin's face was red as she collapsed on the bed. "I can't—"

She waved her hand. "I can't finish it."

Zong Jinghao put down his cup and closed his eyes. His hand was supporting his forehead as he rubbed between his brows.

Buzz—

His phone suddenly vibrated.

He slowly opened his eyes and took out his phone. On the screen was Guan Jing's number, and he picked up the call.

Guan Jing immediately started to speak. "I've brought the person over."

"Room 108." He ended the call.

Guan Jing was at the hotel lobby. He stared at his phone after the abrupt end and frowned. He then looked at the two men beside him. "Follow me."

Zong Jinghao did not tell him what kind he had wanted.

In case Zong Jinghao was dissatisfied, he had brought two with him.

He brought the two to Room 108.

Guan Jing was stunned when he saw the inside of the room.

The floor was a mess and the room was filled with the strong scent of alcohol. These were nothing in comparison with He Ruilin, who was not wearing any clothes on the bed. What was going on?

"This—" Guan Jing looked at Zong Jinghao carefully. "What's going on here?"

And the man he wanted...

Suddenly, Guan Jing realized what Zong Jinghao had in mind. He widened his eyes. "Even though you don't like her anymore, she had followed you for many years. To do this to her—"

Zong Jinghao gave him a stern look and Guan Jing instantly shut his mouth.

He Ruilin was twisting her body on the bed. She felt uncomfortable; her stomach felt like it was on fire and she wanted to vomit.

She had not realized that more people had come into the room.

The two men had their heads lowered but stole quick glances towards the bed.

Zong Jinghao lifted his head and walked out the room. When he went past Guan Jing, he said, "After filming, send a copy to the He family personally."

Once he finished his sentence, he left the room. He never once looked back at the mess in the room and the greedy looks on the men's faces.

Guan Jing could not maintain his calmness and he followed Zong Jinghao out. "This doesn't seem too good."

To destroy the woman like this?

Guan Jing could no longer understand him. It did not matter how cruel he was in business.

The business fields were like battlefields. The weak could not survive in them.

Yet to treat the woman who had been with him like that, it was too inhumane.

Zong Jinghao turned back to look at him. "Do you have anything against it?"

Guan Jing hurriedly waved his hand and explained himself, "No, I just think it doesn't suit your style."

Zong Jinghao sneered, "They gave up on their century-old reputation to do such shameless things. Can't I do the same?"

Guan Jing's mouth was wide open. "What did she do?"

Zong Jinghao did not want other men to see the video where Lin Xinyan was stripped.

"Just do your job."

He then walked off.

Guan Jing stood still for a few moments before he chased after Zong Jinghao and asked, "We're not going to give leeway?"

Did he want to just make a show or did he really wanted the two men to rape her?

Zong Jinghao paused for a moment so brief that it looked like he did not. He did not answer Guan Jing.

However, Guan Jing knew what he meant.

He was not going to leave her any room.

He sighed and turned back into the room to arrange the men.

Zong Jinghao entered his car but did not drive off immediately. He sat quietly on the driver's seat.

His eyelashes fluttered. The second he thought about Lin Xinyan nearly being raped, he could not stay calm.

He never had this kind of feeling.

He did not dare to imagine what he would do if He Ruize really did succeed.

It was He Ruilin who went past his baseline first!

He started the car and drove away from the hotel.

CHAPTER 130.

The night was quiet.

Zong Jinghao's car stopped in front of the villa. He turned the engine off and went down the car.

He walked across the forecourt and opened the villa's front door. There was a warm, yellow light still lit in the living room. The house was quiet, as if all living beings were asleep.

He took off his jacket and threw it onto the couch. He loosened his collar and walked towards the room where Lin Xichen was sleeping.

The light was still on in the room but Lin Ruixi was already asleep in Lin Xinyan's arms on the bed.

Lin Ruixi's eyes were red, as if she had cried. She hiccupped every once in a while even when she was already asleep.

When Zong Jinghao had not come back, she was sitting on the living room's couch. She was unwilling to sleep; she wanted to wait for her dad to come home.

Lin Xinyan's coaxing did not work on her.

When it was nearly midnight and her eyes could barely open, Lin Xinyan forcefully carried her into the room even when she did not want to sleep. She cried immediately and asked Lin Xinyan if her dad did not want her again.

Lin Xinyan kissed her cheeks and disagreed on her words.

Yet the girl did not believe in her words. Children who grew up in a single-parent family often felt a lack of security. It was the same for Lin Ruixi.

She curled herself in Lin Xinyan's arms and kept saying that she was a fatherless child.

She cried, and Lin Xinyan cried along with her.

When she tired herself from crying, she had fallen asleep in Lin Xinyan's arms.

Lin Xinyan did not let go of her and went to sleep.

Lin Xichen was sleeping in the innermost part. The bed was spacious, and it did not feel cramped even when three people were sleeping on it. Zong Jinghao walked to the side of the bed. He gently moved Lin Xinyan's arm, which was on Lin Ruixi, to his neck. He placed his other arm on her waist and carried her up.

When Lin Xinyan felt someone moving her, she opened her eyes and saw Zong Jinghao. She sobered up instantly. "You..."

"Hush."

He gave her a look.

Lin Xinyan swallowed the words that were about to leave her mouth and let him carry her out of the room.

He carried her upstairs.

"You drank?" Lin Xinyan asked.

He had a strong alcohol scent on him. There was also a hint of perfume.

"Yes."

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes. "With who?"

Zong Jinghao did not want to mention He Ruilin so he replied, "Someone unimportant."

Lin Xinyan smiled but said nothing.

Zong Jinghao had realized her nonchalant smile, he asked, "What are you smiling about?"

Lin Xinyan said with a half-serious tone. "You're a man with a wife, don't mess around outside."

Zong Jinghao laughed quietly and placed his forehead on hers. "If you don't want me to mess around outside, you'll have to make me feel full."

As he said, he opened the door with his foot.

Lin Xinyan had never entered this room. The lighting in the room was unusually dim. Spots of shadow littered over each corner of the room. In comparison with the room downstairs, this room felt darker. Its colors were dark and grey, filling the room with suffocation and oppression.

Her body sunk into the soft, large bed when she placed on it. He leaned down and propped his arms on her sides.

He watched her from above.

Lin Xinyan turned away, uncomfortable, from his gaze.

Zong Jinghao straightened her head. He did not let her look away from him.

“Look at me.” He said with a commanding tone.

He held her hand and placed it on his chest. She could feel his skin underneath the shirt. His voice was low as he asked, “How are you going to repay me?”

“Repay you?” Lin Xinyan’s entire body stiffened. She did not dare to move an inch.

She was afraid that he would do something senseless.

He relaxed his arms and he fell onto her. Their bodies were touching each other closely. He buried his head in her neck, and he greedily breathed in her hair, neck, earlobe—

He let out a hot breath. It was ticklish and numbing as it entangled her.

She tensed.

He seemed to be holding back. “For you, I’ve used my beauty as a strategy. Should you not repay me?”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about.” Lin Xinyan pretended to be calm, but her hands on the blanket were clenched. The once-smooth blanket was now wrinkled.

He bit on her earlobe and sucked. Lin Xinyan tried to push him away. “You’re drunk.”

“I’m not. I know what I’m doing.” His words were clear, and he emphasized on the word “I”.

His tongue was circling her earlobe. “I’ll let you raise your children here, and you’ll fulfill me. How about that?”

Lin Xinyan’s heart skipped a beat, and she shivered.

Lin Ruixi seemed to like him a lot. She had not spent much time with him, but she was clingy onto him.

She had never seen her daughter as upset as just now. Neither had she heard her daughter ever say what she said earlier that she was a “fatherless child”. It stabbed her heart to hear it.

The tears streamed down from the corner of her eyes and disappeared into her hair.

Her voice was rough as she said, “You can’t go back on your words.”

“Of course.”

He sensed that Lin Xinyan had agreed with him. His fingers nimbly pulled her clothes away.

Lin Xinyan shivered.

Zong Jinghao held her and leaned her against his chest. He said quietly, “Don’t worry.”

And his words tore Lin Xinyan’s inner terror out from her and exposed it in the air.

She started trembling uncontrollably.

Her tears soaked his shirt. Zong Jinghao lowered his head to look at her tearful face, and his gaze seemed to darken. “I’m not a predator who’s looking to eat you. Why are you crying?”

Lin Xinyan sniffed and said, “I’m not.”

Zong Jinghao did not say anything in return for a moment.

His shirt was soaked and she still insisted that she was not crying.

Zong Jinghao wiped the tears on her face and said gently, “If you don’t want it, I won’t—”

Before he could finish his words, he was kissed.

Lin Xinyan had initiated the kiss.

This was the first time.

Zong Jinghao was stunned.

He stared at the woman kissing him with wide eyes.

His heart swelled with happiness.

Soon, Zong Jinghao came back to his senses, held onto her head, and returned the kiss passionately.

The air seemed to heat up every second.

Just as Zong Jinghao was about to take the next step, there was a knock on the door.

His motions faltered and he looked at her.

Her face instantly reddened and it heated up as if it was on fire.

Knock knock.

The knocking came again.

Who could it be at this house?

Zong Jinghao frowned. He was upset at being interrupted. After all, it was difficult for Lin Xinyan to go with his flow.

He was a normal man; he had desires for women.

To disrupt him at this moment...

Knock knock.

Lin Xinyan pushed him. "It might be Ruixi—"

"Don't move." Although he was unwilling to get up, he still had to deal with the knockings. He stood up and pulled the blanket to cover Lin Xinyan, then went to open the door.

Lin Ruixi was standing by the door and her eyes were red. When she looked up and saw that it was Zong Jinghao, her tears instantly spilled out. She said in an upset tone, "Dad."

She sobbed quietly. "I thought you didn't want me anymore."

Zong Jinghao crouched down to look her in the eyes. "I still want you."

Lin Ruixi pounced into his arms and hugged his neck tightly.

He could feel her tears on his skin, moist and sticky.

Zong Jinghao looked up at the ceiling silently. "Did you take after your mommy, you little crybaby."

Lin Xinyan was curled in the blanket as she quietly listened to the commotion by the door.

Lin Xinyan smiled when she heard Zong Jinghao patiently coaxing Lin Ruixi.

It was a bitter smile.

It was worth it if he was willing to let her daughter feel some warmth in life.