

## Chapter 221

Cheng Yuxiu didn't hesitate to answer, "I want a girl."

Boys were too much to handle, while girls tend to be gentle and caring. Many people have said that girls bring warmth and joy to their parents, and Cheng Yuxiu could see why.

Boys were not as meticulous as girls.

She really wanted a girl.

Bai Hongfei had asked her the same question as well, and she had given him the same answer. "I'd better have a daughter this life," she told him.

However, reality turned out the opposite of what she wanted.

Wen Xian scooped some food into her bowl. "Me too, but I was hoping that your child will be a boy."

Wealthy families had always wanted sons over daughters. Even though time had changed and gender equality was the talk of the century, boys were still the preferred choice when it comes to inheriting large family businesses.

Cheng Yuxiu understood what she meant, yet she couldn't bring herself to say so. "I can't promise you that it will be a boy," she said with her head hung low.

"Are you dumb?" Wen Xian said, laughing. "I'm just saying. No need to feel pressured."

The days where the woman gets blamed for not producing children of a preferred gender were long gone.

Zong Qifeng put down his chopsticks and left the table. He wondered why Wen Xian acted more like the child's father than he did.

He felt like a sore thumb in this family.

During mealtimes, the two women chatted away, leaving him alone and lonely.

He was puzzled.

Both Wen Xian and Cheng Yuxiu looked at him.

"I think he's mad at something," Cheng Yuxiu said.

Wen Xian seemed to understand, but she didn't call him out. "Maybe it's some work-related issues."

Cheng Yuxiu nodded.

At night.

Zong Qifeng had trouble sleeping, and after a while of tossing and turning, he got up to go downstairs, where he saw Cheng Yuxiu getting something to drink. Looking at her slender silhouette beside the table, he wondered how she still didn't look pregnant at all despite being almost three months into her pregnancy.

Her belly looked as flat as ever.

Cheng Yuxiu didn't notice him standing there, her mind occupied with something else.

She was woken up by a call from Cheng Yuwen telling her that Bai Hongfei was fine, and that there's no need for her to worry.

Cheng Yuwen had brought Bai Hongfei home after nursing him back to health.

He was scared that Bai Hongfei would continue to harass Cheng Yuxiu.

She couldn't help but feel saddened as she walked over to the window with a cup of water in her hand. The dark night sky was as quiet as ever, and it was the perfect scene to brood over something.

For the first twenty years of her life, she had never thought that she would one day fall into destitution.

She would never have guessed that her twentieth birthday would bring the biggest twist to her life story.

Suddenly, she was in another unfamiliar city and staying in a house of strangers, even going as far as getting intimate with one of them.

She looked at the empty sky that was devoid of stars or even the moon. She smiled, though it was filled with bitterness. "Oh, God, you've made a massive joke out of me, haven't you?"

"Was it me that made you feel so horrible?"

The low voice of a man cut through the air like a sharp knife.

Cheng Yuxiu turned around, only to come face to face with the man standing behind her. A black silk robe hung loosely on his slender body, and she couldn't quite make out his facial expression due to the dim light.

"Why haven't you slept yet?" Cheng Yuxiu asked, slightly flustered by the fact that he was eavesdropping on her monologue.

Zong Qifeng walked over and stood beside her. "You are not asleep too."

Cheng Yuxiu looked out of the window. "I woke up because I was thirsty, not because I haven't slept yet."

"Looks like you could let things go pretty easily."

That was something Zong Qifeng had not expected.

Shouldn't she be bawling in sadness after breaking up with her beloved boyfriend?

Cheng Yuxiu glanced at him and replied, "I know what I'm getting myself into, and there's no way we could go back to what we were before. Getting involved in each other's lives from now on would only hurt us even more. I figured that nipping it at the bud would be much better than making empty promises."

Zong Qifeng was impressed by her determination. So many people out there were getting emotionally distressed or even tortured by love, but she was definitely not one of them.

How many people could be as carefree and decisive as she was?

Zong Qifeng looked at her. "Remember one thing from now on."

"What?" Cheng Yuxiu asked while looking at him with a confused look. He had been acting weird that night.

Something was odd but she couldn't quite tell.

"I'm the father of the child in your belly, so you shouldn't be ignoring me," he said, before turning around to go upstairs again.

Cheng Yuxiu went silent.

What did he mean by that?

The door of the bedroom on the east side of the house silently closed when Zong Qifeng went up the stairs.

That room belonged to Wen Xian.

She had sleep issues that made her a light sleeper. Cheng Yuxiu had unknowingly woken her up as well.

When she heard Zong Qifeng's footsteps, she got up as well.

A smile crept onto her lips when she saw them interact.

She could see Zong Qifeng's eyes focusing on Cheng Yuxiu.

Love almost always begins from attention.

Maybe he hadn't realized it yet, but he's already doing it subconsciously.

Before they knew it, Cheng Yuxiu was already eight months pregnant.

Wen Xian had to make herself look pregnant as well.

Besides the trusty maid they had in the house, no one else knew the truth. Even Aunt Yu, who came with Wen Xian when she got married, was kept in the dark. Wen Xian had dismissed her for the time being when she got pregnant.

Everything was going according to plan.

There was a pregnancy checkup scheduled for the day, but Wen Xian, being the fake pregnant lady, didn't have to go for it. Instead, she made her way to the shopping mall to buy some clothes for the unborn baby.

Cheng Yuxiu, being the real pregnant lady, had to go for the checkup. Zong Qifeng happened to be free that day, so Wen Xian excused herself to create an opportunity for them to be alone with each other.

When the doctor checked the baby's pulse, he could hear the steady beating of its heart through the apparatus.

That was the first time he heard it, and it made him jittery with excitement.

Cheng Yuxiu watched with a smile as he flailed around. "Don't you think it's amazing?"

Zong Qifeng nodded.

"When I first heard it, I was shocked. Isn't life something amazing? I could feel its first kick at around five months, and I couldn't sleep after that..."

Zong Qifeng blinked, his dark pupils filled with confusion. "You mean he moves inside your belly?"

Why didn't she tell him that?

He would have loved to witness it as well.

The nurse couldn't help but intervene. "You're being selfish here. Why didn't you let daddy interact with the baby?" she asked Cheng Yuxiu.

On the other hand, she hadn't met a single father-to-be that didn't know that babies could move inside their mothers' belly.

Cheng Yuxiu felt uncomfortable.

Zong Qifeng took the blame. "I've been really busy with work, so I might have overlooked things..."

"Wife first, work second! You're the baby's father after all, and the child would be yours when it's born, not someone else's."

"Yes, yes, I agree," Zong Qifeng said. For a man that had been terrorizing the business sector for years, he sounded like a child that was getting scolded at that very moment.

After the checkup was over, Zong Qifeng took her to the exit before saying, "I'll get the car here."

Cheng Yuxiu nodded.

Zong Qifeng walked over to his car and unlocked it. Just as he was about to get in and start the engine, his phone rang inside his pocket. When he took it out, the screen showed Wen Xian's name, and his eyes shone for a second before he answered the call.

Her voice was low. "Are Y'all done with the checkup?"

"That's right. We're going back now."

"Don't."

## **Chapter 222**

Zong Qifeng furrowed his brows. "What's going on?"

"My brother is here. It's cold outside, so bring her to a hotel to rest for a while first. I'll call you again when my brother leaves," Wen Xian said as she hid in the bathroom of the house.

Wen Qin had already arrived at her doorstep when she came back from her shopping trip.

She almost froze from shock the moment she saw her. Luckily, Cheng Yuxiu wasn't around to expose her lies.

"I understand."

Wen Xian hung up after that. She gave a big sigh of relief and checked her tummy in the mirror, only opening the door after she confirmed that nothing seemed suspicious.

"Why didn't you tell me that you were coming?" She whined.

Wen Qing leaned back on the sofa. He was tall and well-built, and everything that came out of his mouth sounded dramatically domineering.

He looked at his sister. “What are you talking about? I’m pretty sure I don’t have to report in advance if I wanted to come and visit my little sister. By the way, aren’t you supposed to be at your pregnancy checkup now? Why did you go to the shopping mall?”

He eyed the shopping bags scattered on the sofa.

Wen Xian walked over and sat on the sofa, telling the maid to pour Wen Qing some water. “I went to buy some baby clothes on the way back from the checkup, since the baby’s coming soon anyway. Why are you here today?”

Wen Qing told his driver to unload the goods from his car. “Mom told me to bring all this for you and the baby. Don’t you know much attention this little one is getting even before it’s born?”

Soon, his driver returned with his hands full of baby products, food, clothes, as well as nutritional supplements for Wen Xian. He had to go to the car the second time before he finally unloaded everything.

Wen Xian was slightly shocked. “That’s a lot of stuff.”

“All for your little one,” Wen Qing said, reaching out to touch her belly.

Wen Xian slapped his hand away, breaking out in cold sweat. She hadn’t expected him to want to touch her belly all of a sudden.

It was a fake one after all, so one touch would expose everything.

Luckily, she reacted fast enough to stop things from getting out of hand.

Wen Qing coughed lightly to hide his embarrassment. His sister was an adult, and a married one for that matter. He shouldn’t be touching her without her permission.

“Did Qifeng not go for the checkup with you?”

Wen Qing was a little annoyed. His sister was pregnant and yet Qifeng didn’t even bother spending more time with her. Furthermore, she’s already approaching her due date, which meant that he shouldn’t be leaving her alone for extended periods of time.

“He’s busy...”

“Is work or your child more important?”

Wen Xian didn’t manage to say another word before Wen Qing cut her off, “Can’t he tell which is more important?”

Wen Xian had wanted to explain further, but Wen Qing had already taken out his phone to call Zong Qifeng.

Soon, the call went through, but before he could start his interrogation, Wen Xian grabbed his phone and cut the line. "I don't need you poking your nose into my matters."

Wen Qing frowned, though it was a disappointed and worried frown. He had meant well and didn't want Zong Qifeng to bully her, but she...

"Fine. I won't meddle in your matters from now on," Wen Qing said, standing up.

Wen Xian began to regret her words. That was her brother, and all he did was to show concern towards her.

She shouldn't have snapped at him.

"I'm sorry, Big Brother. I didn't mean it."

Wen Qing took his hat over from his driver and froze for a second at the sound of that. Putting his hat back on, he said, "If he ever bullies you, just give me a call."

After that, he strode out of the door.

She was his sister after all, and he wouldn't just abandon her just because of a tiny disagreement.

Wen Xian ran after him and hugged him from behind. "Big Brother, my prenatal depression might be messing with my mood, so please don't get mad...I didn't mean to say that just now, and I know that you care about me..."

Wen Qing frowned and dislodged himself from her embrace. "Aren't you pregnant? Why are you running?"

"I forgot for a second..."

"You forgot that you're pregnant?" Wen Qing felt that he had just heard the biggest joke of his life. Who would forget that they're pregnant? He reached out a finger and swiped it across her nose. "The child in your belly is the firstborn of both the Zongs and the Wens, so you'd better make sure it stays safe. If I see you acting so rashly once again, I'm going to beat you up."

Wen Qing pretended to act fierce.

Wen Xian knew that he was just joking. He cares about her.

She threw herself into his embrace again. "Big Brother..."

Wen Qing pinched her cheeks with the strength of the soldier that he was. "It hurts!" Wen Xian squeaked in pain.

"I didn't even put in any effort," Wen Qing said.

"You did! My cheeks were going to get pinched off by you," Wen Xian insisted as she rubbed her sore, red cheeks.

Wen Qing stroked her cheeks lovingly. "I wasn't paying attention. I'll be gentler next time," he said, sighing. "You're going to be a mom soon, and you're still acting like such a spoiled brat?"

"Even when I become a mom or a grandma, I'm still your little sister forever!"

Wen Qing went speechless. That made a lot of sense, he thought.

No matter how old she gets, she would forever be his little sister.

Wen Xian sent her brother to his car and watched as he slid into the vehicle. He glanced at his sister again. "Go back and rest. It's getting colder, so you should wear more clothes. Take care of yourself. Just call me if there's anything."

Wen Xian nodded.

She watched as Wen Qing's car disappeared down the road before turning around to go in, but before she could step into the house...

"Wen Xian."

She could see Zhuang Ziyi standing at the other side of the road in casual wear, looking as handsome as ever.

The wind tousled his hair.

Wen Xian froze for a moment before looking around. She walked over quickly. "Why are you here?"

"I miss you," he said while giving her his usual beautiful grin.

Wen Xian glared at him. "Tell me in advance before you come next time."

Zhuang Ziyi reached over and pulled her into his embrace. "We're supposed to be lovers, so why are you making this so hard?"

Wen Xian patted her on the back. "Just wait a while more..."

She had to wait for Cheng Yuxiu to give birth and for Zong Qifeng to realize his true feelings.



Once that happens, she could elope with him and live their days however they want.

“How long more?” Zhuang Ziyi asked.

“A year at most.”

She didn't know if Zong Qifeng was lying or not when he said that he would let her go after Cheng Yuxiu gives birth, but she figured that one year should be more than enough.

Once that happens, she could leave without any regrets.

“Go home,” she told him.

“I want to look at you just a bit more,” Zhuang Ziyi said, holding on to her tightly.

Wen Xian put on a serious expression. “This is the Zong residence. If someone sees us like this, it won't do us any good.”

Zhuang Ziyi knew that as well, and he bent down to kiss her on the lips. “I'll wait for you, however long it takes.”

After that, he turned around and left.

Wen Xian stood by the door and waved at him. “Drive safely.”

Zhuang Ziyi rolled down his window and said, “Go in, it's cold outside.”

Wen Xian pulled her coat around her and turned around.

The temperature had been dropping, and by December the winds were even fiercer.

Just before the new year, on 20 December, the lights inside the Zong residence turned on all of a sudden.

Cheng Yuxiu was going into labor, and to prevent people from finding out the ugly truth, they took her to the hospital in the middle of the night without telling anyone.

They decided that Wen Xian would be the one carrying the child and announcing its birth afterwards.

That way, everything could be hidden from everyone

Zong Qifeng was on the wheel, while Wen Xian stayed with Cheng Yuxiu in the backseat. Cheng Yuxiu was drenched in cold sweat from the pain of labor. “Just hold on for a while longer, we're reaching the hospital soon,” Wen Xian said in an attempt to comfort her.

This was Cheng Yuxiu's first child, and she didn't know how much pain was in store for her when she finally arrived at the hospital.

She was a strong woman, but the waves of pain that came tearing at her body with the contractions was too much to handle. "It hurts a lot!" she yelled.

Her slender fingers gripped onto the armrests of the chair she was sitting on tightly. "Am I going to die?" she asked, her lips trembling.

"Of course not," Wen Xian answered. She didn't know how much pain Cheng Yuxiu was going through, since she had never given birth before.

She could tell that Cheng Yuxiu was in a lot of pain, and it tugged at her heart painfully. "Don't worry, we're all here for you."

Zong Qifeng kept glancing backwards as well and his anxiety grew.

Soon, they arrived at the hospital and just as Wen Xian was about to help Cheng Yuxiu out from the car, Zong Qifeng pushed her aside.

She froze for a moment before moving to one side so that Zong Qifeng could pick Cheng Yuxiu up. "It really hurts, and it comes in waves..."

Zong Qifeng didn't know how to comfort her, and he could only hold on to her tightly and give her his silent support.

## **Chapter 223**

Cheng Yuxiu was taken to the delivery room.

Zong Qifeng paced back and forth in front of the door and stole a few glances inside, but all he could hear were Cheng Yuxiu's painful cries.

Wen Xian walked over. "Don't worry too much."

Zong Qifeng turned around and looked at her, unable to speak for a long moment.

He longed for a good smoke to take his mind off things, but the posters on the wall telling him that smoking was prohibited forced him to suppress the urge.

The suffering continued for seven hours. Being a first-time mother, it took a much longer time for Cheng Yuxiu's cervix to dilate.

"Ahhh!"

Suddenly, a loud scream pierced through the air, followed by the cries of a newborn baby.

Zong Qifeng's eyes lit up. "Is she done?"

Wen Xian heaved a huge sigh of relief. "I guess so."

After a while, the door to the delivery room opened, and a nurse came out with a baby in her arms. "The child has been delivered successfully at 7.20 A.M. on 21st December. He's a boy weighing at 2.8kg."

Zong Qifeng had been looking forward to this moment, but when it came, he didn't know how to react. Instead, he stood rooted to the ground.

Wen Xian came forward to take the child from the nurse's arms. "Thank you."

"This is our duty. The mother will be coming out soon," the nurse said, before returning to the delivery room and closing the door behind her.

Wen Xian looked at the baby in her arms, her face filled with love. He was tiny, almost fragile-looking.

It was her first time holding a baby, hence she was very careful with it and it felt amazing. She walked over to Zong Qifeng. "Look, it's your baby."

It was still too early to tell who the child resembles, but he had a full head of bushy, black hair.

Zong Qifeng looked down, his face taut and his hands shaking from excitement. "Give him to me."

Wen Xian carefully passed him the baby. "Be careful. He's still very fragile."

This only made Zong Qifeng even more nervous.

He took the baby from her arms and felt his heart thump against his chest. He's a father now and this is his baby – it felt like a dream come true, yet it still seemed so surreal.

"He's my baby."

Wen Xian smiled. "That's right. He's your child, and your blood is running through his veins. You're father and son."

Zong Qifeng looked up. "I must thank you for making me a father so soon."

He wasn't making fun of her, neither was he being sarcastic – he was genuinely thankful for her.

Nothing could console the bitterness in him but this child.

At that moment, he could feel himself letting go of his past.

He continued to stare at the baby as he talked to Wen Xian, "I'll let you go. Let's get a divorce tomorrow."

Wen Xian figured that he finally knew what he wanted.

"Are you crazy?" Wen Xian rolled her eyes at him. "My brother would probably kill you if he found out that you divorced me the moment the child was born."

Zong Qifeng laughed too. Maybe he was really going crazy from happiness.

At that moment, the door to the delivery room opened, and Cheng Yuxiu was wheeled out of it. Her doctor came out as well with a smile. "Everything is fine. She needs to rest now, so let's get a room for her."

"We're going to another hospital now," Wen Xian said, taking the baby from Zong Qifeng's arms. "We don't have much time."

Zong Qifeng gave the baby to Wen Xian before bending down to pick up Cheng Yuxiu, who was still unconscious. She was too tired after being in pain for the whole night.

Her whole body was limp.

This hospital had been the one that Cheng Yuxiu had been going for checkups the whole time, as it was rather hidden from the public eye.

After giving birth, they would have to go to a hospital in the city. Wen Xian would definitely not give birth at such a secluded hospital.

The morning air was chilly, so Zong Qifeng took his coat and wrapped it around Cheng Yuxiu's body before putting her into the car. Wen Xian followed suit, the baby nestled in her arms.

They made their way back to the city hospital when the streets were still empty, and everything went smoothly. They had arranged everything beforehand to make it look like Wen Xian had just given birth.

Cheng Yuxiu moved into a nearby room. When everything was ready, Zong Qifeng made the call to his family and Wen Xian's family to announce the birth of their baby boy.

Both families were elated with the news, but when Madam Wen heard the news, she began to berate him on the spot, "Women go through hell and back just to give birth, and you're only telling me that she has given birth now?"

Zong Qifeng's hand on his phone clenched even tighter when he heard her words. Suddenly, Cheng Yuxiu's painful cries began to ring in his ears.

She had been so brave and strong, yet she couldn't bear the pain. It must have been excruciating.

He felt that he owed her something.

"Why aren't you talking?" Madam Wen asked.

"I forgot to tell you yesterday. I was too nervous," Zong Qifeng explained hurriedly.

Considering that he was a first-time father, it made sense that he forgot to tell the family about the birth in the midst of his anxiety. Madam Wen decided to drop the subject. "Don't let her catch a cold. We're going over now."

After an hour, the small hospital room was crowded with people, some of them looking at the newborn baby, and others fussing over Wen Xian.

"This child looks like Qifeng," Madam Wen said, holding the child in her arms.

"Indeed," Madam Zong added.

Wen Xian leaned against the bed, unable to imagine how it would feel like to be a new mother. She could only pretend to be exhausted.

"He's only a baby! How could you even tell who he looks like?"

Madam Zong took Wen Xian's hand. "You're the hero of the Zong family," she said, before taking out a property deed and a jewelry box from her bag.

"It isn't worth much, but I prepared this sapphire ring just for you. This deed is for you too..."

Wen Xian felt apprehensive about accepting those gifts. "How could I take them..."

"You're taking them," Madam Zong insisted.

Madam Wen felt satisfied when she saw Madam Zong's gifts.

She didn't care about the value of the gifts; she just wanted to see the sincerity.

Their kids had gotten married as part of an agreement, even though they didn't have any feelings for each other. Wen Xian had a boyfriend prior to this, but she couldn't stand the pressure from both families and got married to Zong Qifeng. Madam Wen had been worried about their relationship, but looking at the current situation...

They had been married for barely two years, and the birth of their child would improve their relationship further. She felt happy about it.

"Don't worry! This is her duty as a wife and as a daughter-in-law."

Madam Zong laughed. "Wen Xian did us proud by having a son first!"

In contrast to everyone's happiness and excitement, Zong Qifeng stayed silent throughout.

He stood by the window and thought about Cheng Yuxiu. She had just given birth, yet none of her love ones were there to support her.

She did not even get to share the liveliness and joy in this room.

A woman risked her life to give birth to a child, yet the child didn't belong to her. How much more depressing would that be?

Wen Qing noticed Zong Qifeng spacing out, and he was unhappy about it. That man had just become the father of a beautiful baby boy, yet he didn't look happy.

This didn't make sense.

Wen Qing squinted...

## **Chapter 224**

Wen Qing was highly suspicious about Zong Qifeng's actions, so he had been sending people to stalk him.

Within three days, his men managed to catch him hanging out with Cheng Yuxiu.

Wen Xian had all the company in the world whereas Cheng Yuxiu had no one and she didn't even get to see her baby yet. She had cried and told him to bring the baby to her at the first chance.

Zong Qifeng had promised to let her see the baby that day, but Madam Wen's arrival made it difficult. He had no choice but to excuse himself from the room and go to Cheng Yuxiu's room and tell her to wait.

He pushed open the door to the room and saw Cheng Yuxiu sitting upright in anticipation. "Where's my baby?" she asked.

Zong Qifeng walked over. "I can't get him over today. You'll have to wait."

The glint in Cheng Yuxiu's eyes disappeared as fast as it came. She lowered her eyelids in disappointment. All she wanted to do was to take a look at her baby, but why was it so hard?

Her chest hurt immensely.

Zong Qifeng couldn't relate to her pain, but he understood her emotions. After all, he was first-time father too.

He walked over to the bed and hugged her shoulders. "You just gave birth, so don't worry too much. I'll bring the baby over at the first chance."

"I don't want to let go of him," Cheng Yuxiu sobbed. The child had been growing in her belly for the past ten months, so she couldn't just give the child to Wen Xian like that.

Zong Qifeng sighed. "It's too late."

Everyone thinks that Wen Xian gave birth to the baby. "Maybe it's for the better. I'll divorce Wen Xian in a while to get hold of the child's custody, and then I'll marry you. Once that happens, you can see our baby everyday."

Cheng Yuxiu nodded. Even though she had no feelings for him, they've just had a baby, and it would be great for them to watch the child grow up together too.

"I heard that crying after giving birth isn't good for your eyes," Zong Qifeng said, and was about to wipe her tears off her face when suddenly...

Bam! The door to the room was kicked open roughly, and the two of them whirled around to face the door at the same time.

Wen Qing stood at the door, fuming. He couldn't believe his ears when his subordinates told him that Zong Qifeng had been cheating on Wen Xian. How could he sneak off like that when Wen Xian had just given birth?

Even so, he had to make sure his subordinate hadn't been lying. When he barged into the room, all he saw was Zong Qifeng holding that woman in his arms.

That confirmed his suspicions. How can he be messing around with this woman when Wen Xian was recovering from childbirth?

The more he thought about it, the angrier he got. He rushed up to Zong Qifeng and yanked him up by his collar. "Wen Xian is still in confinement, and you're..."

He turned to look at Cheng Yuxiu, who still had tear stains on her face. To Wen Qing, that was just another tactic of mistresses to deceive men.

Wen Qing's chest heaved, his face twisted by anger. "Zong Qifeng, why are you doing this to Wen Xian?"

Zong Qifeng didn't budge. "I think there's a misunderstanding here. She's innocent..."

"You're protecting your side chick now?" Wen Qing bellowed. If the tiny wisp of logic left in his mind hadn't reminded him that Wen Xian would beat him up if he hurt Zong Qifeng, he might have done just that.

Considering that his sister was still recovering, he didn't want to drop this bombshell on her just yet.

The two families married for profit, and now that they had a child, that bond only gets closer. Even if Zong Qifeng cheats on Wen Xian, it would be difficult to get a divorce, since it wouldn't do any good to both the families and the child.

He forced himself to remain calm. "Leave this woman and stay with Wen Xian. If you dare to go back to her, I'll personally end you!"

Wen Qing dumped Zong Qifeng onto the bed after that.

Wen Qing then turned to Cheng Yuxiu and looked down upon her. "If you would still like to live, then do us a favor and leave him alone, you understand?"

Zong Qifeng smoothened out his creased collar. "If you're unhappy, take it out on me. Just leave her alone."

Wen Qing clenched his fists. Why was he still speaking up for her?

"I can't promise that I won't hurt you if I got mad..."

"I understand," Zong Qifeng said, looking at Wen Qing. "Big Brother, you're at the peak of your life right now, and you have everything you need at your fingertips. However, I'll not allow you to touch her."

"You!"

Wen Qing gave Zong Qifeng a death glare.

"Are you giving up on Wen Xian?" Wen Qing snarled. "This guys must be crazy! Where's your brain when you need it?"

Wen Qing felt like he had just been struck by lightning. Was Zong Qifeng going to ditch his wife and newborn son for some random woman?

"Aren't you being an irresponsible man? Did this woman drug you or something?" Wen Qing yelled.

He firmly believed that the woman had drugged Zong Qifeng into oblivion.

However, he had to remain calm for Wen Xian's sake.

Restraining his temper, he said, "Let's both take a few days to cool down. We'll have a word on this in a couple of days. Also, don't let Wen Xian know this, she's very weak right now. You'd better think about this carefully for the sake of your son."



After that, Wen Qing walked out of the room. He ordered someone to investigate Cheng Yuxiu's background.

His only sister got cheated on when she was still recovering from childbirth, and he won't let it go so easily.

That man was asking for a good round of beating for betraying his sister like that!

Cheng Yuxiu grasped the bedsheet tightly. She had managed to figure out Wen Qing's identity from their conversation. "What are we going to do?" She panicked.

Zong Qifeng was strangely calm about it. He looked at her straight in the eyes and said, "Isn't that great? I could use this chance to divorce Wen Xian."

He could also use this chance to marry Cheng Yuxiu.

"Won't that destroy the bond between the two families?"

Zong Qifeng's lips trembled. "Whatever. As long as the child's there, they won't hate me. They would probably be disappointed in me. That's for sure."

Cheng Yuxiu pursed her lips. Now that things have gotten out of hand, she didn't know what else to say.

"You're not safe here anymore. I'll find somewhere else to house you," Zong Qifeng said. He feared retribution from Wen Qing for this.

Cheng Yuxiu figured that since Wen Xian was such a nice person so her brother wouldn't be a ruthless person either. "He maybe powerful, but he probably won't hurt me for real."

"He's very close to Wen Xian and now that he thinks that I have cheated on her with you; he will definitely take his anger out on you," Zong Qifeng said. He knew how close the two siblings were.

He walked over to cover her with a blanket. "Get some rest first and don't catch a cold. He wouldn't be coming back anytime soon, so I'll go and find Wen Xian now to discuss the divorce. Don't worry about the child. You'll get to meet him soon."

Cheng Yuxiu nodded. "You should be careful too. He looks like he knows martial arts or something."

"He's a soldier. That's why he looks scary. Anyway, he won't start beating people up for no reason and I know how to dodge his attacks too as I'm not that dumb," Zong Qifeng patted her shoulder. "Go to sleep. I'll be done before you know it."

Cheng Yuxiu nodded.

Zong Qifeng closed the door behind him and returned to Wen Xian's room. Madam Wen had left, and the only person left in the room was the maid assigned to take care of Wen Xian. The child slept soundly in his cot, only waking up occasionally to eat or cry about a soiled diaper.

Wen Xian noticed his troubled expression and asked, "What are you sulking about? Did something happen to Yuxiu?"

## **Chapter 225**

Zong Qifeng told the maid to leave the room before looking at Wen Xian. "Your brother found out about Cheng Yuxiu, and he thinks that I'm cheating on you with her. He's very angry now."

Wen Xian sat up immediately. "He didn't hurt her, did he?"

She knew how irritable her brother could get as he loved her very much; so, he would definitely lash out against Cheng Yuxiu.

"He didn't but we can't keep her identity under wraps any longer."

Cheng Yuxiu breathed a sigh of relief. If Wen Qing had attacked Cheng Yuxiu, she wouldn't be able to forgive herself. Although she agreed to have this child for the money, she had lost her freedom for close to a year. Through their interactions in the past year, Wen Xian got to know her better, and she could tell that Cheng Yuxiu was a good woman.

"What do you think we should do?" Wen Xian asked.

"Let's get divorced then."

That was exactly what Wen Xian wanted, yet she still had her worries. "It's not good for you."

If they got a divorce at this juncture, he would become the common enemy since he was the one who cheated on her.

"We've come so far and there's no turning back. As long as we have this child, I would be fine."

No matter how mad the Wen family would get with Zong Qifeng, they wouldn't be able to hurt him because of this child.

Wen Xian pondered over it for a while before coming to the conclusion that there was no other way out. "Fine then. I'm sorry for the trouble."

“Don’t say that,” Zong Qifeng said calmly. He had been itching to end this loveless marriage anyway.

He wanted to divorce Wen Xian and marry Cheng Yuxiu instead, since the child belonged to him and the latter. They should be the one raising the child together.

“If you’re sure about it, then go ahead,” Wen Xian said, taking a deep breath and looking into the baby cot. “He will only be happy with his mother around.”

To a baby, power and money meant nothing compared to the mother’s love.

When she was about to give her family a call, the door to the room opened and Wen Qing walked in.

He pretended that nothing had happened, instead giving Zong Qifeng a questioning glance and asked, “You didn’t tell her anything, did you?”

He didn’t want Wen Xian to know that Zong Qifeng had been hooking up with another woman behind her back.

“Why are you here, Big Brother?”

Wen Xian began to panic and hugged the baby close to her, just in case he went berserk and hurt the baby by accident.

However, that move was simply a show of love to Wen Qing above everything else.

He looked at Zong Qifeng. “I have something to tell you. Follow me.”

“Let’s just talk here,” Wen Xian said. She could tell that her brother was just acting calm for her sake, and Zong Qifeng might run into trouble if he followed her brother out.

“You shouldn’t be listening to men’s conversations,” Wen Qing said, glancing at her. “Why? You won’t let him come with me for even a second?”

“It’s not that...”

“Hey, I just want to have a word with him. Stay here and rest,” Wen Qing said, patting his sister’s shoulder.

That did nothing to calm her down.

Zong Qifeng gave her a reassuring look. “It’s fine. Big Brother just wants to have a chat with me and he doesn’t want you to worry about it.”

“But...”

“Enough,” Wen Qing cut her off, his patience was wearing thin.

"I'll wait outside," he said before leaving the room.

"Don't worry," Zong Qifeng said before following Wen Qing out. He was curious as to what Wen Qing wanted to talk about.

They walked to the end of the corridor and into the stairwell where it was quiet. Wen Qing spoke up first. "You haven't told her anything, right?"

Zong Qifeng shook his head.

"That's great. You'd better sort things out and stay with Wen Xian for the child's sake," Wen Qing said calmly, a huge change in attitude from the beast he was previously.

"I investigated that woman's background," Wen Qing said, leaning on the walls. "She's from some Mengcheng County and not B City. She's not worth your time, so you'd better stick with my sister."

Zong Qifeng frowned. "You investigated her?" He asked coldly.

"She's just a plain woman with a pretty face and a rather good family background. She ran into some problems so you gave her money some money and she became your mistress."

The people who investigated her didn't manage to find out who gave Cheng Yuxiu the money actually. The only thing they could confirm was that she came to B City after receiving a sum of money.

Wen Qing was convinced that Zong Qifeng was behind the money.

Considering their relationship now...

He didn't think it was anything out of the ordinary, since a rich man had the means to get a mistress whenever he wanted. However, for the sake of the two families and his sister, he wouldn't allow this woman to get between them.

Zong Qifeng squinted. Something didn't seem right with Wen Qing's calmness.

"What did you do to her?"

"I don't know what you're talking about. Just be nice to my sister..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Zong Qifeng had already pushed past him and barreled into Cheng Yuxiu room. It was empty.

He looked at Wen Qing again. "Did you do something to her?"

Wen Qing walked over and shrugged at the sight of the empty room. "You're asking me?"

He gave Zong Qifeng a look. "Were you planning to frame me for kidnapping or something?"

Wen Qing would never admit to kidnapping Cheng Yuxiu.

Zong Qifeng yanked at Wen Qing's collar. "What in the world did you do to her?!"

"What evidence do you even have, Zong Qifeng? Who knows if you hid her somewhere in an attempt to drag me down into this mess?"

Wen Qing pushed him aside. "Maybe she left on her own accord. I wouldn't bother to kidnap her."

Zong Qifeng gave him a look and walked into the room. The only place someone could hide in was that tiny bathroom, yet it was empty. There were no signs of struggle in the room or on the bed, so it seemed that Cheng Yuxiu wasn't taken away by force.

If so, then where was she?

She didn't have any friends or family living in B City.

"Is she really gone?" Wen Qing asked as he leaned against the doorframe with a smirk.

Zong Qifeng ignored him completely.

At that moment, his phone rang, and Cheng Yuxiu's name appeared on the screen. They had exchanged phone numbers before she gave birth for convenience's sake.

He picked up the phone quickly. "Where are you?"

"I have left. Don't come and find me."

Zong Qifeng's free hand balled into fists by his side. "What are you talking about?"

"I don't love you, so why would I marry you?"

Zong Qifeng's heart sank into the abyss. "Tell me where you're at. I'll go and find you and explain everything to you."

"I realized that I still love my ex-boyfriend, and he doesn't mind me, I..."

Zong Qifeng gripped his phone so tight he could crush it.

"I don't believe you..."

"I've already left with him. I don't need you to believe me?"

Zong Qifeng stood rooted to the ground as though he was a statue. She had made a promise to him.

And now she has gone back to her ex-boyfriend?

Does she think their agreement was a joke?

Wen Qing looked at him and smirked before taking his leave.

## **Chapter 226**

Cheng Yuxiu had disappeared off the face of the earth, and even her phone number became obsolete after that call.

Zong Qifeng had gone to Mengcheng County to look for her once, but he didn't succeed. Even her ex-boyfriend Bai Hongfei disappeared without a trace.

He lost hope only after that. Maybe she had eloped with Bai Hongfei after all.

Every promise she had made were just lies.

However, Wen Xian refused to believe that she had disappeared. How could she leave her child behind?

"I have faith in her," Wen Xian declared.

Zong Qifeng was too devastated to process what she said, and he went upstairs to have some time alone.

Wen Xian held the child in her arms and returned to the Wen family house.

She had to find out if Wen Qing was behind all this.

After all, he had plenty of reasons to do that.

He might have kidnapped Cheng Yuxiu as he didn't want the two families to get into conflict or make her unhappy.

When she got there, Wen Qing had yet to return.

"Mom, when is my brother coming back?"

Madam Wen pulled her daughter's clothes tighter around her and took the baby from her arms. "You just came back from the hospital a few days ago, and you're running around already? Wouldn't a call suffice?"

Wen Xian managed a small smile. "I miss you and Dad. I'm not cold in the car, since I'm wearing so much."

Madam Wen smiled. She was happy that her daughter still thought of the family even after she got married.

She looked down at the baby in her arms. He was only a couple of days old, and his face had already gotten chubbier.

Wen Xian glanced at the baby too. "He has started gaining weight already."

"Kids tend to put on weight quite a bit in the first month. The ones that grow faster can get around three or four kilograms heavier," Madam Wen said, speaking from experience.

Madam Wen was scared that her daughter would catch a cold, so she told her to rest in her room. Wen Xian called her maid back at the house to take care of Zong Qifeng.

Cheng Yuxiu's sudden disappearance seemed to be a huge blow to Zong Qifeng.

That was why she had decided to come back and see Wen Qing. She wanted to find out if Cheng Yuxiu had been kidnapped or if she had actually eloped with Bai Hongfei.

If she had been kidnapped, Wen Xian would sacrifice anything to save her. It could even be exposing the truth or ending her relationship with Zhuang Ziyi.

If she had eloped with Bai Hongfei, then Wen Xian would have to stay and take care of Zong Qifeng and the child.

This whole mess started because of her, and she had to take responsibility for it.

As for Zhuang Ziyi, there was a high chance that she might have to forego their relationship.

She looked at the baby sleeping beside her, and she reached out to stroke his little cheeks. How could she deprive this child of a mother?

Dinner time came and went, and Wen Qing was still nowhere to be found. "Is he that busy?" Wen Xian was a little panicked.

"He goes out quite a bit these days," Madam Wen answered.

"What's he even doing outside?" Wen Xian asked.

"It's probably his work. He's not married yet, so what else could he be busy with besides work?"

Wen Xian didn't manage to get what she wanted to hear from her mother, but she figured that Wen Qing wouldn't let their parents know if he had actually kidnapped Cheng Yuxiu.

He would have kept the truth from them so that they wouldn't get worried.

She couldn't sleep that night as she couldn't stop thinking about Cheng Yuxiu. In a bid to catch Wen Qing when he comes home, Wen Xian stayed up waiting.

The door finally creaked open when the clock was going to strike ten.

She pushed her blankets away quietly so that she wouldn't wake the baby.

Wen Qing was hanging up his coat at the doorway when he saw Wen Xian coming towards him. "Why are you here? Did you have an argument with Qifeng?"

The first thing he did when he saw her was to ask about her relationship with her husband.

"We're fine," Wen Xian said, coming closer. "Big Brother, tell me the truth. Did you kidnap someone by the name of Cheng Yuxiu?"

Wen Qing froze for a moment before he asked, "Who's Cheng Yuxiu?"

His heart thumped inside his chest. Did Wen Xian know about Zong Qifeng's affair?

"Sister..."

"Big Brother, you know that I married him for the sake of the families. We don't love each other at all, and we only had this child to maintain our relationship with the Zongs. I knew that he was having an affair and I was fine with it, so you don't have to worry for me. If you kidnapped her, then please release her. I'm begging you."

The last thing Wen Qing expected to hear from his sister was that she was fine with Zong Qifeng hooking up with Cheng Yuxiu. She's not angry about it?

"Sister, you're not going to be able to live in peace with that woman getting between you and Zong Qifeng. Moreover, the two of you will never have a chance to fall in love with each other."

"Big Brother, just give her to me and I'll deal with the rest..."

"I didn't kidnap her. Didn't she elope with her ex-boyfriend? Why are you asking me to release her? Did Zong Qifeng tell you to do this?" Wen Qing said as he scoffed silently.

Wen Xian's words only made him more reluctant to let Cheng Yuxiu go. Zong Qifeng and Wen Xian would never be able to build a romantic relationship if Cheng Yuxiu was still around.

Since they got married and had a child, they would have to stay with each other, be it for their families' sake or for the child.



“You sure you didn’t kidnap her?” Wen Xian asked, searching his face for signs that he was lying.

Wen Qing stared at her straight in the eye and said slowly, “Yes, I didn’t kidnap her.”

As a soldier, Wen Qing had an iron resolve.

Even his father Wen Jin’s interrogations wouldn’t have gotten the truth out of him, let alone his little sister.

All Wen Xian had was speculation that he had kidnapped Cheng Yuxiu, but no evidence. He knew that her attempts were hopeless.

“Big Brother...”

“It’s getting late. I’m really tired from training, so let me rest, okay?” Wen Qing said before she could finish her sentence. He was obviously unwilling to dwell on this topic.

Wen Xian pursed her lips together, her voice turning dry. “Big Brother, you know that I still loved Ziyi when I got married to Qifeng, so it’s fine if he’s in an affair too. You don’t have to feel sorry for me. If you have kidnapped her, please just let her go.”

“Why are you two still together then? Why not just get a divorce? For goodness’ sake, Wen Xian, you’re married now, so just settle down. Also, for the last time, I didn’t kidnap her.”

Wen Qing pushed past her and went into his room after that.

Wen Xian stayed rooted to the ground as her mind in a mess.

Was she making baseless claims?

Was Wen Qing actually innocent?

However, she figured that Cheng Yuxiu wouldn’t get back together with Bai Hongfei and elope with him, considering her personality.

She hadn’t even met her child yet, so why would she disappear all of a sudden?

She didn’t want to believe it, but Wen Qing seemed adamant about it. She felt helpless for a good while.

She walked back to the room and saw the baby lying still on the bed with his eyes open. He was very quiet and well-behaved; his eyes were looking around as though he was exploring this unfamiliar world from the bed.

The nurse had said that he would be shortsighted for a while, so she walked over and bent down to look at him.

His gaze remained unfocused, as though he hadn't noticed her presence.

Of course, he couldn't see her.

Wen Xian picked him up gently.

## **Chapter 227**

The first snow of the winter fell soon after.

Everything was covered with a thick layer of shiny white snow overnight, making them look as though they were made of snow.

Wen Xian wrapped the baby in winter clothing tightly first thing the morning, leaving only his nose and eyes exposed. Madam Wen came in to see her daughter and grandson, only to see them ready to leave. "Why are you up so early? Why don't you sleep for a while more?" She frowned.

"I need to get back before breakfast. I can't leave Qifeng alone at home," Wen Xian said as she packed the baby's milk powder and bottle into her bag, before slinging the bag over her shoulders and picking up the baby in her arms.

"Qifeng isn't a kid anymore, he's not going to starve if you aren't there, is he?" Madam Wen asked. She didn't want her daughter to catch a cold from the blizzard outside.

Wen Xian looked at her mother for a couple of seconds and said, "Mom, I'm leaving."

She had the chauffeur waiting outside, and Madam Wen resisted the urge to get Wen Xian to stay, considering that Wen Xian might have just wanted to be a good wife to her husband. Instead, she put on a thick fur coat and followed Wen Xian out.

She only returned home after Wen Xian had gotten onto her ride. Wen Qing came over in thin pajamas when she was hanging up her coat. Maybe soldiers tend to have a higher tolerance to cold weather? "Where did you go? It's so early," he asked.

He could tell that she had just come back from the outside.

Madam Wen smiled. "I just sent your sister off."

Wen Qing's face froze for a second. "She has gone back so early?"

"She said that she was worried about Qifeng. You see, they weren't too interested in each other when they got married, but they seem to be fine now. Your sister wanted to go back early in the morning despite the cold weather just because she was concerned about Qifeng."

Wen Qing stayed silent, instead pouring himself a cup of water at the table. He pondered over Wen Xian and Zong Qifeng's matters in his head.

It all started with Wen Jin's good impression of Zong Qifeng. He stood out from all the rich kids in the area and had risen to the highest rank in his company within a few years and contributed much to the company's development.

Wen Qing felt proud of his sister for getting married to such a capable man.

As such, he would never allow anyone to mess up this marriage.

He put down his cup. "I'm not eating at home."

He left to go back to his room after that. "You don't even have time to eat?" Madam Wen asked. She was clearly unhappy.

"I have training," Wen Qing said as he closed his door behind him, isolating himself from the world.

The road was slippery from the snow.

Wen Xian looked outside at the snow-covered scenery. Although it felt like a winter wonderland, her heart felt as cold as the temperature that day. There was not a single bit of warmth to this weather.

Screech!

The wheels of the car skidded across the ground, and the driver yelled in shock, "The ground's too slippery and I can't stop!"

Before he could say anything, the car slid out of the road. Although the driver had been careful, there wasn't a fence by the side of the road to stop them, so they could only watch as the car skidded across the slippery ground.

Wen Xian had never experienced anything like this, and she broke out in a cold sweat. She felt helpless and she hugged the baby in her arms tightly.

Luckily for them, a tree managed to break the fall; however, they hung perilously over a steep slope.

"Please don't move, ma'am," the driver said as he was clearly frightened by the situation.

The car swayed. It could tip over any moment if the weight distribution was not even.

Wen Xian was immobilized by fear that she held her breath.

"Quick, call Qifeng now!"

The car could topple over any moment, and it only made her more anxious. She was holding a baby who was barely a month old!

The driver immediately took out his phone, and it didn't take long before Zong Qifeng picked up.

"Sir, we're in trouble. The road was too slippery and we're trapped..."

"Wah!"

Before the driver could finish his sentence, the baby cried out in Wen Xian's arms. Wen Xian immediately looked down to check for injuries, but it made the car lose its balance at last.

In a flurry of snow, screams and cries, the car crashed onto the ground below.

It had toppled over from the steep slope.

The driver passed out on the impact, and Wen Xian wasn't much better. She felt pain in her legs, but she didn't have the time to bother about that as she had fixated her gaze on the crying baby.

When the car toppled over, she instinctively held on tight to the baby. She had slammed her foot into the front seat of the car so that it wouldn't crush the baby, leaving a small space for him.

The baby might have been hungry as his cries grew louder. It took a lot of effort, but Wen Xian managed to reach out and pat him gently. "Don't cry, baby..."

The baby seemed to understand her words and their current predicament, and his cries stopped abruptly. His watery eyes looked around the car.

Wen Xian began to lose grip on reality, but she forced herself to stay awake for the baby's sake. She managed a weak smile as she looked at the baby. Thank goodness you're fine, she thought. I won't be able to face your parents if anything were to happen to you.

Blood fell from her leg that was lodged in the gap between the seats.

She was about to pass out when she heard a commotion outside.

"We've found it! The car is here..."

She heard Zong Qifeng's voice calling out her name vaguely, but she couldn't summon her voice to answer him. Everything went black after that.

Zong Qifeng had panicked when he saw blood on his son's face through the car window. However, when he looked closer and saw how well-behaved the baby was, he began to feel relieved. The baby wasn't hurt after all.

He reached out to take his son, and it was then when he realized that Wen Xian had used her leg to push the seat away so that it wouldn't crush the baby. The blood on his face was from her injured leg. Zong Qifeng carried his son out of the car with shaky hands and called for emergency services.

Soon, Wen Xian and the driver were rescued from the car and sent to the hospital by Zong Qifeng's army of men.

They managed to pull through, though they were both injured.

In particular, Wen Xian's leg had been crushed for way too long.

"Her leg injury is very serious. Her shin is completely shattered, and we would have to restore it with metal bars. It won't heal completely, but at least she will still be able to walk normally..."

Zong Qifeng was troubled. Although they had top-notch medical care, but metal bars were still fundamentally different from bones.

Besides, it would be very difficult for her to walk properly again with that shattered shin bone.

He never saw it coming.

"We need your consent. Please sign here if you want to go ahead with the surgery," the doctor said while handing him the consent form for surgery.

Zong Qifeng signed his name on the form without much hesitation.

There was no way he could reverse the situation, so the best he could do now was to reduce the damage to its minimum to save Wen Xian's life.

"We'll use the best methods to help her back on her feet as much as possible."

"We'll do our best," the doctor said, taking the consent form from him and ordered preparations for surgery.

## **Chapter 228**

Wen Xian finally woke up two days after the surgery, and the first thing she said was, "How's the baby? He's not hurt, is he?"

Her voice was dry and raspy from being unconscious for two days straight.

Zong Qifeng held her hand and said, "He's fine. You protected him very well."

Wen Xian heaved a sigh of relief and looked up at the ceiling. "Thank God he's fine. I won't be able to face you if anything happened to him."

She didn't want to mention Cheng Yuxiu in case it makes Zong Qifeng unhappy.

Zong Qifeng lowered his gaze. "I've never felt so embarrassed in my life before," he said with a bitter grin.

"It's all my fault."

Wen Xian put all the blame on herself. "I was being too selfish. I forgot about you."

"You're not at fault, and neither am I nor her. It's just a matter of fate."

He patted her hand. "Don't think about anything else. Focus on your recovery."

"I went to see my brother, and he said that he didn't kidnap her..."

"It's fine. If you want to leave, we can get divorced as soon as you recover..."

"I'm not doing that. I'm staying here with you and the baby," Wen Xian said as she held his hand. "I can't deprive him of a mother..."

At that moment, Lin Xinyan began to cry.

She felt as though someone had poured boiling water into her, scalding her from the inside.

She couldn't pass any judgments, since everyone seemed justified in their actions.

"What happened after that?"

Cheng Yuxiu remained calm the whole time, as though she was merely telling the story from a bystander's point of view.

"Wen Xian couldn't walk because of her injured leg..."

"Didn't the doctor say that they can fix it with metal bars?"

"They only found out after the surgery that her leg had been crushed beyond repair in the car. She couldn't walk anymore, and because of that, Wen Qing kept me and Bai Hongfei captive for even longer, since he didn't want Zong Qifeng to leave Wen Xian's side. No one suspected a thing when he claimed that we eloped, since everyone knew that we used to be lovers."

"After that..."

A few more years passed, Wen Xian finally found out that Wen Qing had been keeping Cheng Yuxiu captive from his conversation with Wen Jin. By then, Zong Jinghao was already six years old.

Cheng Yuxiu had just given birth when Wen Qing went to kidnap her that year. She was locked in the dark, damp cell for a long time where the nasty environment had led to her infertility.

Wen Xian would never have guessed that Wen Qing had lied to her and that her father knew about it the whole time. She crashed into the room and yelled at them, "How could you do that?"

She was beyond furious.

"Wen Xian, why are you here?" Wen Qing asked, standing up from his chair. "We're doing this for your own good..."

Wen Xian continued to scream, "You're breaking the law for me? Who gave you the right to take away someone's liberties?"

"You need to calm down," Wen Qing said, his face darkening. "Haven't you been living in peace for the past few years? You're getting along with Qifeng, and that's good enough. What else do you want? Why would I risk losing my job to do this if it wasn't for you?"

Wen Xian stared at Wen Qing for a long while. "Let her go," she sobbed.

Wen Qing frowned. "Pretend you didn't hear anything today. Go back home now."

"How could I do that?" Wen Xian said, tears welling up in her face. She threw herself off her wheelchair and kneeled down before her brother.

"Are you crazy?" Wen Qing yelled, pulling her up. "You want to lose a limb or something?"

Wen Qing was getting impatient with Wen Xian. She had already lost the ability to walk, and she's still fighting for a woman that had nothing to do with her?

"I don't care! I'm not getting up unless you let her go!" Wen Xian yelled with much resolve. Wen Qing was left with no choice.

He bent down to look her in the eye. "Why do you want to save her? Aren't you concerned that she's going to show up and ruin your marriage?"

Wen Xian looked at him. "I need to save her. I sent her to Zong Qifeng because I wanted to get together with Ziyi..."

"So you set them up?" Wen Qing asked, his expression contorting into something unreadable.

“Let her go,” Wen Jin said, breaking the silence. He believed that Wen Xian and Zong Qifeng were close enough to not drift apart because of that woman.

After all, their child was already six years old, and Zong Qifeng wouldn’t leave Wen Xian for that woman out of the blue.

However, he still hadn’t found out Wen Xian didn’t give birth to the child.

Finally, Wen Qing decided to obey his father’s orders and told Wen Xian the location where he held Cheng Yuxiu captive.

“How did you survive that ordeal?” Lin Xinyan asked, holding Cheng Yuxiu’s clammy hands tightly.

She could feel Cheng Yuxiu’s body trembling.

“I don’t know but it was very hard. I stared at the same walls every day and my mind went at some point. I couldn’t tell one person from another...”

When Zong Qifeng saw Cheng Yuxiu once again after six years, it was at an underground storage space. Her hair was long, dry and unkempt, and her gaze was empty. Her body was thin like a stick, and when he opened the door, she stayed put in the corner of the room, as though she had succumbed to fate.

Standing at the door to the room, Wen Xian told Zong Qifeng, “She didn’t elope with Bai Hongfei after all. My brother kidnapped her and threatened to kill Bai Hongfei if she didn’t make that call to you. She had been kept here all these years.”

Zong Qifeng couldn’t hear anything else. All he could think about was how she had been imprisoned here all those years instead of running away with Bai Hongfei.

Bai Hongfei was released by Wen Xian as well.

They hadn’t been imprisoned together from the beginning.

Zong Qifeng’s legs felt like they were full of lead, and walking became a chore. He almost couldn’t match her face to the bright and strong girl he knew.

She was just a puppet, her soul had drifted from her.

She could no longer fend for herself besides breathing.

Cheng Yuxiu had retreated further into the corner of the room when she saw someone coming into the room, as though she was terrified.

Zong Qifeng went down on one knee before her and swept her hair away from her face. Cheng Yuxiu began to tremble from fear. “Get away from me,” she said.



She shoved Zong Qifeng, but he didn't budge. "It's me," he rasped.

Cheng Yuxiu stared at him in shock, and when she finally registered his face, tears began to roll down her cheeks.

Zong Qifeng hugged her tightly. "I am taking you out of here."

"When I was rescued, my mind had been in a mess, and I couldn't remember a lot of things. It took a year for me to become normal again. The last time I met Wen Xian, she told me that she was sorry. We've never met again since. Soon, I heard that she was pregnant, and died not long after."

"Does that mean that Zong Jinghao has a half-sibling?" Lin Xinyan asked, instinctively assuming that the child Wen Xian carried belonged to Zong Qifeng.

"No. Qifeng said that the child wasn't his. I'm guessing that it belonged to the man Wen Xian loved."

Cheng Yuxiu looked at Lin Xinyan and reached out to stroke her face. "We got married barely a month after she passed away. Jinghao was unhappy about it even till now. When I was being held captive, Wen Xian did put in a lot of effort into raising him. He still won't call me his mother until now."

"Why can't you tell him?" Lin Xinyan asked as her heart ached. She felt sorry for a lot of people, but it was mostly for Zong Jinghao, since he didn't even know that his birth mother had been around the whole time.

If he found out that Cheng Yuxiu had been his birth mother, he would definitely regret giving her the cold shoulder all these years.

## **Chapter 229**

"How much I wanted to tell them that he is my son?" She felt sad and sorry.

How she wished that he would call her mum.

When he was born, everyone knew that he was the son of Zong Qifeng and Wen Xian. He was also the sole heir to the Zong family and the only grandchildren for Wen family.

What would she tell others if she admitted now that she was indeed the mother of the child?

Back then, Wen Xian and Zong Qifeng were lawfully wedded couple, but she was merely his mistress.

What would others call her son then?

An illegitimate child?

No, she could never let that happen.

She could not allow Zong Jinghao to be labeled as an illegitimate child.

He was the heir to the Zong family, and how would others see him if he was known as an illegitimate son? How could he take over the business in the future?

“Furthermore, The Zong family and Wen family shouldn’t go against each other. If they hold grudges against each other, it wouldn’t do them any good.” She said helplessly. “How you think that I was able to marry Zong Qifeng in the first place?” She was able to marry into the Zong family because she agreed on Wen Qing’s terms.

“Because of Wen Xian, he has always been very nasty to me. He thought that it was all because of me that his sister died at a young age, and couldn’t be with Zong Qifeng. Wen Xian’s death was a heavy blow for him. He knew that I care about the ancestral business of Cheng family, that was why he threatened me with it.”

Wen Qing threatened her that if she wanted to marry Zong Qifeng, then she had to make sure that tea silk from the Cheng family would vanish forever.

Now Lin Xinyan finally understood why the production of tea silk was so little and so rare.

“Wen family used to be very powerful and even now, and if they find out that you have mastered the skill, I’m afraid that...” Her hands trembled uncontrollably. She remembered all her traumatized past like it was just yesterday. She would shrink in fear whenever she thought of it. Those years had cast a nightmare over her life. She knew what Wen Qing was capable of doing and she had gone through too much, and now she didn’t want Lin Xinyan to suffer and go thru the same thing as her. And she definitely couldn’t bear to see Lin Xinyan in danger.

“It is not too late now. It is fine if you have mastered the skill, but remember not let others know about it.”

Lin Xinyan bent down to lay her head on her lap. Holding her hands, Lin Xinyan said, “You must have faith in Jinghao and me. We can surely overcome all the obstacles, although it might put us in danger. Outsiders would never know the sacrifices you have made; especially the Cheng family’s ancestral business to stay by Jinghao’s side. But we knew, so please believe us. We will be able to protect the ancestral business of the Cheng family, and it will be pass on from generation to generation.”

“What a silly child.” Cheng Yuxiu said as she stroked her hair. “All I ever care about is the safety of you, Jinghao, and the two kids.”

She didn’t care about anything else; nothing was more important than the safety of her loved ones.

Lin Xinyan didn't speak anymore, but she had made up her mind to continue the legacy of the Cheng family. Although she didn't understand Cheng Yuwen's decision in the first place, she finally got her head around it and understood Cheng Yuwen's intention. If she were in his shoes, she wouldn't want the ancestral business to vanish as well.

"It is late now, do you want to have a rest here with me?" Cheng Yuxiu asked softly.

Lin Xinyan nodded.

Yuxiu took off her jacket and shoes, and got in the bed together with Lin Xinyan.

Cheng Yuxiu tucked her in, and faced her while lying down, "I knew you are different the moment I met you."

She was not the same as all the other mistresses that she had met before.

Cheng Yuxiu stretched out her hand and caressed her forehead. "I have always wanted to have a daughter." Chen Yuxiu said as she tucked her hair behind the ears.

Now that her son had married a good wife, her wish was fulfilled.

"You can always treat me like your daughter and give me all your love," Lin Xinyan said lovingly, with her beautiful eyes.

"Of course I am giving you all my love, I have even given Jinghao to you." Cheng Yuxiu smiled back, but there was an unnoticeable wetness in her eyes.

"Why would there be an engagement between Jinghao and me since we were babies?" Lin Xinyan asked suddenly. She had asked Zhuang Zijin about it before, but she didn't say anything. Now that Cheng Yuxiu had mentioned it, she didn't explain why the engagement was agreed on in the first place either.

"I don't know either. I heard about the engagement from Zong Qifeng too. I asked him before that why must it be you, but he didn't say anything either. I think you may be related to Wen Xian. Do your parents know her or her relatives?"

Lin Xinyan was lost in thought. Back then, Zhuang Zijin brought everything with her when she married Lin Guoan. Therefore, she might be the only left in her family, and she had never mentioned anything about the Wen family.

If Wen family was so powerful and somewhat related to the Zhuang family, how could Lin Guoan send them abroad without fear?

Lin Xinyan shook her head, "I never knew that I have other relatives in Wen family. It was my mother all alone."

"Perhaps it was fate. Don't think about it anymore and get a good rest."

Lin Xinyan nodded.

It was a quiet night just like usual; however, Lin Xinyan couldn't sleep.

It was the same for Cheng Yuxiu, she couldn't sleep as well. She was just pretending that she had a good sleep.

The next morning, Cheng Yuwen had prepared breakfast and served it in the lobby, and sent some toiletries over to them. Then, the two of them went to the lobby after they were ready.

Cheng Yuwen watched how they walked in the lobby, and he knew that the late-night talk between the two of them was worth it. "I have never seen any mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law who bond so well," he commented.

With a long face, Cheng Yuxiu said to him, "Don't you think this is over. I wouldn't forgive you if anything happens to Yan."

Cheng Yuwen knew that he owed it to her, so he didn't talk back, "Come on, let's sit down and eat, the food won't taste good when it gets cold."

"Let me introduce to you our signature dish. I know you have been locked away and couldn't try this dish all this while. But let's enjoy the meal today."

"Alright." Lin Xinyan smiled. She then pushed the soymilk to him and said, "You too."

She had always treated him as her master, and now after she knew about his real identity, she respected him even more.

"We will leave after the meal." Cheng Yuwen told Lin Xinyan. Then he looked at his sister, "How about you? When are you leaving?"

Cheng Yuxiu looked troubled. She chewed the food in her mouth slowly. Cheng Yuwen could see through her thoughts at a glance, "Don't you want to see the two kids? Since the mother of the kids is here, why don't you ask her for her permission?"

Cheng Yuxiu looked at Cheng Yuwen with a frown, "What if Jinghao finds out? You knew that my relationship with him was tense."

"It is alright. I could ask the driver to fetch the children later. I will tell them that I miss them and want to see them. That way, you could see them once they are here."

"That's a great idea. You are so brilliant." Cheng Yuwen smiled. "I bet you can enjoy your meal now," said Cheng Yuwen while giving her a look.

Cheng Yuxiu smiled timidly, feeling excited. She can't believe that she can see them as a Grandma now.

It was almost like a dream, so surreal.

Yet this quiet and peaceful moment was so real.

She had a lot of regrets for the first half of her life, but now all she ever wanted was to have a peaceful life, without any hurdles.

After breakfast, Cheng Yuwen got ready to fetch the children. Suddenly, Lin Xinyan walked out and said, "Let me go with you."

"You are worried about me? Cheng Yuwen asked.

"No, I am not worried about you. I am worried that they won't let the children leave with you if I weren't there." Lin Xinyan shook her head as she said it.

Zong Jinghao definitely wouldn't agree to hand over the two children to Cheng Yuwen. That, she knew for sure.

Cheng Yuwen opened the car's door and said, "Let's get in the car."

Lin Xinyan bent over to get in the car.

The car passed through the morning fog in the mountains and moved forward slowly.

The car was moving slowly due to the fog, therefore it was late when they arrived at the destination. They got out of the car and entered from the back door.

### **Chapter 230**

While Lin Xinyan was locked away in the backyard, the two kids had gotten used to the life here. Every day after meal, they would wander around in the village. It was a village with picturesque scenery, and the children enjoyed themselves very much. They treated themselves as a tourist, experiencing the village life to the fullest.

Yesterday, Lin Ruixi heard from an old grandma that It was the season for persimmons now. Wild persimmons could be found on the mountain to the west. Lin Ruixi had eaten all kinds of fruits before, but she had never eaten handpicked persimmons from the mountains. Therefore, she was curious about it and begged Zong Jinghao to bring her to the mountains.

Zong Jinghao would never say no to his daughter. Therefore, after breakfast, he brought two children with him to the mountains with the bodyguards. Shen Peichuan went with them, while Su Zhan and Qin Ya stayed back to hold the fort.

Bai Yinning didn't go to the mountains due to his immobility.

When Lin Xinyan came in from the back door, the front yard was empty. Bai Yinning had gone to deal with the company's affairs, while Su Zhan was holding a freshly plucked wild chrysanthemum flower, trying to impress Qin Ya. As for Qin Ya, she was squatting by the river washing the children's clothes. The river was clear, but it was a bit cold due to the changing season. The washing machine would be good to have now, but unfortunately, there wasn't one here.

Su Zhan stretched his head out quietly and handed the flower to her, "Does it smell good?"

Qin Ya stared at him angrily, "Get lost! Can't you see that I am washing clothes?" She continued, "Don't you know that giving a chrysanthemum flower as a gift is a bad sign to the receiver? Do you wish that I am dead?"

Generally, women loved receiving roses, daisies, and other types of flowers. But she had never seen anyone giving out chrysanthemum flower to a living person.

Su Zhan lowered his head awkwardly and blinked his eyes innocently while looking at the purple and pink chrysanthemum flowers. The flowers are beautiful, aren't they? Only this type of flowers can be found in this season.

"I didn't mean to curse you." Su Zhan felt wronged and upset.

Out of frustration, he tossed the flowers into the river. The river looked more lively with the bright flowers in it.

"Su Zhan, what's wrong with you?" Su Zhan pointed the river with a frown, "Why would you toss the flowers into the clear river? Are you trying to pollute it?"

Su Zhan was speechless.

What the...

Why can't I do anything right?

It's not hazardous waste either. What can the flowers do to the river?

"Pick them up." Qin Ya stared at him. Su Zhan's jaw dropped open as his eyes widened in shock. Pick them up? But how? The flowers had drifted away with the water.

However, his gaze fell on her hands. He saw the redness in her hands due to the cold water so he pulled her hands and wanted to warm them for her, "Let me rub your hands for you."

Qin Ya shook off his hands and said, "Don't change the topic. I didn't ask you to rub my hands for me."

Su Zhan was standing on the rock by the river while he was holding Qin Ya's hands. As she shook off his hand with a great force, he lost balance and fell into the river. With a thud, water splashed onto Qin Ya's body.

Qin Ya's intention was to stop Su Zhan from touching her, and she didn't expect to push him into the river accidentally. It was winter, so the water could be freezing.

Su Zhan emerged from the river, and he was shivering. He had goosebumps all over him due to the coldness. He shouted at Qin Ya, "Are you trying to kill your husband?"

It was so cold.

At first, Qin Ya was guilty of what had happened to him, but after hearing what he had said, she wasn't feeling guilty anymore. "Cut it out, Su Zhan. We are just pretending to be in love so please don't forget about that. As soon as we get back to the city, we will break up, and there will be nothing else between us. Do you get it?"

Su Zhan swam up to the shore quickly. Then, he held his arms with both of his hands instinctively. He realized it became colder when the wind blew. "Ah-choo!" He sniffled as he covered his nose and mouth. "Qin Ya, you took advantage of me, and you should be responsible for it!"

Qin Ya was speechless.

"Su Zhan, don't you feel embarrassed at all?" Qin Ya had never seen anyone so shameless and despicable.

"I don't care..."

"What are you two doing here?" Lin Xinyan saw both of them bickering in the cold weather. Furthermore, Su Zhan was wet from head to toe, wasn't that too cold for him?

Qin Ya and Su Zhan heard the voice and turned their heads around at the same time. They saw Lin Xinyan standing not far away, and spoke in unison, "You came..."

Noticing both of them said the same the thing simultaneously, they stared at each other for a brief moment. Then, Qin Ya averted her gaze; walked towards Lin Xinyan and greeted, "Ms. Lin."

Lin Xinyan responded in a nod, but she didn't look away from Su Zhan, "Have you taken a bath in the river?"

"Ah-Choo! Ah-Choo!" Su Zhan bent over his body, trying to warm himself up. Taking a bath? Of course not!

"I will go back into the house first." He couldn't take the coldness anymore, else he would catch a cold very soon.

Lin Xinyan asked Qin Ya in a curious tone, "Are the two of you fighting?"

Qin Ya shook her head, "No, no, he slipped and fell into the water himself."

Lin Xinyan knew that Qin Ya was lying; however, she couldn't care less. Instead, she asked, "Where are Xichen and Rui?"

"President Zong brought them to the mountains to pluck the persimmons." Qin Ya answered.

"What?" Lin Xinyan frowned.

To the mountains?

It was not something Zong Jinghao would do. Although he was stuck here, I bet he was pretty busy?

How did he make time to go for the persimmons plucking?

"Ruixi was the one who begged him to bring her to the mountains," she explained seeing Lin Xinyan's doubtful look.

After the explanation, Lin Xinyan finally understood what happened. Her phone was still in the house, so she had to get back there to call Zong Jinghao and asked him to come back now. Cheng Yuxiu was still waiting for her so she had no time to waste.

Just as Lin Xinyan was about to go back to the house, Su Zhan walked towards her in his newly changed clothes. Seeing Lin Xinyan in a hurry, he asked, "Are you looking for President Zong?"

Without waiting for Lin Xinyan to answer the question, he then continued, "He is in the mountains. His beloved daughter begged him to go."

Seeing Su Zhan walked towards her at the right timing, Lin Xinyan asked, "Can you call him and ask him to bring the children back?"

Su Zhan agreed with a nod and started calling Zong Jinghao with his phone. However, he could only hear a female voice answering him, "I'm sorry, the number you have dialed is currently unavailable. Please call again later."

"I couldn't get through to him." Su Zhan hung up the phone. "Probably the signal in the village isn't strong enough. Let me call again."

"Beep beep beep... The number you have dialed is currently unavailable. Please call again later..." It was still the same answer from the other side of the phone. He looked up at Lin Xinyan and said, "There is probably no signal in the mountain."

This was the first time he had encountered such a problem. He had always been able to dial out to other locations.



Lin Xinyan gave it a thought and nodded. It was possible; after all, it was a huge and dense forest.

“Which mountain did they go to? I will go and look for them.”

“I will go with you then. I am not entirely sure if there would be wild boars or other animals around the mountain. Just in case anything happens, then I can come to your rescue. Else, Jinghao will skin me alive if he finds out that I failed to protect you.” Su Zhan walked forward to lead the way.

Lin Xinyan’s initial plan was to bring the two children to Cheng’s family residence; however, now she had no choice but to look for the children in the mountains with Su Zhan. Su Zhan was indeed a smooth talker who could talk her into his plan.

They walked along the rugged path towards the top of the hill to the west.

The path was wet because of the night dew, and it was slippery. Out of concern, Su Zhan warned her, “Slow down there.”

“Mmm...” Lin Xinyan responded as she looked at the vines sticking out all over the ground. It wasn’t easy to walk.

“Look at the footprints; they should be somewhere here.” Su Zhan looked at the trampled plants in front of him and continued, “I will lead the way, and you follow me at the back.”

As soon as he finished speaking, he followed the footprints on the ground intently. Lin Xinyan did not follow Su Zhan at his back right away. Instead, she looked around her surroundings and searched for something. Luckily, she saw two branches with the tree forks that came with the right thickness not far away from her. She walked over to grab one of the branches and broke it from the tree. She then put the branch on the ground to see if that was the correct height for her. After testing the height, she broke it at a height that she thought was appropriate. A ready-made walking stick was done in just a matter of minutes. The walking stick was a perfect tool to support her in walking on the wet ground so she wouldn’t fall easily.

As she was breaking the other branch from the tree, she accidentally cut her hand. The cut was right in her palm, and she shouted in pain.

Hearing the shouts, Su Zhan turned around and found her far behind. Seeing her hand covered in blood, he asked worriedly, “Are you okay?”

Su Zhan then hurried over, wanting to check on her wound. Perhaps he was walking too fast; he slipped accidentally. As he was about to fall, he grabbed the tree on his right-hand side for support and saved himself from the embarrassment of falling.

“Gosh...” He was in a shock and let out a long breath.

“Are you okay?” Lin Xinyan asked as she was concerned.

“I am fine. What are you doing?” Su Zhan replied after he stabilized his footing. He then saw the branches on Lin Xinyan’s hand, and he was baffled.

Lin Xinyan smiled, “I bet you have never climbed a mountain like this. You need to have a walking stick to climb a mountain like this.” She then showed him the branches.

When she was a child, she and Zhuang Zijin were sent abroad. They were living in a remote place, and they also had no money. Therefore, she and Zhuang Zijin often went to the mountains not far from where they lived to pick bracken ferns. The locals didn’t know that they could eat it, but Zhuang Zijin knew that this plant was a delicacy, which was especially delicious if you served it as a cold dishes or stir-fried it with meat.

I guessed when you had no money and not enough food; everything would be yummy as long as it can feed your tummy.

Su Zhan broke the branches just like Lin Xinyan had instructed; then he used it as a support.

After half an hour, Su Zhan saw a persimmon tree in front of him. It was huge and tall, the tree was full of permissions. It looked beautiful as if hundreds of little red lanterns hanging before them. Now that the persimmons tree was in front of them, Zong Jinghao shouldn’t be far away from them. “Look, little sister-in-law, there is a persimmon tree here.”

Lin Xinyan’s eyelids twitched at his words. Did he just call her as little sis-in-law?

She was not happy with this form of address.

“I bet we are not far away from them.” Su Zhan didn’t notice the facial expression of Lin Xinyan.

He then realized that Lin Xinyan didn’t move, so he turned to look at her face. Lin Xinyan didn’t look so well. He asked curiously, “What’s wrong with you? Little sister-in-law?”

Shen Peichuan, Zong Jinghao and him were about the same age. In fact, Zong Jinghao was elder than him and Shen Peichuan. Lin Xinyan was Zong Jinghao’s wife, so they should be calling her sister-in-law.

Although Lin Xinyan was about six or seven years elder than him, she looked young like a fresh graduate from university. Nobody could tell that she was a mother of two.

He thought it would be inappropriate to call her sister-in-law; therefore, he added the word ‘little’ in front of the title.

Just then, somebody walked towards them and asked, “Who is over there?”

## Chapter 231

The man who spoke just now was the bodyguard of Zong Jinghao. Su Zhan saw the bodyguard and said, "It is me. Where is President Zong?"

"He is inside." The bodyguard replied.

The path here was much easier to walk. The people who walked before them had left behind a trail of the muddy road. The bodyguard was leading the way in front, and they crossed the mountain top and saw a persimmon forest before them. The leaves on the tree had almost fallen off during this season, leaving only the red fruits.

Lin Xinyan saw her daughter and Zong Jinghao under a large persimmon tree. It seemed that her daughter had eaten the persimmon and Zong Jinghao was wiping the persimmon juice left on her mouth.

All this while, she thought Zong Jinghao was lucky as his parents didn't abandon him. Besides, he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and had always been a center of attention.

However, she found him pitiful after she learned that Cheng Yuxiu was actually his mother without him knowing.

"Mommy." Lin Ruixi was the first one to see Lin Xinyan from far. She shouted excitedly, "Mommy, are you here to see me?"

Zong Jinghao turned and saw a beautiful lady standing at the top of the mountain. Although it was dark and couldn't see her clearly, she was stunningly beautiful.

How can she get out of there when time is not up yet?

Lin Xinyan walked down into the persimmon forest with ease as the weeds were lesser than the previous path. She walked up to her daughter and stretched out her hand to stroke her daughter's face. However, she retracted her hand when she saw it was dirty. She said, "Yes, I miss Ruixi so much, that's why I asked for leave to see you."

"Did you hurt yourself?" When Lin Xinyan stretched out her hand just now, he saw her hands with a dried bloodstain.

Lin Xinyan looked at her palm and said, "don't worry, it is not a big deal."

"Let's go." Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan's hand with one hand, while the other hugging his daughter.

"Mommy, mommy." Lin Xichen ran over with two persimmons in his hands.

"Slow down there. Don't fall down." Lin Xinyan warned her son.

“Don’t worry. I got it.” Lin Xichen walked up to Lin Xinyan and passed her the persimmons. The persimmons were orange color and not too big; however, they had ripened to perfection. “Mommy, give it a bite, it is so sweet.” Lin Xichen said lovingly.

This type of persimmons would be astringent if it were unripe. But, it would taste very sweet if it was ripened to perfection, just like the one Lin Xichen handed to her.

Lin Xinyan smiled, “I will eat it when I go back. Let’s go back first.”

She had wasted a lot of time, and she worried that Cheng Yuxiu would be worried.

Lin Xichen nodded and asked, “Mommy, does it mean that you can be with me from now on?”

Lin Xinyan paused for a moment and raised her head to look at Zong Jinghao. Although she was looking at Zong Jinghao, her words were meant for her son, “I am still in the middle of something. I will come back once I have settled everything. However, I can bring the two of you with me now.”

“Oh really?” Lin Xichen hugged her lap happily. He was happy to be with mommy.

“Mommy, can I come with you too?” Lin Ruixi blinked her eyes.

“Yes, of course.” Lin Ruixi was happy and smiled. Her eyes were very beautiful when she smiled.

“How about me?” Zong Jinghao held her hand tighter as he asked. Since she could bring the two children with her, how about him?

Lin Xinyan looked away from him. She did not dare to look into his eyes as she denied, “Master only allows me to bring two children with me, so...”

“So you cannot bring me?”

Zong Jinghao’s gaze fell on her slightly reddened earlobe. It was obvious that she was lying as she avoided looking at him. But Zong Jinghao didn’t not expose her.

“Let’s go then.” Zong Jinghao said lightly.

With the assistance of the bodyguards, they soon arrived at the bottom of the mountain safely.

Zong Jinhao handed her daughter to Qin Ya and brought Lin Xinyan back to the room. If this were before, Lin Xinyan would not have listened to him so willingly, but now, she didn’t want to reject him.

I want to hug him.

That was what she thought and she did just that. Once they entered the room, she wrapped her arms around his waist.

Zong Jinghao was caught off guard by Lin Xinyan's initiatives. His body froze for a moment, and he was curious as to why her behavior changed just after a few days of training?

However, he liked it.

He lowered his head to kiss on her forehead. Then, he kissed on the corner of her eyes. With a low voice, he asked, "Do you miss me?"

He had a strong and warm chest. Initially, she still had reservations for him, but now she would like to open her heart, and tried to love and accept the man in front of her.

He was the father of the child, and they even had an engagement since they were young.

She had heard a saying of how fate works. Thousand times of brushing past each other in the first life are only enough to earn a head turn in the second, and only with a thousand head turns in the second would earn a chance to meet up in this life.

Zong Jinghao thought that she had changed. In the past, no matter how intimate they were, she would never take the initiative, and she always had reservations about him.

He liked the way she was right now. However, he was feeling uneasy and kept pondering, what makes a person change in just a few days?

Did she meet anyone? Did anything happen?

What changed her?

Lin Xinyan raised her head and stood on tiptoe to kiss his lips. It was a peck on the lips, and while Zong Jinghao was still devouring the kiss, she was done with the kiss and drew back.

She acted all lovey-dovey and said, "You will agree to let me take Ruixi and Xichen with me for a few days, won't you?"

Zong Jinghao would like to say no to her. But obviously, he can't.

Zong Jinghao could feel his heart was beating fast for the woman in front of him. At this moment, he wanted to hug her hard and melt her into his body.

"I am okay with it, but..." His lips brushed at her earlobe and continued to linger between her neck and earlobe. "You will have to kiss me one more time, then I will agree with you."

He leaned closer towards her and flirted with her.

Lin Xinyan didn't know what to do and trembled slightly in his arms. Zong Jinghao hugged her tight, with the corners of his lips raising. He liked to see her shy face; it was so beautiful and seductive.

"Close your eyes." Lin Xinyan said as she lowered her eyes. Her voice was so soft that he hardly could hear it.

Zong Jinghao closed his eyes with a smile. He lowered his head and waited for Lin Xianyan to kiss him.

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes as well. She thought of Cheng Yuxiu, who was still waiting for her, and her heart clenched with determination. She pressed her lips against his. His lips were soft and slightly cold.

As she was about to draw back her lips, she felt that he was clasping her head. His lips pressed on her lips so hard. He then stuck out his tongue and gave her a French kiss.

Lin Xinyan was afraid that it would lead to the next step, so she pushed him away with her hands. With her wounded palm pressing against the button on Zong Jinghao's shirt, she shouted in pain. Zong Jinghao let go of her lips and asked, "Am I hurting you?"

"It is my hand." Lin Xinyan said in a low voice, resentfully.

Her hug was so sudden that he forgot that her hand was hurt. Zong Jinghao went to check at her hand, and the palm seemed to be poked by something. There was a small hole with blood stain.

"What happened?" He asked with a frown.

Lin Xinyan told the truth, "It was from the branch of a tree."

Zong Jinghao raised his head and looked at her. He was about to comment on how careless she was, but thinking of the crooked branches he saw along the way, he said no more. He probably couldn't bring the children up to the mountain safely without the bodyguards' assistance either.

"Hold on." He wanted to make a phone call and get someone to send over the medical supplies such as the antiseptic cream and so on. There was nothing here, and he couldn't treat Lin Xinyan properly.

Lin Xinyan wanted to rush over to Cheng's family house so she stopped him by saying, "It's okay. I don't have much time. Master is still waiting for me to go back. I have to leave immediately."

Zong Jinghao stared into her eyes and asked, "You are in such a hurry?"

Lin Xinyan nodded, "Yes."

At that instant, Zong Jinghao wanted to figure out why she had changed her attitude all of sudden. Hence, he went with the flow and agreed to what Lin Xinyan said. Lin Xinyan was so happy that Zong Jinghao gave his permission.

Yet Zong Jinghao seemed preoccupied. Although he liked Lin Xinyan the way she was right now, he couldn't help but feel uneasy with the reason behind all her changes.

Lin Xinyan went to the yard to find her two children. With one hand hugging her daughter and the other hand holding her son's hand, they walked towards the backyard.

As soon as they left, Zong Jinghao left the wooden house with Shen Peichuan as well. They walked along the path outside the house, all the way to the backyard. He wanted to see what Lin Xinyan wanted to do with the children in the backyard. Surprisingly, Lin Xinyan didn't stay in the backyard for long. Instead, she exited the door of the backyard together with the children.

Not far away from the roadside was a car waiting for Lin Xinyan. Most importantly, Zong Jinghao was familiar with the car.

## **Chapter 232**

"Isn't it that car from your family?" Shen Peichuan looked at him curiously. If he had sensed something was wrong, so Zong Jinghao would definitely notice that as well.

"Perhaps...your dad is here?" Shen Peichuan didn't say the name but he knew that car belonged to Yuxiu.

But he didn't dare to mention the name to Zong Jinghao.

"What do you think that woman is up to?" Zong Jinghao asked suddenly.

Zong Jinghao seldom mentioned Yuxiu, and today was the first time he brought her up.

Deep down in his heart, he knew that Lin Xinyan was most probably meeting Yuxiu. The last time, she went to Lin Xinyan's clothing store's grand opening and even gave her a bracelet. Lin Xinyan was still wearing the bracelet until today.

Obviously, Lin Xinyan was here to bring the children back to meet her.

Zong Jinghao narrowed his eyes and wondered why did Yuxiu want to approach Lin Xinyan. What is she up to?

"Perhaps she wants to cotton up to Lin Yanxin?" Shen Peichuan was making a wild guess. After all, Zong Jinghao had been very cold to Yuxiu. "You see, Ms. Lin has given birth to two lovely children for you. It doesn't matter what you feel about her; you will have to take care of

her out of responsibility. The children are the flesh and blood of the Zong family. Therefore, I bet your dad loves the children too. Yuxiu knew that you disliked her, but she could always cotton up to Ms. Lin and the children?”

Zong Jinghao found Shen Peichuan’s analysis on point. If his analysis was correct, how could Lin Xinyan not notice Yuxiu’s motive? She even brought the children to meet Yuxiu.

Moreover, Lin Xinyan’s attitude towards him had obviously changed this time. If Yuxiu were the one who swayed Lin Xinyan for her change of attitude, then it would be too scary to think of.

What did Yuxiu say to her? What did she do to change her?

“Your step-mother is a patient person, she was still young when she married your father, yet they didn’t have another child. It is...”

Zong Jinghao turned and looked at him.

Shen Peichuan had no choice but to bite his tongue. He then changed his tone by saying, “I heard that stepmothers usually ill-treat their stepchildren, some of them even tortured them. Since she married your father at such a young age, I bet she was still fertile back then. However, she didn’t give birth to any child, and also didn’t do anything to harm you. I think her biggest mistake would be marrying your father at the wrong timing when your mother had just passed away.”

He had to admit that Yuxiu didn’t do anything to harm him. Shen Peichuan’s analysis was on point; however, he still couldn’t accept Yuxiu.

If he accepted her, how could he face his dead mother?

“Do ask someone to check if there are other villages around this area?” He needed to find out whether Lin Xinyan was meeting her? If so, why did she meet up with her?

Shen Peichuan nodded, “Sure, I will send someone to check it now.”

Meanwhile, Lin Xinyan sat in the car and looked back from time to time. She was afraid that someone might follow the car.

Luckily it was a quiet neighborhood, and not even a single car passed by.

Soon, the car stopped at the front door of the Cheng family.

Yuxiu had waited at the front door and anticipated their arrival. When the car finally arrived, she stood in stunned silence. All these while, Lin Xinyan never knew about her real identity when she met the children, but it was different now.

“Huh? Grandma is here too.” Lin Ruixi spoke as she was holding Lin Xinyan’s hands.



Lin Xinyan then asked the children to stand side by side, and she crouched down to look at them. "Xi, Ruixi, I want you two to do me a favor. Is that alright?"

"What is it?" Lin Xichen asked.

Lin Xinyan turned them to face Yuxiu and introduced formally, "She is your Grandma."

"Yeah, I knew it. We have met before." Lin Xichen blinked her big eyes innocently, not knowing why her mother would tell her something that she already knew.

Lin Xinyan stroked their hairs and said again, "She is your real Grandma."

She was the mother of Zong Jinghao, and also their real Grandma.

She encouraged the children to walk towards Yuxiu, "Let's go over there."

Lin Xichen heard the conversation between Aunt Yu and Zhuang Zijin before; he knew that this Grandma was Zong Jinghao's stepmother, not the real Grandma. However, since her mommy said so, he knew that her mommy must have had her own reason. So, he took his sister's little hand and walked towards Cheng Yuxiu.

Cheng Yuxiu looked at them and her eyes welled with tears instantly. She had never seen her son before he turned six years old but she couldn't remember well as she wasn't in a good mental state. Then, she got better eventually and Zong Jinghao grew up slowly.

She missed out on seeing how he grew up; she missed out on the best part of his childhood. Which meant that she didn't know when he started walking, growing his first tooth, started talking and what his first word was.

She knew nothing about it. She missed out too much that she had too many regrets.

At this moment, her heart ached as she watched the little ones walking towards her.

"Grandma." Lin Ruixi was the first one to call out Grandma. She wasn't as cautious as her brother, she believed that this was the real Grandma if her mommy said so.

Lin Ruixi had a soft and pleasant voice. Hearing her voice, Cheng Yuxiu couldn't hold the tears in her eyes and it rolled down uncontrollably. She quickly wiped her face as it wasn't nice to cry in front of the children.

She bent down and hugged the children into her arms, "Xi, Ruixi, it has been so long."

While Lin Xichen pressing his chin against her shoulder, he had a feeling that Grandma was actually a nice person. He then said lovingly, "You can meet us as often as you like. Don't worry."

Cheng Yuxiu was moved at what he said. Zong Jinghao had never given her a chance to go near him. Ever since she was married into the Zong family, he had always been cold to her.

And now, she was happy to be able to hug his children.

“Let’s go. I will bring you over to the yard.” Cheng Yuxiu stood up and held both their hands, with one on her left side, and another on her right side. Lin Ruixi looked up at Cheng Yuxiu and asked, “Grandma, do you have any yummy food inside the house?”

“Come on, Ruixi. Why do you think about food all the time?”

What a glutton.

Cheng Yuxiu replied with a smile, “Yes, I do.”

“Today I went to the mountains with my father and my brother. There were so many persimmons there. We plucked a lot of them. They were so sweet, and we even brought some with us.” Lin Ruixi said proudly. It was her first time climbing up a mountain to pluck fruits.

She thought it was interesting and she was doing really well.

“Oh, really? Is that the persimmons from the west hill?” said Cheng Yuxiu in a surprised tone. Over the years, she had a good understanding of Zong Jinghao’s temperament. He had always been a cold person and a workaholic, so she never thought that he would change after being a dad.

He brought the children to the mountains.

He is a humane person with feelings.

“Although ripened persimmons were delicious, you should not eat too much of it. Two persimmons should be the maximum.” She said lovingly as she stroked Lin Ruixi’s hair.

“Yeah, mommy told me about it in the car just now. She said too many persimmons would be bad for my health. I want to eat it so badly, but I only got to eat three of them. I really want to eat more, but mommy won’t let me. Also, the persimmons are just too small. She made a gesture with her hands as she spoke, “it was the size of an egg, some are even smaller than an egg.”

Lin Xinyan held a bag of persimmons in her hand and walked at the back of them while they talked.

She looked at their back, and a small smile crept onto her lips.

It was almost afternoon when the fog cleared up and the sun shone warmly onto them.

Cheng Yuxiu chatted and laughed happily with the children as she led them into the yard.

### Chapter 233

Cheng Yuwen came back first before Lin Xinyan went up to the mountain. He arranged the two solid wood thousand squares shelf in the yard, with various wood carvings in it.

Lin Xichen's eyes lit up as he saw them. He let go of Cheng Yuxiu's hand and walked over to grab a wood-crafted pigeon. What surprised him was the legs, wings, and eyes could move on its own. The feathers of the pigeon were so lifelike.

"Wow, this is my first time seeing wooden carvings." Perhaps boys are naturally more drawn towards toys, while girls aren't. Lin Ruixi was much calmer compared to Lin Xichen. All she cared about was yummy food and fluffy soft toys. She could hardly find any other toys that she liked other than food and soft toys.

Cheng Yuwen had never been married before. He had been staying in the same place since Cheng Yuwen married into the Zong family. He passed his time by doing woodcarving. He carved all the wood carvings on the shelf. He spent a lot of time learning from scratch, and now he could master all types of animal wood carvings, be it the animals that flew in the sky, swam in the water, or ran on the ground. He could make all of them lifelike as if they were real.

Lin Xichen was overwhelmed by all the wood carvings before his eyes. He thought all the animals were so cute and lifelike. He couldn't help but placed it onto his hands for a closer inspection.

Seeing Lin Xichen so happy, Cheng Yuwen laughed out loud.

"What is so fun about these?" Lin Ruixi said with a pouted mouth. She felt like all these carvings were prepared for the brother, and she had got nothing to play with.

The little girl pouted her mouth, looking very upset.

Lin Xinyan stroked her daughter's hair and looked up at Cheng Yuxiu, "She just loves to compare with her brother."

Cheng Yuxiu smiled at her and thought that it was the nature of the children. That was what made them so cute and naive, without any worries.

"Oh my, Ruixi was jealous of her brother?" Cheng Yuwen teased her in a loving manner. He looked amiable with the smile lines around his eyes and mouth.

Lin Ruixi pursed her pink lips, "You have prepared so many fun toys for my brother, while I have nothing at all."

"Then what do you like? Cheng Yuwen asked.

Lin Ruixi thought about it while tilting her head, "I like to eat pudding, red bean cake and cantaloupe-flavored chocolate..."

It was all about food.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

"This girl..." Lin Xinyan knew that her daughter was a glutton, but she never thought that even when others asked about her favorite toys, she could relate it to food as well.

"I don't have anything that you mentioned just now. However, I do have..." He walked over to the parasol tree which leaves were pale yellow and lush.

There were two ropes, as thick as the whip, hanging down from the branches. At the end of the rope was an unknown object covered in red cloth.

"I have prepared some toy for Ruixi as well but I am not sure if Ruixi will like it."

The little girl was so excited that she ran towards it, "What is it? Let me see."

"You may open up the cloth yourself." Cheng Yuwen worried that the little girl would not like the surprise that he had prepared.

Lin Ruixi grabbed the red silk cloth and pulled it down. The red cloth then fell to the ground, revealing a big white swan before her. The wings of the white swan were tied with ropes on each side. The body was dug out in the middle making it perfect for sitting. It was a seat with a backrest.

"I want to sit on it." The little girl held onto the white swan and said, "I have never sat on a white swan swing before."

Cheng Yuwen helped her up to sit on a chair made of unique materials. The big white swan was carved out by him, using a massive tree root and painted in white.

Although it was nothing special, he put in a lot of effort to make it.

"Yeah, the big white swan is flying now" The swing swung gently as if a white swan was flying in the sky.

Lin Ruixi shouted happily as she sat on the big white swan, holding tight to its neck, and flew into the sky.

Lin Xinyan and Cheng Yuxiu sat on rattan chairs in the yard, and a kettle was placed on the table in front of them. The kettle was prepared by Cheng Yuwen.

Cheng Yuxiu was glad that the children enjoyed themselves here. The Zong residence was very different from the houses in a busy city as it was quiet and peaceful. It was a much-desired lifestyle to some people.

She turned and looked at Lin Xinyan, "See how happy they are despite the fact that this place wasn't fancy or high-tech, yet they are having so much fun."

Lin Xinyan looked at her children and sighed, "Yes, indeed."

Seeing her children having so much fun, the corner of her lips raised into a smile.

"Jinghao has been the only male in the family for the last three generations. The Zong family is wealthy and powerful; however, there aren't many descendants in the family. I knew that you must have had a hard time giving birth to the kids. If it is possible, I would like you to have another child, and I will help you in every way..."

She stopped her sentence midway for she knew that Zong Jinghao would not let her go near his children.

Thinking about it, her expression turned gloomy.

Lin Xinyan understood what she meant and why she stopped her sentence midway. There was too much bitterness in it, and only those who had been through it would truly understand the sorrows.

She lied to Zong Jinghao about not being able to give birth anymore. The truth was the car accident and giving birth to the twins had ruined her body. The doctor advised her that it was best not to have another child. Even if she could conceive, the chances of keeping the child were very slim as her body was too weak.

Even though the relationship between her and Zong Jinghao was better now, she had never thought about having another child. However, she didn't want to reject Cheng Yuxiu straight to her face. Therefore she said, "I will consider it."

As she sat in the yard where she had once lived and looked at her happy grandchildren and the kind-hearted daughter-in-law; she felt lucky and happy at the same time.

"I have a favor to ask of you." Cheng Yuxiu looked at Lin Xinyan with a serious face.

"Yes, what is it?"

Cheng Yuxiu held Lin Xinyan's hands in her palm, "Please take care of him for me. Even if he makes a mistake, please forgive him and don't leave him."

Lin Xinyan couldn't say no to a mother as she was a mother herself. She knew how important a child was to a mother.

Nonetheless, she didn't dare to make a promise, nor did she want to disappoint Cheng Yuxiu. She replied, "I will not leave him as long as he doesn't ask for separation first."

She would not leave him easily for the sake of the children.

All parents only wish for the best for their children.

In the evening, Cheng Yuwen prepared a sumptuous meal for them. All of which are the local specialties and some were made according to the children's preference.

"Let's go back after the meal." Although Cheng Yuxiu wanted them to stay longer, she afraid Zong Jinghao would get suspicious.

Initially, Lin Xinyan wanted the children to spend more time with Cheng Yuxiu, as she had missed out a lot on Zong Jinghao's childhood. But what Cheng Yuxiu said made sense, Zong Jinghao was not a gullible person. Everyone would be dead meat if he found out about the truth.

"When I have a chance next time, I will take them to see you again." Lin Xinyan said.

As Cheng Yuxiu placed some food onto the children's plate, she said, "I'm afraid I won't be here next time." She then looked at Lin Xinyan, "I am going back tomorrow. How about you?"

"I may stay on for a few more days." All the while, she had a huge interest in tea silk, and now she wanted to learn even more after learning that it was the ancestral business of the Cheng family.

Since Cheng Yuwen hadn't gotten to the core of the skill yet, she was afraid that she couldn't leave just yet.

There were a few of them, and it might take some time for them to leave, at least for a few days more.

It was already dark after they had their dinner. The driver sent Lin Xinyan back.

Cheng Yuxiu reminded the driver, "Please drive slowly."

"Don't worry about it, Madam." The driver had worked for a long time for the Zong family, and his driving skill was excellent.

Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi squeezed at the car window and waved at Cheng Yuxiu, "Goodbye Grandma."

Cheng Yuxiu waved back, "Goodbye."

Cheng Yuxiu followed the back of the car as it drove away slowly. Cheng Yuwen stopped her and said, "It's not like you don't get to see them again. Do you think that you can keep up with the speed of the car?"

Cheng Yuxiu looked at the car leaving and sighed. She no longer followed the car anymore, but she didn't want to avert her gaze either.

Back in the car, Lin Xinyan hugged the children and said, "Xi, Ruixi, Mommy has a favor to ask of you two."

"What is it, mommy?" Both of them replied in unison.

Lin Xinyan stroked their faces gently and said, "Please don't tell your dad that we met your Grandma today."

"Why is that?" Lin Ruixi asked curiously.

"Just listen to mommy." Lin Xichen said as he hugged his sister, "We have to listen to mommy, or she will be mad at us."

Lin Ruixi nodded her head obediently.

It was easier for a child to persuade another child.

After a while, the car stopped on the road in the backyard.

There was a figure hidden in the dark, looking at them. Lin Xinyan pushed the door and got out of the car, as the driver followed her, "The road here is uneven, I shall send you in."

"It's okay, I am fine. You don't have to send me in." Lin Xinyan rejected.

She was afraid that someone else would notice her.

"Okay, be careful."

"Hmm..." With one hand hugging her daughter, and another holding her son's hands, they walked along the path and arrived at the back yard.

She sent her children to the front yard as there wasn't a place to stay in the back yard.

Su Zhan, Shen Peichuan, and Bai Yinning were playing cards in the yard. Perhaps the village was a boring place for them, after all, city folks like them already got used to the vibrant nightlife in the city.

She didn't see Zong Jinghao anywhere.

"Oh, Xi and Ruixi are back?" Qin Ya watched them play cards at first, then she walked over to greet them after seeing the children.

"Oh, sister-in-law is back." Shen Peichuan put down the cards in his hands.

Lin Xinyan nodded in a smile, "Yes, please carry on. Don't bother about me."

"Alright, then." Shen Peichuan picked up the cards once again.

“Ya, can you please bring the children to Zong Jinghao?” For the past two days, so many things had happened, and she would like to have some time alone to clear her thoughts.

Besides, the front yard was safer than the back yard, where there were bodyguards in the front yard. Shen Peichuan was also a reliable person. Zong Jinghao should be in the house, and she trusted Qin Ya as well.

“Okay, I will bring over the kids to President Zong.”

Lin Xinyan smiled at her and turned to lock the door of the backyard. She then walked up to the door and pushed it open. There was no light in the house, and she thought it would be better for her to clear her thoughts in the dark.

As she was closing the door, someone hugged her from behind, and her facial expression changed instantly, “Who is it...”

Her mouth was covered before she could finish her sentence.

Her body was pinned that she could not move.

She was terrified and wanted to call for help, but she couldn't as there was a palm covering her mouth.

## **Chapter 234**

Due to the experience of being imprisoned by He Ruize, she was terrified of such shackles. She felt the blood in her body started boiling, and her heart was beating fast as if it would jump out of her chest. She couldn't help but trembled in fear.

“It's me.”

It was Zong Jinghao?

She regained her composure and tried to smell the body odor of the man.

He kissed the back of her neck and buried his head in her hair, “Where did you go today?”

After hearing his familiar voice, she finally calmed down.

However, his question made her jumpy as she didn't know what to tell him.

Zong Jinghao's heart sank, as he knew that she was hiding something.

Lin Xinyan's mind was racing with every possible answer at that moment. After a few seconds, she finally said, “I didn't go anywhere. I just missed them so much, and I spent an entire day in the back yard with them. What's wrong?”



“Nothing.” Zong Jinghao clasped her waist with his hand while the other trying to lift her shirt. Her waist was smooth and delicate, just like a baby’s skin. He thought that if he exerted a little effort, he might leave a mark on it.

“Yan, I want to...” If it weren’t for the dim light, Lin Xinyan would definitely see him behaved unnaturally. He was saying something so flirty, yet his eyes were so cold.

Lin Xinyan felt that her throat was dry, and she opened her mouth. She said in a hoarse voice, “I haven’t bathed in a few days...”

“I don’t mind.” He tested the water by unbuttoning her pant with his hands. Lin Xinyan’s heart was beating fast, but she did not refuse.

She closed her eyes and enjoyed the moment.

Suddenly, the light of the room was turned on. Zong Jinghao let go of her and took a step back.

Seeing her closing her eyes willingly, and he didn’t feel any urge to continue.

For the first time, she was willing to surrender herself to him, but he didn’t want to touch her.

He was here tonight to probe for any inconsistencies in her story.

He wanted to know how much she had really changed.

Before this, she would only accept his kisses, but she let go of all her reservations this time.

Why has she changed suddenly?

Has she accepted him out of pressure or is it love?

He can’t tell.

He was terrified and frightened.

“Are you hiding something from me?” Zong Jinghao asked suspiciously.

Lin Xinyan opened her eyes slowly and saw him before her. His eyes were so distant and cold, and he was not as passionate as before.

She was stunned for a moment. Then she soon realized that he was probing her instead of wanting her for real.

Had he found out about anything?

“What do you think I can hide from you?” Lin Xinyan pretended to be calm. She was so guilty that she took the initiative to come over and put her arms around his neck. She did not dare to look at his face, and asked while leaning on his chest, “Are you curious as to why I said yes to you?”

The light was glowing with a yellowish halo, and it came down from the top of her head in circles. She looked away and said softly, “We already have Xi and Ruixi, but I have never...”

She meant what she said.

This man in front of her was her first man, and also the father of her children.

This was also the first time she had feelings for someone.

She didn't force herself, and she was willing to surrender herself to him.

Despite what Lin Xinyan had said, Zong Jinghao still couldn't trust her words entirely. After all, she didn't come clean with her whereabouts today.

He lowered his eyes and stared at the jade bracelet on her hand. He reached out to take her hand and pressed it against his chest. “If you face any challenges, you must let me know. I want you to know that I can share your burden with you. You are not alone.”

He worried that Lin Xinyan was threatened by others.

And that was why she acted differently.

How he hoped that her changes weren't because of external influence. He hoped that she had truly accepted him.

“I have never felt so lost for a woman before.” His tone sounded like he was mocking himself.

He disliked himself like this.

“Rest early.” He left the room as soon as he finished speaking.

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment. He didn't seem like his usual self as he used to love pestering her.

She followed him at the back. She stood beside the door and looked at his silhouette under the dim light, she asked, “Is there anything bothering you?”

Zong Jinghao didn't turn back, he stared into the empty yard and replied, “You told me that you were in the back yard for the whole day, where is your master then?”

Just then, Lin Xinyan realized that Cheng Yuwen didn't come back together with her.

“Master went out, so he isn’t here.” She explained quickly.

“Is that so?” Obviously, Zong Jinghao didn’t trust her words.

He hoped that she would come clean. He had already given her so many hints that he actually knew what happened. Why was she still hiding the truth?

Was it because she didn’t trust him?

However, he couldn’t bring himself to question her any further nor hurt her feelings.

After that, he didn’t look back and walked out of the backyard.

Lin Xinyan stood at the door and kept staring at his silhouette. He had gone far in the dark, and yet she didn’t want to retrieve her gaze.

She wasn’t a fool. Obviously, he was suspicious of her whereabouts.

Yet, she had promised Cheng Yuxiu not to let him know about his real identity.

If everyone knew that he was the son of Cheng Yuxiu, he would be known as an illegitimate son.

For a man with high social status like him, his inglorious identity would definitely receive a lot of criticism from others.

Lin Xinyan felt that he definitely wouldn’t want that to happen.

When Zong Jinghao returned to the front yard, the card games had dismissed. There was a brazier in the middle of the yard, and Su Zhan and Qin Ya were barbecuing sweet potatoes. The night was still young, and they couldn’t sleep either. There was simply no other place or activity to kill time.

The children squatted down around the brazier and watched how Su Zhan barbecued the sweet potatoes. They found it fascinating and interesting as this was their first time doing barbecue. They had tried roasting sweet potatoes in the oven at home before but barbecuing was much more fun.

Shen Peichuan stood at the side and looked at them.

“See how happy these two kids are, I am finally doing a good deed by making President Zong’s kids so happy.” Bai Yinning looked at the sulky face of the man who just walked out of the back yard, and he mocked, “President Zong surely didn’t look well. Did you not see Ms. Lin just now?”

Zong Jinghao put his hands in the pocket and sneered, “I thought gossipmonger only refers to a woman.”

What he really meant was Bai Yinning was as gossipy as a woman.

Bai Yinning was stunned at what he just said, and laughed out loud, "Wow, now you can even scold someone without using any dirty words. You have advanced to another level now."

Zong Jinghao didn't have the energy to bicker and argue with him. Instead, he called out Shen Peichuan, "Would you come over here, please."

Shen Peichuan knew what he was about to ask; he patted on Su Zhan's shoulder and told him, "Look after the children; I will go out for a while."

He wasn't sure what kind of a person Bai Yinning was. Although there wasn't any malice in his actions, Shen Peichuan still had to beware of him.

Su Zhan understood what he meant and nodded, "Sure, I know what to do."

The only advantage of living in the village was that when the night fell, the air was fresh, the weather was good and the sky was full of stars like a big disk full of jade beads. Back in the city, the air was polluted, and it was never easy to see the stars.

Under the starry night, they walked to the entrance of the village.

This time, they didn't talk to each other by the river. They didn't want Bai Yinning to eavesdrop their conversation.

At this moment, nobody knew for sure whether he was a friend or a foe.

However, judging from the current situation; he was certainly up to something for luring Lin Xinyan over.

Their car was at the entrance of the village. Zong Jinghao switched on the high beam headlights so that nobody could hide in the dark. This way, nobody would be able to eavesdrop on their conversation.

"How is the investigation going?" Zong Jinghao asked.

## **Chapter 235**

"Indeed, she brought the two children to visit Yuxiu and they seemed to interact really well," Shen Peichuan stated.

The gigantic mansion of the Cheng family made it easy to spot. The people whom Shen Peichuan hired were not only skilled but also had excellent investigation expertise.

It should be easy to find out where exactly did Lin Xinyan go.

However, they barely met a few times, why are they so close to each other?

This was the question that Shen Peichuan could not figure out.

“In my opinion, the tea silk weaving master might be the one who introduced them to each other...” Shen Peichuan suggested.

Disagreeing, Zong Jinghao shook his head.

“They have already met previously. Yuxiu even gave a jade bangle to Lin Xinyan. She told her that it was from the Zong family, yet I have never ever heard about that bangle in my entire life,” Zong Jinghao explained.

Even if the Zong family actually had a hair loom, shouldn't the jade bangle be in the hands of Wen Xian? Why was it with Yuxiu instead?

“Then, Yuxiu was probably trying to butter up to Ms. Lin in order to build the relationship between her and yourself since she does not have a child...” Shen Peichuan tried to convince Zong Jinghao. Although it is true that Yuxiu was a mistress, she had never abused or mistreated Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao felt that something was amiss, things could not be this simple. Lin Xinyan's family was also destroyed by a mistress. She would never be so benevolent to a homewrecker and be won over by a jade bangle.

Furthermore, he was certain that Lin Xinyan was not someone that would go against her morals and be bribed by money .

“Just pretend that you do not have any idea about this matter,” Zong Jinghao uttered as his face darkened.

He wanted to see how long could Lin Xinyan possibly keep the matter from him.

If Lin Xinyan were to tell him the truth, he would not resent or be infuriated. Zong Jinghao understood that everyone was free to have their own opinions and perspectives. He never wanted to force Lin Xinyan to agree to his stance. He was just exasperated that she did not come clean with the truth. In his opinion, this simply meant that she did not trust him at all. If she did not even trust him wholeheartedly, how could they be together?

Shen Peichuan mumbled an 'alright'. It was obvious that Zong Jinghao was not in a good mood, and Shen Peichuan was not in any position to give his advice. He was assured that Zong Jinghao would be able to resolve the problems and clear up any misunderstandings.

At the moment, Zong Jinghao really wanted to be alone in order to think things through. However, he knew that the two children were still waiting for him. He had to return back.

Turning the car lights off, they turned back.

“Ms. Lin probably had her own reasons for doing so. The relationship between a mother and her daughter-in-law needs to be built and maintained. Ms. Lin might just want to get closer to your family,” Shen Peichuan hypothesized. .

Actually, this might not be a bad thing. Maybe, Lin Xinyan wanted to get closer to Yuxiu because of Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao did not reply. He had his own considerations. He knew Lin Xinyan well enough and was certain that she was not someone that would simply butter up to someone.

When Shen Peichuan and Zong Jinghao arrived at the entrance, they saw Bai Yinning sitting in his wheelchair and he seemed to be waiting for someone.

“President Zong, can I have a word with you?” Bai Yinning asked.

Zong Jinghao gave Shen Peichuan a look, prompting him to leave. He wanted to hear what Bai Yinning had to say.

Having understood the signal, Shen Peichuan headed towards the yard.

Operating the wheelchair, Bai Yinning turned towards the river at the side.

“President Bai, what is it about?” Zong Jinghao calmly asked. His hands were folded in his pockets as he stood tall beside Bai Yinning.

Looking at the man in front of him, Bai Yinning clenched his fists tightly. He was once like him and now he had no choice but to rely on a wheelchair. Even till now, Bai Yinning was unable to accept this reality completely. Honestly, no one would be able to.

“Would you like to hear a story?” Bai Yinning spoke as he tilted his head up slightly, looking at Zong Jinghao.

Bai Yinning did not like to look up to anyone but given his circumstances, he did not have much options.

Zong Jinghao replied, “Sure, I’m all ears.”

Bai Yinning gazed towards the sky and slowly spoke, “You must have done a background check on me, am I right, President Zong?”

Although it was a question, his tone was certain.

Zong Jinghao did not deny that he had ordered Guan Jing to do so.

Bai Yinning was an orphan. After that, he was adopted by Bai Hongfei. When Bai Hongfei passed away, Bai Yinning inherited the entire Bai family’s business.

Bai Yinning was really lucky to have met Bai Hongfei, otherwise he would not be able to reach his current status so easily.

Zong Jinghao did not believe in succeeding through entrepreneurship. Without any family background and connections, chances of success were slim, especially when starting from scratch. It would be impossible for Bai Yinning to have his achievements at this age.

Bai Yinning selected a picture from the gallery and showed it to Zong Jinghao. "This is Bai Hongfei, my foster father," Bai Yinning introduced.

Zong Jinghao took a glance at the picture. Frankly, he was not interested but he thought that Bai Yinning definitely had his intentions.

"Do you realize that he has lost two fingers?" Bai Yinning commented.

His pinky and ring fingers were missing.

Narrowing his eyes, Zong Jinghao asked, "What are you trying to say?"

"He was not born like that- someone chopped it off," Bai Yinning responded.

After Bai Yinning was adopted by Bai Hongfei, Bai Hongfei taught him how to operate the business. When he gradually grew up, he always wondered why Bai Hongfei did not want to marry and have his own children but chose to adopt him instead.

Given his status, even without two fingers, many women would still be willing to marry him.

Later on, Bai Yinning realized that Bai Hongfei remained single because of a woman. That woman was Cheng Yuxiu.

As time passed, Bai Hongfei was at his deathbed. Prior to his death, he finally told Bai Yinning that his only regret was to let go the love of his life.

"I knew that after she gave birth to her child, we cannot be together anymore. She mentioned that she loves daughters, I am pretty sure that she will give birth to a pretty daughter. In the future, I hope that you would be able to marry her daughter and dote on her. That's my only wish..." Bai Hongfei uttered his last words while grasping onto Bai Yinning's hands.

In this lifetime, although affinity brought them together, they were unable to be together. Bai Hongfei just hoped that his fostered son was able to marry Cheng Yuwen's daughter.

The heart rate monitor stopped beeping and the screen showed a straight line.

Having said his last words, Bai Hongfei finally passed away.

Bai Yinning could not understand: if Yuxiu gave birth to a child, where exactly did the child go? After Bai Hongfei passed away, he did a background check on Cheng Yuxiu. Bai Yinning knew that she was married to Zong Qifeng, but she never gave birth to a child.

“In the past, my foster father was kept in captivity for six years. His fingers were lost in that six years,” Bai Yinning revealed.

Six years was not a short duration, Bai Yinning could not find out who imprisoned his fostered father and even severed his fingers. It seemed like someone was trying to hide the past. Given his limited capabilities, he was unable to find out more and hence, he needed Zong Jinghao to investigate further.

Bai Hongfei brought him up and entrusted the entire Bai family to him. Bai Yinning would be eternally grateful to his foster father. In order to avenge for him, Bai Yinning wanted to find out who was the mastermind that imprisoned Bai Hongfei. However, to imprison Bai Hongfei for six years and ensure that the Bai family was unable to find out anything- this was not an easy task. Bai Yinning was certain that the mastermind was powerful. He was not sure whether he was able to rival against that opponent alone.

If his guesses were accurate, Zong Jinghao was very likely to be the biological son of Cheng Yuxiu. Of course, Bai Yinning lacked evidence but given that Zong Jinghao was implicated into this matter, it was now impossible for him to leave unscathed. With his abilities, Bai Yinning was very confident that the truth would be uncovered, sooner or later.

### **Chapter 236**

Undeniably, being kept in captivity for six years is a terrible experience. However, why did Bai Yinning tell me this story?

Giving it some thoughts, Zong Jinghao understood Bai Yinning's intentions.

Zong Jinghao turned towards Bai Yinning and asked, “So, President Bai, your intentions for telling me this story is to ask for my help. Am I right?”

Exposed, Bai Yinning was surprisingly not flustered nor embarrassed. Letting out a laughter, Bai Yinning revealed, “Seems like you have figured it out. If you are willing to investigate further, I am certain that you would be able to find out more.”

“And how would that benefit me?” Zong Jinghao questioned.

Zong Jinghao obviously did not want to be involved in this matter. If not for Lin Xinyan, he would not even be here at all.

He wants to take advantage of me? What a joke!



Bai Yinning's expression became more serious. Without a doubt, making use of Zong Jinghao without him realizing, was impossible.

In order for Zong Jinghao to take interest in this matter and start investigating, Bai Yinning knew that he needed a bait.

"My foster father remained single his entire life due to his first love. They were even engaged. However, due to some reasons that I am not aware of, they were separated. In the end, his first love married your father, Zong Qifeng. Remember, my foster father was locked up for six years..."

"What are you trying to imply? My father intervened their relationship?" Zong Jinghao advanced, cutting Bai Yinning off. Zong Jinghao never liked Yuxiu in the first place and now, she was the cause of every single incident that happened. This realization irritated Zong Jinghao even more.

At first, Bai Yinning also suspected that his foster father was abducted by Zong Qifeng in order to force Yuxiu to stay by his side. If she refused to comply, Bai Hongfei would be harmed. This was his explanation for Bai Hongfei's kidnap and severed fingers.

However, Bai Yinning could not understand one thing: if Zong Qifeng was the mastermind, how was it possible for him to avoid the Wen family's fury?

Zong Qifeng and Wen Xian were husband and wife. If Zong Qifeng went to such extremities, how was it possible for the Wen family to not do anything about it? Hence, his suspicion could not be verified nor explained.

"Have you ever wondered why didn't the Wen family stop your father from marrying Cheng Yuxiu right after your mother's death? How was this possible?" Bai Yinning spoke.

Regardless of influential families or ordinary citizens, who would be tolerant enough to accept their son-in-law to marry another woman right after their daughter's death? It was really strange that the Wen family was able to accept it!

"What did you just say? Cheng Yuxiu?" Zong Jinghao was alarmed.

Zong Jinghao was always indifferent to Yuxiu and had never interacted with her willingly. However, he definitely knew what was her name and also knew that his father would always introduce her as Yuxiu, not Cheng Yuxiu.

Hearing how Bai Yinning addressed her, Zong Jinghao was bewildered.

Why did she conceal her surname? What is she trying to hide?

Zong Jinghao knew that Bai Yinning was deliberate in revealing those information in order to use him to investigate more about the past. Yet, despite so, Zong Jinghao was willing to uncover the truth, or else he felt that he would be living in lies.

“President Zong, are you willing to collaborate with me?” Bai Yinning suggested as he felt that Zong Jinghao was slightly convinced.

“To be very honest with you, my achievements today are not possible without my foster father. He has already passed away and all I can do now is to avenge those who hurt him. I am sure you would also like to find out the entanglement between your father and Cheng Yuxiu. If we were to cooperate, finding out the truth would not be difficult at all. What do you think, President Zong?” Bai Yinning continued.

Chuckling, Zong Jinghao answered, “I can find out the truth alone, why would I need your cooperation?”

Zong Jinghao implied that Bai Yinning lacked the bargaining power to get his help.

Bai Yinning lowered his head and smiled bitterly, “Taking advantage of President Zong is so difficult. And yes, I have another piece of evidence regarding this matter.”

Initially, Bai Yinning did not want to reveal everything to Zong Jinghao. However, at this point of time, if he did not reveal his trump card, Zong Jinghao was very unlikely to work with him.

“There is a tea silk weaving master. His name is Cheng Yuwen,” Bai Yinning uttered.

The Cheng family was once influential and glorious. However, as they gradually went into a decline, they started to live in seclusion.

Cheng Yuwen and Cheng Yuxiu?

“If I am not wrong, Ms. Lin knows about everything,” Bai Yinning added.

That day, Bai Yinning excused himself for work, but in actual fact, he was investigating the vehicle parked in the backyard. That day, Bai Yinning was already informed that Cheng Yuxiu brought Lin Xinyan to see Cheng Yuwen, even before Zong Jinghao was notified.

“Before Ms. Lin went to pick up the two children, she was at the Cheng Mansion for an entire day. Cheng Yuxiu was there too,” Bai Yinning finally disclosed everything he knew.

Zong Jinghao clenched his fists.

Is this the reason why Lin Xinyan changed her attitude? What did Cheng Yuxiu tell her during her stay at the Cheng Mansion?

“Is this all that you know?” Zong Jinghao asked, maintaining his composure although he had made up his mind to work with Bai Yinning.

Even so, Zong Jinghao would not let Bai Yinning have the upper hand.

“That’s all. If I had known everything, I would not need President Zong’s assistance,” Bai Yinning declared.

Deep in thought, this matter seemed to be pretty complicated. However, this was Bai Yinning’s territory and he would continue to investigate further here while Zong Jinghao would be in B City. With both of their connections, finding out the truth should not be too difficult.

“Daddy…” Lin Ruixi called out, interrupting the silence.

In these days when Lin Xinyan was not around, Lin Ruixi was too used to Zong Jinghao’s embrace as she slept. After washing her face and brushing her teeth, Qin Ya wanted Lin Ruixi to change into her pajamas and prepare to sleep. However, Lin Ruixi was adamant for Zong Jinghao to be beside her as she slept. Helpless, Qin Ya finally brought Lin Ruixi to Zong Jinghao.

“She is unwilling to change into her pajamas,” Qin Ya depicted.

Stepping forward, Zong Jinghao picked the little girl up and walked towards the yard. Before he left, he affirmed, “I will leave it to you to find out more about what happened here.”

“Of course, don’t worry. I will find out the truth soon,” Bai Yinning exclaimed.

He knew that Zong Jinghao was willing to cooperate with him.

In his territory, to investigate what happened to the Cheng family in the early years was definitely manageable. If the event actually happened, it was not possible to not leave a single trace.

“Daddy, when is mommy returning back?” Lin Ruixi inquired with her arms wrapped around Zong Jinghao’s neck. She was starting to miss grandma.

“Soon, my dear. It’s time to sleep,” Zong Jinghao comforted as he gently pat her head.

“President Zong, you’re the most generous man I have ever met,” Bai Yinning added. In his wheelchair, Bai Yinning followed behind them.

“Usually, a child will bear his father’s surname but you are willing to let your children have your wife’s family name. Your love for your wife is admirable,” Bai Yinning chortled before returning back to his room.

Obviously, Bai Yinning was mocking him. He knew that when Lin Xinyan gave birth to the two children, Zong Jinghao was not by her side. Leaving her no choice, they had to bear her surname.

Stopping in his tracks, Zong Jinghao raised an eyebrow at Bai Yinning. “That’s my intentions, you don’t have to worry,” Zong Jinghao retorted. As long as they were their children, he was

not particular about their surname. Even if Zong Jinghao wanted a child that bore his surname, they could simply just have another child.

After understanding what Zong Jinghao implied, Bai Yinning's smile that was originally etched on his face slowly faded.

### **Chapter 237**

The most crucial part of a quality tea silk was not about the weaving but to have the most superior thread.

Lin Xinyan always thought that learning the expertise of weaving the tea silk was the most important part!

The thread used for tea silk weaving was made from a combination of natural silk, cotton and fiber from milk.

With exact portions from all three ingredients, the thread produced would be very fine and of excellent quality. Hence, to achieve this step was not an easy task.

By using this unique thread, then only could the tea silk be light, thin and smooth.

Although Cheng Yuwen divulged this most crucial step to Lin Xinyan, he still insisted to follow Lin Xinyan back to the B city.

If the Wen family were to take any actions, he would bear all consequences. This was the decision made by Cheng Yuxiu and himself.

"I thought you mentioned that you are not leaving this place?" Lin Xinyan pondered.

Lin Xinyan knew that if Cheng Yuwen were to follow her to B City and tea silk weaving got launched into the market, the Cheng family would definitely figure out that something was amiss.

"Are you afraid that I will be in danger?" Lin Xinyan asked as she recognized the reason for his sudden decision.

Alone, she was certain that she would be no match against the Wen family. However, she was not alone.

"I don't agree," Lin Xinyan was adamant.

"Please have faith in me. I believe that if I am in any danger, Zong Jinghao will be there to protect me," Lin Xinyan persuaded. Subconsciously, she had already trusted and relied on Zong Jinghao.

Without herself realizing, Lin Xinyan's attitude towards Zong Jinghao had gradually changed.

In need of help, the first person whom Lin Xinyan would turn to would be Zong Jinghao- the person whom she was close to and trusted so much.

Cheng Yuxiu had sacrificed too much for Zong Jinghao. Now, it was their turn to protect her.

"Wen Qing has reached the national level..." Cheng Yuwen murmured.

"No matter how ruthless he is, he would not harm his 'nephew', would he?" Lin Xinyan countered. Zong Jinghao's identity was not revealed in the first place due to Wen family's influence. If they discovered that Cheng Yuxiu was the one who gave birth to Zong Jinghao, he might be murdered right after his birth.

"You can't convince me! Please do not go back to B city!" Lin Xinyan declared, her tone was firm.

Sighing, Cheng Yuwen muttered, "I am an old man. It doesn't really matter if I die today or tomorrow."

Yet, no matter what Cheng Yuwen said, Lin Xinyan would not give in.

As the sun rose, Lin Xinyan packed her personal belongings and left the backyard without bidding goodbye. All she left was a note.

In the front yard, most people were already up, except the two little ones. Despite the weather getting colder, the village did not have any heater. Under the covers, the two little kids were not willing to leave the bed.

Opening the door, Lin Xinyan saw both of them watching a cartoon animation on a tablet. Lin Xichen was initially not interested, however, giving in to his sister, he agreed to her requests regardless.

On the other hand, Zong Jinghao was sitting by the window, attending a video conference.

As the door opened, Zong Jinghao looked up from his laptop and saw Lin Xinyan entering the room with a backpack on her shoulders. Seeing her, Zong Jinghao knew that she had honed her craft. This meant that they were finally able to leave this place.

Zong Jinghao handed down some instructions to his subordinates before he ended the meeting promptly. Closing the laptop, he stood up.

"We can leave now," Lin Xinyan mumbled at the entrance.

"Alright, can you help to dress them? I will inform the others about it, they will need some time to prepare," Zong Jinghao said as he left the room.

When he walked past Lin Xinyan, he avoided her. Usually, Zong Jinghao would brush against her lightly.

It was the exact same scenario as that day when Zong Jinghao left the backyard. The atmosphere between both of them turned slightly bitter. There seemed to be an invisible barrier that was separating them.

Without herself knowing, Lin Xinyan was used to the intimacy, his touch and even his tease. The sudden distance between the both of them made her uncomfortable.

Lin Ruixi was jumping on the bed. Donning her duckling pajamas, she looked like a little duck that was bouncing around. As she raised her arms, Lin Ruixi beamed, "I want a hug from mommy!"

Putting down her belongings, Lin Xinyan went forward and gave a big hug to both children. "It's getting late. Let's get changed and then we can leave," Lin Xinyan suggested.

"Really?" Lin Xichen wondered, his voice filled with excitement. After staying at this place for quite some time, he was getting bored.

Picking up their clothes, Lin Xinyan started to dress them up. "Yes, we are leaving now. Mommy will not go back on my words," Lin Xinyan coaxed.

"We can finally leave!" The two children marveled in unison and went on to cuddle Lin Xinyan.

"Do you guys not like this place?" Lin Xinyan asked.

Shaking his head, Lin Xichen explained, "It is great here. The sky is nice and the view is awesome but it gets boring after a while."

"What a picky little boy. If you think that this place is boring, what about the residents that are living here?" Lin Xinyan commented as she gently stroked his face.

"No, mommy, it doesn't work that way. We are living in a city where it is driven by technology unlike the locals here who are used to living in this place. At first, when we moved here, this place is definitely fascinating but after a while it gets a bit dull and mundane," Lin Xichen argued.

Unable to refute his point of view, Lin Xinyan shrugged helplessly.

He had such a silver-tongue at such a young age!

"Alright, stop publicizing your insights. Hurry up and wear your shoes," Lin Xinyan instructed while patting his bottoms.

Slightly embarrassed, Lin Xinyan jumped down from the bed and followed her commands.

Finally done with dressing up her son, Lin Xinyan moved on to her daughter. Yet, Lin Ruixi kept fidgeting, making it difficult for Lin Xinyan. "My dear, stop fidgeting," Lin Xinyan directed at the little girl.

After what seemed like an eternity, Lin Xinyan finally dressed them up and got them ready for departure.

"I am here to help you with the belongings. We are ready to go. The vehicles are parked at the entrance of the village," Qin Ya notified Lin Xinyan.

"Where's daddy?" Lin Ruixi pondered. She was naturally clingy towards Zong Jinghao since he doted on her so much.

"Your daddy is having a conversation with Mr. Shen and Mr. Su. You will see him soon," Qin Ya replied as she gently stroked her braids which were styled by Lin Xinyan. Carrying a plushie backpack, Lin Ruixi hummed a random tune as she leaped towards the door, wanting to find Zong Jinghao.

"This girl is getting more adorable day by day," Qin Ya exclaimed.

Lin Xinyan responded with a smile. However, her smile seemed to be a little half-hearted as she was still affected by the previous incident.

Lin Xichen was still indulged in the excitement of being able to leave this place and did not realize what was wrong with Lin Xinyan.

Holding her son's hand while grabbing their belongings, Lin Xinyan walked towards the door. Beside them, Qin Ya was also holding onto two big bags of belongings. It's impressive that all of the stuff belonged to the two little children.

As Zong Jinghao saw them approaching, he swiftly ended the conversation with Shen Peichuan and Su Zhan. Walking towards Lin Xinyan, he initiated, "Let me carry the bag."

Lin Xinyan tightened her grip on the bag and simply stared at the man in front of her. Her silence showed her unhappiness.

It was true that Zong Jinghao was angry at her for not telling him the truth. Yet, he could not bear to see her suffer at all.

In that instant, the atmosphere became slightly tensed. With so many people around, Lin Xinyan finally gave in.

Lifting the bag pack, Zong Jinghao uttered, "Let's go."

Only at this moment, Lin Xichen finally realized that the relationship between Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao had become a little strained.

What happened to them? Are they arguing?

In the past, Lin Xichen never wanted Lin Xinyan to forgive this heartless man. However, when Zong Jinghao stopped clinging onto Lin Xinyan, Lin Xichen started to worry.

Deep down, he still wished that his mother and father could be together. Although sometimes he would reject or make things difficult for Zong Jinghao, it was simply because Zong Jinghao once abandoned them.

Lin Xichen still wanted his daddy. No matter how much resentment he had, the blood ties between them could not be severed. Not to mention that Zong Jinghao doted so much on Lin Ruixi and Lin Xichen. It would be a lie to say that he was not moved by his efforts.

Grasping tightly onto Lin Xinyan's hand, Lin Xichen hoped that Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan would never be separated. He would make sure that this would never ever happen!

### **Chapter 238**

Lin Xichen quickened his steps intentionally so that Lin Xinyan would be able to match Zong Jinghao's pace. "Ruixi, let me hold your hand, alright?" Lin Xichen suggested while reaching out to the little girl's hand.

Shaking her head, Lin Ruixi protested, "I want daddy to hold my hand!"

Lin Xichen went speechless.

Why did she not get my hint at all?

Letting out a sigh, Lin Xichen did not continue to insist. He decided to wait for a better time to matchmake them.

The masterplan was that Lin Xichen could hold Lin Ruixi's hand and Zong Jinghao then could hold Lin Xinyan's! What a pity that Lin Ruixi did not cooperate.

Lin Xichen's plan failed.

A number of cars were at the entrance of the village. As the road was bumpy, it was not convenient for Bai Yinning to walk out of the village since he was wheelchair-bound. Hence, Bai Yinning left earlier than everyone else.

"It's been a while since I last met you, Ms. Lin," Bai Yinning smiled as he peered at the woman who approached.

Lin Xinyan greeted, "Thank you so much for your referral previously, Mr. Bai."



Lin Xinyan did not continue the conversation. The way Bai Yinning spoke made it seem that they were close but they were never so close to begin with.

Bai Yinning could tell that Lin Xinyan was distancing herself. In response, he let out a laughter. Turning towards Zong Jinghao, whose face darkened by the second, Bai Yinning did not hold in his chuckles.

“You used to call me Yinning, and now you address me as Mr. Bai. Is it because of him?” Bai Yinning asked while pointing to Zong Jinghao.

If Bai Yinning wanted to take advantage of Zong Jinghao in the business world, it would be close to impossible. However, Bai Yinning could create some trouble for him through Lin Xinyan.

Almost instantly, Lin Xinyan knew Bai Yinning’s intentions.

Although things were awkward between them, it was obvious that Lin Xinyan knew who to side. If she responded to Bai Yinning’s request and addressed him by his name, it would definitely make Zong Jinghao feel upset. She did not want him to feel that way.

“I will definitely answer to your requests since you saved me before. I won’t forget that I still owe you a favor. However, Mr. Bai, I am now married. I don’t want to create any misunderstandings. I hope that you can understand and please don’t make things difficult for me.” Lin Xinyan replied.

Upon hearing her words, Zong Jinghao’s face brightened almost immediately while Bai Yinning went speechless.

Bai Yinning wanted to make things hard for Zong Jinghao but now it seemed that he had shot himself in the foot.

Although Bai Yinning was unwilling to let Zong Jinghao off so easily, if Bai Yinning rejected Lin Xinyan’s suggestion, it would be clear that Bai Yinning was finding trouble for the both of them.

“Of course, Ms. Lin. I understand,” Bai Yinning reassured.

Lin Xinyan did not want to make things too awkward since Bai Yinning had saved her and even taken good care of her previously. “If I have the chance, let me treat you to a meal. Thank you so much for bringing me here...” Lin Xinyan offered.

“No problem, thank you in advance for the treat,” Bai Yinning beamed a little.

As Lin Xinyan finished her sentence, Zong Jinghao’s expression darkened instantaneously. This realization made Bai Yinning crack a grin. However, Lin Xinyan was not aware of Zong Jinghao’s displeasure.

Lin Xinyan was still dwelling on the incident. Many thoughts rushed through her mind.

Did I do anything wrong? Why can't he just tell me about it? Why is he being so cold out of the blue? Maybe...he doesn't like me anymore?

Forcing herself to stop overthinking, Lin Xinyan grabbed Lin Xichen's hand and said, "Let's go."

Lin Xichen could feel the dejection in Lin Xinyan's voice.

Obediently, Lin Xichen followed Lin Xinyan. However, he did not get into the vehicle but pointed to the caravan behind it and exclaimed, "Mommy, I want to sit in that car. It's more comfortable and really spacious. Ruixi and I usually go with that car."

"Yes! Mommy, do you want to sit with us? It's been a while since you sat with us. I miss you so much," Lin Ruixi ran towards Lin Xinyan and pouted.

Lin Xinyan could see the expectations in the little girl's eyes.

In Lin Xichen's mind, he gave his sister a thumbs up. For once, she was being useful.

Knowing how clingy Lin Ruixi was towards Zong Jinghao, Lin Xinyan knew that Zong Jinghao would follow them to that caravan. However, Lin Xinyan did not want to face him at the moment.

"It's going to be really squeezey..." Lin Xinyan tried to reject.

"No mommy! It's really big! There's a bed, sofa and television. Mommy, you can even take a nap in there! It's comfy there!" Lin Ruixi persuaded.

Hearing their conversation, gloom enveloped Zong Jinghao. If only there was no one with them, Zong Jinghao would definitely ask why was she trying so hard to avoid him!

Bottling his discontent, Zong Jinghao wrapped his arms around Lin Xinyan's waist and muttered, "If you don't want to sit with Ruixi and Xichen, where would you like to sit?" Ignoring her resistance, Zong Jinghao pulled them towards the vehicle.

Lin Xinyan was struggling to avoid his touch and refuted, "It's not that I don't want to sit with my children. I just don't want to bother you!"

"How are you bothering me?" Zong Jinghao uttered beside her ears, ensuring that only she could hear him.

Lin Xinyan did not reply. Zong Jinghao was the one who started this entire ordeal! After he himself started to distance away from her, why was he trying to imply that Lin Xinyan was the one who was looking for trouble?

"Stay away from Bai Yinning. We have returned that favor of saving you. Why must you treat him a meal? Look at how smug he was!" Zong Jinghao grunted under his breath.

Zong Jinghao didn't know much he wanted to rip off that smile etched on Bai Yinning's face.

"He took good care of me, why can't I treat him to a meal?" Lin Xinyan rebutted. Using her elbow, she jabbed Zong Jinghao's arm away. Without saying more, Lin Xinyan carried Lin Ruixi and held onto Lin Xichen's arm and they entered the vehicle.

Inevitably, Zong Jinghao's heart stung a little.

This woman!

Pft!

Su Zhan could not hold onto his laughter any longer.

This was the first time Su Zhan witnessed that somebody could argue and even jab Zong Jinghao, leaving him here, helpless!

Su Zhan really wanted to ask Zong Jinghao if it hurt.

Ha, ha, ha!

Furrowing his brows, Zong Jinghao glared at Su Zhan and hissed, "Are you not afraid that you might bite your tongue?"

Zong Jinghao then entered the car.

Upon hearing his words, Su Zhan froze a little.

I...I didn't even do anything. Why can't I even smile now? And... it's not so easy to bite my own tongue...

"You are dumb," Qin Ya commented as she rolled her eyes. Ignoring Su Zhan, Qin Yan went up to Shen Peichuan and asked, "Mr. Shen, can I hitch a ride from you?"

"My pleasure," Shen Peichuan answered while he stole a glance at Su Zhan.

"Shen Peichuan! Are you still my friend?" Su Zhan stormed as he held onto Shen Peichuan's collar.

Shen Peichuan threw his palms out and smirked, "She was the one who asked. I can't possibly reject a lady, am I right?"

"Get lost!" Su Zhan bellowed. He released his grip as Shen Peichuan took a step back.

Actually, Shen Peichuan did not want to let Qin Ya hitch a ride from him. All Shen Peichuan wanted to do was to joke around with Su Zhan.

Regardless of whether or not would they end up together, Shen Peichuan could tell that Su Zhan was in love with Qin Ya. Unlike his previous relationships, Su Zhan was serious in this one.

“I’ll have to give someone else a ride. Su Zhan will give you a ride instead. As you can tell, if I let you ride with me, he will murder me,” Shen Peichuan sounded helpless.

As he spoke, Shen Peichuan made a gesture of cutting his own neck with his finger, leaving Qin Ya speechless.

There are so many cars here, I don’t believe that I must hitch a ride from Su Zhan!

However, she was really rejected by everyone else!

“Ms. Qin. Please don’t put us in a difficult position. We are all boors, it’s not that suitable for you to squeeze with all the guys. How about you go with Mr. Su? He can give you a ride.”

Qin Ya glared at Su Zhan and ignored the triumph etched across his face. She strode swiftly towards the caravan car. Before she could open the door, she was interrupted by Su Zhan’s voice. “The family of four was separated for so long. It’s not very nice of you to interrupt them, am I right?” Su Zhan spoke.

Qin Ya froze in place. On second thought, it was indeed not suitable for her to barge in like that, especially when Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan seemed to have some misunderstandings.

“How about you get in my car?” Without her approval, Su Zhan held onto her shoulders and urged her towards his car.

“Su Zhan!” Qin Ya threatened but to no avail. Why is this guy so annoying!

Ignoring her opposition, Qin Ya was finally stuffed into his car. As Qin Ya tried to get out of his car, Su Zhan leaned in and whispered, “Don’t force me to do anything offensive, especially with so many people looking.”

## **Chapter 239**

“You...”

Qin Ya was so angry that her face turned red. ‘Despicable’ and ‘disgusting’ were adjectives too mild to describe the man in front of her.

Su Zhan started the car, “Don’t glare at me; if you glare too hard, your eyes will pop out. If you go blind and can’t see me anymore, you’ll miss me.”

Qin Ya was at a loss for words.

“Can you be more shameless?” Qin Ya really could not find any word to describe him.

Su Zhan did not mind at all; instead, he laughed. “If I were a gentleman, I wouldn’t have been in your room that night...”

Qin Ya took a deep breath. She kept trying to comfort herself psychologically and encouraging herself not to quarrel with someone of such low IQ. If I hurt myself, I am the one who will suffer.

I’ll hold my horses. When we arrive at our destination, I’ll hide, can I not do that?

I cannot insult him straightaway but I can hide, can I not?

Su Zhan became a little serious and stopped agitating her. “Don’t be angry anymore, alright?”

Qin Ya ignored him. She turned her head and looked outside the windscreen.

He is just a housefly in human form.

Inside the RV.

This time, Shen Peichuan was not inside. Seated at the wheel was a highly-skilled driver.

At the back, Lin Xinyan was with her two kids. Lin Ruixi watched an animation movie for a while and was now sleepy. Lin Xichen quietly took the tablet from him and started playing Super Brain on it.

The number game he was playing previously could no longer satisfy him. It was too easy.

This present game, Super Brain, was a little more challenging.

He was interested. The more difficult the challenge, the more he loved it.

Lin Xinyan gently patted her daughter as she read the info Cheng Yuwen had given her.

Zong Jinghao sat in front, staring at the info Guan Jing had given him. However, he could not absorb even one single word. He just kept turning around and looking at the back.

What’s she doing now? Why is there no sound of voices or movements coming from them?

Lin Ruixi cannot sit still in a car. Why is there no sound from her?

Then, the sound of Lin Xichen’s voice was heard, saying, “Mommy, I’m tired too. I’m going to sleep.”

He spoke loudly and clearly, as if intended for Zong Jinghao's ears. He and her younger sister were sleeping now, so Zong Jinghao could come over and talk with Lin Xinyan. They could spend some time together.

In fact, Zong Jinghao wanted to see what Lin Xinyan was doing. Hearing Lin Xichen's words just made him more eager to do so.

He shut the laptop, sat for a while and after deciding that Lin Xichen must have fallen asleep, he got up and made his way to the back. He pulled up the curtains so that the back of the RV was not visible from the front.

Indeed, the two kids were lying down. Lin Ruixi was really asleep. Perhaps the swaying movements of the car were similar to that of a cradle and so, she slept soundly. However, Lin Xichen was not asleep at all. He was just pretending.

"What are you reading?" Zong Jinghao came over and started to converse with Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan knew that he was coming over. She did not even look up from her reading material. She was making plans to be carried out on their return to City B- where she would place the machines and strategies to promote 'Xiang YunSha

' silk.

For too long, people had forgotten this fabric. Furthermore, many other good materials had been produced over the years.

To reach the market again, new strategies were necessary.

Zong Jinghao was silent.

Shall I ignore him?

Imagine he's disappeared into thin air?

"I'm reading. Do you need a drink?" Finally, Lin Xinyan looked up.

Zong Jinghao breathed heavily. He was not thirsty and he did not need a drink. He had come to see her.

"Are you ignoring me?" He lowered his voice.

If it were not for the two children present, he could not have kept so calm.

Self-control? In Lin Xinyan's company, I do not have it.

My mood changes with her attitude towards me.

It was not Lin Xinyan's intention to engage in a cold war forever. "It was you who distanced yourself from me. If I have done wrong, you could have told me truthfully, not beat around the bush. I'm not good at guessing. It tires me, really."

Zong Jinghao looked at her for a few seconds before asking, "Are you hiding something from me?"

Lin Xinyan was surprised. He is suspicious?

From that night on, he has constantly been asking this question.

What did he see?

What has he discovered?

"I..."

Lin Xinyan thought over it for a while. Then she replied frankly, "Yes, I have to withhold something from you. I cannot tell you what it is."

Now that Zong Jinghao has found out, if I continue to conceal, his suspicions will only deepen. I might as well tell him.

Zong Jinghao was silent for a while.

"Why?" he asked.

"Because this is my secret. Everyone has something that they don't want to talk about. The same goes for me. What about you? There are some people or incidents in your life that you don't want to remember, aren't there?"

Zong Jinghao frowned. He could not argue with that. It was true that everyone had some things they would rather not talk about.

In that case, why do I feel uneasy?

I do not like her to have secrets?

I want her to be frank with me in everything- inner feelings and day to day living.

A knot formed in his throat and he had to suppress the uneasy feeling he was feeling. He could neither question nor force her.

In the car, there was an unusual atmosphere. In the suffocating silence, Zong Jinghao turned around.

Lin Xinyan called out to him.

“Zong Jinghao.”

She got down from bed and looked at his departing figure. He was tall and inside the car, the crown of his head almost touched the roof.

“Does it bother you a lot?” Lin Xinyan too wanted to let him know Cheng Yuxiu’s identity.

As a mother, she understood how a mother felt.

At the same time, she understood why Cheng Yuxiu had to hide her identity.

She admired Cheng Yuxiu’s strength. If it were her, she could not have done it.

Zong Jinghao remained silent. He did not know what bothered him. Was it her keeping a secret or was it the secret itself?

“If you cannot accept that, let us ...”

Suddenly Zong Jinghao turned around and gazed sharply at her, “Let us what?”

“Let us go our separate ways.” Lin Xinyan knew that she had now gone too far. At this point, she wanted to know how much she meant to him. This secret was destined to be the cause of contention between them. If she did not tell, there would always be this doubt on his mind.

Though she knew she loved this man.

Nevertheless, she had promised Cheng Yuxiu.

Right now, there was no other way but to keep him in the dark.

Was he angry? This was insufficient to describe Zong Jinghao’s feelings.

This woman dared to mention separation?

Separation? To be separated from him?

He narrowed his eyes and the muscles of his jaw tensed instantly. Lin Xinyan did not dare to look at his eyes as she could feel the bone-chilling coldness coming from him.

He pulled her into his arms and could not help saying, “Don’t even think about it!” Then he kissed her lips urgently. Lin Xinyan’s words- ‘separate ways’- had hit him hard.

He seemed to be punishing her.

Lin Xinyan understood his anger and she put up with the pain.

His anger proved that she mattered to him.



She slid her hands around his neck and lifted her head to receive his advances.

Laughing, she said, "I'm glad."

Zong Jinghao was surprised, "You..."

"I know why you're angry. You don't want to leave me, am I right?" She wore a smile, so beautiful, so wide, so tender and so solemn.

That's the reason why she said that just now?

Zong Jinghao felt that whenever this woman appeared in front of him, he would turn into a clumsy, bumbling idiot.

He was at a loss, "You were testing me?"

Lin Xinyan nodded her head solemnly, "Yes. You are so much older than me. I have no idea how many relationships you've experienced. How much do I mean to you..."

She was still speaking when his fingers pressed on her lips. Zong Jinghao placed his fingers hard on her pink lips until they changed their shape...

## **Chapter 240**

It was painful for Lin Xinyan but she kept quiet, allowing him to vent his anger.

No matter what, it was she who concealed the truth.

His gaze was deep and his voice was low and warm, "I only have one woman and that is you..."

All his emotions and physical body were dedicated to one woman.

Lin Xinyan was not sure if his breathing was too warm or he had caught her off guard. Her body felt feverish with panic. Yet, pretending to be calm, she asked, "What about He Ruilin?"

Deliberately, she brought up the past.

If she could find no fault with him, she was afraid he would continue to pester her about what she was concealing.

This time Zong Jinghao was not fooled by her, he pinched her chin and embraced her in his arms, vowing, "In my last life, I must have been a heinous villain. In this life, the heavens sent you to punish me."

Even though he knew her intentions, he could not point it out.

That's alright.

Anyhow, I will investigate and find out.

I want to know what has been hidden from me.

What could have changed her attitude and made her do everything to prevent me from finding out.

Lin Xinyan held on to his collar. Her heart was in turmoil. Quickly, she recovered as she began to understand. She thought it out and made a decision, "I've never been in love. I don't know how to love a man. If there is anything I did not do correctly, please forgive me."

Zong Jinghao was taken aback. Slowly he lowered his eyes, "Are you confessing to me?"

Lin Xinyan was still uncertain but she decided to try, "You may assume I am."

He laughed aloud. His gaze fell upon her shy face. Just a moment ago, she was so brash and vocal but now she was blushing timidly.

Lin Xinyan avoided his eyes. He brushed her hair away from her face and looked at her for a while. Everything about her was pretty.

He brought his lips near and touched her cheeks. Then he said something strange, "I regret."

Lin Xinyan's eyes widened in surprise. She did not respond for a long while. What does he mean by that?

"What do you mean?"

Zong Jinghao raised his eyebrows and chuckled. His tone was low and deep with a tinge of unconditional acceptance. "You forget so soon? It's okay, I will explain another day."

Lin Xinyan always felt that his words had double meanings.

Suddenly, her eyes widened. Was he talking about last night?

Boom!

Her face felt flushed as if on fire. She turned redder.

Zong Jinghao held her in his arms lying on another bed that was quite narrow. Since Zong Jinghao was so tall, his feet were left dangling outside the bed. He curved his upper body as well. Lying on one side, holding Lin Xinyan who was also lying on one side, this was the only way they could lie in bed together.

Lin Xichen's little hands gripped his pillow tightly in order for him to stay quiet. He kept telling himself, "They are my parents, so it is normal for them to embrace. It is not wrong."

He was struggling with himself. He wished that Lin Xinyan would not forgive Zong Jinghao so easily.

On the other hand, he feared they would separate.

In his mind, he thought, perhaps he was a contradiction.

About noon, they reached Baicheng.

All this time, living in the village was quite inconvenient and they did not rest well either. And so, when they returned to the hotel, everyone was tired.

"Everyone, go upstairs and get a bath. Rest for a while. Later on, come down here for lunch. Let me arrange," Shen Peichuan said to the group.

Su Zhan left first, "I haven't changed for a few days. I've got to go back to my room."

"Come, let's go together." He looked at Qin Ya who was next to him.

Qin Ya stepped back, putting some distance between them.

Su Zhan frowned, "Don't forget, we are a couple..."

"We have broken up," Qin Ya replied loudly.

She was tired of Su Zhan and worried that if they carried on any longer, it would be difficult to dump him later.

Su Zhan was taken aback. He had not expected her to say this in public. He was stunned for some time.

Shen Peichuan called out his name worriedly, "Su Zhan..."

"That's okay, this is a matter of the heart. Two people are involved. She can't make this decision alone," Su Zhan resumed his happy-go-lucky style, "I'll go up first."

"Ya," Lin Xinyan let Zong Jinghao take care of her two kids and walked over to Qin Ya to see that she was okay.

"Lin, I'm fine, don't worry about me. I'm going upstairs for a shower. It's been some time since I had one."

After she said that, she hurriedly went upstairs as if trying to flee from something.

At this point, she wanted to be left alone.

Lin Xinyan was a little worried. These two had been together not for long. She was afraid Qin Ya would be hurt.

Zong Jinghao held her hand, "Don't worry, they're not kids. In matters of the heart, let them handle themselves. You go on upstairs."

Lin Xinyan nodded. Perhaps she worried too much. They were adults and Su Zhan was a lawyer by profession. Though he was unemployed, when necessary, he could surely handle things appropriately.

Lin Ruixi scratched her head and her brows were knitted together. Lin Xinyan picked her up, asking, "Your scalp feels itchy?"

"Yeah." The little head nodded vigorously. Her tiny hand continued scratching. Travelling outside, her hair had not been washed for days. It was uncomfortable.

Lin Xinyan comforted her, "You will be fine after I wash it for you."

On entering their room, after putting down their luggage, Zong Jinghao went into another room, letting the children use the former one.

Lin Xinyan went into the bathroom and filled the tub with warm water, getting ready to bathe Lin Ruixi.

The little girl exclaimed, "It feels comfortable to be at home."

"This is not home," Lin Xichen corrected her. Can't she differentiate between hotel and home?

The little girl was annoyed. She pouted, "Big brother is annoying."

Lin Xichen shook his head as if he did not know what to do with her.

"Mommy, look! My brother is bullying me." Lin Ruixi ran into the bathroom, climbed onto Lin Xinyan's back and hugged her neck to complain. Lin Xinyan rubbed her cheek and asked teasingly, "How did he bully you? Did he beat you or pinch you?"

Lin Ruixi did not reply immediately.

She tilted her head and thought for some time, "He hit me."

Lin Xichen stood at the doorway, looking at his younger sister, and asked, "I hit you?"

Lin Ruixi nodded her head determinedly, "You hit me."

"Where did I hit you?"

Lin Ruixi thought for a while, "Hmm... my bum."

"Bum, oh..." Lin Xichen lifted his hand and made a gesture as if to hit her. At the same time he said, "Since you say I've hit you, I must do it or else you would be lying."

"Ahh..."

Lin Ruixi was scared and hid in Lin Xinyan's arms. Lin Xinyan turned off the water faucet, saying, "That's enough playing, it's time to bathe."

Lin Xichen stopped horsing around. She looked at her sister and said, "For mommy's sake, I forgive you."

Lin Ruixi poked her tongue out at her elder brother.

Lin Xinyan removed her clothes and put her into the tub.

The water temperature was just right. The little girl sat in the tub with her head above the water. With her body soaked in the water, she felt comfortable. After soaking for a while, Lin Xinyan washed the dirt from her body.

Then she washed her hair.

When she was done, she wrapped her in a towel and used a hair-dryer to dry her hair.

At this moment, the doorbell rang suddenly.

Lin Xichen got the door. It was a hotel staff.

"Hi, what's up?" Lin Xichen looked up. He had seen this staff member before so he let his guard down.

"This is for your mommy." The staff member handed him an exquisitely decorated box.

Lin Xichen hesitated for a while. "What is inside? Who is it from?"

"I don't know. I'm just delivering it. I don't know any details," The staff member answered truthfully.

The guests on this floor came with bodyguards and luxury cars. They looked wealthy. No one would dare play pranks on them anyhow.

Lin Xichen accepted it and told the staff member politely, "Thank you."

"Don't mention it." The staff smiled, thinking how well-brought-up this child was, not at all spoilt. He was well-mannered and good-looking.

Lin Xichen closed the door and put the box on the bed. He folded his arms upon his chest and rubbed his chin with his fingers. Staring at the box, he was curious what it contained.

Can it be papa giving mommy a present?

His curiosity overwhelmed him and, unable to resist, he opened the box.

However...

“Ahh!!...”