

CHAPTER 61.

What a bastard!

Lin Xichen glared so hard at him that his eyeballs almost popped out of his head.

Zong Jinghao chuckled. He was inexplicably happy when he saw this kid get angry.

Moving away from his hand, Lin Xinyan got into the car with Lin Xichen and left.

She looked flustered, whereas Lin Xichen glanced out and grimaced at the nasty bastard.

Zong Jinghao frowned. What a kiddo.

Chen Hao walked over and looked at the car going away. "Shall we go back?"

Zong Jinghao took off his suit, threw it on Chen Hao, and walked toward the car.

Taking the suit, Chen Hao pouted, but he did not dare to complain, and quickly followed him.

Sitting in the car, Zong Jinghao rubbed the space between his eyebrows, and couldn't help smiling when he recalled the moment Lin Xinyan appeared.

Chen Hao, who was driving, looked at him in the rearview mirror, and was burning with curiosity.

Who is that woman who actually makes Zong Jinghao smile like an infatuated man?

Damn, it's so weird.

"Mr. Zong, do you like that kind of woman?" Chen Hao was really curious. That woman was good-looking, but she had such a big child, and he even flirted with her.

Does he like young married women?

Young married women are attractive, but he can't find one that has given birth to a child, right?

What if she has a husband?

Is he going to be the third party and be a lover of that woman?

The more he thought about it, the more he wanted to laugh.

He was excited just by imagining the scene.

Zong Jinghao slowly looked up, and said in a neutral tone, "What kind?"

"The kind of woman who has had kids—"

Chen Hao paused midsentence, and smiled apologetically, "Only those who have a child have the charm. Look at her son; she must have never had plastic surgery."

Hearing the words 'has a child', Zong Jinghao was inexplicably irritated, and pulled his collar. "It wouldn't kill you to keep quiet!"

Chen Hao hurriedly shut up and looked at the moody man from the rearview mirror from time to time.

He was very happy earlier, but now he becomes angry all of a sudden.

Can't we chat happily?

Chen Hao booked a hotel for Zong Jinghao to stay there for one night

Zong Jinghao tossed and turned, as the image of that woman filled his mind.

He couldn't sleep.

She had really changed. In the past, she looked like a pure and gentle woman, but now she was confident in her speech and manners, especially when she talked about her profession—the way she talked was particularly charming.

It was just that, he wondered, is there anyone in her life now after living here all these years?

Then, he took out his phone to call Guan Jing, and asked him to find out how Lin Xinyan's life had been over the years and whether there was anyone in her life.

These successive calls were all about Lin Xinyan.

Is he tempted?

Guan Jing quietly thought.

When did he care so much about a woman?

He has never cared about then Bai Zhuwei, now Lin Ruilin, so much.

In the past few years, he had become increasingly indifferent, and now he suddenly became enthusiastic, all because of a woman who had disappeared for a long time. It would be untrue to say that he had no feelings toward her.

It was just that Guan Jing didn't understand. Even though the woman and he were married, the time they spent together wasn't long. Why would he have feelings for her?

He couldn't figure it out, but no one could answer him.

As soon as Zong Jinghao hung up the phone, he received Master Zong's call.

Zong Jinghao knew why he was calling even before answering it.

His pupils flickered, and then he slowly looked down to cover his thoughts. Instead of the gentleness he had when thinking about Lin Xinyan, he replaced it with coldness, before he answered the call.

"What's happened between you and Lin? She said you want to cancel the engagement..."

"We shall talk when I go back." Zong Jinghao stared out the window with heavy eyes. This was why he didn't stay here and asked Guan Jing to check on Lin Xinyan instead.

This engagement was not just about him marrying a wife, but a union between the He family and the Zong family through marriage.

The news of the engagement had been spreading, and now that he wanted to cancel the engagement, he would need to explain to the He family, and his family.

So the next day, he returned to China.

Guan Jing went to Country A to investigate Lin Xinyan. It was the driver who came to pick Zong Jinghao up. The journey of several hours did not make him tired, so he asked the driver to go to the Zong family mansion.

The car soon stopped in front of a mansion, which looked solemn and reserved. The tall courtyard, grand entrance, round-arch windows, and cornerstone portrayed its grace and luxury.

The driver stopped the car and walked to the back to pull the door open. After getting off the car calmly, Zong Jinghao stood in front of the first gate, looked up, and walked in calmly without any expression on his face.

He passed through the marble floor and walked into the house.

"Young Master." Uncle Feng, the housekeeper, greeted him, "Master is waiting for you inside."

Zong Jinghao nodded slightly, indicating that he knew.

Inside the spacious and solemn hall, there was retro decoration style on the right side with relatively darker color, making the whole hall appear calmer. The person leaning on the cushion on the mahogany sofa was Master Zong, the father of Zong Jinghao.

As for the woman next to him, he didn't even bother to look at her.

He took off his jacket and handed it to the servant, before he walked toward the sofa, and sat down next to Master Zong.

"What's wrong with you?" Zong Qifeng sat on the sofa. He had a face that had immersed in the silence and fortitude given by time over the passing of years, while his voice was deep and magnanimous, with hints of helplessness and melancholy.

"I will handle it." There was no excessive emotion, but a simple answer.

Zong Qifeng knew in his heart the reason Zong Jinghao was so indifferent was because of his mother and what happened back then—

He usually didn't come back and did as he pleased.

But this marriage was related to the future development of Zong family.

In B City, the Zongs was like a 'nouveau riche'. The business was big but lacked the foundation.

The He family was different, as they had a century-old reputation. Even if their business was not outstanding now, they had the reputation.

Union with such a family through marriage was a mutually beneficial thing.

"For other things, I can let you do anything you want, but this engagement must never be cancelled!" Zong Qifeng also took a tough stance.

Zong Jinghao replied lukewarmly and calmly, "Only I can call the shots for my marriage."

"You—" Zong Qifeng was angry, his chest heaving heavily.

Yuxiu, who was sitting next to him, hurriedly patted him on his back. "Speak slowly. Don't be angry."

"How can I not be angry?" Zong Qifeng's face was gloomy.

"Jinghao, you should listen to your dad this time—" Yuxiu tried to persuade him.

Zong Jinghao's voice became even colder, and he sneered. "Who are you to say so to me?"

Yuxiu's face took on a ghastly expression.

"She is an elder. How can you just talk to her like this?" Zong Qifeng thumped the armrest and stood up.

Yuxiu stood up as well to support him. "Don't be angry. I understand how Jinghao feels."

Zong Qifeng sighed and reached out to hold Yuxiu's hand. "Sorry for the suffering you've gone through all these years."

Zong Jinghao stood up, not wanting to see the display of affection between his father and this woman.

He took the suit jacket from the servant and said with his back to Zong Qifeng, "I will deal with the He family."

Then, he left.

Zong Qifeng pointed at him. "W-Why is he still so self-willed? Is he still young? Why doesn't he know the severity of it?!"

Yuxiu sighed faintly. "Perhaps he doesn't like the daughter of the He family."

"No." Zong Qifeng didn't think so. "He already agreed to it previously."

Yuxiu thought about it and agreed. He already agreed to it previously but changed his mind when he was about to get engaged.

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Zong Qifeng sat back on the sofa and called Mr. Feng. "Go and find out if something happened to him when he went abroad this time."

The unprovoked cancellation of the engagement made him doubt there was something more.

Yuxiu reached out and held Zong Kaifeng's hand, saying worriedly, "He will surely be unhappy once he knows that you do a check on him. The relationship between him and us is already tense. Why don't you have another talk with him?"

Mr. Feng also agreed. "That's right. You know the temper of the young master too."

Zong Qifeng's face clouded over, and he said coldly, "With his temper, can I really have a good talk with him?"

The tension on his face eased, but his attitude was firm. "I can let him do as he pleases in other things, but not this time."

This was related to the future of the Zong family.

Yuxiu was still trying to persuade him but was interrupted by Zong Qifeng first. "No need to persuade me. I have made up my mind about this matter."

He looked up at Mr. Feng. "Go ahead."

"Umm—" Mr. Feng looked at Yuxiu hesitantly.

Yuxiu sighed. "Just do it. Both father and son have the same temper. No one can persuade them."

Mr. Feng could only do as Zong Qifeng ordered.

Zong Jinghao, who had just left the mansion, was stopped by He Ruilin.

"Hao—"

Zong Jinghao acted like he hadn't seen her and walked toward the car directly.

He Ruilin chased him up and grabbed his arm. "I have been with you for so many years, how could you end everything after I've only made one mistake?"

Zong Jinghao stopped walking. As it was too sudden, He Ruilin couldn't stop, and ran into him.

She looked up obsessively at the face she had been obsessed with for a long time.

Zong Jinghao looked down at this woman who had been with him for a long time. He once thought that although this woman was calculating and not so pure like she appeared on the surface, she gave herself to him.

He should be responsible for her no matter what.

Even if there was no love, there was responsibility.

But at the moment he saw Lin Xinyan, he realized that his calm heart would still get stirred up, turning hot because of a woman, and that his heart would still be beating.

He didn't know what it was.

He only knew that if he just got married like this, he would surely regret it later.

Zong Jinghao stretched out his hand to stroke her cheek and said softly, "Did you really make one mistake only?"

Many times he turned a blind eye to it and didn't want to delve into it.

But it didn't mean that he didn't know at all.

He Ruilin froze. W-What does he know?

She thought about it carefully. So many years had passed, he was unlikely to find out, and now that she had her brother helping her, he would definitely not find anything.

If he got angry and scolded her, perhaps there was still a possibility for her to make him change his mind.

But he was so calm.

The calmer he was, the more it showed that he had made up his mind.

He Ruilin panicked and grabbed Zong Jinghao's arm tightly. "Hao, I love you. Don't you know how I feel after so many years?"

"But, I don't love you." Then, Zong Jinghao chuckled self-deprecatingly.

He Ruilin shook her head desperately, and snarled out of control, "No, no, you love me. You treat me well—"

"That's not love!" It was just a responsibility he carried for what happened that night.

He forced himself to fall in love with her, but after so many years, he still couldn't fall for her.

"I will compensate you for what I owe you, but it is definitely not by a marriage." He pried Ho Ruilin's fingers, obviously not wanting to continue talking about this matter.

But He Ruilin was unwilling to let go. "I don't want compensation. I only want you."

She didn't want to admit it, but it turned out that Zong Jinghao had really fallen for Lin Xinyan.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so resolute, as if he had changed into a different person, after seeing her.

She snarled in her heart, why didn't that woman get killed in the car crash?

"What is so good about that woman? When she married you, there was man..."

"Have you said enough?" Zong Jinghao interrupted her. "Go back and calm yourself down before we talk again." He didn't want to say anything more to her now.

"Hao, Hao—"

He Ruilin cried heartbreakingly.

Zong Jinghao was in no mood to pay attention to her. The driver had already opened the door and waited for him, so he bent over and got into the car.

The driver asked him where to go.

He rubbed the space between his eyebrows and said drily, "Go to the company."

Country A.

Since seeing Zong Jinghao, Lin Xinyan had been in a state of tension, and accidentally dropped her bowl while eating.

Zhuang Zijin looked at his daughter and said with concern, "Is there something wrong at work? You have been absent-minded since you came back. You have not taken any leave in the past few years, why don't you take a break?"

Lin Xichen looked at Mommy surreptitiously. She behaves like this must be because of that bastard!

Thinking of the way he bullied his mom, Lin Xichen gritted his teeth in anger, while his hands clutched the chopsticks tightly.

He wished he could beat up that bastard.

Lin Xinyan returned to her senses. In order not to make Zhuang Zijin worry, she lied, "It's okay, m-maybe I didn't sleep well last night. I'm fine."

Lin Xichen picked up food and put it in Lin Xinyan's bowl. "Mommy, you should eat more."

Seeing that her son was so sensible, Lin Xinyan smiled in relief and stretched out her hand to rub his hair. "You should eat more. You are still growing."

She served her son a bowl of pork rib soup.

Lin Ruixi was not happy, as she pouted and said while looking at Lin Xinyan, "Mommy is unfair and only loves Xichen, not me."

Zhuang Zijin smiled faintly. "This kid is so small, yet she knows to complain."

Lin Xichen brought the bowl of soup to his sister. "Alright. I'll give it to you."

Lin Ruixi was easygoing, and didn't hold any grudges, so she grinned when she saw the bowl of soup given to her.

After dinner, Lin Xinyan went to do the dishes, whereas Zhuang Zijin gave Lin Ruixi a bath.

Meanwhile, Lin Xichen took out his tablet and recalled that the man said he was Zong Jinghao when they got their statements recorded at the police station, so he tried to search the name on Baidu.

Soon, everything about Zong Jinghao was displayed on the screen.

He came from B City and was the President of Wanyue Group in Country Z. Standing at 185cm and weighing at 65kg; he was 32 years old this year.

At the age of 22, he took over Wanyue and assumed the post of president.

During this period, he had repeatedly topped the country's richest man list and was the youngest richest man in China.

The marital status section showed that he was single.

He had only admitted a woman as his girlfriend, which was He Ruilin.

Lin Xichen pouted. Unexpectedly, this guy is so rich.

Does he think he can do whatever he wants because he's rich?

Does he think he can bully mommy because he's rich?

He clenched his fists tightly, swearing that he would teach the pesky man a lesson.

He put down the tablet, reached for the phone, and was about to call his teacher when Lin Xinyan walked out of the kitchen. Seeing that her son was making a call, she asked, "It's so late now. Why don't you take a bath and go to bed? Who are you calling?"

Lin Xichen didn't know what to say.

Lin Xichen couldn't lie, as he blushed when he lied.

He didn't know how to answer at this moment.

Lin Xinyan sensed that something was wrong, so she walked over to look at him, and inadvertently found the tablet on the sofa with Zong Jinghao's information on it.

She knitted her brows.

It was too late for Lin Xichen to hide it, so he could only helplessly watch Lin Xinyan pick it up.

Lin Xinyan looked at her son. "Why do you do this?"

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Lin Xichen lowered his head and said nothing.

Lin Xinyan frowned. "Say something."

Lin Xichen picked his finger. "He bullied Mommy, so I will teach him a lesson for Mommy."

Lin Xinyan's brows furrowed deeper. He had been emphasizing one thing before—Zong Jinghao bullied her.

He—

Suddenly Lin Xinyan's eyes widened. Did he see Zong Jinghao forcibly kissed me?

"Xichen..."

Lin Xinyan didn't know how to explain.

Lin Xichen firmly patted his chest and said, "Mommy, although Ruixi and I don't have a father, I am a man and I will protect you."

Her son's words 'I don't have a father' suddenly hit home. It was something that Lin Xinyan had deliberately ignored deep down.

She would not mention this matter.

She thought that as long as she loved them very much, it could make up for the fact that they didn't have a father.

However, it was brought up by her son so abruptly, causing her to feel an ache in her heart.

She held her son, bowed her head, and kissed his hair. Although he was very smart, he was only five years old, and was just a child.

Yet, he kept saying that he wanted to protect her.

She rubbed her palm against her son's back. "I should be the one to protect you—"

Lin Xichen disagreed and shook his head. "A man should protect a woman. I am a man. I protect you."

Lin Xinyan looked at her son speechlessly. He's still so young, why is he such a machismo?

“Who taught you this?” Lin Xinyan asked with a frown.

Lin Xichen blinked his eyes and thought for two seconds. “My teacher.”

Lin Xinyan then brought him to take a bath but wondered in her heart if she needed to talk to his teacher.

Is it appropriate to tell such a small child this thing?

“Mommy, my teacher is actually quite handsome and treats me well—”

“Stop it!” Lin Xinyan interrupted him. How could the thoughts of this small kid be so complicated?

Lin Xichen mumbled, “You don’t think for yourself, so I have to think for you.”

Speechless, Lin Xinyan threw him into the water. “You will not be allowed to meddle with adults’ affairs in the future.”

“Why can’t I?” Lin Xichen asked.

“There is no why. This is my decision. Your teacher should have said that you should listen to your mother, right?”

Lin Xichen lowered his head and nodded. The teacher did say that children should listen to adults.

He also said that Mommy had worked hard to raise him and his sister, so he shouldn’t make mommy angry.

If he had a father, maybe Mommy wouldn’t be so tired.

Mommy never mentioned this, and he didn’t dare to ask either.

Grandma didn’t allow him to ask as well.

He thought that his father must be an irresponsible man for abandoning Mommy.

Lin Xichen reached out and hugged Lin Xinyan. “Mommy, I love you.”

Lin Xinyan felt warmth rushing through her heart, like a hot spring, slowly enveloping her.

It’s all worth it. She was contented seeing that her two children were so cute and sensible.

She kissed her son’s cheek. “I love you too.”

Although the children spent their time during the day with Zhuang Zijin, Lin Xinyan put them to bed at night.

She was always the one that tucked them in since they were born.

She was busy during the day and didn't have much time for her kids, so nighttime was the time when she got close with them.

Telling them stories when the children were nestling in her arms was her happiest moment.

Most of the connections between children and mother were probably similar to that too.

Lin Xinyan went to work, but Lin Xichen insisted to follow, saying that it was to protect her, and looking like he wouldn't take no for an answer.

Lin Xinyan couldn't refuse.

"What danger will I face at work?" Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She was an adult, and yet she needed to be protected by a child.

"I don't care." Lin Xichen was resolute, and almost blurted out, what if that bastard, Zong Jinghao, comes to bully you again?

He was still young, and yet he was overly concerned.

Lin Xinyan couldn't change his mind, so she agreed and took him out, whereas Zhuang Zijin looked after Lin Ruixi at home.

After leaving the house, Lin Xichen got into the car by himself. Lin Xinyan buckled his seat belt and got up to close the car door. When she was about to get into the driver's seat, she noticed a car parked on the roadside seemingly stalking her.

She tensed up, but after she recalled that she didn't offend anyone here, she thought that perhaps she was just seeing things.

Who would stalk others in broad daylight?

She got into the car without much thought.

As usual, she went directly to LEO after eating at home.

Lin Xinyan inadvertently noticed in the rearview mirror that the car parked on the side of the road was actually following her.

She held the steering wheel tightly with both of her hands. If I was seeing things just now, what about now?

It was as if something caught her mind.

She needed to find out.

Lin Xinyan couldn't get rid of the car following her as there weren't many people on the road.

After thinking for a while, she slowed down in order to prevent her son from any danger. By the time she drove to the store, it was already half an hour later, and everyone had come to work.

She got off the car and brought Lin Xichen down before asking him to go into the store.

There were many people in the store, so even if it was a bad guy following her, he dared not barge in.

After making sure her son was in a safe place, Lin Xinyan walked towards the car.

She wanted to see who was following her, and their purpose.

The car had black film on its window panes. Lin Xinyan couldn't see the people inside, so she raised her hand and knocked on the window.

No one responded, and the window wasn't wound down either.

Lin Xinyan stood in front of the car. "You follow me all the way here, and yet you're hiding even after I notice you. Is it fun?"

In the car, Guan Jing scratched his head. He rushed here to investigate the matter and didn't have a good rest in the past two days. He spent the night in the car yesterday and wasn't in good spirits. That was why he was discovered by Lin Xinyan.

He covered his face with his hands, and rubbed it vigorously, feeling more energetic.

He wound down the car window, smiled, and greeted, "It's been a while."

Lin Xinyan stared at him for two seconds. "Why are you here?"

She was surprised.

Guan Jing was inexplicably guilty, looking shifty-eyed, "Umm... I'm here to work."

Lin Xinyan sneered. Zong Jinghao was here yesterday, and yet he happens to come here to work today?

Will there be such a coincidence?

"Why did he ask you to come?" Lin Xinyan didn't intend to talk nonsense with him and asked directly.

Guan Jing did not speak.

I can't say it's to investigate her, can I?

No one likes their privacy being violated, right?

"Should I call and ask him?" Lin Xinyan also took a tough stance.

Lin Xinyan's attitude stunned him, and he couldn't help but look at her up and down. Whether it was her manner of speaking or her overall presence, she had changed.

She had turned into a woman.

Previously, she could only be considered as a little woman.

Guan Jin grabbed a handful of his hair. "Umm, Mr. Zong just wants to know where you live."

Silence instantly followed.

Lin Xinyan turned and walked toward the store.

It seemed that she really needed to move.

She didn't want to be disturbed, particularly by Zong Jinghao!

"Miss Lin—" Guan Jin wanted to explain.

Lin Xinyan didn't give him a chance and walked directly into LEO.

Guan Jing smacked his lips, feeling like he got caught in the crossfire between them.

When Lin Xinyan was trying to leave and move to another place, Zong Jinghao was invited by the He family for dinner back at B City in Country Z.

If Zong Jinghao did not cancel the engagement, it was naturally a good thing. A meal together could also enhance the relationship between the two families.

However, the dinner invitation now was probably a trap.

It was bound to happen sooner or later, so Zong Jinghao was prepared.

He Ruilin was well dressed, while all her family members were there, including He Ruize who was frequently abroad.

The magnificent hall was very lively.

Zong Jinghao came in against the light in a black suit.

Seeing Zong Jinghao coming in, the look on He Ruize's face changed suddenly...

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The whole He family knew about the cancelation of the engagement, including He Ruize, who learned from He Ruilin the reason why Zong Jinghao canceled the engagement.

So after seeing him, he couldn't hide his anger.

Next to him, his elder brother, He Ruixing, sensed his fluctuating mood, so he reached out and patted him on the shoulder, whispering, "Our family has deep roots, otherwise we would have been unable to survive in B City. You're out of the country all year round, and don't know about the situation in China. Although he was the one who calls off the engagement, we should not fall out with him."

He Ruize was not only angry because he backed out, but also because he discovered Lin Xinyan.

Six years ago, in order for Lin Xinyan to get rid of him completely, he took her away from B City and hid her in Country A.

He thought that Lin Xinyan would be able to accept him after a long time, and that six years would be able to cut off the little bit of connection between her and Zong Jinghao.

But it had been six years, and Lin Xinyan still refused to accept him.

Zong Jinghao even called off the marriage with his sister because of her.

How can he stay calm?

"Do you think you can do whatever you want just because you have some damned money?" He Ruize made no secret of his disgust and dissatisfaction toward him.

He Ruize didn't keep his voice down, so Zong Jinghao heard it, and cast his gaze at him. He remembered that this man had been close to Lin Xinyan before.

He flicked the non-existent dust off the collar and said calmly, "What did you say? I didn't catch it."

He Ruixing hurriedly stepped forward to smooth things over. "He's just complaining, as you're canceling the wedding with Lin. Don't mind him."

While speaking, He Ruixing tugged He Ruize, telling him to stop talking.

Ignoring his brother, He Ruize was not afraid of Zong Jinghao. "Aren't you afraid of karma for hurting a woman like this?"

He Ruixing's face changed, and he glared at He Ruize. Do we have to become enemies after failing to become in-laws?

What good is it for them to become enemies with the Zongs?

I work so hard for this family, but he never contributed to the family, and still, he comes to make trouble?

At this moment, He Ruixing was disappointed in his selfish younger brother who only thought for himself and did not consider their family.

Zong Jinghao put on a false smile, and said in an intriguing tone, "I'm just afraid that the karma will strike the wrong people."

He Ruize clenched his fists tightly, looking like he could rush to fight Zong Jinghao if He Ruixing wasn't grabbing him.

"They are all inside. You should go in first. He loves Ruilin who has been separated from us and suffering since childhood. That's why he spoke so carelessly. Don't mind him." He Ruixing smiled apologetically.

Zong Jinghao glanced at him indifferently and walked in.

Zong Qifeng and He Wenhui were sitting on the main sofa in the hall talking.

He Ruilin was sitting next to He Wenhui, with bloodshot eyes, as if she had cried.

Her initially sophisticated make-up was smudged.

Seeing Zong Jinghao coming in, she quickly stood up. "Hao—"

Zong Jinghao didn't answer her, as he sat on the sofa, and said preemptively, "I'm the one who calls off the engagement, so tell me any demand that you have."

Zong Qifeng was incensed.

He and He Wenhui spent a long time talking in the house, because he didn't want to cancel the engagement.

The union of the two families through marriage was a good cooperation for both the Zong family and the He family.

It was a mutually beneficial thing.

“Jinghao, I don’t understand you young people’s relationships. You suddenly call off the engagement. Is it because Lin has made some mistakes?” He Wenhui looked kind, and his tone of speech was neither annoyed nor impatient.

He was calmer than his two sons.

At his age, he had seen all kinds of things, so he could remain calm.

If the He family yelled and accused him, it would be easier for him to handle it. But, things became harder as he was faced with an experienced cunning man like He Wenhui.

Zong Jinghao was not easy to deal with either. Although he had not experienced many things as He Wenhui had, he also went through great storms, and so he said in an imposing manner, “I don’t like people lying to me.”

Upon hearing his words, He Wenhui felt uneasy. Did Ruilin really make mistakes and he find out?

Zong Jinghao didn’t want to dig up the past, and just wanted to solve the immediate matter as soon as possible.

“I’m reckless in this matter. I shouldn’t agree to it and then regret it later. After all, I broke the promise first. What compensation do you want? Just tell me. As long as it is something I can afford, I will never be stingy.”

“I disagree.” Before He Wenhui spoke, He Ruilin could no longer stand it.

She stared at Zong Jinghao. “I am 28 this year, and I have given you the best years of my life. But now you want to abandon me, are you trying to force me to die?”

It was exactly because of this that Zong Jinghao was still treating her well, otherwise, according to his personality; he would have cut off his ties with her after he knew He Ruilin lied to him.

“As I said, I can compensate you for whatever you want.” Zong Jinghao knew that it was wrong for him to be like this.

It was just like how He Ruize scolded him—do you think you can do whatever you want just because you’re rich?

But now, he had no choice.

“Calm down.” He Ruize walked in and hugged her, who was trembling.

Staring at Zong Jinghao, he asked, “Compensation. What kind of compensation can you give?”

Zong Jinghao looked back at him. “What compensation do you want?”

Their murderous gazes met in the silent confrontation.

With their current family status, asking for money as compensation was a disgraceful behavior, that hurt the friendship between the two families and destroyed the relationship.

If the He family asked for benefits today, its reputation would be stained if it spread out.

“I want your life; will you give it to me?” He Ruilin roared out of control.

Everyone in the house was taken aback.

“What nonsense are you talking about?” He Wenhui scolded her, while actually wanting to see how Zong Jinghao would solve it.

He agreed to the engagement, and now he called it off, so He Wenhui was of course unhappy.

He didn't show it, but it didn't mean that he didn't care about it.

Zong Qifeng's face was gloomy. Initially, he was very happy with He Ruilin, but now he felt dissatisfied.

Although he did not want Zong Jinghao to cancel the engagement, he was still his son.

Yet now, she was actually so ignorant and arrogant.

Meanwhile, Zong Jinghao was calm and easy, as he stood up, undid the buttons of his suit with his slender fingers, and rolled up his sleeves, revealing his strong arms.

Zong Qifeng yelled nervously, “What are you doing?”

He Ruilin was already stunned. “H-Hao—”

Zong Jinghao bent over to pick up the fruit knife in the fruit bowl and walked toward He Ruilin.

He Ruize was also very scared, as he reached out to hold his sister in his arms, seemingly afraid that Zong Jinghao would hurt his sister.

Zong Jinghao pulled He Ruize away and looked at He Ruilin. “If this is what you want, I will give it to you.”

He stooped and put the knife in He Ruilin's hand. Holding her hand, he pressed the knife against his chest.

He Ruilin was scared. She was really scared.

She shook her head desperately. “I-I didn’t mean it. I didn’t want you to die—”

Zong Jinghao smiled. “I have never owed anyone in my life, except you. If you want, I will give it to you. But from now on, we are even—”

As he spoke, he also exerted force with his hand.

“Ah!”

He Ruilin wanted to let go, but Zong Jinghao’s grip was too strong that she couldn’t let go.

The sharp blade pierced the white shirt and his flesh, causing bright red blood to gush out.

Zong Jinghao’s behavior was beyond everyone’s expectations.

He actually—

So daring!

“It’s not me, it’s not me—” He Ruilin was full of tears.

Zong Jinghao stretched out his other hand to wipe the tears from her face. “That year, I was 14 when I was kidnapped to the mountain. Then I was accidentally rescued by a little girl who was only ten years old. Later I learned that the little girl was an orphan, so I sponsored her to go to school. After graduating from university, she worked with me. One time, I was on a business trip and accidentally got bitten by a snake. She saved me again—”

The look in his eyes and the movements of his fingers were very gentle, as if he was wiping some kind of treasure.

“I failed you. Since you want my life, I will give it to you now. From now on, you and I are even.”

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“No!”

He Ruilin shook her head like crazy, and kept saying repeatedly, “No, I don’t want to call it square with you. I want you to love me.”

She looked disheveled with her teary eyes and messy hair.

Even so, Zong Jinghao’s heart didn’t soften the slightest.

“The dinner is ready—” Xia Zhenyu came in and wanted to tell He Wenhui that the dinner was ready, and yet she saw He Ruilin holding a knife and stabbing Zong Jinghao.

The bright red blood stimulated her brain, and she let out a scream.

Only then did everyone come back to their senses, while Zong Qifeng shouted in a deep voice, “Hurry up and call the ambulance.”

He Wenhui, who was stunned, shouted at He Ruize who was close to them, “Hurry up, and pull your sister away!”

It was originally Zong Jinghao’s fault, but now he was injured at the He family.

This left them at a disadvantage again.

Such a turn of events was not good for him. There was a burning rage in his heart, but he couldn’t let it out. He was so angry that he clasped his hands tightly on the edge of the table, with blue veins standing out on the back of his hands.

Clattering!

The moment He Ruize pulled his sister away, the fruit knife dropped to the ground with a loud clatter.

The blade was stained with bright red blood.

“H-Hao, are you okay?” He Ruilin wanted to reach out to touch his wound.

Zong Jinghao brushed her off, while at this moment, a phone ringtone suddenly rang in the living room.

Everyone looked at Zong Jinghao’s jacket on the sofa, as the sound came from there.

The light came pouring down from the top of Zong Jinghao’s head, shrouding him in the circle of light.

In a trance, the tiny beads of sweat formed on his forehead were hardly noticeable if they didn’t look carefully.

He picked up his jacket and took out his phone. Seeing that it was a call from Guan Jing, he answered it.

Soon, Guan Jin’s voice was heard. “Mr. Zong, I found out the things you wanted me to check. Six years ago, Lin Xinyan was in a car accident, so she didn’t come back to go through the divorce procedures. He Ruize took her and her mother to A Country A to hide. At

the beginning, they lived in Bani, and then they moved to the capital of Country A. During this period, He Ruize will deliberately erase the traces of their lives, not wanting others to find out.”

With the phone in his hand, Zong Jinghao slowly looked up, and fixed his eyes on He Ruize who was holding He Ruilin.

Looking at He Ruize, he said to Guan Jing, “Has he been with her all these years?”

“Yes...”

His face clouded over. “What is their relationship?”

He could feel the pressing pressure from Zong Jinghao even though they were on the phone, so he couldn’t help but swallow hard. I haven’t even finished speaking; can he not be so angry first?

Zong Jinghao couldn’t hear his complaint, so he could only answer honestly, “It seems that Ms. Lin doesn’t accept him, and only regards him as a big brother. Apart from him, there are no other men around her. Well, not entirely—she has a son.”

“I got it.” Zong Jinghao hung up the phone, glanced at He Ruize coldly, then glanced at the He family members. “You can still put forward your conditions.”

After speaking, he stepped out of He’s house, seemingly unwilling to have anything more to do with them.

The hall was in a mess. After a moment of silence, He Wenhui regained his composure and forced a smile. “Qifeng, this matter—”

Zong Qifeng stood up with his hands on his back and said with a hint of displeasure in his deep voice, “My son was wrong first. After all, he went back on his word first, so tell us if you have any requests.”

Zong Jinghao was injured, and what he said showed that he was obviously upset.

“What you are talking about? An on-again, off-again relationship among the youngsters is common. Although we can’t be in-laws, our friendship remains, right? How can I make any request?” He Wenhui smiled apologetically.

Since he said this, Zong Qifeng couldn’t say anything else, and so he called out, “Mr. Feng, let’s go back.”

Mr. Feng quickly walked up to him. “Young Master went to the hospital; shall we go there?”

“Of course. He’s my only son.” It seemed like his words were directed at someone else. Therefore, He Wenhui’s expression changed. There was obviously more to it than met the ear.

Or did he deliberately direct the words at me?

He Wenhui choked with resentment. Zong Jinghao was bold. I have to admit that he had the courage, and abruptly reversed the situation that was unfavorable to him.

“Ruixing, go and send them out.” Standing at the door, He Ruixing listened to his father’s words and hurriedly followed. “Uncle Zong, let me send you out”

Zong Qifeng didn’t respond, whereas Mr. Feng opened the car door, while he bent over and got in. He glanced at He Ruixing who was standing aside. “Bring a message to your dad for me. I won’t take this matter to heart.”

It was not good for everyone if they had a falling-out.

“Okay, I will definitely tell him.” He Ruixing gently closed the door and told the driver, “Drive safe.”

When the car left, He Ruixing turned around and entered the house. He Wenhui was sitting there with a gloomy face. Looking at his sons and daughter, he wanted to reprimand them, but couldn’t find anything to say.

In the end, he sneered. “Well played, Zong Jinghao.”

He Ruixing happened to hear him when he came back. He glanced at He Ruize and sighed deeply, “We’re not as good as him, and indeed not as capable as him. I thought Ruilin and him could get married and we could become in-laws. Unexpectedly, things turned out like this—”

“Enough, you guys!” He Ruilin yelled. I’m the saddest one here after the engagement is cancelled!

“If you are capable, he wouldn’t have cancelled the engagement.” Thumping the table, He Wenhui stood up.

Because of this, the whole family was in chaos, and yet she still has the audacity to get angry?

Xia Zhenyu came over to pat He Wenhui on the back, and comforted him, “Don’t get angry. The kids don’t know any better.”

“What can I say when my own son is not as good as others’?” He Wenhui flicked his sleeves and turned to go to the inner room.

Xia Zhenyu followed him inside to persuade him, not wanting him to sulk.

He Ruixing was also disappointed with He Ruize, so he called the servant to clean up the living room and went back to his room.

Only He Ruize was left in the living room holding his trembling sister in his arms.

“I will send you into your room.” He supported He Ruilin.

“Why?” He Ruilin still could not accept the fact that Zong Jinghao wanted to cancel the engagement.

She didn’t understand, how did things get to this point?

That woman has disappeared for six years.

Why does she appear?

She grabbed He Ruize by the collar. “Ruize, it’s been so many years, why don’t you make her your woman?”

If Lin Xinyan is with He Ruize, Zong Jinghao wouldn’t try to get back with her even if he knows where she is, right?

“You are tired and need a good rest.” He Ruize helped her sit on the bed.

He Ruilin didn’t want to let go of He Ruize. “Ruize.” She looked at him. “Why did you save her and not let her die back then? If she is dead, no one will try to snatch Hao away from me...”

He Ruize frowned. “What nonsense are you talking about?”

“I’m not!” He Ruilin stood up and stared at him, saying viciously, “I planned a car accident on purpose to make Hao feel guilty towards me and marry me. To make it convincing enough, I was really hit by a car. It hurts very much, so I wanted her to get a taste of being hit by a car—”

Haha...

He Ruilin laughed.

Whereas He Ruize stood there stiffly, not knowing how to react, nor what to think of her.

H-How could she be so cruel?

She was so innocent and cute when she was a child.

“Lin.” He Ruize looked at her. “Then, why did you make Lin Xinyan replace you back then?”

This had always been something that he couldn’t figure out.

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She obviously had the opportunity to be intimate with Zong Jinghao. Why would she find a woman to replace her?

He Ruilin was stunned, laughed drily, and fell onto the bed.

“I’m afraid he will think that I am not a pure woman.” He Ruilin tilted her head back as if she was possessed. “He took me in, but he never touched me. I am a human, a woman with normal physiological needs. I need a man to love me and touch me. Heh—”

He Ruize froze, as if he had been struck by lightning.

Why would my sister be like this?

He Ruilin laughed like a maniac. “I want to find a clean woman to give him, and then replace her, to be the clean woman. I saved him when I was a child, and I have been with him for many years, he will be responsible for me. Even if he doesn’t love me, he will treat me well as well. It turns out that I am right, as he treats me really well. My plan is so perfect, except for the woman that I randomly found. I didn’t expect her to come from B City in Country Z. What’s more coincidental is that she turned out to be the woman whom Zong Jinghao’s mother had made a marriage contract with since they were kids.”

If it weren’t for that woman, I would have lived a happy life with Zong Jinghao now.

It’s all that woman’s fault! It’s all her fault!

I refuse to accept this.

I own the identity as the daughter of the He family. With such a family background, what would make me inferior to that woman?

She grabbed He Ruize’s hand. “Ruize, help me.”

He Ruize looked at his sister who was like a stranger to him, and said in a daze, “How can I help you?”

He Ruilin thought for a moment. “You can—” She tugged at him and whispered into his ear...

The more He Ruize listened, the ghastlier the look on his face became. Then, he pushed her away. “No way!”

“You are tired. Sleep well!” He then walked out of the room without looking back.

“Ruize.”

No matter how He Ruilin shouted, He Ruize didn't look back.

Zong Jinghao dressed the wound and walked out of the hospital. The driver followed him with the medicine in his hand. “Mr. Feng just called and asked about your condition. I said that you're fine, and asked Master not to worry about—”

“Have you booked the flight that I asked you to book?” He interrupted the driver.

He wasn't interested in what he said.

The driver's response was swift, as he hurriedly replied, “Yes. It's the last flight at 11 o'clock. Will you go back now?”

Zong Jinghao raised his hand and glanced at the watch. It was now twenty to ten, so he had more than one hour left.

“Go to the airport.” He walked down the steps, while the driver quickly followed. “Young master, you are injured, don't you rest for a while?”

“No.”

The driver ran to the front and opened the door for him. He wanted to persuade him to rest as he was injured. But, thinking of his personality, he bit back the words, sighed, and ran to the front to drive.

Country A.

Lin Xichen sat on the sofa inside LEO, with a pile of delicious food in front of him. Blinking his big eyes, he asked, “Can I take these home?”

“Sure, sure.” The girls in the store especially liked Lin Xichen. He was good-looking and smart, making him very likable.

“Xichen, why do you want to take it home? Why don't you eat it here? Are you afraid that the young ladies here will see your table manners?” Ellen propped her chin on her hand and looked at Lin Xichen. She was already over forty, and yet she insisted Lin Xichen to address her as a miss.

Lin Xichen looked at Ellen innocently with his big bright eyes. “Aunt Ellen, I don't have poor table manners. I'm bringing it back for my sister.”

Ellen's face changed, as she pretended to be upset, and reached out to pinch his cheek, “Can you just not tell the truth? And make me happy?”

Lin Xichen looked serious. “My mommy said, we can't lie.”

Speechless, Ellen snorted. "Your mommy said, you are not a good boy."

"My mommy wouldn't say that," Lin Xichen retorted.

"If you don't believe me, you can go and ask your mommy." Ellen deliberately provoked him.

Lin Xinyan was now in a meeting. If he went to her now, he would undoubtedly make trouble.

Lin Xichen slid off the sofa. "I don't believe you."

Then, he ran away.

Lin Xinyan walked out of the meeting room after the meeting, while Lin Xichen came running toward her. "Mommy."

Lin Xinyan stopped, but the little guy still bumped into her legs. She bent over to touch his son's head. "Don't run so fast."

Lin Xichen nodded his head obediently. "Okay."

"What do you want to eat? I will take you there." Lin Xinyan checked the time and realized that it was already noon.

"I'm not hungry anymore." Lin Xichen took Lin Xinyan's hand and made her to touch his stomach. "Look, it's all bulging."

"Are you pregnant?" Ellen stood behind him with her hands folded across her chest.

Lin Xichen looked back at her, and dissed, "You are the one pregnant. Oh no, you can't even get pregnant even if you want. No man likes you, Aunt Ellen."

Allen ran over. "Lin Xichen!"

Lin Xichen hid in Lin Xinyan's arms. "Mommy, save me, Aunt Ellen is out of control again."

Lin Xinyan picked up her son helplessly. These two always bickered when they met.

She could do nothing.

"Miss Ellen." When Ellen was about to pinch his ear, Lin Xichen reacted quickly and changed into addressing her as miss.

Ellen was going to pinch his ear, but in the end she changed to rubbing his hair. "Kiddo, I'll forgive you for your fast response. I won't be merciful next time."

"Hehe." Lin Xichen was happy, as he dodged another bullet.

“Ms. Lin, this is a client from Country Z. It’s a custom-made wedding dress with some requirements written in it. Take a look.” Lin Xinyan reached out and took the folder. “When will the client want it?”

“Two weeks later.” Lin Xinyan nodded her head. “I see.”

After lunch, Lin Xinyan went to work, whereas Lin Xichen sat aside to play a number game.

The hardest level was easy for him. Therefore, after playing for a while, he lost interest.

He then fell asleep on the sofa.

Lin Xinyan left work early and picked up her son.

“Mommy.” As soon as Lin Xinyan picked him up, he woke up.

“I want to bring some delicious food back for Ruixi.”

Lin Xinyan smiled. “You’re really a good brother.”

Lin Xichen rubbed his eyes and said proudly, “Of course.”

“Look at you. So proud.” Lin Xinyan touched her son’s forehead.

She walked out of LEO, then got into the car with him.

When they arrived home, she realized that she had forgotten the document Qin Ya gave her, and she hadn’t read the contents.

She sent her son to the house. Upon seeing Lin Xichen, Lin Ruixi ran toward him in excitement. Lin Xichen raised the delicious food in his hand and said proudly, “Look what delicious food I brought you.”

Then, Lin Ruixi turned into a foodie. Seeing the food Lin Xichen was holding, she was drooling. “Xichen, I want to eat.”

Lin Xichen walked to the sofa. “Come here.”

The two little ones leaned on the sofa and shared their food. Lin Xinyan didn’t go in, and shouted at Zhuang Zijin, “Mom, I forgot something. I have to go back to the store.”

“Okay, be back before dinner,” Zhuang Zijin reminded her.

“Okay.”

Lin Xinyan took her bag and closed the door.

She got in the car, started the car and drove back to the store. After taking the document, she rushed home. When she was about to enter the house after parking her car, she saw another car parked in front of her house, which looked a bit familiar. It's the one from the morning.

She frowned. Why is this Guan Jing here again?

She planned to discuss with Zhuang Zijin about moving to other place tonight.

Yet, he came to bother her again.

Lin Xinyan's face darkened involuntarily.

As the car door was pushed open, Lin Xinyan was ready to question him, but it was not Guan Jing who got off the car, but Zong Jinghao.

His clothes were creased, and he looked tired.

As the setting sun went down, they were shrouded by a light yellowish glow.

Lin Xinyan resisted the emotional fluctuation in her heart and said coldly, "What are you doing here?"

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Hearing Lin Xinyan's words, the man, who was initially tired, froze for a moment.

He straightened his body and leaned against the car, saying with a light chuckle, "Can't I come and see my wife?"

Lin Xinyan frowned. How could he be so shameless?

We're divorced!

Zong Jinghao still looked reckless and indifferent. "I don't mind us going in and telling your son about our relationship—"

"What exactly do you want?" Lin Xinyan was angry. Is he a rogue?

The smile on his face suddenly vanished. "If you don't want me to go in your house to see your son, just come over."

Lin Xinyan stood stiffly in place.

She thought about it for a long time. Lin Xichen is a sensitive child. After the last incident, Lin Xichen is very hostile to him. If he is allowed in, how should she tell the children his identity?

Zong Jinghao's vision was a little blurry. He closed his eyes but was still unable to see clearly. Then, he said in a hoarse voice, "I have limited time and patience."

Lin Xinyan moved her heavy legs, while he waited very calmly and patiently. Every time she took a step closer, the outline of his face became clearer. Putting away his businesslike and scheming manner, he looked indescribably sincere and gentle, while his face was not as rigid as his words, and there was a touch of softness.

Lin Xinyan had never seen him like this, but she knew in her heart that he was still him and would never change.

She squeezed her hands to soothe herself, and said in an imploring tone, "Please don't come and disturb my life, okay?"

Zong Jinghao looked up and stared at the woman in front of him. "Are you begging me?" Then, he put out a faint smile. "You need to show your sincerity when you beg. What are you going to repay me with? Your body?"

What is he saying? Does he think I'm a very easy woman?

It's true that I lost my innocence when I was 18 years old, but that doesn't mean I'm a flirty woman!

With a stern look, Lin Xinyan was obviously furious, as her shoulders were trembling violently, and her voice gradually changed. "Are you a rogue?"

Her cheeks became tense because of anger, while the blue veins stood out on her neck. A few strands of loose hair around her ears fell around her neck, somehow adding a touch of femininity to her look.

Zong Jinghao's Adam's apple bobbed up and down, while he thought that he might be crazy.

He actually loved it when seeing her angry.

He reached out to wrap his arm around Lin Xinyan's waist, pulling her body into his arms. After returning to her senses, she kept hitting his chest with her hands, struggling. "Let go of me!"

Hissing, Zong Jinghao gasped, but he did not loosen his grip, and exerted more force instead. With his arm around her waist, he grabbed her restless hands, and whispered, "Stop it."

Lin Xinyan glared at him.

Why does he come to disturb my life?

I just want to live quietly with my children. Is it so hard?

"I'm tired." Zong Jinghao rested his chin on her shoulder, while his nostrils were filled with her faint scent. His face was buried in her neck, and he said in a deep voice, "Find a place for me to rest."

He was really tired.

Only then did Lin Xinyan realize that there were dark circles under his eyes, while his body was not as strong as before, and was a little soft. "A-Are you feeling unwell?"

He responded softly in agreement.

Lin Xinyan hesitated, but in the end she still didn't have the heart to ignore him.

"I'll find you a hotel, okay?" Lin Xinyan asked.

"Okay."

Lin Xinyan helped him get into the car, fastened the seat belt for him, and closed the door. Then, she got into the driver's seat and started the car.

She was familiar with the area, hence finding a hotel was easy.

About ten minutes later, Lin Xinyan parked the car in front of a five-star hotel. She got out of the car, threw the key to the hotel staff, and helped Zong Jinghao out of the car.

"I'm only bringing you here, and you'll be paying for it yourself," declared Lin Xinyan scrupulously.

He was very rich.

While every penny of her money must be earned by herself. So she couldn't spend money on impulse, and had to save money for her two children, for food, clothing, house, transport, and educations.

Now they were getting older, she needed to spend more as well.

She had to be a strong backing for her children and couldn't let them suffer from a lack of money.

Zong Jinghao was tall and big. If his whole weight was placed on her, it would be very strenuous for her. He did not let her bear all his weight, so that it was easier for her. Unexpectedly, this woman kept drawing a line with him.

She was now a well-known designer, so it was not that she had no money. It was just the accommodation fee for one night.

She was too mean to him.

He rested his arm on Lin Xinyan's shoulders and transferred the full weight of his body to her.

Lin Xinyan clearly felt that the weight she had to bear became much greater.

She now had to use all her strength with every step she took.

She kept complaining about this man in her heart. He doesn't look fat, but why is he so heavy? Is he a pig?

Insisting on walking to the front desk, Lin Xinyan said to him, "Your passport and wallet."

Zong Jinghao lay on her body with his eyes half-closed, and weakly replied, "Passport in my pants pocket. I don't have money."

Speechless, Lin Xinyan gritted her teeth, and wished to leave this man here just like this.

Going out without money?

It seems that he really does not have the habit of carrying cash, as the driver and Guan Jing usually follow him everywhere.

He has no money, but he must at least have a card, right?

Lin Xinyan reached into his pocket. Her fingers were slender and soft, and his body tightened with every single touch of hers.

At every place she touched, he felt like he got an electric shock, an uncontrollable throbbing.

What a ridiculous self-control!

In front of this woman, his self-control turned out to be a joke, as he found himself reacting to every slightest touch from her.

Zong Jinghao closed his eyes solemnly.

Ha!

Lin Xinyan found his wallet in his pocket, opened it, and was stunned. Didn't he say that he has no money?

Where do the notes inside come from then?

Lin Xinyan glanced at him. Instead of taking the cash, she directly took the card and handed it to the receptionist. "Presidential suite, with the best service. Get him all the services that aren't free."

He was rich anyway!

Both Zong Jinghao and the receptionist were speechless.

Are the rich now so self-willed?

After the receptionist fiddled with the computer for a long time, he raised his head and asked, "Is there a password?"

Lin Xinyan happened to poke him in the abdomen. He had been feeling pain in his chest from her hitting, and now, even his abdomen hurt, making him feel like dying. "No."

"No password."

After swiping the card, the receptionist handed it to Lin Xinyan together with the room key. "The room is on the top floor with room number 888. The royal presidential suite, including special services, costs a total of 108,000."

One hundred thousand a night?

Lin Xinyan shuddered. It's too expensive.

Fortunately, it was not her money that was spent.

Lin Xinyan put the card back in his wallet and put it into his trouser pocket. Then, she helped him get on the elevator to the top floor. After getting out of the elevator, Lin Xinyan helped him to find Room 888.

She swiped the room key to open the door.

The room was unlocked with a ding. Lin Xinyan opened the door and saw two giant crystal chandeliers hanging from the high red and golden ceiling. The chandeliers were emitting dazzling light, while the strings of crystal pendants on the whole chandeliers revealed a sense of gorgeousness and nobility.

The floor-to-ceiling windows on the facade overlooked the entire capital, with flannel curtains on the inside. A deep red European-style sofa was placed in the middle of the living room. The spacious space, exquisite chairs, cabinets, and everything was full of luxury, like a western palace.

Lin Xinyan thought to herself, it's true that we get what we pay for.

She helped Zong Jinghao in and pushed open the bedroom door. The dark red headboard, stool, foot of the bed, white carpet, and silk bedding with gold rims came into view.

Everything brought an extremely luxurious visual impact and physical enjoyment.

Lin Xinyan threw him on the bed, as she was exhausted.

Zong Jinghao fell into the bedding, and frowned slightly, seeming to have hurt his wound.

“Have a good rest. I’ve gotten you the best service. You will have a nice evening. I’ll get going now.”

Then, Lin Xinyan turned around—

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Then, Lin Xinyan turned around to leave.

“What’s the name of your son?” Just as Lin Xinyan walked to the door of the bedroom, a playful voice was heard coming from behind, saying, “Lin Xichen, Lin Ruixi?”

When he came to Country A, he had obtained detailed information about Lin Xinyan’s life over the past few years from Guan Jing.

To his surprise, this woman actually gave birth to a pair of twins, that looked very beautiful as well.

Lin Xinyan paused, turned around, and stared at him, clenching her hands tightly. When she saw Guan Jing, she knew that Guan Jing was investigating her.

Unexpectedly, Guan Jing was quick.

“If you need me to go back and get a divorce certificate with you, you can say it clearly as I’m more than happy to do so and won’t hinder your happiness. But you threaten me like this, don’t you think you’re too much?” Trembling all over, Lin Xinyan was furious.

Zong Jinghao lay still on the bed, with his arms on his forehead and his eyes closed, saying nothing.

He seemed to be extremely exhausted.

Lin Xinyan stood at the door and dared not leave; for fear that he would do anything crazy and hurt her children.

After all, he knew everything about her now.

“I’m thirsty.”

After a long time, Zong Jinghao spoke slowly without opening his eyes.

Lin Xinyan glanced at him angrily, thinking that he might as well die of thirst.

Zong Jinghao turned over with his back facing Lin Xinyan. His eyes that were originally closed, slowly opened, with fatigue written all over his face. “Do you want to murder your husband by letting me die of thirst?”

Speechless, Lin Xinyan held her anger in and turned to pour a glass of water that she later brought in and handed over to him. “Here you go.”

“Feed me.” Zong Jinghao turned over and looked at the woman standing by the bed holding back her anger.

Because of her anger, her cheeks were flushed while bulging slightly, looking like an angry hamster, which was very cute.

Zong Jinghao couldn’t help but chuckle, but for Lin Xinyan, his chuckle became a teasing.

“Zong Jinghao, go to hell!” Lin Xinyan threw the glass of water on him. The warm water in the glass spilled on him. However, the worst thing was that the cup landed on his injured chest.

The moment the glass hit him, he grunted.

The shirt soaked in water revealed the red color underneath it.

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment. He isn’t someone who can’t withstand pain, is he? How painful can it be being hit by a glass? But he looks like he was in great pain just now.

“Stop acting.” Lin Xinyan pretended to be calm.

Zong Jinghao lay on all fours, motionless and silent.

Lin Xinyan slowly looked over, and accidentally saw the red color on his white shirt. She frowned. Why would there be a red stain on his chest?

She bent down, trying to see what it was.

Due to the close proximity and water-soaked shirt, Lin Xinyan could clearly see the bandage around his chest.

“W-Why are you injured?” Lin Xinyan asked helplessly.

Zong Jinghao opened his eyes and stared at the dazzling chandelier on the ceiling, rubbing his fingers against the bedding.

He just didn't want to owe He Ruilin too much.

After all, he failed her.

She was bad in every way, but there was still one thing good about her.

After all, it had so many years.

There was a little bit of feeling.

This feeling had nothing to do with relationships—it was a morality and a responsibility.

It was just like what He Ruilin asked him.

Can the money buy so many years of youth?

His long and thick eyelashes trembled slightly, while he stared at her, a trace of seriousness flashing across his eyes “What if I tell you, I did it for you, will you believe it?”

Pursing her lips tightly, Lin Xinyan seemed to have seen a hint of seriousness in his eyes just now.

But she thought about it carefully. No, how could he be serious about me?

How could he like a woman who has had children?

I must be seeing things.

And what does his injury have to do with me?

What's more, he is going to be engaged to He Ruilin, does he think I'm a fool?

She looked clearly unconvinced, while Zong Jinghao chuckled.

Maybe he was laughing at himself. He couldn't clearly explain the inexplicable emotions he felt toward her.

Lin Xinyan stooped to pick up the glass. She somehow felt guilty because she just smashed him with the glass, so she said softly, “I'll take you to the hospital.”

“No.”

Zong Jinghao refused decisively.

Lin Xin had no choice. “Then what about your injury?”

“Help me take off my wet clothes.” It was too uncomfortable wearing soaking wet clothes.

Lin Xinyan thought for a while and stooped to unbutton his shirt. “I can help you, but you have to let me go back after this.”

She usually tucked the two children in, so she feared that they would not sleep well without her.

The moment she leaned down, a strand of hair fell down, while the tip of the hair touched his face from time to time, making him feel itchy and numb, like a living electric current that kept flowing to his sensitive areas. He replied in a hoarse voice, “Depends on your performance.”

Lin Xinyan’s lips twitched slightly. “I don’t owe you anything.”

While speaking, his breathing was indistinctly blowing her hair, like a tease. “If you don’t hit me, will I be injured the second time? You should be grateful that I don’t sue you for assault.”

Speechless, Lin Xinyan deliberately poked his wound forcefully while undoing the buttons.

Zong Jinghao grunted in pain. How could this woman be so cruel?

Can’t she be gentler considering that I’m injured?

He let out a sigh. “I finally know why there is no man around you all these years. No man can stand a rude woman like you.”

“Raise your arm.” Tugging at his shirt, Lin Xinyan glanced at him, and chuckled. “There are many men chasing me.”

“Oh, really?”

“Of course—Oh!”

Before she could finish speaking, Zong Jinghao turned and held her beneath him. His water-soaked shirt was loosely worn over his body, which made him look a little funny, but it couldn’t hide his stern look.

“Tell me, who are they?”

Lin Xinyan turned her head sideways, not looking at his naked body. “Get off me first.”

Zong Jinghao moved her head to make her look at him, and said slowly, “You are a married woman.”

“We’re just one certificate away from a divorce!” Lin Xinyan really wanted to yell at him, how could you still say these things to your ex-wife while having a fiancée?

Squinting his eyes, he leaned down until his lips were very close hers, and said ambiguously, "Don't forget, without a divorce certificate, you are still my wife. Tell me—"

His fingers ran across her cheeks and pressed his fingers on her lips. "How are we going to spend this night following a long-awaited reunion?"

Widening her eyes, Lin Xinyan clenched her fists and held her breath.

"Have you ever heard a saying?" His fingertips ran over her pink lips.

He didn't use too much force, so Lin Xinyan didn't feel pain, but she just felt insulted.

"What is it?" Lin Xinyan raised her leg secretly, ready to resist at any time.

Noticing her movements, Zong Jinghao knew what she was thinking but did not lay it bare. Instead, he pressed her forehead. "Haven't you heard of the saying; absence makes the heart grow fonder? We've been separated for six years—"

Before he finished speaking, Lin Xinyan resisted by trying to kick him, but her legs were held by Zong Jinghao, who was already prepared.

There was a faint smile of success on his face. "Are you that eager?"

Lin Xinyan's face flushed with anger. Is he a rogue?

How could he be so shameless?

Lin Xinyan was really angry this time. Staring at him with tears in her eyes, she tried hard to keep her eyes open to prevent tears from falling.

Zong Jinghao was slightly taken aback—

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Zong Jinghao was slightly taken aback. "You—"

As soon as he spoke, the doorbell of the room rang.

He frowned, not very happy that someone knocked on the door at this time. He got up and saw Lin Xinyan's delicate and flat belly that was exposed due to the shirt hem that had rolled up. So, he stretched out his hand to fix her clothes, and took a look at her. "I wasn't really bullying you. Why are you crying?"

Sitting up, Lin Xinyan refused to talk to him, so she turned her head, still mad at him.

Zong Jinghao sighed. "I'll get the door."

The shirt was taken off, and he couldn't wear it anymore. Therefore, he took a bathrobe and put it on in the bathroom before going to open the door.

Standing at the door was a woman with a hot body in a purple bodycon dress that revealed her slender thighs. She had golden wavy hair and was wearing a pair of black high heels. Seeing the man opening the door, she moved her hands through her hair, and parted her red lips. "My name is You."

Then, she walked in on her own. "Don't worry, I have very good skills and I will definitely make you satisfy."

The woman seemed to have gotten used to the situation, as she walked to the table and poured herself a glass of red wine. She then brought it to her lips and took a sip. Looking at the extremely handsome man, she thought that she had hit the jackpot. She would be willing to sleep with such a man for free, not to mention that there would be so much money for her, so her enthusiasm ran higher. "I can also meet any special requirements that you have, be it oral, or..."

Before she finished speaking, she saw Lin Xinyan coming out of the bedroom, her eyes widened. "Who are you?"

Could it be that he called another woman besides me?

With that in mind, the woman sized up Lin Xinyan, who dressed conservatively with no make-up. Although she was beautiful, she was not so coquettish.

If we want to have fun, of course we need to get someone who knows how to have fun.

The woman looked at Zong Jinghao. "Are we having a threesome?"

"..."

Zong Jinghao's face completely clouded over.

"Get out!"

Failing to grasp the situation, the woman said with a smile, "I don't mind having threesome."

Lin Xinyan could also understand what this woman was doing. So this is a service that isn't free?

Then, she got goose bumps all over her body.

This kind of service really exists everywhere.

Even this kind of high-end five-star hotel is no exception.

Lin Xinyan glanced at Zong Jinghao, and said, gloating, "It's a good thing. Why do you look so gloomy? I'll leave you alone."

The woman was excited. She didn't want to share such a tall and handsome man—who also looked strong—with other women.

The woman was naturally happy when she heard Lin Xinyan said that she was leaving, as there was a look of joy on her face.

Zong Jinghao glanced at her in disgust, looked at Lin Xinyan, and warned, "Leave if you dare."

Lin Xinyan glared at him. "Are you a bandit?"

"If you say so." Zong Jinghao walked toward her, and stood beside her, before he leaned over. "This is your own doing. You will solve it."

Speechless, Lin Xinyan gritted her teeth.

The woman saw Zong Jinghao walking into the bedroom, so she followed. As soon as she reached the door, Lin Xinyan reached out and stopped her. "Excuse me, you may go back. There is no need for your service here."

The woman's face changed, and she raised her delicate eyebrows. "What now? Are you trying to have the client all to yourself?"

Lin Xinyan's face also changed. I'm not doing the same thing you're doing.

"You want to leave by yourself, or should I call the receptionist?" Lin Xin paused. "If it turns unpleasant, it will be bad for you."

Lin Xinyan raised her head in an imposing manner.

The woman was reluctant, but a man who could afford such a suite must be wealthy and respectable, and judging from the man's attitude earlier, he didn't like her too.

This was the only time she got rejected.

She was in a bad mood and said coldly, "I came, so the money won't be refunded."

"It's okay," Lin Xinyan replied quickly, wanting to get rid of her immediately.

The woman glanced at the bedroom, snorted coldly, and walked out swaying her hips.

Lin Xinyan leaned against the door frame, and hesitated for a while before saying, "I have already gotten rid of her. Can I leave now?"

Her question was met with silence.

Lin Xinyan waited for a while, still, there was no reply from him.

She looked back and found Zong Jinghao lying on the bed, seeming to be asleep.

She took a closer look and realized that he was actually asleep. He was breathing heavily, looking very uncomfortable.

"Zong Jinghao?" Lin Xinyan tried to call him.

There was no response. He had really fallen asleep.

Lin Xinyan reached out to cover him with the quilt, and accidentally touched his skin. It was scorching hot, so she placed her hand on his forehead to see if he had a fever.

The skin on his forehead was burning hot. He was having a high fever.

Lin Xinyan called the front desk to ask for a doctor. He was still injured, and Lin Xinyan did not dare to take care of it herself.

Lin Xinyan received a call from Lin Xichen while sitting on the sofa waiting for the doctor to come.

"Mommy, aren't you coming back? Ruixi is hungry already."

Only then did Lin Xinyan remember that she said she would go home for dinner. At this moment, they were still waiting for her. "You can dive in first. I'm caught up in something..."

Then, she looked up at the man lying on the bed, thought about it for a while, and added, "I may not go back tonight. You and Ruixi must listen to grandma and sleep in grandma's room tonight."

"Okay, Mommy, don't forget to eat, and take care of yourself."

Lin Xinyan smiled with relief, seeing that her son was good at showing concern for others.

"Okay. You are a man in our family, so you have to take care of your sister."

"I will."

After hanging up the phone, Lin Xinyan waited for a while before the doctor came.

He cleaned Zong Jinghao's wound again and gave him an injection for his fever. He also prescribed some medicine, and told Lin Xinyan how to use it, "This bottle contains topical medicine that should be sprayed on the wound. These are taken orally. This red one is for the fever. If he has a high fever again, give him this. Make sure he drinks a lot of water at night. He must stay hydrated as he's having a fever."

"Okay." Lin Xinyan sent the doctor out.

Closing the door, she walked back to the bedroom and stood by the bed, sighing.

She reluctantly stayed to take care of him.

She couldn't afford to take responsibility in case something happened to him.

At night, Zong Jinghao said in a daze, "Water... water..."

His voice was dry.

Lin Xinyan, who was still awake, poured a glass of water for him when she heard him. She lifted him up and brought the glass to his lips. "It's water."

She tilted the glass to make it easier for him to drink.

After the water touched his lips, he gulped down the glass of water, relieving his dry mouth.

Lin Xinyan put the glass on the table beside the bed and helped him to lie down. "Since I take care of you with all my heart, don't trouble me anymore after you recover."

He should return to China and get married, whereas she lived her life here, without interfering each other.

Zong Jinghao couldn't hear her, as he had already fallen asleep.

In the morning, she decided to take a look at her kids, as she hadn't gone back all night. So she found Zong Jinghao's phone and called Guan Jing, asking him to come over.

Being smart as he was, Guan Jing knew that Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan must be together last night, as Zong Jinghao didn't come back the whole night, whereas Lin Xinyan used Zong Jinghao's phone to call him early in the morning. If he went there, he would be ruining things for Zong Jinghao.

He was not stupid, so he replied, "I have something to do. I can't go there."

Lin Xinyan sneered. "Versailles Hotel, Room 888. Up to you whether you want to come. I won't take the responsibility if Zong Jinghao dies here!"

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Lin Xinyan took a tough stance, making it very clear that she would leave even if he didn't come.

She was already angry that Guan Jing was investigating her, and yet Zong Jinghao threatened her with her children, making her unhappy.

Now, Guan Jing even turned her down, of course she wouldn't be nice to him.

After hearing her words, Guan Jing didn't dare not to come.

He was fast, as he showed up at the door in less than ten minutes, probably because he was staying not far from the hotel.

Hearing the knock on the door, Lin Xinyan opened the door, while Guan Jing stood at the door with an awkward smile. "Ms. Lin..."

Ignoring him, Lin Xinyan turned to go into the room, pointed at the pile of medicine on the table, and told him the usage and dosage.

Guan Jin frowned. "What did you say?"

Zong Jinghao is injured?

How is that possible?

Guan Jing clearly didn't believe it.

Lin Xinyan didn't have time for nonsense with him. "If you don't believe me, go and see for yourself. I'm going back now."

Then, Lin Xinyan opened the door and walked out.

Standing by the bed, Guan Jing walked back and forth twice, still feeling curious. Why would Zong Jinghao get injured?

In the end, curiosity got the better of him. He reached out to lift the quilt on Zong Jinghao's body, wanting to check his wound. However, before he lifted it, the man who had closed his eyes suddenly opened his eyes, "What are you doing?"

Guan Jing explained, "Ahem. I-I heard that you're injured..."

Zong Jinghao gave him a slap on his hand and looked around the room, realizing that there was only Guan Jing there. He frowned. Where is that woman?

Guan Jing read Zong Jinghao's mind and asked, "Are you looking for Ms. Lin?"

Zong Jinghao said nothing, seemingly admitting his suggestion.

"She left after calling me in the morning to come over." After Guan Jing finished speaking, he still stared at him curiously.

Obviously, Lin Xinyan spent the night here. Could it be that Zong Jinghao forced himself upon Lin Xinyan who then resisted and stabbed him?

The more Guan Jing thought about it, the more likely he found this to be the case.

Being stabbed by a woman?

Guan Jin imagined the scene whereby Zong Jinghao was being rejected last night, and a faint smile tugged at his lips.

"Why are you smiling?" Zong Jinghao sat up.

"Nothing." Guan Jin quickly put away his smile and said solemnly, "Mr. Zong, how did you get hurt? Ahem—was it caused by M.s Lin's resistance?"

Speechless, Zong Jinghao put on a long face. "Get out! Go get me a clean set of clothes."

Did he really get rejected?

Guan Jing found it funny.

He wanted to see the look on Zong Jinghao's face after being rejected.

Is there actually a woman who will reject him?

Damn, it's a wonder. Too bad I missed it.

Alas.

Zong Jinghao pushed back the quilt and got out of the bed. He was only wearing a pair of trousers, with a bandage around his upper body. He walked toward Guan Jin gloomily. "Is it so funny?"

Opening his mouth, Guan Jing panted, and shook his head decisively. "No, not funny at all. I'll get you some clothes."

Then, he turned around and ran away; for fear that Zong Jinghao would get even with him.

Zong Jinghao poured himself a glass of water and gulped it down. Seeing the chair beside the bed, he seemed to have seen Lin Xinyan lying there sleeping at night.

She seemed to have even spoken to him, but he did not hear it clearly.

The fact that she didn't leave and stayed to take care of him could already make him feel better.

Lin Xinyan, who hadn't slept much all night, dragged her tired body back home. The two children were taken care of by Zhuang Zijin, so they were both very well. She took a shower and changed into clean clothes before going to the room to see the children. Lin Ruixi was still sleeping soundly, her little pink mouth pouting, and her cheeks flushed, looking like a sleeping doll. Lin Xinyan planted a kiss on her daughter's face before leaving the room.

Lin Xichen has gotten up and was washing up by himself in the bathroom.

"You didn't come back last night. Was it because of work?" Zhuang Zijin came out of the kitchen wearing an apron and looked at her daughter.

Feeling guilty, Lin Xinyan didn't dare to look at her, so she turned to look away. "Well, it was something in the store."

Zhuang Zijin stared at her daughter, who was looking guilty. "When you came back yesterday, I saw you got in another car."

Opening her mouth, Lin Xinyan didn't know how to explain. How could I forget that Zong Jinghao drove the car to the door of my house last night?

Therefore, it was not surprising that Zhuang Zijin would see it.

"That man is the man from the Zong family?" Although it was a question, her tone was affirmative.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head. "Yes."

"Why do you still get involved with him?" Feeling disappointed, Zhuang Zijin said, "You are already divorced, and there's no relationship between you. Ruize is so good, why don't you know how to cherish him? Do you have to wait until you lose everything before you regret it?"

"No, I don't." Lin Xinyan tried to explain.

She didn't want to have anything to do with Zong Jinghao.

She knew her place clearly.

She also didn't forget how decisive he was when he asked for the divorce.

“You’d better not. I tell you; I will never allow you to have anything to do with him!” Zhuang Zijin rarely talked to her daughter so sternly.

It was just that she couldn’t ignore this matter.

Lin Xinyan was young after all, so it was inevitable for her to be carried away by the so-called feelings.

She had children, and if that man could accept her, he would not divorce her in the first place.

She had a car accident and it was not easy to give birth to two children. Zhuang Zijin was afraid that she would be hurt again.

At the door of the bathroom, Lin Xichen widened his eyes in surprise. What is grandma talking about?

That man is Mommy’s ex-husband?

Is he the heartless man who abandoned Mommy, sister and me?

For Lin Xichen, since Zong Jinghao was Mommy’s ex-husband, he was naturally the father of him and his sister.

He clenched his small fists, wishing to beat up Zong Jinghao.

No, I must not let that heartless man off!

“Xichen, what are you thinking about? Why don’t you come and eat?” Putting the breakfast on the table, Zhuang Zijin glanced at Lin Xichen who was standing at the door of the bathroom in a daze and called out to him.

“Oh, coming.” Lin Xichen ran over.

Lin Xinyan placed him on a chair and peeled him egg.

Lin Xichen looked at Lin Xinyan’s profile, wondering why that heartless man would abandon her as she was so beautiful.

Is he blind?

Lin Xinyan put the peeled egg on Lin Xichen’s plate. “What are you thinking? Focus on your food while eating.”

Lin Xichen put the plate in front of Lin Xinyan. “You eat it, mommy.”

Lin Xinyan pretended to be unhappy and gave him the egg. “You are growing, and if you have no nutrition, you can’t grow tall. Do you want to become a short man?”

“No, my height is already beyond the normal range. I must be able to grow to 1.9 meters tall.”

Zhuang Zijin chuckled. “1.9 meters is too tall. 1.8 meters will do.”

“No, I must grow to 1.9 meters tall,” Lin Xichen said seriously.

That heartless man is 1.85 meters tall, so I must be taller than him, and then beat him up fiercely!

Zhuang Zijin only thought of his words as a joke and didn't expect that he had such deep thoughts.

After finished drinking the milk, Lin Xinyan reached out to touch her son's head. “It is a good thing to want to grow taller, but you can grow taller only if you eat well.”

“I will.” Lin Xichen nodded his head firmly.

Lin Xinyan got up. “Mom, I'm going to the store.”

“Okay.” Zhuang Zijin originally wanted to remind her something, but when she saw Lin Xichen, she held it back.

This kid was small, but he was sensitive.

She was afraid that he would find out anything if she said it.

Lin Xinyan drove to LEO.

Holding the materials that she brought back but hadn't read last night, she wanted to read it in her office. As soon as she entered the store, Qin Ya walked toward her with a solemn look. “Mrs. William is waiting for you in the office.”

“Did something happen?” Lin Xinyan understood the assistant who had been with her for a long time.

If nothing happened, she wouldn't have put up such a prudent face.

Qin Ya didn't know how to put it. “You will know when you go in.”

Lin Xinyan glanced at her and walked toward the main office.

When she reached the door, she raised her hand and knocked on the door.

She opened the door when she heard a voice saying ‘come in’ from inside.