

Stealing Your Heart Chapter 983

"I'm asking you a question. Why are none of you saying anything?" Su Zhan placed his gloves on the table.

Qin Ya walked towards him and whispered, "Yanxi's coming back."

Su Zhan was stunned for a moment before exclaiming, "This is a good thing! If she's coming back, it means that she's willing to face us again. The storm has finally passed."

Qin Ya brushed away the dust that had fallen on Su Zhan's clothes when he was moving the furniture. She said to him softly, "Jiawen and Yao are here. They can instruct the movers where to place the furniture. Let's go back."

She had her reasons for this. Firstly, she did not want to disrupt the couple in decorating their house. Secondly, she wanted to inform Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan that Zong Yanxi was coming back.

However, Su Zhan did not get her message. "Jiawen's parents aren't even that invested in his wedding. Of course, we need to put in more effort!"

Qin Ya felt upset upon hearing that. "Did you buy this house? Did you pay for the wedding? Why are you saying that his parents aren't invested?"

"What's the use of paying for it? They must put in more effort, right?" Su Zhan shot a look at Zhuang Jiawen, as if he were bragging that he loved him the most.

Zhuang Jiawen smiled but remained silent.

Ignoring Su Zhan, Qin Ya bade farewell to the two of them before leaving.

Su Zhan quickly followed her. "Wait up! "

Qin Ya continued ignoring him.

"Hey, why are you mad at me again? Let's leave. Why are you still angry?" coaxed Su Zhan patiently.

Qin Ya shot a disdainful glare at him. *Who the heck are you? You're not worthy enough for me to be mad over.*

Wrapping an arm around her shoulder, Su Zhan suggested, "Let's eat something before going home."

"No," replied Qin Ya coldly.

"Why not?" Su Zhan hugged her even tighter. It was an amusing yet heartwarming sight to see Su Zhan acting like this despite his age.

Even though he was already getting older, he was still willing to humble himself and appease his wife like a good husband.

"I'm not hungry."

"Then, accompany me to eat."

"Go alone."

"Fine, I won't eat too." Su Zhan pitifully opened the car door to let her in first.

Qin Ya bent down and entered the car. "I'll cook for you when we get home."

A smile instantly appeared on Su Zhan's face as he sat in the driver's seat.

The car stopped after a quick drive.

They now lived in a house, newly purchased after Grandma Su's death. Although it was further from the city center, it was much more tranquil. The house was huge too, with dozens of rooms on both the first and second floor. There was even a huge courtyard.

One of their considerations when they bought the house was that Zhuang Jiawen was staying in the city too. If everyone came over together, they feared that there would not be enough space for everyone to stay. Hence, they chose this huge house.

Su Zhan left the company completely in the hands of Zhuang Jiawen. Hence, with more free time, he spent most of his time accompanying Qin Ya. Qin Ya's career revolved around the boutique which she had been operating. The boutique's business was doing well too. Su Zhan acted as her chauffeur and bodyguard, following her every day.

After alighting the car, Qin Ya headed into the house. She did not forget to remind Su Zhan, "Wash some vegetables. I'll cook some noodles for you later."

Then, she headed to Lin Xinyan's room.

Su Zhan stood in the living room and asked, "Aren't you cooking for me? Why do I have to wash the vegetables?"

"Then, cook it yourself," snapped Qin Ya, rendering him speechless.

I shouldn't have asked.

Knock! Knock!

When Qin Ya reached Lin Xinyan's room, she knocked on the door.

There was no response. She knocked on the door again, but no one opened the door for her.

What's going on?

Qin Ya pushed down on the handle and opened the door, but the room was completely empty. At that moment, Su Zhan rushed over. "Oh, right. I forgot to tell you this, but both of them left the house to do something. They're probably not at home."

"Why didn't you say that earlier?" Qin Ya walked towards him after closing the door. Su Zhan looked at her pitifully, "Well, I forgot..."

While heading to the kitchen, Qin Ya asked, "Did they say what they're doing?"

"I think they went to visit Zhuang Zijin and Cheng Yuwen. Cheng Yuwen's health is quite poor. The doctor said that he's got till the end of this year to live." Su Zhan followed her into the kitchen, took some vegetables from the fridge and started washing them in the basin. "This is an inevitable stage for everyone when they become old."

Qin Ya leaned against the counter and gazed at him. "Why do you sound emotional?"

"I'm just stating the truth." Su Zhan raised his head. "If Zhuang Zijin did not stay with Cheng Yuwen and take care of him, would he have survived till now?"

"What are you talking about? Cheng Yuwen is taking care of Zhuang Zijin too. They're supporting each other."

"I'm not trying to say anything." Su Zhan smiled. "Can we live till the ripe old age of ninety like them?"

"You can live till a hundred." Qin Ya lifted the lid of the pot. As the water was already boiling, she tossed some noodles inside.

"I'll live for as long as you live." Su Zhan placed the washed vegetables into the basket.

"Why are you still acting like this?" He was the same as his younger self.

He did not change at all.

However, Su Zhan was not bothered by her comment.

At night, Zhuang Jiawen and Shen Xinyao headed to the airport early. During the drive there, Shen Xinyao asked, "Now that Yanxi's coming back, will Yanchen return too?"

"I didn't manage to contact him," replied Zhuang Jiawen.

Naturally, he hoped that everyone would return and they could take this opportunity to reunite everyone.

However, he understood that Zong Yanchen's work circumstances were unique.

Shen Xinyao nodded. "He's like Dad."

Zhuang Jiawen turned around to look at her. "Are you saying that I'm not like him?"

"You've been with Uncle Su for so long that your personality resembles him quite a lot," remarked Shen Xinyao.

Zhuang Jiawen did not refute her. After all, it was true that he had a cheerful personality.

As they arrived at the airport too early, they waited in the arrival hall and only headed to the gates when the announcement of the flight's arrival sounded.

There were many people at the gates. As Zhuang Jiawen was tall, he scanned the crowd before finally spotting Zong Yanxi.

However, she was not alone.

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There was a man with her.

He had seen this man before, who stayed in a mansion not far away from his parents.

Many questions instantly flooded his mind.

Why are they together?

“Did you find her?” Shen Xinyao tugged on his sleeve, while still glancing around.

Zheng Jiawen narrowed his eyes. “I see her.”

“Where...” Before she could finish her sentence, she saw two people walking towards them. When she went to Thailand with Zhuang Jiawen to visit Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao, she had met this man who was currently with Zong Yanxi.

“Isn’t he Dad and Mom’s neighbor back in Thailand? Why is he with Yanxi?” Shen Xinyao frowned before quickly guessing, “Could it be that both of them are...”

“Impossible!” interrupted Zhuang Jiawen before she could finish her sentence.

After all, Zong Yanxi has been hurt by her relationship. How is it possible for her to start a new relationship so quickly?

Shen Xinyao raised her head and looked at him. She was not trying to imply anything, but merely blurted whatever surfaced in her mind.

Zhuang Jiawen gazed at her too. Although he did not intentionally scold her, he disliked this guess. “I didn’t do it on purpose.”

"I know." Shen Xinyao held onto his arm.

When Zong Yanxi spotted them, she halted slightly before quickly striding towards them.
"Baby, Yao."

Zhuang Jiawen was about to hug her. However, when he heard her call him 'Baby', he froze.

On the other hand, Shen Xinyao walked over, hugged Lin Xinyan and said, "You're finally back."

For some reason, Zong Yanxi's eyes reddened. She sniffed and tried to calm herself down.
"You're my family. Of course I have to come back."

"We missed you a lot and were so worried about you! Now that you look fine, we're really overjoyed."

"That's enough. This isn't the right place to chat," interrupted Zhuang Jiawen. His gaze fell onto Tawan, who was pulling the suitcases. "Yanxi, aren't you going to introduce him to us?"

He knew who Tawan was. However, he desired to know why Tawan was with her now.

Only then did Zong Yanxi finally remember that Tawan was here with her.

Not concealing anything from her younger brother, Zong Yanxi explained, "Jiang Mohan went to Thailand to look for me. To escape his persistent advances, I asked Tawan to pretend to be my boyfriend. We came back together to make Jian Mohan believe it."

"Oh, I see." Smiling, Zhuang Jiawen greeted Tawan, "I extend my warmest welcome to you."

Tawan nodded. "I heard that you're going to get married. Congratulations!"

"Then, let's go." Zhuang Jiawen took the suitcase from Tawan. "I'll take it."

Tawan passed it to him.

After getting into the car, Zhuang Jiawen told Shen Xinyao to book a hotel for Tawan.

However, he said, "It's okay, I've already booked one."

"Since you helped my sister, you're our friend and guest. We should host you well. I'll treat you to a meal tomorrow," offered Zhuang Jiawen.

"I'm friends with your sister. You don't need to stand on such ceremony."

"But we must still express our gratitude." Zong Yanxi chimed in. Glancing at her through the rearview mirror, Zhuang Jiawen smiled.

Judging from her attitude towards Tawan, he could already guess her thoughts.

Shen Xinyao turned around and looked at him. *It's as if he can't accept Zong Yanxi starting a relationship again.*

But Zong Yanxi is still young; she's got a long future waiting ahead of her. It's better to have a man staying by her side. She can't possibly remain single forever, right?

I really can't understand Zhuang Jiawen.

But it's also inappropriate to raise it up now.

Tawan's expression was very calm, although he could tell that Zhuang Jiawen disliked him and the fact that he was close to Zong Yanxi.

"Which hotel did you reserve a room in?" asked Zhuang Jiawen.

Tawan told him the name of the hotel.

Zhuang Jiawen nodded and drove in that direction.

The few of them did not speak during the journey. After approximately twenty minutes, the car stopped at the hotel's entrance. Zong Yanxi alighted the car too. "Wait a moment. I'll send Tawan off."

Zhuang Jiawen nodded.

However, Tawan refused to let Zong Yanxi send him. "It's getting late, so you should rest earlier."

"I'll send you to your room," insisted Zong Yanxi.

As she was the reason why Tawan came here, it was only right that she sent him off.

After gazing at her silently for a while, Tawan turned around and walked towards the hotel.

Zong Yanxi caught up to him. "Thanks for coming to my rescue."

Pursing his lips, Tawan remained silent. She had already thanked him a lot of times.

At the counter, Tawan handed his particulars to the concierge who checked him in and passed him the room card.

Tawan took the card and both of them entered the elevator.

When they reached their floor, they walked out.

However, Zong Yanxi did not continue walking forward. She said, "I'll take my leave first."

Tawan, who was opening the door, paused mid-action. He turned around and looked at her. "I can tell that your ex-husband still has feelings for you. Will you forgive him?"

"No."

"You don't love him anymore?"

"Yes."

"I think that he'll still look for you in the future. If I didn't intervene this time, he would've followed us here."

Earlier, he had instructed the airline's staff to not sell any tickets to Jiang Mohan. He even leveraged his influence to make the local policemen come up with an excuse to stall Jiang Mohan.

That was the reason why he did not manage to follow them back. However, this was only a temporary solution—he would still come back to look for Zong Yanxi.

"I think that he'll only give up completely after you start a new relationship. Actually... I don't mind that you were married..."

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"I mind," Zong Yanxi interrupted him. However, she quickly apologized for being rude, "I'm sorry, I... I..."

"You don't have to explain. I understand." Not wanting her to feel uncomfortable, Tawan added, "During this period, I'm willing to be your shield."

Just as he spoke, he didn't allow Zong Yanxi the opportunity to refuse him. He turned and returned to his room, leaving her standing outside alone.

Lowering her gaze, she didn't knock on the door in the end. Instead, she headed back down in the elevator. Waiting outside the hotel, Shen Xinyao and Zhuang Jiawen were alone in the car parked by the roadside. She used the opportunity to suggest, "I think Tawan is a wonderful guy. Even Dad praises him a lot."

Zhuang Jiawen suddenly turned and squinted his eyes at her. "What do you mean?"

Why is she saying this?

"I think Yanxi is still very young..."

Zhuang Jiawen's eyes widened while his expression darkened. Realizing that she had angered him, Shen Xinyao quickly shut her mouth. She then averted her gaze by looking out the window.

"Yao." Zhuang Jiawen's tone was grim. He calmed himself down before he continued, "Next time, don't ever say such a thing again."

Reaching out, he pulled Shen Xinyao into his embrace and hugged her tightly. Stroking her on her shoulder, he pondered for a moment before adding, "I can only guarantee that I won't

hurt you, but I can't guarantee that other men will be like me. Yanxi has been hurt in the past before. Hence, I prefer her to stay single than be with someone that she doesn't know well enough. At most, I'll take care of her when she's old."

Shen Xinyao knew he was concerned about Zong Yanxi.

"I shouldn't have said it just now."

"No, I know that you mean well, am I right?" He lowered his head.

Shen Xinyao looked up and gazed into his eyes. "Of course, she is your sister and therefore, my sister too. I hope that she will find happiness. Your concerns are therefore not unfounded for. Unless we know someone well, it's hard to discern if there are any problems with their character. Hence, I do agree with what you said."

Zhuang Jiawen circled his hand around her neck and pinched her cheeks. "You're a good girl, Yao."

"It hurts," Shen Xinyao grumbled coquettishly as she pushed his hand away. Zhuang Jiawen leaned over and pecked her in the same place where he had just pinched her. He asked softly, "Does it still hurt?"

Shen Xinyao curled up. "We're outside."

"Does it matter?"

While both of them were caressing each other, they didn't notice Zong Yanxi approaching.

As the car windows were heavily tinted, no one could see what was going on inside. Hence, Zong Yanxi didn't know that they were fooling around. The moment she opened the door, she saw both of them in each other's arms. She closed the door immediately and turned around. "You guys continue. I didn't see a thing."

Shen Xinyao blushed immediately as she was both embarrassed and in panic. She forcefully pushed Zhuang Jiawen away and muttered, "It's all your fault."

Zhuang Jiawen laughed. "Don't worry, Yanxi won't tease you for it."

His words embarrassed her further, causing her to frown. "You're really annoying."

“And yet you’re willing to marry me still?” Just as he spoke, he shouted towards the outside of the car, “Yanxi, get in. It’s already late and we should be going home.”

Shen Xinyao glared at him as she fumed.

After Zong Yanxi opened the car door and got in, she slapped Zhuang Jiawen’s shoulder. “You’re not allowed to bully Yao.”

Zhuang Jiawen pretended to be angry and turned towards her. He declared, “I’m your brother and share the same blood as you. So how can you treat me like that? You’re simply being cruel.”

Zong Yanxi ignored his use of their familial relationship. “Although you’re my brother, I still support Yao unconditionally. Only she can bully you, but not her.”

Zhuang Jiawen was speechless.

Shen Xinyao burst into laughter as she remarked playfully, “Yanxi, you’re still the best.”

As she spread her arms out, Zong Yanxi had no choice but to give her a warm hug. “You will have to take care of Baby going forward.”

Zhuang Jiawen was speechless.

Although Zong Yanxi’s words reflected her affection for him, the sound of his nickname ‘Baby’ made him cringe.

“Yanxi, I’m already an adult. Can you stop calling me Baby?” Zhuang Jiawen protested.

“But I’m already used to it as I’ve been calling you that since we were children. Besides, I’m not the only one that uses it, everyone else does the same.”

“But everyone no longer uses it. Only you do now.”

“Fine, I’ll try to change.”

“That’s better.”

The atmosphere was relaxed as they bantered. However, when they were about to arrive home, Zong Yanxi began to feel nervous.

Her hands balled into fists subconsciously.

One year had passed where everyone accommodated her and was considerate of her feelings. However, they mostly showed their concern behind the scenes and dared not appear in front of her, lest she felt uncomfortable.

Having paid the price for her stubbornness then, she regretted causing both her parents and those close to her to worry.

Everything was caused by how adamant she was in her decision.

Ever since she was little, she was the apple of her Daddy's eye. He pampered her and gave her whatever she wanted. As if to satisfy her, he even compromised with her unrelenting decision to get married.

Thinking about it in detail, she realized that her folly was the cause of everything.

Now that she was going to face them, she felt so shameful that she didn't have the courage to do so.

Silence ensued inside the car as the atmosphere became tense.

Zong Yanxi asked, "Are Mom and Dad there?"

"Yes. They went to see Grandma and Granduncle earlier. Mom doesn't look too good recently, perhaps she has been worrying too much about Granduncle's sickness."