

## CHAPTER 11.

Lin Xinyan frowned. They were satisfied with her at the time, could it be that they found a better fit?

Lin Xinyan found it easier to accept after thinking this way.

At night, Zong Jinghao locked himself in his study upon returning home, seemingly due to his work.

In the afternoon, Lin Xinyan found out about Zong Jinghao's favorite dishes from Aunt Yu and prepared the dinner herself.

Aunt Yu smiled and said, "This is what a wife should do."

Lin Xinyan smiled with her head down. If it weren't for the fact that she needed his help, she wouldn't take the initiative to please him.

Aunt Yu sighed. "Madam passed away long time ago, so Master has remarried, and Young master seldom goes back. He values relationships very much despite his indifference."

Lin Xinyan said nothing and listened to her quietly.

"Miss Bai saved young master when she was a kid. After she grew up, she has been following young master. Young master didn't like her as well, but ever since they returned from that business trip, his attitude toward her has changed. However, don't you worry, you're his rightful wife." Aunt Yu comforted her while patting her on the shoulder.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and smiled bitterly. I really have no say in whom he is close with.

Despite being husband and wife, they were like strangers.

She had a clear understanding about this marriage.

Lin Xinyan glanced at the study. Thinking of the black coffee made by Bai Zhuwei this morning, she asked, "Aunt Yu, where's the coffee bean? I want to make coffee for him."

At this, Aunt Yu thought that she was starting to pay attention, so she took the coffee bean for her and told her, "No sugar and milk. Young master doesn't like sweet stuff."

Lin Xinyan nodded and quickly made a pot of coffee. She poured the coffee into an exquisite coffee cup and brought it to his study herself.

Zong Jinghao was on the phone in the study, looking irritated. "What's wrong with the HR Department? Is it so hard to recruit a translator?"

He knew a lot of languages, but he really didn't know about the language of A Country. Due to the language barrier, he couldn't deal with the huge amount of things that need to be dealt with in this new project.

“Tell the HR Manager, he has one day to get someone for me. Otherwise, he’ll be sacked!”

Knock knock.

There was a sudden knock on the door when Zong Jinghao was in a fit of anger, so he didn’t tone down and said coldly, “Come in!”

Lin Xinyan felt her heart skip a beat. Is he in a bad mood now?

She had knocked on the door, so she had to go in even if it was a bad time.

Lin Xinyan tried hard to smile. “I made coffee for you.”

Zong Jinghao’s gaze slowly moved from her face to the coffee in her hand, as he narrowed his eyes slightly, wondering, she avoided me in the morning, and yet now she takes the initiative to send me a cup of coffee?

Heh, this woman is so fickle!

Putting away the phone, Zong Jinghao sat down and quietly watched her. He wanted to see what she was up to!

“I don’t know if it suits your taste.” Lin Xinyan put the cup of coffee on the table.

Without moving, Zong Jinghao relaxed his body even more, and leaned against the chair lazily.

Lin Xinyan said ingratiatingly, “Want to try?”

Zong Jinghao raised his eyebrow, suddenly realizing the possible reason for her change in attitude.

He mocked, “Do you want to ask me about the land in Repulse Bay by displaying such a sudden hospitality?”

Lin Xinyan froze, not expecting him to think of it so soon.

Suddenly, Zong Jinghao grabbed Lin Xinyan’s chin. “Is this why the Lins wanted to marry you to me even though I’m a lame man?”

His fingers were very strong, so Lin Xinyan felt a sharp pain.

Opening her mouth, she wanted to explain.

But how?

Do I say that I’m the one being abandoned?

Will he believe me?

“I’m not—”

“Get out!” Zong Jinghao let go off her forcefully.

Being let go so suddenly, Lin Xinyan accidentally knocked over the cup of coffee with her arm, and the black liquid wetted the documents on the table, making Zong Jinghao’s face into a thunder.

Lin Xinyan didn’t expect it to end up like this, so she quickly wiped it.

Zong Jinghao took the documents away and scolded fiercely, “Can’t you hear that I said, get out?!”

He disliked the way such a brown-noser looked!

Lin Xinyan could only leave.

“Wait. Take all this thing out!” Zong Jinghao was annoyed at the sight of it.

Lin Xinyan took the coffee cup out.

During dinner, Zong Jinghao returned to his room after he was done eating.

Lin Xinyan quietly sighed. He had such a bad personality, making it hard for her to get close with him, not to mention getting the land and winning the initiative from Lin Guoan.

After Lin Xinyan showered and lay on the bed, she kept tossing and couldn’t sleep, so she got up from her bed.

Thinking of the coffee she spilled on the documents when she sent coffee to Zong Jinghao, she felt a little sorry, and wanted to make up for it, so she went to his study.

Turning on the light, she saw the wet documents were still on the table and realized that the documents were written in A country’s language.

Parts of the documents that were soaked with coffee had become almost illegible.

She found clean papers and copied down the words on the document. Lin Xinyan knew that the language of this country was not widely used. Hence, as a gesture of apology, she translated them into the domestic language so that he could read them.

It was already three in the middle of the night after translating and jotting down the contents of the dozens of documents.

Putting down the pen, she rubbed her sore wrist, and put the documents in order, before putting them on the desk, and then going back to her room to sleep.

When Zong Jinghao was having breakfast the next morning, Lin Xinyan didn’t wake up, as she went to bed too late and was fatigued from her pregnancy.

Zong Jinghao frowned. “She didn’t get up?”

Aunt Yu lowered her head. "No. You're her husband, and yet you actually asked me, the outsider."

Understanding what Aunt Yu meant, Zong Jinghao said, "Forget it."

Zong Jinghao wasn't good at explaining, even to Aunt Yu, who took care of him since he was a kid.

"Young Master, I know that there's no feelings between you and Miss Lin. But this marriage was agreed upon when Madam was still with us. Moreover, I think she cares about you too. After she came back at noon yesterday, she asked me about your favorite food. The dinner last night was prepared by her, and she even made coffee for you."

Wasn't her sudden hospitality to get the land in Repulse Bay for The Lins?

Cares about me?

Zong Jinghao found it ridiculous.

He turned around to look at Aunt Yu. "Don't be fooled by her appearance."

## CHAPTER 12.

He knew best what kind of woman she was!

Thinking of the documents stained with coffee, he went to his study to bring the documents back to the company for reprint.

As soon as he entered his study, Zong Jinghao found that someone touched his stuffs on the table.

Other than Auntie Chen and Guan Jing, no one, even Bai Zhuwei, had ever entered his study.

Who would it be?

Did that woman sneak into my study?

He walked up to the table and found a handwritten translated document on it. He reached out to pick it up and studied the neat and graceful handwriting.

He frowned. Did the woman write this?

Does she know the language of Country A?

Zong Jinghao couldn't believe it.

Just when he put down the document and wanted to go to the woman to ask her about it, a sticky note fell out of the document, and it read, 'I'm sorry to enter your study without your consent, but your documents were stained last night because of me, so I want to do my best to help you fix it. The language of Country A is not very easy to learn. I translated it into Mandarin for your convenience. It is my compensation for staining your documents.—Lin Xinyan'

Holding the sticky note, Zong Jinghao looked at the contents of the ten pieces of translated documents, which were all handwritten, and his anger toward her for entering his study without his permission eased a little.

Staring at the graceful handwriting, he suddenly became a little curious about this woman.

She actually knew such an unpopular language.

Zong Jinghao put down the sticky note and went to the company with the documents.

It was already noon by the time Lin Xinyan woke up, and Aunt Yu had prepared food for her. She was a little embarrassed for getting up so late.

Aunt Yu said with a smile, "It's usually very deserted here. Young master never sleeps in. After you move in, it seems to have become a little livelier here."

Lin Xinyan smiled. "Didn't Miss Bai come often before?"

Aunt Yu froze. Is she jealous?

Lin Xinyan really didn't mean anything else and was just asking. Yet, she regretted it after asking.

"Not very often. Young master was indifferent toward her before—" Aunt Yu was wondering too, why does his attitude toward her change after a business trip?

He didn't fall in love with her all these years, so why would he fall in love with her in a few days?

Aunt Yu was puzzled.

Lin Xinyan thought, it is said that women's minds cannot be understood. It looks like men's minds are the same as well.

Particularly men like Zong Jinghao.

The job fell through, and Lin Xinyan didn't want to remain idle like this, as she needed to have a stable job. Meanwhile, she would definitely not be able to get back her mother's stuff for the time being.

She didn't have much money left either. Although she didn't need to spend much living here, her mother needed money.

After having her meal, she went out.

It was really difficult for those without academic qualifications and work experience—like her—to get a job.

After being rejected everywhere, Lin Xinyan could only find some low-end jobs.

A high-end restaurant was hiring waitress.

This position didn't require her to have any academic background, and it would be fine as long as she was clever and quick to respond. She now had to make sure that she had money in her hands, so she went in to apply for the job.

Despite her failure to get an academic qualification, Lin Xinyan had gone to college, so her speech and demeanor were very logical, and she could react quickly.

The restaurant manager asked her to come to work tomorrow.

Now that Lin Xinyan finally had a job, she was in a better mood. After coming out from the restaurant, she wandered by the road alone.

As the setting sun went down, a hint of red, bright light was left on the horizon, illuminating the street, and making Lin Xinyan's shadow longer.

She was alone, which made her look a little lonely.

“Xinyan.”

After hearing it, Lin Xinyan turned her head to look at the source of the sound, whereas He Ruize ran over from across the road.

“I thought I was seeing things.” He said with a smile.

“Doctor He.” Lin Xinyan was also surprised for seeing him again. “Why are you still here in China?”

He looked at Lin Xinyan, and said hesitantly, “I came back to work here.”

Thinking of how the director poached him himself at the hospital the other day, Lin Xinyan understood it.

“The remuneration package that the hospital offered is very attractive, right?” Lin Xinyan said with some envy.

As she needed to take care of her mother, she didn’t get her graduation certificate, so it was really hard for her to get a job now.

He Ruize smiled gently and said, “Yes, it is.”

If it weren’t for the fact that she wasn’t going back, he wouldn’t opt to stay in China no matter how good the remuneration was.

There were too many people and things that he didn’t want to think about in China.

Looking up at the sky, Lin Xinyan saw that it was getting dark. It was almost two months since she came back, and now she was actually a little confused and lost.

It was not easy to take back the things that were once theirs.

Sensing her emotions, He Ruize reached out to put her messy hair behind her ear, and said, “Tell me if you faced any difficulties.”

He had helped her a lot in the past, so Lin Xinyan shook her head with a smile.

He had been with her for a long time, and always knew what she was thinking. She would rather suffer than owe others any favors.

“You’re too stubborn.”

So stubborn that it made others’ heart ache.

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. It wasn’t that she didn’t want to owe others any favors, she was just afraid that she couldn’t afford to repay them.

She had nothing.

“It’s getting dark. Don’t you want to go home, Doctor He?” Lin Xinyan asked.

Lin Xinyan always called him 'Doctor He' in the past.

"Yan." He Ruize looked at her. "Don't call me Doctor He from now on, all right?"

He looked at Lin Xinyan seriously. "Call me by my first name, or last name. We have known each other for such a long time, and yet you keep calling me Doctor He, which makes us feel like strangers. What do you think?"

Lin Xinyan thought for a moment. He was elder than she was and used to take care of her like a big brother. "So, I'll call you Ruize?"

"Yes." He Ruize took the opportunity to get close to her, and reached out to hug her, smiling. "Call me Ruize from now on."

"Hao, is that Miss Lin?"

Zong Jinghao, who was driving, didn't notice the people on the roadside. Hearing Bai Zhuwei's reminder, he looked over—



## CHAPTER 13.

Lin Xinyan's body stiffened, not expecting He Ruize to hug her so suddenly.

Coming back to her senses, she struggled to her feet.

From Zong Jinghao's point of view, there was a bit of coquetry, so he couldn't help frowning.

Bai Zhuwei pretended to say unintentionally, "Unexpectedly, she actually has a boyfriend."

Zong Jinghao was inexplicably annoyed.

Slamming on the accelerator, he sped to leave.

Bai Zhuwei pursed her lips and asked, "Are you mad?"

Zong Jinghao sneered. "Why would I be?"

She was pregnant, so she must have a man!

Knowing she had a man was different from actually seeing her with the man, as he just felt inexplicably upset!

Soon, he stopped the car at Bai Zhuwei's house. She didn't get off the car immediately, but looked at Zong Jinghao, saying, "Would you like to come to my place?"

Seemingly afraid that he would refuse, Bai Zhuwei hurriedly added, "Hao, I've prepared your favorite food—"

"Zhuwei." Zong Jinghao interrupted her. He didn't know what was wrong with him either, as he felt a little confused. Then, he reached out his hand to smooth her hair. "I won't go to your place today. You should rest early."

"But—" Bai Zhuwei didn't finish her sentence in the end, and obediently got out of the car. "Drive safe."

Zong Jinghao answered softly in acknowledgment and left.

He drove almost all the way at full speed, and Lin Xinyan had not returned when he reached home.

Unbuttoning his shirt, he asked, "When did she go out?"

"At noon." Aunt Yu took the coat from him. "Do you want to have dinner now?"

"Maybe later." He had no appetite now.

He only undid two buttons of his shirt. It wasn't tight, and yet he felt stuffy somehow.

This strange feeling made him very uncomfortable!

Pushing open the door of his study, the sticky note that Lin Xinyan left for him was still on the desk. He picked it up and sneered. "One moment, you put on a show in front of me, and the next you're hanging out with a man. Well done, Lin Xinyan!"

The sticky note crumpled into a ball in his hand.

Lin Xinyan took a taxi back. He Ruize wanted to send her back, but she didn't want him to know about her relationship with Zong Jinghao, so she refused.

There was only Aunt Yu at home, and Lin Xinyan thought that Zong Jinghao wasn't home yet, so she felt relaxed a lot.

Seeing her good mood, Aunt Yu asked, "What makes you so happy?"

There was none actually. Lin Xinyan smiled. "I just feel freer with him not here."

Aunt Yu was speechless.

"Are you saying that I'm a redundant?" His slender figure leaned lazily against the door of the study, looking casual yet sarcastic.

This voice—

Lin Xinyan turned around stiffly, and saw the man leaning against the door with a gloomy look.

W-Why is he at home?

Not seeing him when she was back, Lin Xinyan thought that he wasn't home, so she didn't think much when she spoke.

"I—" Lin Xinyan was about to explain when Zong Jinghao walked past her to the dining room and asked Aunt Yu to serve them dinner.

Sitting at the dining table, Lin Xinyan tried to explain several times, but failed to find the words to explain.

Zong Jinghao didn't look at her at all, and only when he finished his meal did he say, "Come in with me."

Putting down the chopsticks, Lin Xinyan followed him into the study.

Zong Jinghao sat at the desk and placed the documents that she translated on the desk before glancing at her drily. "Do you know the language of Country A?"

Lin Xinyan nodded her head.

This made Zong Jinghao feel curious. "Why did you learn this language? It's not widely-used internationally."

The mention of the place where she spent eight years of her life brought pain to her heart.

However, no one could understand the pain, and only she herself knew how embarrassing and unbearable that period of time was.

She didn't want to show it in front of others.

Forcing a seemingly relaxed smile, she replied, "I just learnt it because I like it."

Zong Jinghao knitted his brows. The emotion that she covered up seemingly well, and the sorrow that quickly disappeared from her eyes didn't escape his eyes.

What exactly is she hiding?

"Come here," he said in a deep voice.

Lin Xinyan was reluctant. She couldn't understand this man, but now she had to deal with him.

She went over with light footsteps.

Zong Jinghao placed a document in front of her. "Since you know the language, you will translate this document for me."

Looking down, Lin Xinyan noticed the words 'Wanyue Group' printed on the top right corner of the document.

She was occupied with translating the documents last night and didn't notice the mark on the upper right corner of the document.

She couldn't help but raise her head. "Have you not recruited a translator?"

Zong Jinghao raised his eyebrows slightly.

Taking the document, Lin Xinyan said in a low voice, "I had an interview at your company for the translator job. They were quite satisfied with me at first, but later, they said that I was unsuitable. I don't know why."

"Is that true?" Every word and expression on his face set people thinking, with unfathomable meaning hidden in it.

Lin Xinyan said yes. There was no need for her to lie.

"I can help you with the translation of this document, but—" It wasn't that Lin Xinyan was greedy and wanted to get some benefits from it, but now she had nothing, so she could only be presumptuous.

Looking at her calmly, Zong Jinghao gave her a warning shot before she could speak. "If you want to talk about the land at Repulse Bay, I won't agree to it. The Lins don't have the ability to take it."

Lin Xinyan really wanted to talk about this earlier, but it was definitely not for Lin Guoan. She wanted to ask him to give her, so that she would have a bargaining chip to make a deal with Lin Guoan.

It was obvious now that he refused.

It was obviously impossible to get the land in exchange for the translation of documents.

“Give me money then.” Since she couldn’t take back her mother’s dowry for the time being, she would first make some money for her mother, and then her baby in the future. She needed to make a lot of money for them.

Lin Xinyan flipped through the document, and there were more than twenty pages. “One hundred per page. I won’t overcharge you.”

Zong Jinghao was rendered speechless.

Is the Lins so short of money?

Why does this woman’s behavior become more and more mysterious?

Zong Jinghao said nothing, so Lin Xinyan thought he didn’t accept it. “It’s really not expensive. If you think it’s too expensive, how about I... lower the price a bit?”

“No. Just follow the price that you asked for.”

“Alright then.” Lin Xinyan picked up the document and got up from the desk. “I can’t finish this now. I’ll bring it back to my room and send it to you after I’m done translating.”

“Wait a minute.”

“Yeah?”

Lin Xinyan looked at him in confusion.

His gaze was heavy, looking like a warning. “There’s one thing I need you to understand.”

## CHAPTER 14.

“What is it?” Lin Xinyan was confused.

Zong Jinghao stood up from the chair and walked up to her against the light, taking steady and slow steps. Finally, he stood in front of Lin Xinyan and said condescendingly, “For as long as we’re still husband and wife, don’t simply make out with other men.”

Regardless of the reason to get married, she must not cuckold him during their marriage!

This was his limit, and his dignity as a man!

Lin Xinyan didn’t react for a long time. With whom did I make out?

She instinctively retorted, “Aren’t you spending the night here with another woman? Do you want me to ask you to do the same too as a wife?”

Zong Jinghao’s frown deepened. “I didn’t sleep with her.”

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment. Bai Zhuwei had clearly spent the night here last night.

Who would believe that he didn’t sleep with her?

Hold on. Sleep with her or not, what does it have to do with me?

The expression on Zong Jinghao’s face changed. What am I doing?

Lin Xinyan didn’t want to get in a fight with him, so she softened her tone. “I’ll try my best to do what you ask me to do. So I...”

She waved the document in her hand, and her meaning was clear.

Zong Jinghao replied drily in acknowledgment, with a bit of anger in his tone. He wasn’t angry at Lin Xinyan, but at himself!

Why should I explain myself to her?!

I must be insane!

Such unusual behavior made him very uncomfortable and even feels disgusted!

Lin Xinyan got hired for the job at the restaurant, so she wanted to finish this document that needed to be translated as soon as possible.

By 12 o’clock in the morning, she had only finished half of it, and was already very sleepy.

In order to refresh herself, she brought the document to the living room. The whole villa was quiet at this hour, and Zong Jinghao and Aunt Yu should be sleeping soundly now.

Putting the document on the coffee table, she went to the kitchen to pour herself a glass of warm water. Then, she put down the glass, and returned to the living room to sit on the carpet before continuing with the translation on the coffee table.

Zong Jinghao was thirsty, so he went downstairs to get water in the middle of the night. When he saw that Lin Xinyan was still translating documents, he frowned slightly, but didn't say anything. Lin Xinyan saw him, but also didn't take the initiative to greet him.

Zong Jinghao was used to having no outsiders at home. So when he saw the glass of water on the table, he picked it up and drank it.

“Umm—”

Lin Xinyan wanted to remind him that she had used the glass earlier, but Zong Jinghao had already used it, so she didn't know how to finish the rest of her sentence.

After taking a look at her, Zong Jinghao seemed to have understood her mid-sentence pause. His gaze was fixated on her face for a few seconds, and then he lowered his head. Under the bright light, he found that there was a partly-overlapping faint lip print on the rim of the glass.

Half of it was the place where he had just drunk the water.

It was obvious that the place where he had just drunk from was used by someone. Combined with Lin Xinyan's reaction just now, he was sure that it was her.

With her head down, Lin Xinyan pretended that she didn't see anything, and that nothing happened.

However, she felt her face inexplicably warm.

They were very unfamiliar with each other, so sharing a glass was overly intimate.

Although he didn't mean it, Lin Xinyan still felt embarrassed.

Moving his lips, Zong Jinghao licked his lower lip with the tip of his tongue. He didn't know what he was thinking either, so he simply poured the remaining water in his mouth.

Putting down the empty glass, he walked over and looked up at the clock. It was already one o'clock. “Aren't you going to sleep yet?”

Lin Xinyan drooped her head and didn't even dare to look up. “I'm not sleepy yet.”

Zong Jinghao looked at her in silence for two seconds before turning around to go upstairs.

When he walked to the staircase, he suddenly remembered that she said that she had a job interview at his company but was not accepted. Finding it strange, he went back to his room, picked up his phone, and called Guan Jing.

Guan Jing was in a bad mood after being woken up by the phone call while he was deep asleep. He angrily grabbed the phone on the bedside table and was ready to swear at the

caller. But when he saw the name on the screen, he immediately became timid as he rubbed his eyes and answered the call. "Mr. Zong."

"Go and find out why the HR Department refused to hire a translator."

"Huh?" Before Guan Jing could understand what was going on, the caller had already hung up the phone.

He looked at his phone. Did he just call me for such a minor thing in the middle of the night?

Guan Jing twisted his face.

He had really disturbed my sleep.

He was just complaining and didn't dare to neglect it.

The next day, Aunt Yu woke up to find Lin Xinyan sleeping on the table. She couldn't understand the pile of papers in front of her, but she knew that it might be work. She sighed secretly. "You don't have to work so hard that you don't even sleep."

Although she didn't understand, she still went into her room to get a blanket and put it over her.

At the same time, Zong Jinghao was coming down from upstairs, and saw Aunt Yu putting a blanket over Lin Xinyan. The thin lines at the corners of his eyes deepened, with a hint of magnanimity from the years he had been through.

Walking over, he bent down to pick up the documents she translated. There were 22 pieces of documents that she finished translating by hand.

After all this was done, it would have been almost dawn. Did this woman not sleep all night?

Zong Jinghao couldn't help but take another look at her.

Not knowing what to say, Aunt Yu sighed, and turned to prepare breakfast at kitchen.

When Lin Xinyan woke up, Zong Jinghao was already having his breakfast. Rubbing her eyes and supporting herself on the table to get up, she found that both of her legs went numb.

She rested for a long time before she could walk.

She went to the bathroom to wash up and take a shower, so that she could be energetic.

After Lin Xinyan put on her clothes and came out, she placed the translated documents in front of Zong Jinghao. "It's done."

She sat back on her seat to take her breakfast. After thinking for a moment, she said, "If it's convenient for you, give me the money now."

Lin Xinyan was afraid that he would forget.

Zong Jinghao put down the coffee cup and looked at her for two seconds. "I don't carry cash with me. You can find me at the company later."

After speaking, he got up from his seat.

Taking a sip of the milk, Lin Xinyan didn't mind, as long as he acknowledged it.

Lin Xinyan tried her best to finish translating the documents, because she didn't want to affect her job today.

Not long after Zong Jinghao went out, Lin Xinyan went out as well.

There was a uniform at the restaurant. Therefore, Lin Xinyan put on a white shirt, a black vest, bow tie at the collar, and a fitted skirt, revealing a pair of her straight and slender legs.

Sitting by a window, Bai Zhuwei was in a particularly good mood, as Zong Jinghao took the initiative to ask her out to eat together.

Although Zong Jinghao had made their relationship official, and also promised that he would marry her, he had never taken the initiative to ask her out, and she had always been the one that took the initiative.

"Hao—"

"I heard that it was you who rejected Lin Xinyan's job application for translator, is that true?" Guan Jing told him when he came to the company early in the morning.

It was Bai Zhuwei who was behind the rejection of Lin Xinyan's job application.

Bai Zhuwei clenched her fists. How did he find out about this?

Zong Jinghao leaned back on the chair. With the warm sun outside the window shining down on his body, he lazily supported his jaw with his hand, his gaze deep and inquiring.

At this moment, he found himself no longer understood this kind-hearted woman who had saved him when he was a kid and had made him an antidote.



## CHAPTER 15.

Suppressing the panic in her heart, Bai Zhuwei lowered her gaze slightly, her eyes slightly watery. “She has been with you all day long. If she joins the company as a translator, she’ll be even closer to you. I’m afraid that you will have feelings for each other as time passes.”

Now that she couldn’t hide it from him, she didn’t want to hide it anymore. Instead, she told him frankly to dispel his suspicion. She was just afraid that she would lose him.

With her big, watery eyes, she added, “You’ve known me for a long time, and you know how I feel about you—”

Bai Zhuwei continued to hold back her tears. “I was so afraid that I would lose you. That’s why I acted on my own when I saw her application for the job.

Zong Jinghao frowned hard. “I told you, we’ll get divorced after a month.”

Bai Zhuwei knew it. If she didn’t know that Lin Xinyan was the girl on that night, she would be willing to wait. She had been waiting for so many years, so another month was nothing. But now, she could not wait anymore.

I couldn’t let her get too close to Zong Jinghao!

No way!

“Lin Xinyan, bring this over to table no. 2.”

Lin Xinyan replied in acknowledgment. Somehow, due to her lack of sleep last night and frequent standing at work today, she felt a slight pain in her lower abdomen.

She walked toward table number two with the tray of food. Before she got to the seat, she saw Bai Zhuwei, with Zong Jinghao sitting across from her.

She hesitated for a very short time. This was her job, so she couldn’t avoid it.

Keeping a standard smile on her face, she said, “Here’s your food.”

Bending over, Lin Xinyan took out the food from the tray.

When she placed the plate in front of Zong Jinghao, her wrist was suddenly grabbed. “What are you doing?”

His voice sounded slightly cold, with a questioning tone.

His gaze lingered on her body. She wore a white shirt with a black vest, and a short fitted skirt that only covered her hips, revealing a pair of fair, straight legs.

His gaze lingered on her legs for a few seconds, as his face grew overcast.

What kind of attire is she wearing? To whom is she showing her skin to?

She's a married woman, what is she doing here?

Lin Xinyan kept a smile on her face. "I'm working."

Zong Jinghao frowned, with slight anger on his face. Besides translating the documents and asking for money from him, she was now even doing such a job. Did the Lins really fall to such a state?

"Could you please let go of me?" Lin Xinyan didn't see it as a big deal, as she made money with her own hands.

Bai Zhuwei reached out to grab Zong Jinghao's hand. "Hao, people are watching. Let's go out and talk."

No one knew about the marriage between Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan. Bai Zhuwei didn't want Zong Jinghao to make this matter clear.

Staring at Lin Xinyan, Zong Jinghao was only able to suppress his inexplicable anger after a long time and let go of her. "I don't want you to work here."

Lin Xinyan only felt the pain in her lower abdomen grew in intensity, while beads of sweat had formed on her forehead. She wanted to explain, but she felt weak, so she left with the food tray without saying anything.

She put down the plate and went into the toilet. This feeling scared her. Fortunately, she didn't bleed.

Coming out from the cubicle, she washed her hands by the sink. She then lowered her head and touched her belly. "Be good, my baby."

Mommy needs to make money. Only when I have money could I take good care of my mother and the baby in my tummy.

Bai Zhuwei came in and happened to hear what she said. She fixed her eyes on her belly while her face turned pale.

Seeing her pale face, Lin Xinyan explained, "This isn't Zong Jinghao's. You don't have to look so pale."

Then, Lin Xinyan pulled herself together, walked past her, and went out of the toilet.

"Your pregnancy, has it been two months?" Bai Zhuwei turned around.

Lin Xinyan stopped and turned around. "How do you know that?"

"I-I'm just making a guess." Bai Zhuwei struggled to hold on.

S-She's actually pregnant with Zong Jinghao's baby?!

As expected, this woman must not stay here!

At this moment, Bai Zhuwei wanted to get rid of this woman badly, and make her completely disappear from Zong Jinghao's world!

After Lin Xinyan walked out of the toilet, she was grabbed by Zong Jinghao in the wrist, and pulled out of the restaurant.

She was already feeling unwell, and after being dragged away by Zong Jinghao, she only felt that the eased pain became serious again.

"Let go of me!" She wanted to shout at him, but she didn't have enough strength, so there was a lack of vigor in her tone.

Zong Jinghao only released her after dragging her all the way to the roadside. He said sternly, "You can just tell me if you need money. You don't need to pretend to be pitiful in front of me!"

He didn't believe that the Lins had fallen to such a state. Lin Guoan even took his wife and daughter to shop at a luxury store two days ago. Yet now, she actually came to work as a waitress at a restaurant?

Lin Xinyan leaned against the advertising sign on the roadside; otherwise, she would not be able to stand it. She tried hard to calm herself down. "Although you and I are husband and wife, we both know that we're just making a deal. A deal that allows us to get what we want. You don't have to be so angry about what I do, Mr. Zong."

"Since you're my wife, doing this kind of job is a disgrace to me!" Zong Jinghao was puzzled by this woman. Her behaviors were always inscrutable.

Pursing her lips, Lin Xinyan quietly endured the pain.

Just as she couldn't hold on any longer, He Ruize ran over to her. "Yan, I came here to look for you. I didn't expect that I would really—Are you feeling unwell?"

As a psychiatrist, he was very observant of the human body language. Although Lin Xinyan tried her best to endure the pain, he noticed her discomfort.

After he parted ways with her that day, he went to Zhuang Zijin at her house. He learned everything about Lin Xinyan from Zhuang Zijin, including how she got pregnant.

He couldn't name the feelings in his heart, but he didn't feel good.

Why didn't she go to me after encountering such difficulties?!

He wanted to look for her, but he didn't know where she lived, so he came to the place where they met yesterday to try his luck. He didn't expect that he would really find her.

Lin Xinyan couldn't bother to care about anything now, as the pain in her lower abdomen made her panic. So she grabbed He Ruize in the arm. "Please send me to the hospital."

He Ruize looked at her lower abdomen. When he bent over to hold her, he felt a sudden grip on his shoulder.

He turned around.

Zong Jinghao's face clouded over, while he said, "She's my wife."

His tone was neutral, yet fearsome!

As if he was warning He Ruize that she was his wife and others couldn't touch her!

He Ruize smiled mockingly. "You're husband and wife?"

Before Zong Jinghao could react, he added, "You're just making a deal. You won't marry a woman that is pregnant."

Zong Jinghao narrowed his eyes, while a dangerous aura coming out from him. "The child is yours?"

## CHAPTER 16.

That day, Lin Xinyan had been hugging him.

If it was not his, who's would it be?

He Ruize's heart ached. If she had found him on the day of the accident, she would not have been in such a mess.

In Zong Jinghao's eyes, He Ruize's action was a silent acknowledgement. Zong Jinghao scoffed, "She's just eighteen—"

"What do you know?" He Ruize chastised. His eyes were red. He knew what Zong Jinghao was about to say; it was nothing else but that Lin Xinyan behaved inappropriately.

That she was improper, that she had gotten herself pregnant at the age of eighteen.

Yet did he know what she had gone through?

He Ruize took a good look at Zong Jinghao. On him was an expensive suit, and its price was likely an average person's annual salary.

"You were born with a golden spoon; would you have ever known the difficulties in life? Do you know how difficult it is sometimes to have a simple meal? Do you know what it feels like to be helpless and choiceless? You don't! You don't know how she had survived until today!"

Lin Xinyan held onto He Ruize and shook her head. She needed no sympathy nor pity from others. She just wanted to try her best in life and take care of her mother and the baby in her. That was enough for her.

"Please send me to the hospital." She could barely stand.

"Alright." He Ruize bent down and carried her.

Lin Xinyan looked at Zong Jinghao, who seemed a little shocked at He Ruize's words. "Sorry, but I can't give up on the job. Don't worry, I won't let anyone else know my relationship with you. I won't let you be embarrassed."

Zong Jinghao frowned, and his eyes flickered. His gaze passed over her face. This woman—

No one else but He Ruize knew how Lin Xinyan was right now. He could feel her trembling in his arms. He carried her into the car, and consoled, "Don't worry, there isn't any blood, you'll be fine."

He Ruize hurriedly entered the car and drove her to a hospital.

Zong Jinghao stared at the car disappearing in the horizon, his mind still replaying He Ruize's words. What secrets did Lin Xinyan held?

She did have many strange actions.

To clear his head on the matter, he called Guan Jing.

“Do a check on Lin Xinyan.”

“What do I check on?”

“Everything.”

And Zong Jinghao ended the call.

“Hao.” Bai Zhuwei ran out from the restaurant and held onto his arm. “Are you still angry with me for not letting Lin Xinyan into the company? I know I’m in the wrong. I just love you too much—”

“No, let’s go home.” There were no emotions on his face nor in his voice.

He hid his feelings deep inside him until no one could see through him.

Bai Zhuwei just felt anxious.

Who had he been calling just now?

At the hospital.

Lin Xinyan was pushed into the operating room.

He Ruize waited on the outside. Waiting was always a long process, and once in a while, he would peek into the operating room.

Around an hour later, the door of the operating room opened, and Lin Xinyan was pushed out. He Ruize rushed forward, and asked, “How is she?”

The doctor pulled down his mask, and replied, “She had signs of miscarriage because she was exhausted. She’s alright now, but she has to rest, or else she might not be this lucky the next time.”

“I understand.” He Ruize pushed her into the hospital room.

Lin Xinyan looked at He Ruize, and said sincerely, “Thank you for always helping me.”

He was always there for her when she needed help.

“As long as you’re fine.” He Ruize had his usual gentle smile on his face.

“You paid for my hospital bills, right? I’ll pay you back later.” Her movements in speaking pulled on her dry lips.

“Let’s talk about this later. You needed rest.” He Ruize did not like that she was still so distant from him.

As they entered the room, Lin Xinyan looked at him and said, “Tell my mom to come over.”

She did not want to bother He Ruize beyond this.

He Ruize thought she missed Zhuang Zijin. After all, anyone would want their family to be with them in their moment of weakness.

He took the phone and called Zhuang Zijin. He told her that Lin Xinyan was in hospital and asked her to come over.

Zhuang Zijin panicked, and asked, "What's wrong with Yanyan?"

"She's fine, she just needed some rest. She missed you."

It was now then Zhuang Zijin dared to take release her breath.

She came to the hospital as quick as she could.

When Zhuang Zijin arrived, Lin Xinyan told He Ruize that he could now leave.

"Sorry to have bothered you." Zhuang Zijin apologized.

"It's fine. I'll go back now. I'll come and visit you tomorrow." He Ruize looked at her, and said, "Rest well."

"Okay."

Zhuang Zijin sat on the side of the bed once He Ruize left. She covered the blanket on her daughter, and asked, "Is there anything you want to eat?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head. Her face was pale.

Zhuang Zijin felt upset.

"You could've had a good future, but for me, you lost your chance to study. And now—"

When Zhuang Zijin thought about the baby in her daughter's stomach, she felt her heart ache. "You said that this was from Country A. What if it's a baby with golden hair and blue eyes?"

Zhuang Zijin was worried that it was the local from that night.

"Regardless, it's my child, and your grandchild." Lin Xinyan did not want to think about that night. After all, it was nothing but a bad memory for her.

"Country A?" Zong Jinghao had come to the hospital to visit Lin Xinyan. He was about to knock on the door when he realized that Zhuang Zijin was also inside. He stopped, not wanting to disturb the mother and daughter.

"Yes, regardless if the baby was fair-skinned or yellow-skinned, they're my grandchild." Zhuang Zijin moved on. As long as her daughter was happy, she would agree with her and take care of her.

Perhaps it was fate to meet with this child.

After all, it was just once.

Zhuang Zijin smoothed her forehead, and said, "My good daughter, you have suffered with me."

"She didn't abort the baby?" To Zong Jinghao, she was becoming more and more of a mystery.

On that day, she had undoubtedly entered the operating room.

They were still talking and he did not want to disrupt them. He turned around and left.

When he reached the entrance of the hospital, the phone in his pocket rang. He took it out, and on the screen was Guan Jing's name.

He picked up the call.

"I have gathered information on her."



## CHAPTER 17.

Zong Jinghao nodded, his strong jawline tensed, and he softly said, "Tell me."

"Eight years ago, Lin Guoan and Zhuang Zijin divorced. He sent the mother and daughter to Country A. They never returned until recently, when Lin Guoan brought them back."

Zong Jinghao frowned. So was that why she knew how to speak Country A's language? It was because she once lived there?

"That's all?" Evidently, these would not satisfy him.

Guan Jing hesitated, and continued, "After Zhuang Zijin was sent to Country A, she gave birth to a boy who was autistic. They lived a difficult life there. Before they came back here, the boy died from a car accident."

Zong Jinghao frowned, and the look on his face became more serious. So the last time he saw the sadness in her eyes, it was because of her brother?"

The baby in her... "Nothing else? No other men in her life?"

"No. Just a psychiatrist who was close to her." Guan Jing looked at the information the investigators sent him. "No one else. She never had a relationship in school, and no boys or men were close to her."

This meant that it was likely that the baby in her was the psychiatrist's.

The reason she was brought back by Lin Guoan was because of their engagement.

And as to why she loved money was because she had a difficult life in Country A. That's why she worked as a translator for him, and also worked in a restaurant.

Now that he thought about this, Lin Xinyan's actions were no longer a mystery to him.

And he now understood what He Ruize's words meant.

He felt conflicted. He turned around and looked at the hospital for another time, before walking down the stairs, and leaving the hospital in his car.

In the hospital.

Lin Xinyan had not had lunch, and now she was hungry.

"Mom, I want to eat Eight-Treasure Rice." Lin Xinyan had the sudden urge for sweet food.

Zhuang Zijin had been through pregnancy. She knew that pregnant women had cravings and were picky with their food.

The old saying was that sour cravings were for baby boys and spicy cravings were for baby girls. Will she be having a granddaughter or a grandson?

"I'll make it at home." Zhuang Zijin stood up, but she was worried that no one would take care of her daughter in hospital.

Lin Xinyan seemed to know what her mother was thinking about. She said while smiling, "I'm fine. The doctor just said to rest."

If it was not worrying about her baby, she would not even be in the hospital.

Zhuang Zijin nodded and reminded her to rest well before leaving the room.

As Zhuang Zijin walked into the district, she was suddenly stopped by a few women.

They were all from this district.

Although they had not been staying here for long, they had no qualms with the neighbors. Zhuang Zijin frowned and asked, "What are you doing here?"

"Your daughter is pregnant before marrying? She has a bastard in her, is that right?" The one who spoke first was a fat, middle-aged woman.

She lived beside Zhuang Zijin's house.

"The both of you always looked like decent people. I can't believe your daughter is this type of person. Didn't you say the last time that your daughter was just eighteen?" The fat woman aggressively said as she placed her hands on her waist.

The colors on Zhuang Zijin's face flickered between red and white. Her voice trembled as she said, "Where— Where did you hear this nonsense from?"

"Did we make a mistake? Is your daughter not pregnant?"

Zhuang Zijin's hand trembled. Her daughter was indeed pregnant.

"A disgrace!"

"That's right! Seducing men at such a young age. I thought she looked like a naïve girl but turns out she's a whore!"

"Hear, hear! Her naïve looks are to show the world. Secretly she has been doing filthy things—"

"Shut up! You have no rights to say this!" Zhuang Zijin was furious, her usually gentle face was twisted into a mask of anger.

"If you did it, you shouldn't be afraid of gossips!"

Zhuang Zijin held onto her chest, and sternly said, "My daughter isn't the type of person you say she is!"

She felt like her heart was about to be torn apart by others. Her daughter was not that kind of person.

Why did they wanted to hurt her like this?

“No? Then why does she have a bastard in her at eighteen?”

Zhuang Zijin could not find words to rebuke that. It was a fact that Lin Xinyan was pregnant.

She knew that getting pregnant before marriage would invite judgment, but she had not expected this onslaught of fault-finding.

“Move aside!” Zhuang Zijin pushed them aside and hurriedly walked into the district.

Although her heart was filled with frustration, but when she thought about her daughter in the hospital, she pushed it aside to focus on making the dessert for her daughter.

She thought she had her emotions well when she went back to the hospital with the food. Yet her daughter had seen through her façade.

“Mom, you—”

“I’m alright.” Zhuang Zijin did not want her daughter to know the words that she had heard today.

Lin Xinyan stared at Zhuang Zijin, who was looking away. She could not make lies; when she lied, she could not look into other people’s eyes.

So, obviously, she lied.

Lin Xinyan said nothing about it and took the Eight-Treasure Rice.

It was so sweet, yet she could not taste the sweetness, only the bitterness.

With lowered eyelids, she said, “Mom, I’ll be discharged tomorrow. I’ll come home and accompany you for a few days.”

She had thought that the reason for the paleness on Zhuang Zijin’s face was because her mother missed her son.

That had been her mother’s trauma.

Zhuang Zijin was shocked and rejected her in an instant. “No.”

How bad would she feel if she were to hear those words?

“Mom—” Lin Xinyan frowned.

“Listen to me.” “It doesn’t matter if it’s a deal or something else. Now that you’re married to the Zongs, you should be staying there.” Zhuang Zijin pretended to be stern.

Zhuang Zijin’s actions were too unusual for her, Lin Xinyan could not help but overthink.

She remained silent. The food in her mouth was tasteless; she only ate for the baby in her.

She was restless throughout the night.

Only when the sun was about rise then did she fall asleep. Though, it was only for a while before she woke up.

In the morning, He Ruize came, and Zhuang Zijin went home to cook for Lin Xinyan.

When Zhuang Zijin left the room, Lin Xinyan came down from the bed. He Ruize moved over to support her.

She raised her head and looked at He Ruize. "I think my mom is hiding something from me."

"What is it?" He Ruize asked.

"I don't know, so I want to find out." She hesitated a while before she asked, "I was hoping that you can do me a favor."

"Tell me."

"I want to follow her."

And find out why her mother did not want her to go home.

Earlier, Zhuang Zijin had said that she hoped her daughter would come home, so she could take better care of her.

Yet she reacted so heatedly yesterday.

It was obvious that something was going on.

The only family she now had was her mother. She was not going to let her mother take on burdens by herself.

He Ruize made sure that she could walk before agreeing to help her.

The road there was smooth. Zhuang Zijin alighted the car when she reached the area and entered the building.

Lin Xinyan followed closely.

Coming down the stairs, Lin Xinyan saw the state of their house. The door and walls were written with criticizing words like "disgrace" and "non-marital pregnancy" and was covered in paint.

Zhuang Zijin stood in front of the door, trembling in fury. She swayed and collapsed.

"Mom—"

He Ruize ran over and caught the collapsing Zhuang Zijin. "Let's send her to the hospital first."

Evidently she was provoked by the words on the wall.

Lin Xinyan choked back a sob and nodded.

Ever since the accident where her brother died and her mother was injured, she had been physically weak.

She would have been furious to have seen these.

To collapse so suddenly... Lin Xinyan was worried.

Zhuang Zijin was sent to the emergency room.

Lin Xinyan stood in front of the door, still, as if her soul had left her body. He Ruize hugged her shoulders and consoled, "Don't be too worried."

When Zong Jinghao reached home and realized that Lin Xinyan was still in the hospital, he started his car and went there.

Perhaps it was because he knew Lin Xinyan had an unfortunate life, or perhaps it was because she was his wife, he now felt a little compassion for her.

He did not see her in the room. On the way out, he saw Lin Xinyan hugging He Ruize at the corridor.

A ball of fire started growing in his heart.

## CHAPTER 18.

A ball of fire started growing in his heart. It came so sudden, and he did not even know why.

“You’re being lovey-dovey here?” His tone was ice cold.

This voice—

Although she had not been with him for long, Lin Xinyan instantly knew who this voice belonged to. She stiffened and turned her head. Of course.

He was not standing far, and his expression was grim. “You’ve forgotten what I’ve said the last time?”

Lin Xinyan subconsciously struggled out from He Ruize’s hold. She was worried about Zhuang Zijin just now, so she had not realized that she was touching He Ruize.

“I-- Just as Lin Xinyan was about to explain, He Ruize grabbed onto her wrist. He looked at Zong Jinghao. “Your marriage was just a one-month’s deal. What reasons do you have to interfere with her private matters?”

He Ruize felt heartbroken and pity for Lin Xinyan after knowing about her story. Now he wanted to cherish and protect her.

Zong Jinghao stared at He Ruize’s hand on Lin Xinyan’s wrist. A mocking scoff came out from his throat. “You let a woman with your baby marry someone else, and now you’re wanting her back?”

The sneer by his lips dropped, and his gaze was as sharp as a sword as he pressured onto He Ruize. “Can you even be called a man?”

Lin Xinyan’s heartbeat skipped. She felt ashamed and at a loss.

He thought the baby in her was He Ruize’s. All she had for He Ruize was gratitude and respect; she would never make him stand near her filth.

She struggled out of He Ruize’s grasp and looked at Zong Jinghao. “If you want to critique me, please just focus on me, don’t drag in anyone else.”

Zong Jinghao had not expected Lin Xinyan’s protectiveness.

How loving!

Yet in his eyes, this was ridiculous and rage-inducing.

She was now his wife, but she was showing off her relationship with another man in front of him!

The inexplicable fire burned in his chest.

He Ruize was right; their marriage was just a deal. He had no rights to critique her. He just did not want to see them together.

“The land at Repulse Bay. If you still want it, come and look for me.” He turned and left after saying it.

Lin Xinyan was surprised and in a trance for a few seconds. She could not believe that he was giving her another chance after she had given up on it.

For her, this was tempting.

If she had the rights to the land, she would have the power to be on equal terms with Lin Guoan.

And not just go with his flow.

“Yanyan.” He Ruize was worried. It seemed like she had taken Zong Jinghao’s words seriously.

“I’m fine.” Lin Xinyan shook her head.

After twenty minutes, Zhuang Zijin was pushed out of the operating room. She had collapsed from the intense emotions.

She was left with a daughter now. Zhuang Zijin had been uncomfortable when she heard the others smearing her daughter’s name. Combined with seeing the words on the wall, she could not take it and had collapsed.

“The patient won’t be able to withstand intense emotions. Try and let her stay calm.” The doctor informed after sending her to the hospital room.

“Thank you, doctor.” Lin Xinyan nodded.

Lin Xinyan knew that her younger brother’s death took a toll on her. If she had not been there, she had no doubt that her mother would have followed after her brother.

She had thought that bringing her mother away from the sad place would make her happier.

And yet now, her mother was still suffering from her matters.

But who was it? There were not many who knew about her pregnancy.

Why did they do it?

What were they hoping to achieve?

He Ruize knew what she was thinking about. He walked over and said, “That place is no longer suitable for living. I’ll help you to look for a new place.”

Lin Xinyan nodded. That place was indeed no longer suitable, she would not continue staying there and risking her mother’s health.

"I want to find out who did this." Lin Xinyan believed that this was not a coincidence. Someone must have had arranged it.

"Leave it to me." He Ruize smiled.

"I'm Ruize, I'm your family too."

Lin Xinyan looked at He Ruize. Her nose turned red. He was too nice to her, and she did not know how to repay him.

She lowered her head and said nothing. In her heart, she made a promise to repay him when she becomes capable.

And now she needed someone to investigate on this matter.

Or else she would be restless. Who knew if they would follow them to the new house and continued to disturb Zhuang Zijin?

When she thought about Zong Jinghao's words, she felt distressed.

He Ruize thought she was tired, and said, "You should go back to rest. I'll be here."

"I— I'm already working at this hospital; I have an office and a resting room. I can take care of your mother."

Lin Xinyan looked at Zhuang Zijin, who was still unconscious. After a moment of hesitation, she said, "Call me if anything happens."

Lin Xinyan left her phone number with He Ruize before she left the hospital.

There was only Aunt Yu back at the villa. She frowned and asked, "Is he not home?"

Aunt Yu looked into the study. "He's inside."

Lin Xinyan changed her footwear before entering, then walked straight towards the study. She hesitated before knocking the door.

Even after a few knocks, no one answered. She frowned, and quietly pushed open the door

In the room was Zong Jinghao, who was leaning on the backrest of the chair. His eyes were shut, but she did not know if he was faking a sleep or he was really asleep.

Lin Xinyan slowly walked over to the front of the desk, and quietly asked, "Mr. Zong?"

Zong Jinghao gradually lifted his eyelids and stared at the woman in front of him. This was the first time anyone had called him by Mr. Zong. He had always gotten "Chairman Zong" and "Young Master Zong".

Lin Xinyan clasped her clammy hands, and asked, "You said, you would give me the land at Repulse Bay?"



With half-lidded eyes, he gave her a calculating smile. "I'm a businessman, I don't do anything for free."

Lin Xinyan's heart dropped.

That's right. She should have known that.

How could this man help her without expecting any gains in return?

She had nothing on her that she could use to exchange for this land.

"I'm sure this land is important for you." Zong Jinghao could sense her backing down.

Lin Guoan had sent her mother and herself to that country. It was not an easy life there, and her younger brother was now dead. To Lin Guoan, she must have felt hatred.

He once thought Lin Xinyan had wanted the land for Lin Guoan. It seemed like he had thought this wrong.

"There is nothing of mine that I can exchange with you." Indeed, Lin Xinyan wanted the land.

Zong Jinghao looked at her, his gaze had a hint of matured masculinity.

"You do."

"What?"

"You."

It took Lin Xinyan a while before she responded. "Me?"

Zong Jinghao stood up and walked towards Lin Xinyan. He was too close, and Lin Xinyan instinctively backed up. Zong Jinghao grabbed her shoulder and asked, "What are you backing up for? I don't bite."

Lin Xinyan did not know why she was afraid of him. She just felt that he was not as calm as he was showing outwardly.

The corner of lips turned upwards into an odd smile. "Did you do something wrong? That's why you're feeling guilty now."

What did she do wrong?

Lin Xinyan raised her head, and said, "What do I have to feel guilty for?"

She had raised her chin high, and he could feel her hot breath at the tip of his nose. This feeling was familiar.

His expression froze for a second, before he grabbed her face. His tone was dangerous as he said, "You're a married woman. You're being too close with other men. You're not being faithful to me."

## CHAPTER 19.

Lin Xinyan thought that he was being ridiculous.

Was he not with Bai Zhuwei too?

Regardless, her relationship with He Ruize was not the same as what he was thinking. Why did he think that he could interfere with her life?

“I’ve never interfered with your life, so please don’t interfere with mine—”

Before she could finish her sentence, her lips were blocked.

The words pooled at her tongue, but it could not leave her mouth.

“Mmm—”

Lin Xinyan finally realized what was happening and pushed him away.

His wits came back to him, and Zong Jinghao took a step back.

And stared at the woman in front of him in disbelief.

What did he just do?

Bai Zhuwei had always been initiative, but he had never felt the urge to be intimate with her.

Yet when he was looking at this woman’s pink lips opening and closing, his mind went blank, and he lost control and did an unexpected thing!

After that night, Lin Xinyan had never been so intimate with any men. She felt ashamed and in shock.

“How— How could you?” Lin Xinyan felt invaded.

She was not someone who gave herself up to anyone.

What rights did he have to do this?

Zong Jinghao faced her with his back, and said, “You’re my wife.”

So anything he did was not crossing the line!

Lin Xinyan widened her eyes. This was twisted logic!

“We’re not husband and wife. This is just a deal!” Lin Xinyan’s voice trembled.

She feared intimacy with men.

It was a nightmare for her that night.

She rejected all intimacy between men and women.

Lin Xinyan was so furious that she did not realize that Zong Jinghao was acting unusual. His calm composure was just a display for her.

If Lin Xinyan had been calm, she would have seen that Zong Jinghao's ears had reddened.

"Even if it's a deal, you have never said that during this time, we couldn't do things that husband and wife do." He slowly turned around and looked at Lin Xinyan, who looked like she was about to break down.

He frowned.

Was his kiss so poisonous that she had to break down?

Or was it because she was saving it for that man?

He slowly walked towards her. "A man who can't protect the woman he loves, what kind of man is he? What do you see in him that's worth saving it for him?"

Lin Xinyan did not know what he was talking about. What did he mean by this?

Was he talking about He Ruize?

Just as Lin Xinyan was about to ask more, Zong Jinghao had returned to his state of calmness. He walked and sat on the front of the desk. He was lazily leaning backwards, one of his hands casually placed on the desk. His face was emotionless, as if nothing had happened.

"I can give you the land at Repulse Bay but," he paused, "not for free."

Lin Xinyan clenched her hands tightly and trembled. A million thoughts flew past her mind, but she managed to suppress her feelings from Zong Jinghao's frivolous behavior.

"What do you want?" She asked calmly.

Zong Jinghao dazedly said with half-lidded eyes, "I haven't thought about it. I'll ask for it when I know what I want."

This was, perhaps, the most impulsive thing he had ever done in his life.

Unexpected!

Uncontrollable!

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. It was not easy to get back her things from Lin Guoan, so it was ideal if she could get something that could put her on equal terms with Lin Guoan.

"I won't ask you to murder or do immoral acts." Zong Jinghao said temptingly, seemingly knowing what her worries were.

"Alright." Lin Xinyan replied after a moment of hesitation.

She had nothing to lose, what would she be afraid of?

The faster she could take back her things, the earlier she could bring her mother to leave this place and settle into a quiet life.

“I’ll repeat this. You’re still my wife, you can’t have any other men!” His chest burned with an indescribable fire when he thought about her hugging He Ruize.

“About that—”

“You can leave now!” She had not finished her sentence before she was cut off by Zong Jinghao’s voice.

He did not want to hear Lin Xinyan talking about her stories with that man.

It only made him frustrated!

Lin Xinyan’s lips twitched, but she said nothing and left.

The moment the door closed, the calm composure of Zong Jinghao disappeared.

He rubbed his forehead. He had been too impulsive just now.

His lips unconsciously turned upwards into a faint smile when he thought about that brief kiss. It left a deep impression in him. His fingers brushed past his lips, and he thought he could still taste her on his lips.

He did not realize he was smiling.

It was absurd yet memorable.

Her lips were really soft.

It was like Bai Zhuwei’s.

Yet after that night, he could no longer find that fascinating scent on Bai Zhuwei.

Was it because of his body on that night?

This felt strange.

After leaving the study, Lin Xinyan did not stay at home. Her mother was still in the hospital and she had to take care of her. Just as she left the house, she met Bai Zhuwei, who had come to the villa.

Every time she saw her, Bai Zhuwei was dressed prettily, and she looked dignified with her delicate makeup and well-fitted clothes.

“You’re going out?” Bai Zhuwei asked with a smile.

“Yes.” Lin Xinyan answered softly. She did not want to have any further interaction with this woman. She looked naïve, but it was unlikely she was truly naïve.

“Ms. Lin, you’re carrying someone else’s baby yet you married Hao. I hope you’re clear that I am the one he loves, and he had only married you because of his mother’s arrangement.”

Bai Zhuwei’s words were straightforward. How could Lin Xinyan not understand it?

Zong Jinghao loved her, that Lin Xinyan knew. Did she have to repeat it in front of her again?

Was she feeling insecure?

“I know where I stand. Ms. Bai doesn’t need to remind me about it.” Lin Xinyan smiled.

Bai Zhuwei was rendered speechless and frowned. This girl was young, but she was matured.

At this moment, she realized that the study had opened. It was just a blurry figure, but Bai Zhuwei knew it was Zong Jinghao. The gears in her mind turned, and she pushed Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan was pregnant, and as a mother, she was constantly aware of her baby’s safety. When Bai Zhuwei was about to touch her, she pushed her back almost instinctively.

“Ah!”

Bai Zhuwei was wearing high heels, and she could not balance herself after being pushed. She fell.

And this was seen by Zong Jinghao, who had just walked out of the study. He quickly walked over and caught Bai Zhuwei.

In Zong Jinghao’s arms, Bai Zhuwei’s heart thumped loudly. She took the opportunity to circle her arms around his neck and said with a scared tone, “Hao—”

She did not finish her sentence, she just showed him a look of fright.

Lin Xinyan broke out of her trance and looked into Zong Jinghao’s breathtaking eyes. Zong Jinghao stared at her and asked, “Why did you do that?”

Lin Xinyan was about to explain before Bai Zhuwei cut her off. Bai Zhuwei shook her and said, “It’s nothing. It’s not Ms. Lin’s fault.”

If Lin Xinyan had not understood what Bai Zhuwei’s intentions were earlier, she would be a fool not to understand it now.

She knew that her relationship with Zong Jinghao was just a deal. Why did she still have to frame her?

What was she afraid of?

Lin Xinyan ignored Zong Jinghao's questioning look, and calmly said, "I didn't do it, but it doesn't matter whether you'll believe me or not."

She turned and walked out the moment she finished.

She would not admit to things she had not done.

Nor would she let anyone harm her child.

Even if the clock turned back, she would still do the same.

"Stay right there!"

## CHAPTER 20.

Lin Xinyan stopped and turned. She saw Zong Jinghao let go of Bai Zhuwei and walked towards her with steady steps.

The cold smile on his lips was like a sword swinging towards her. "Apologize to Zhuwei!"

Lin Xinyan did not move. She looked back stubbornly at his angry face.

"I won't apologize to her." Even if she was afraid of him.

She was not in the wrong; it was Bai Zhuwei who was about to push her.

She was just protecting herself. It was an instinct.

Why did he think she would apologize?

Zong Jinghao's gaze stayed on her stubborn face and frowned. He had never really paid attention to her looks. Even when he lost control and kissed her, he had never properly looked at her.

She was on the skinny side. Her face was small, only the size of a hand. She had delicate features that radiated naivety. At this very moment, those starry eyes were looking at him, stubborn and determined.

Two pairs of eyes stared at each other, and no one wanted to take a step back.

"You pushed her, so you have to apologize!" His tone was still cold, but it was now missing its sharpness.

It seemed like he was shocked by her expression.

"Hao, I'm really fine. It was an accident, it's not Ms. Lin's fault." Bai Zhuwei quickly walked over to interrupt the confrontation between the two.

She held onto Zong Jinghao's arm and said, "Hao."

She shook her head at Zong Jinghao. Her eyes were watery; she looked like she was quietly suffering from being wronged. "Hao, I wasn't standing right earlier. It might be because my heels were too high. It really wasn't Ms. Lin's fault." She tried her best to defend for Lin Xinyan.

Zong Jinghao looked down at her heels. It was high, but he had saw Lin Xinyan push her.

What was going on?

"Hao, I think I might have twisted my ankles. It's painful." Bai Zhuwei's pretty face crumpled in pain.

Unlike her usual composed self, it looked cute.

Zong Jinghao reached out to tuck her messy strands behind her ears. This woman had been following him wordlessly without complaints, and she had sacrificed herself when he was poisoned.

Even when he wanted her, she did not ask for any official status to stand by him. She just continued to quietly stay by him.

And it was that moment that Zong Jinghao wanted to give her an official status.

He did not love her. He had never loved any women. He did not believe in love.

It was merely a month after his mother's death before his father had married someone else.

How could there be love in this world?

Absurd and ridiculous!

"Are you silly?"

Bai Zhuwei leaned into his arms and said, "As long as I can follow you, I'll do anything you asked. I don't think I'm silly, I think I'm fortunate."

Lin Xinyan did not have the heart to continue watching them. She turned and walked towards the door.

A faint smile appeared on Bai Zhuwei's face as she looked at Lin Xinyan walking away.

She should not have the time to be staying in the villa and spending time with Zong Jinghao now.

She thought she had hidden her expressions well, but Zong Jinghao had seen it.

Yet he said nothing nor asked anything. He just turned and walked into the room.

"Hao—" Bai Zhuwei hurried behind him.

Zong Jinghao looked back at her with a flat look, his thoughtful gaze landing on her high heels. "Don't wear heels that are too high, in case you actually fall the next time."

He then continued walking towards the study. Before he entered, he paused and said, "I'm busy today. You should go back."

Before Bai Zhuwei could respond, the door to the study was closed.

She stood there, staring at her high heels. What did he mean? Was he concerned with her?

Yet it seemed like it meant something else.

Bai Zhuwei walked forward and was about to knock on the door before Aunt Yu stopped her. "Didn't Young Master told you to go home?"



Bai Zhuwei always knew that Aunt Yu did not like her.

She had tried many times to get onto her good side, but the results had been unfavorable.

Aunt Yu was not a simple maid. She was the one who had taken care of Zong Jinghao since young.

Her words meant something to Zong Jinghao.

“Aunt Yu, I just want to accompany him. He doesn’t seem to be very happy—”

“Young Mistress can accompany him. It’s best if Ms. Bai was to come less frequently next time, just in case someone was to say that you’re his mistress. That’ll ruin your reputation.” Even before the marriage between Zong Jinghao and Lin Xinyan, Aunt Yu had never liked Bai Zhuwei. Ever since Zong Jinghao married Lin Xinyan...

Bai Zhuwei’s frequent visits and intimacy with Zong Jinghao made her look like she was his mistress.

And no one liked mistresses.

Especially for the people from the older generations, like Aunt Yu.

“The one that Hao likes is me. He did not marry someone from the Lins willingly. You raised him; do you not want him to be happy?” It took everything from Bai Zhuwei to not have shouted this out.

She was just a maid. How despicable of her to act like she had authority here!

“I believe that Madam had her own reasons when she arranged this marriage. Young Master is already married. Does Ms. Bai want to become the destructive third wheel in someone else’s marriage?”

Despite saying harsh words, Aunt Yu still remained polite. She bowed slightly at Bai Zhuwei, posed herself into a stance of invitation. “Ms. Bai, please.”

Bai Zhuwei’s hands on her sides clenched tightly and trembled in anger, but she could not say anything.

She could only leave.

The moment Bai Zhuwei stepped out of the house; Aunt Yu instantly closed the door.

She stiffened and turned around to look at the tightly shut door. There were many expressions on her face, ugly and ferocious ones.

Zong Jinghao stood in front of the window and looked at her expressions that he had never seen her make in front of him.

He narrowed his eyes.

“Young Master, will Ms. Lin come back for lunch?” She had not come back last night, and she was only here for a brief while today. Aunt Yu was not happy with it.

She was already married into the Zongs and was Zong Jinghao’s wife. She should act like one.

Furthermore, they were just married and she had been staying out all night. It did not sound great.

Zong Jinghao thought about her admittance into the hospital, and said, “She’s not feeling well, as for lunch...”

Yes.

Zong Jinghao had no idea whether she would be back in the afternoon.

He had only realized now that he did not even have her contact details.

Aunt Yu sighed. What was with the young people nowadays?

Married couples did not act like married couples.

They were married, and yet they did not sleep together nor know where the other party was. Were they really husband and wife?

“I really don’t understand why Madam had insisted on this marriage.” Aunt Yu sighed.

After Madam passed away, Zong Jinghao had moved out and rarely went home.

She thought that Madam had her own reasons for the engagement. Now, they were married.

Yet—

Zong Jinghao’s face turned gloomy. “I’ll look for her.”

Aunt Yu was speechless.

Aunt Yu felt even more melancholic. They were not acting like husband and wife; they were acting like strangers!

Zong Jinghao put on the jacket that was on the sofa and left the house with the car keys in his hand.

On the way to the hospital, Zong Jinghao thought of something, and called Guan Jing.

“Organize the contract for the land at Repulse Bay and send it to me.”