

Chapter 21.

Lin Xinyan came to the hospital and saw He Ruize sitting at the corridor outside the rooms. His hands were placed on his knees, his back arched, and he seemed to be thinking.

He did not even realize that Lin Xinyan was already standing beside him.

“What are you thinking about?”

He Ruize looked up. He kept his emotions to a minimal when he saw it was Lin Xinyan. He looked towards the room and said, “Your mother’s moody.”

“Alright, take a rest, I’ll stay here.” Lin Xinyan was prepared.

He Ruize glanced at her stomach. “You need rest too.”

“Don’t worry, I can take care of myself.” Lin Xinyan gave him an effortless smile.

He Ruize nodded after a moment of silence. “Call me if there’s anything you need.”

Lin Xinyan hummed as an answer. He Ruize stood and walked out. Looking at his back, Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. Despite knowing him for a long time, she still did not know anything about him. She knew nothing about his family nor his background.

He was obviously thinking hard about something earlier, or else he would not have spaced out.

At this moment, He Ruize stopped and turned around to look at Lin Xinyan. “I heard from those woman. Someone had bribed them to say those things and splash paint on your house.”

Lin Xinyan nodded.

“Alright, Ruize. You can talk to me if there’s anything you’re worrying about too.”

Lin Xinyan looked at him.

“I’m good.” He Ruize chuckled.

Lin Xinyan did not press on. Everyone had something that they did not want to discuss with others.

After He Ruize left, she did not enter the room. Instead, she thought about the identity of the person who bribed those neighbors.

Lin Yuhan? Shen Xiuqing?

Although, they did not know that she was pregnant.

Then—

Crash!

Suddenly, there were shattering sounds coming from the room. Lin Xinyan’s heart dropped. She hurriedly pushed the door open and saw the broken glass cup under Zhuang Zijin’s feet. She walked over and bent down to pick up the glass fragments. “Mom, are you thirsty? Sit down, I’ll clean this up and pour for—”

Before she could finish her sentence, Zhuang Zijin grabbed onto her wrist, her expression blank. “Yanyan.”

“What’s wrong?” Lin Xinyan raised her head and looked at her mother.

Zhuang Zijin seemed conflicted; she only grabbed onto Lin Xinyan’s hand tighter.

“The baby in you. Can you abort it?”

This was just the start. The baby was not going to have a father, and if the baby had blond hair and blue eyes, how would the others judge them?

Lin Xinyan knew that her mother was in a shock, but she had not thought that she would repeating about this again.

“Mom—”

Zhuang Zijin let go of her, and repeated in a trance, “You don’t want to. I know you don’t want to.”

She sat then curled up near the bedrest, and said, “I lost Xinqi, I lost Xinqi...”

Lin Xinyan was shocked and in disbelief. What— What was happening to her?

Lin Xinyan rushed to call for the doctor. Zhuang Zijin was not cooperative, and had signs of self-harming behavior, so the doctor gave her a sedative.

“My preliminary judgment is that the patient might be having a psychological disorder.” The doctor said after checking her.

Lin Xinyan swayed, and only when she used her both hands to hold onto the wardrobe then could she stand still.

“Why is it so serious?”

“Have your mother ever undergo any psychological trauma? This doesn’t happen after one trauma, only when everything is accumulated in her mind, then would this happen.”

Lin Xinyan’s lips trembled. Ever since her mother was sent out of the country by Lin Guoan, she had never smiled; surely she was traumatized. After that, her younger brother was born with autism. Her brother died and she was pregnant.

These were all traumatic events for her.

This was the last straw.

Her endurance had reached its limit. If anyone were to touch the fragile string in her heart, she would lose control.

“How— How do you treat this?” Lin Xinyan’s words were incoherent. She was just holding on purely on willpower.

“It’s not easy to treat psychological disorders. Aren’t you close with Doctor He? He’s a psychiatrist, I’m sure he can help you.” The doctor sighed.

Lin Xinyan thought about He Ruize’s earlier behavior. Maybe he had realized something by then.

He just had no idea how to inform her about it.

“I’d suggest you transfer your mother to the psychiatric ward.”

Lin Xinyan nodded.

After the doctor left, Lin Xinyan collapsed onto the floor. She stared at Zhuang Zijin’s self-made scratched marks on her face. Her heart ached so much that she felt like she could not breathe.

The moment of her mother’s insanity and self-harming behaviors kept replaying in her mind.

On the same day, Zhuang Zijin was transferred to the psychiatric ward. As she was a psychiatric patient who had unstable moods and destructive behaviors to herself and others, there was a visit limitation placed on her, even for family.

It was a treatment that almost kept her away from the rest of the world.

After leaving the hospital, Lin Xinyan packed Zhuang Zijin and her things, and ended the rental lease of the house.

She could not get the deposit back because of the paint on the door.

Even the medical bills for Zhuang Zijin was now paid forward by He Ruize.

She felt like she was owing more and more to He Ruize.

In her time of spacing out, the car had already stopped at the villa. She took her bag, paid for the fare, and alighted.

In front of the villa, she stood still in a trance. She never thought that she would

ever have to come to this place to seek refuge.

Just as she was about to enter the house, a car drove in. She had not been staying here for long, but she could recognize Zong Jinghao's car. She remained on the spot.

Zong Jinghao came down from the car and looked at Lin Xinyan, who was just standing there. His tone was cold as he asked, "Where did you go?"

He went to the hospital, and the hospital told him that she had already been discharged. What had she been doing the entire time?

Lin Xinyan did not bother with an explanation. She was already tired after dealing with Zhuang Zijin's matters.

"I had matters to do." She said softly.

Zong Jinghao frowned. What kind of attitude was she having with him?

He strode over—

For a moment, there were many other faces overlapping with his angry look. Lin Xinyan's consciousness gradually blurred, and she collapsed as her vision went dark.

Zong Jinghao caught her swiftly just as she was about to crash onto the ground. Her waist was thin, as if she was not pregnant, and her body was soft. With this close distance, he felt a sense of familiarity.

Zong Jinghao frowned. It felt subtle.

He could not really pinpoint onto what it was.

They had not known each other for long. Why was there this odd feeling?

Before he could think further, two people came from the door. Guan Jing and Bai Zhuwei.

The both of them were stunned after seeing Zong Jinghao carrying Lin Xinyan. Especially Bai Zhuwei. If it was not Zong Jinghao in front of her, it was likely that she would have stomped her foot in anger.

She was going mad on the inside!

"Hao, she—"

Zong Jinghao carried Lin Xinyan and turned to enter the house. Guan Jing took a look at Bai Zhuwei, who was still standing there. "Although Mr. Zong had married Ms. Lin without love, they were still husband and wife. He couldn't have left her unconscious on the floor, could he?"

"She looked fine. How could she have collapsed unless it was to deliberately seduce him?" Bai Zhuwei sneered.

Guan Jing had yet to respond before Bai Zhuwei continued, "She wasn't sickly nor traumatized. Isn't it suspicious that she collapsed?"

It sounded reasonable.

In comparison with Lin Xinyan, Guan Jing had more trust for Bai Zhuwei. After all, they knew each other for a longer period of time, and they were business partners.

Although Lin Xinyan was also an unfortunate woman, she had family, unlike Bai Zhuwei. All those years, Bai Zhuwei had followed after Zong Jinghao. He was naturally biased towards her.

Zong Jinghao, who had been carrying Lin Xinyan into the house, placed her on the bed. When he was about to get up, his collar was suddenly grabbed by Lin Xinyan.

Chapter 22.

"Mom, I'm sorry, don't leave me—"

Zong Jinghao was taken aback. He looked downwards at her hands holding onto his sleeve, and his gaze slowly stopped at her face. She looked like she was in pain, as if she was in a nightmare.

"Lin Xinyan?" Zong Jinghao frowned.

Lin Xinyan could not hear him. She looked like she was trapped in some horror. She looked anxious, but quickly, she returned back to a state of calmness. Her hand let go of Zong Jinghao, and she fell into a deep sleep.

Zong Jinghao slowly got up and looked at her for two seconds, before leaving the room.

Bai Zhuwei was sitting on the couch, her hands gripped tightly onto the cup. Even an additional second of Zong Jinghao staying in the room was a torture for her.

Wasn't this woman supposed to be in the hospital taking care of her mother?

Why did she have time to come back?

Bai Zhuwei had found out that Guan Jing was investigating on Lin Xinyan earlier. So when Guan Jing sent someone to Country A to check on her life, Bai Zhuwei's men had went even earlier and killed the woman who introduced Lin Xinyan to the job on that night. They made sure to make it look like an accident where the woman fell to her death from an upper floor.

And that was why Guan Jing did not find out the vital part of that night's happenings.

She spent much effort, fearing that Zong Jinghao would spend too much time with Lin Xinyan. She bribed the neighbors in Zhuang Zijin's district to force her into the hospital, so that Lin Xinyan would not have time to spend with Zong Jinghao.

What she had not expected was that this woman was not staying at the hospital! And she was even carried by Zong Jinghao in his arms.

The more Bai Zhuwei thought about it, the more she wanted to break down.

And she did not realize that her thoughts were all showing on her face.

When Zong Jinghao walked out of the room, he saw Bai Zhuwei's facial expressions before she managed to control them. He walked over silently.

Bai Zhuwei stood up; her questioning tone nearly seeped out before her rationality took over. "Is Ms. Lin sick?"

Zong Jinghao did not answer her immediately. Instead, he sat on the couch, crossed his long legs, then looked up at Bai Zhuwei with an ambiguous look.

Bai Zhuwei's heart dropped. She was afraid of this Zong Jinghao. Carefully, she said, "Hao—"

"Mmm." "What's wrong?" There was a faint smile on his face.

It seemed like there was nothing wrong, and so Bai Zhuwei felt herself relax. She carefully sat near him, and he did not reject her.

Her anxiety lessened.

"This is the contract for the land at Repulse Bay." Guan Jing handed to folder to Zong Jinghao.

The reason why Bai Zhuwei had followed Guan Jing here was because she had heard him saying that Zong Jinghao wanted the contract for this land.

This land was at Repulse Bay, and there were mountains and water that

surrounded it. It was a good place for tourism, and so there were many who wanted it.

Except that two years ago when this land was up for bidding, Wanyue Group had gotten the rights to the land. Although they had the rights to develop the land, they were not interested, so it was auctioned off.

Now that Zong Jinghao had suddenly wanted this land's contract, she felt a little worried.

After all, when Lin Guoan went to the company to request for the land, Zong Jinghao did not even bother meeting with the man.

Lin Xinyan was the daughter of Lin Guoan. She was afraid that Zong Jinghao would give this land to the Lins because of Lin Xinyan.

Her focus was not on the land, it was on how Zong Jinghao was treating Lin Xinyan!

"Wasn't this land meant to be auctioned off?" Bai Zhuwei asked, as if she had no idea.

Although she had asked it casually, who was Zong Jinghao to not realize this form of questioning?

Although he said nothing about it, he reached out to hold onto her shoulder.

"Zhuwei, when did you change?"

Bai Zhuwei froze. What did he mean?

"When— When did I change?" Bai Zhuwei did not understand.

Zong Jinghao gripped her chin and forced her to look at him. "You never ask this kind of questions back then."

Looking into his eyes, Bai Zhuwei was startled. She had never seen this coldness in his eyes.

She could not help but feel nervous.

"I—"

Unlike her usual obedient and dignified self, she lost control and said, "I'm afraid! I'm scared!"

She struggled out of Zong Jinghao's arms and covered her face with her hands.

She sobbed, "I'm scared you'll give this land to Ms. Lin. I'm scared you'll fall in love with her because she's your wife. I'm scared. I'm scared you won't want me anymore—"

Bai Zhuwei started crying as she said. She looked sorrowful.

Zong Jinghao had never seen this look on her.

He closed his eyes and furrowed his brows. His expression was complicated, and no one could decipher what it meant.

After a while, Bai Zhuwei's crying turned into sobbing.

She knew that she had to be stoic at times, but sometimes the tears and upset had to be shown to capture a man's heart.

Zong Jinghao opened his eyes, his feelings now calm.

He reached out to pull her back into his arms. "Do you feel that bad?"

Bai Zhuwei leaned into his arms, and sobbed, "I'm just afraid to lose you."

Zong Jinghao sighed, "You won't."

She might have been a little devious and calculating unlike her naïve appearance.

Yet it was a fact that she had followed him for many years.

He did not want to dig deep into this.

In the house.

Lin Xinyan's phone's notification sounds woke her up.

It was He Ruize who had sent her messages. It was a photo, and she could see the face of a neighbor from the district. It seemed like the neighbor was talking to a woman.

The back of this figure...

Lin Xinyan felt a sense of familiarity, but she could not think of why she felt it. Just as she was still thinking of who it might be, her stomach cramped. "Ugh—"

She ran out of the bedroom and into the bathroom.

She sprawled at the side of the sink as she retched.

Guan Jing, who was in the living room, was stunned. Lin Xinyan had come out too suddenly.

And her bathroom door was not closed. She seemed to be suffering as she sprawled there retching.

"Ms. Lin is pregnant." Bai Zhuwei looked at Lin Xinyan who was retching and said.

She thought Zong Jinghao did not know. She wanted him to know.

"It should be that man's baby, the one that she was hugging the other day." Bai Zhuwei deliberately "named" a father for the baby in Lin Xinyan.

Like this, Zong Jinghao would only feel hate towards her.

On the other hand, Guan Jing's jaw dropped in surprise. Zong Jinghao's wife had another man's baby in her?

Does that not mean that he became a cuckold by marrying her?

He carefully raised his head to observe Zong Jinghao's expression.

He thought he would be furious, but he was wrong. Instead, there was only calmness.

Even Bai Zhuwei thought it was unbelievable.

Was he not angry? Did he not hate her?

"Hao..."

Zong Jinghao leaned back on the couch, his face clearly showing her that he did not want to hear from her.

Bai Zhuwei could only shut her mouth.

Although she felt like vomiting, nothing had come out, it was just all retching.

After that moment of discomfort, Lin Xinyan rinsed her mouth before walking out of the bathroom. Now then did she realize that there were people in the living room, and she saw Bai Zhuwei who was in Zong Jinghao's arms. She did not want to disturb them, so she turned to enter the room.

Suddenly, an image flashed in her mind. Bai Zhuwei.

She turned around and looked at Bai Zhuwei, then back at the picture on her phone. Chestnut-colored wavy hair, and she was about the same height.

Her pupils constricted. The woman who had bribed the neighbors was her?

When she thought about Bai Zhuwei trying to push her then frame her, Lin Xinyan suddenly realized what was going on!

She must have thought that by marrying Zong Jinghao, she was taking her position, and so she hated her.

That's why she had bribed the neighbors to slander her and caused her mother to suffer from mental illness!

The more she thought about it, the more her heart ached—

Chapter 23.

Lin Xinyan stood by the door and stared at Bai Zhuwei.

Her staring made Bai Zhuwei uncomfortable, and she tried to see her phone screen. It was far, and she could not see what was on the phone. She had to stay dignified in front of Zong Jinghao, so she could only ask quietly, “Ms. Lin, why are you looking at me like that?”

Bai Zhuwei’s voice brought back Lin Xinyan’s focus. There was a split moment that she had wanted to impulsively rush and question her in front of Zong Jinghao.

Yet after she had calmed down, she did not do it.

Bai Zhuwei was the woman that Zong Jinghao loved. Whatever it is that she had done, Zong Jinghao would not punish the woman he loved for her, a wife in a marriage deal.

She gripped tightly onto the phone in her hand, and it took her a while before she could calm herself down.

She just gave Bai Zhuwei a smile.

“I just think that Ms. Bai is too pretty, so I couldn’t take my eyes off you. I hope Ms. Bai wouldn’t mind.”

She walked over to them as she said, and her gaze fell onto the folder on the coffee table. She reached out to pick it up. It was the contract for Repulse Bay.

She looked up at Zong Jinghao and smiled as she asked, “Is this for me?”

Zong Jinghao, who had never shown any changes in expression, hummed in response.

Bai Zhuwei widened her eyes. He— He was really giving this to Lin Xinyan? Why?

Bai Zhuwei could not comprehend!

Lin Xinyan looked up at Bai Zhuwei, who was obviously angry but was restraining herself, and she sneered, “Ms. Bai, I’m Mr. Zong’s wife. It shouldn’t be a big deal if he gave me something.”

Bai Zhuwei trembled in anger. This damn woman was really thick-skinned! Who was she to call herself Zong Jinghao’s wife?

If Zong Jinghao was not here, Bai Zhuwei would have given her a slap!

“Of course.” Bai Zhuwei lowered her head, and her tears fell as a silent complaint.

“Ms. Lin is the real deal, who am I to say anything?”

“You’re the woman that Mr. Zong likes. You’ve followed him so many years, and yet— Why do you still do this to yourself?” Guan Jing looked up at Lin Xinyan.

Not only did she act improper, this woman was thick-skinned!

It was clearly a deal; did she think that she was the real young mistress?

However, she was indeed Zong Jinghao’s wife, so he could not publicly disrespect her even if he did not like her. So all he could do was to side with Bai Zhuwei and deliberately target her.

Lin Xinyan remained serene, as if she had not heard their sarcastic words to isolate her. She smiled and said, “Ms. Bai, since you have acknowledged my status, please, move aside.”

It was as if time had stopped.

All eyes looked at Zong Jinghao, who had yet to speak.

Did he acknowledge her status?

If he did, where would that put Bai Zhuwei at?

The flickering and dimmed lights could not cover the grimness of Zong Jinghao's face.

"What status?"

She could smell an inexplicable scent of foreboding danger. Lin Xinyan held firm and looked into his eyes. "We're husband and wife. Even if it's just for an hour, we are still husband and wife. In this duration when we are still married, is there any wrong for me to ask to sit by your side?"

Lin Xinyan used his words to reply him.

She had been bullied for a long time. Even if she was wronged, it did not matter. Yet for Bai Zhuwei to use Zhuang Zijin and cause her to have mental illness, that was not something she would tolerate!

If Bai Zhuwei was afraid that she would be close to Zong Jinghao, then she would deliberately be close to him.

Right in front of her!

Zhuang Zijin was her only family left, and she was her baseline. "Ms. Bai, although your relationship with my husband is strong, we have yet to divorce. Ms. Bai, please control yourself!"

Bai Zhuwei looked at Zong Jinghao. Right now, his gaze was at this witty woman. This woman changed her attitude quick.

She was acting hurt and helpless earlier, but now she was aggressive.

What kind of woman was she?

Zong Jinghao's expression was unreadable, even for Guan Jing, but Guan Jing knew that the two women could not be in the same room now.

Although Guan Jing had not fully understood what was going on, he was clever, as seen in this moment.

He stood up and patted Bai Zhuwei's shoulder. "Let's go."

Bai Zhuwei was discontented.

She wanted to see where she stood in Zong Jinghao's heart.

Yet if Zong Jinghao really chose Lin Xinyan, she would be doomed. All her efforts in the past would have gone to waste. She knew that Zong Jinghao did not love her.

Zong Jinghao was only good to her because of that night, and that she had followed him for so many years.

There was no liking nor love.

She could not gamble on this.

She would not be able to take the loss.

"I won't force Hao. You win." Bai Zhuwei wanted to make things favorable to her before she left.

She was not admitting defeat, she just did not want Zong Jinghao to be in a dilemma.

She was kind; she knew how to see the big picture.

Soon, the room quieted down.

It was so quiet that even the soft breathing sounds could be heard.

This lasted for three minutes, and Lin Xinyan's back had a layer of cold sweat.

After a long while, she finally found her voice. "I'll go back to my room."

She only acted this way because of Bai Zhuwei.

Now that she was gone, she had no need to stay here.

Just as her foot lifted, her wrist was grabbed by Zong Jinghao. He pulled roughly, and Lin Xinyan's body turned in an arc, and fell into his embrace.

She instinctively struggled, but her wrist was held firmly by him, and she could not move.

"What are you doing?" Lin Xinyan panicked.

Heh.

"Why? Weren't you witty earlier?" Zong Jinghao grabbed her chin and said, "It seems like I've underestimated you."

If it was not for Bai Zhuwei, she would not have wanted to offend him.

She knew the difficulties in life. From ten until eighteen, she had grown both in age and in maturity.

If she was gentle, others would only think that she was an easy target, so she could not be that in front of people who wanted to hurt her.

She had to protect her mother and the baby in her stomach.

She had to be strong, she had to be brave.

Lin Xinyan was motionless. She closed her eyes and stopped focusing on her sight and hearing.

Zong Jinghao had never been treated this way by anyone. This woman—

"Lin—"

Lin Xinyan was wearing a white shirt with a round collar. Now that she was half-lying in his embrace, the view of her chest was looming in front of his eyes.

She was skinny, but her breast development was not bad. Even in this looming state, he could somewhat see the two white buns, round and perky.

Her chest was rising and falling with her breaths, and it held a hint of seduction.

There was a fiery heat in him, rushing through his veins, before settling at his lower abdomen.

When Lin Xinyan did not hear Zong Jinghao's response, her eyelashes fluttered and she slowly opened her eyes. She saw his stoic face that seemed like he was trying to stay calm.

His gaze—

Lin Xinyan followed his eyes, and looked down—

The anger of being looked at unleashed the hidden strength in her bones, and Lin Xinyan pushed him away.

It happened so sudden that Zong Jinghao could not react in time. He was now half-lying on the couch, a disheveled look.

Lin Xinyan covered her chest, and shouted, "Thug!"

She stood up from the couch in a hurry to leave this place, but perhaps she was too panicked as she did not notice what was on the floor. She tripped on Zong Jinghao's leg and fell towards Zong Jinghao.

"Ah—"

Zong Jinghao could not move away in time.

Chapter 24.

Zong Jinghao could not move in time, and he could only stare as Lin Xinyan fell onto him.

Her forehead knocked onto his chin, and it was painful. And her lips touched a shaped solid, a familiar yet foreign sensation.

For a moment, Lin Xinyan was stunned. Her rationality came back to her and she hurriedly got up. It was now then she realized that her lips had touched onto his Adam's apple.

She held onto her aching forehead, her face was burning red.

From shame.

Zong Jinghao's thoughts were also muddled up for a second after that moment.

He slowly raised his eyes to look at her. "If I'm a thug, what are you?"

Without waiting for Lin Xinyan's reply, he slowly sat up and adjusted his collar, intentionally tracing his finger across the place that she had just kissed him. His smile was cunning as he said, "We're husband and wife. If you want to kiss, you can just tell me. I don't mind."

Lin Xinyan was rendered speechless.

Who wanted to kiss him?

That was just an accident!

"I would never want to kiss you!" Lin Xinyan turned and left; she wanted to leave the living room quickly.

Zong Jinghao sat motionless on the couch. He was angered by her last sentence.

"Who do you want to kiss then?"

He scoffed, "That man who impregnated you?"

In that moment, fear and humiliation bled all over her.

She did not want to talk about how she was impregnated.

She only felt heartache from hearing Zong Jinghao's heartless words.

She had to stay strong, even when her heart felt like it was about to shatter. "Of course... of course I like the father of my child."

Fantastic. This woman was amazing.

"I hope Ms. Lin hadn't forgotten that she still owes me something." Zong Jinghao stood up, brushed off the imaginary dust from his shirt, and raised his head slowly. He looked at Lin Xinyan, who froze by the door of the bedroom.

"I need a translator. Come to the office and start work by tomorrow."

She had taken the contract; he would have a request in return.

That's fine, that meant she no longer owed him anything else.

"Alright." She answered, then pushed open the door to enter the room.

When she thought about the incident earlier, her face heated up again.

To avoid seeing Zong Jinghao, she never came out of the room until Aunt Yu told her to come out for dinner.

Zong Jinghao was already at the dining room. Aunt Yu served the food.

Lin Xinyan sat down and started eating, her eyes only on the food.

The atmosphere at the dining table was ambiguous.

Aunt Yu could not understand them. They were husband and wife, yet they acted like strangers. She served a plate of green broccoli in front of Lin Xinyan, and said, "Young Master likes to eat this."

Zong Jinghao preferred light flavors, especially vegetarian. Aunt Yu, who had

taken care of him, knew him the best.

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment. She did not understand what Aunt Yu meant.

If he likes it, just put it in front of him, she thought.

Aunt Yu gave her a wink, hinting at her to pick some vegetables to Zong Jinghao.

It took Lin Xinyan a while before she understood what Aunt Yu wanted.

And in this while that it took for Lin Xinyan to understand, Aunt Yu's eyes could have started cramping.

Lin Xinyan reluctantly picked up a piece of broccoli and placed it in Zong Jinghao's bowl.

Zong Jinghao looked up at Lin Xinyan, who smiled. She could not do anything about Aunt Yu's enthusiasm.

Her intention of matchmaking them was too obvious.

Zong Jinghao slowly picked up the broccoli. It was covered in a layer of light oil, and the light that shone on it reflected into his energetic eyes.

"Aunt Yu knows my taste buds best."

Aunt Yu smiled.

"Young Mistress will learn it soon. She had just married into the family; she isn't as familiar with it yet."

Aunt Yu had changed the way she called her, she used to call her Ms. Lin.

Although she was unhappy with the way she spent her nights away from the house, she was still the one that Madam had chosen for Young Master.

She would naturally want the best for them, and hope they lived up to the Madam's wishes.

Lin Xinyan nearly bit her tongue in surprise at hearing "Young Mistress". She lowered her head even more and finished the food in her bowl hurriedly. "I'm done. Take your time."

The moment she finished her sentence, she ran straight into her room.

"What is with her?" Aunt Yu felt confused.

Zong Jinghao stared after the disappearing figure of Lin Xinyan. There was a smile on his lips and in his eyes, and on him it was a touch of unruly righteousness.

"Maybe she's not used to your matchmaking."

Aunt Yu sighed, "I'm doing this for you."

She turned and left.

The only person left at the spacious dining room was Zong Jinghao. The glittering light from crystal chandelier from the ceiling shrouded him. He picked up another broccoli and slowly chewed.

The next day.

After Zong Jinghao went to the office, Lin Xinyan also left the house. Since she had promised to work in the office, she had to quit her work at the restaurant.

She would have to go to the restaurant.

When she was changing her shoe at entrance, Aunt Yu walked over and asked, "Are you going out?"

Lin Xinyan nodded.

"Come back earlier, don't stay out the entire night. You're a married woman."

Aunt Yu reminded her.

"Okay." Lin Xinyan went out after wearing her shoes.

And walked to the intersection of the main road to call for a cab.

There was no public transport here.

When she just started working, Lin Xinyan had requested for leave. And now, she was quitting the job. The manager was not too happy. "If you didn't want to work, why come for the job? You're just disrupting our flow."

Lin Xinyan felt apologetic. "I'm sorry, I'm really sorry,"

The manager's face was gloomy. He was about to open his mouth again when the foreman walked over and told him that they needed help.

The manager looked at Lin Xinyan, and said, "You can help for now. When we're less busy, you can leave."

"Okay." Lin Xinyan agreed to it out of professional ethics.

Lin Xinyan changed to her work clothes. It seemed like it was a busy day today.

"These are for Room 88." The chef informed her as she served the food.

Lin Xinyan hummed in response, placed the delicate dishes on the tray, and went towards the room.

With one hand balancing the tray, she pushed open the door with another hand.

The room was spacious and brightly lit, yet it still maintained a sense of privacy.

In front of the round mahogany table were two people, and she knew one of them—Zong Jinghao.

They were both surprised to see each other.

Tang Che, the president of HSBC, seemed to have been telling Zong Jinghao something. When someone entered the room, he stopped.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and served the dishes from her tray to the table.

"The waitresses in Court Lan Gui are getting younger." There was a smile on Tang Che's face, and his eyes looked up and down at Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan felt disgusted. She was about to leave when her wrist was grabbed by Tang Che. He looked at Zong Jinghao and smiled as he said, "Let her stay here and pour the drinks for us."

The smile on Zong Jinghao's slowly froze, and it hid under his serious, dark look.

"President Tang, do you know what we are talking about?"

He looked up. His gaze fleetingly crossed Lin Xinyan's face, and said, "There's no need for you here."

Lin Xinyan hurriedly left with her tray.

Guan Jing, who was behind Zong Jinghao, frowned. He was not happy with Lin Xinyan's appearance. Why was she here?

If anyone were to know about her relationship with Zong Jinghao, how would the public gossip about this?

It would be an embarrassing matter for Zong Jinghao.

His dislike for Lin Xinyan deepened.

"Court Lan Gui is getting better in managing their business. The food is good, and even the servers are unique. The one just now, her skin was as fair as a white jade, and I'm sure I can hold her waist with a hug—"

"President Tang, let me pour some wine for you." Guan Jing interrupted.

It was only now then did Tang Che notice Zong Jinghao's grim expression. He smiled apologetically. "I was going off topic just now."

When Lin Xinyan walked out from the room, she sighed deeply. She never thought that they would meet so quickly after this morning.

After the peak hours, the manager had let her off. She changed her clothes,

walked out, and saw Guan Jing standing by the entrance.

And he did not have a happy expression on his face.

He glanced at her coldly.

“Mr. Zong is waiting for you. Let’s go.”

Lin Xinyan followed him out.

“Mom, I saw a Chanel dress that I liked. Can we buy it after eating?” Lin Yuhan walked over, her hands holding onto Shen Xiuqing.

“Of course, the best for my daughter.” The mother and daughter were talking merrily as they walked over.

It seemed like they were also coming to Court Lan Gui to eat.

Lin Xinyan footsteps faltered when she saw the mother and daughter.

Chapter 25.

When Lin Xinyan saw the mother and daughter, her footsteps faltered. When Shen Xiuqing saw her, she frowned.

“Mom, isn’t that Lin Xinyan? Why is she here?” Unlike Shen Xiuqing, Lin Yuhan could not restrain herself as much.

“She’s here to eat?”

The dishes here were exquisite in appearance and taste, and the price was not what an average person could afford.

Lin Xinyan could now afford to come to this kind of restaurant for food?

Shen Xiuqing sneered. “She married into the Zongs. Although that man is a handicapped, he still has societal status and wealth. It’s not unusual for her to be able to enter these kind of places.”

Lin Xinyan did not want to interact with them, but as she started leaving, she was stopped by Lin Yuhan.

“You just married a handicapped. Even if you come to these high-end places, you’re still a low-classed girl.” Her eyes judged her appearance as she said it, and she could not help but mockingly laughed at her.

“Move aside!” Lin Xinyan coldly said.

Lin Yuhan did not move aside.

“What are you frustrated with? Are you angry that I said you married a handicapped?”

Guan Jing frowned. He was about to stop Lin Yuhan from acting like a shrew when he saw Zong Jinghao walking over.

He kept back his hand that had reached out for her.

“Lin Xinyan, you had married into the Zongs but you’re still living so miserably? Is it because even that handicapped thinks you’re not worth it?” Lin Yuhan covered her mouth as she sneered, “Don’t be like your mother. She couldn’t even keep a man by her.”

By this time, Lin Xinyan had also realized that Zong Jinghao was walking over. She widened her eyes.

Lin Yuhan saw the unnatural look on Lin Xinyan’s face, and thought it was because she was mad. She became even more presumptuous as she said, “Lin Xinyan, this is the rest of your life. The first half of your life you were abandoned by your father and sent to another country to fend for yourself. The other half of your life, you’re meant to serve a handicapped and live lonely.”

“I’m afraid to disappoint you.” A low and rich male voice appeared.

It came silently, yet it left a deep impression, forcing the people who heard it to focus on it.

“Who do you think you—” Lin Yuhan turned around and was about questioned who he was to say that, but she saw the man who was standing nearby. He wore a suit, and his slender figure made him unusually tall. Especially those long legs that were wrapped in his suit pants.

He had high nose bridge and sexy lips. His facial features were defined, and those deep eyes held a hint of coldness in them.

His steps were steady; every step he took was silently pressuring the people around him.

His indifference and calm composure brought out his noble temperament. He walked in the sacred light.

And stole everyone's attention.
Especially Lin Yuhan's, whose jaw dropped in surprise.
Wasn't— Wasn't he a handicapped?
Shocking and unbelievable.
How could this be?
Under Lin Yuhan and Shen Xiuqing's watch, he held onto Lin Xinyan's shoulder.
"It's time for us to go."
Lin Xinyan was stunned for a few seconds. She raised her head. "You—"
His gaze darkened, and his faint smile radiated love and care. "What's wrong?
Have you gone silly?"
Lin Yuhan stared at his legs; her eyes were about to pop out from surprise.
"Weren't you handicapped?"
Then she quickly covered her mouth, realizing that it was inappropriate.
Shen Xiuqing could not come out of her trance.
This was unbelievable.
Zong Jinghao felt nothing but disgust, and he left with Lin Xinyan.
Guan Jing sneered, "Shallow."
Then he stopped looking at their faces, twisted ugly from shock.
He hurried to the car.
Shen Xiuqing's eyes were still staring straight. She mumbled to herself in fright
and in fear. Her legs trembled uncontrollably.
"How could this be? Zong Jinghao wasn't handicapped?"
"How could this be?" Lin Yuhan was also grabbing Shen Xiuqing's arm in a
frantic. "Why were Zong Jinghao's legs functional?"
It took a long while before Shen Xiuqing could get a hold of herself.
Did he not say that it was untreatable?
"Mom—"
"Alright!" Shen Xiuqing felt like her head was buzzing, and she felt terribly
frustrated. "I don't even know if your father knows about this."
Zong Jinghao's legs were fine. This matter felt unbelievable. She lost her mood
for food, and she dragged her daughter along with her to the Lin Group's office.
Lin Guoan was mad.
The real estate invested by the Lin Group had collapsed, and now the company
was facing a lawsuit.
There was no moment where Lin Guoan did not feel worried.
Knock knock.
Who was bothering him at this time? Lin Guoan was about to have an angry
outburst when the office door was pushed open. Shen Xiuqing looked at Lin
Guoan, her heart dropped as she asked, "What happened?"
Lin Guoan was not in a good mood. He sat on the chair.
"What are the both of you doing here?"
Shen Xiuqing did not have the time to bother with why Lin Guoan was in a bad
mood. Instead, she walked over and asked, "Did you know that Zong Jinghao
could now stand?"
Lin Guoan was stunned for a moment, before he frowned and looked at Shen
Xiuqing.
"He was poisoned with snake venom. Wasn't it untreatable? How could he stand
now?"

As expected, Lin Guoan had not known about this too. Shen Xiuqing's face turned serious. "He can stand—"

"Who did you hear this from?" Shen Xiuqing was cut off by Lin Guoan before she could finish her sentence.

"We saw it with our own eyes." Lin Yuhan cut in.

She had calmed down after a period of time. She walked towards the desk and looked at Lin Guoan. "Dad, we must have been tricked."

He had clearly said it was untreatable, and yet he was standing now!

Lin Guoan frowned. He felt shocked and confused at this matter. "Then why did he spread news about him not being able to stand?"

Shen Xiuqing also could not determine why he had let out such news. She guessed, "Was it because he didn't want to fulfil the promise with the Lins, but did not want to break the promise? So he spread this news so we would break it instead."

The entire office fell into a silence.

It was so quiet that even if a needle fell to the ground, one could hear it.

"Are you sure it's because of this?" "What else could it be?" Lin Yuhan affirmed Shen Xiuqing's guess. She sat on the couch, frustrated. "If we had knew about this earlier, we wouldn't have needed to bring Lin Xinyan and her mother back here."

And she could have married Zong Jinghao.

Lin Guoan felt a headache coming on. This was indeed out of his expectations. He had wanted to use his daughter to establish a relationship with the Zongs. Yet if it was like what Shen Xiuqing had said, then marrying his daughter to Zong Jinghao not only had not pleased him, but it also offended him.

He had wanted to look for help from Zong Jinghao as the company was encountering troubles, but now it seemed like it was not a feasible plan.

Lin Guoan's face was grim. No wonder the last time he went to Wanyue, Zong Jinghao did not bother with meeting him.

"Mom." Lin Yuhan grabbed tightly onto Shen Xiuqing's arm. "Mom, why wasn't it me that was married to Zong Jinghao?"

She liked that man. This was the first time she ever liked a man.

She could have had the chance to marry him, yet she had lost it.

She regretted it. She regretted it so badly. If she had not given a thought to Zong Jinghao's handicap and married him, perhaps her dedication for him despite his handicap will make him fall in love with her.

However, all of these became Lin Xinyan's.

She did not feel that it was fair.

"We need to strategize." Shen Xiuqing was not content. They could have established a relationship with the Zongs, but they missed the opportunity.

Lin Guoan could only feel the headache. He was at a loss now that the matter had developed this way.

How could Zong Jinghao trick them by pretending to be a handicapped?

On the other side, Lin Xinyan had followed Zong Jinghao into the car. She sat quietly on a side.

Zong Jinghao seemed busy; there were documents on his leg. He lowered his eyes and pulled on his loose collar.

Lin Xinyan quietly sat on the side, not wanting to disturb him.

When Guan Jing was about to reach Wanyue's office building, Lin Xinyan asked for him to stop the car.

"Do you need to do something?"

"It doesn't look too good for me to enter with the both of you." After all, her marriage with Zong Jinghao was not meant to go public.

In case there were any unnecessary misunderstandings.

Guan Jing could not understand her actions now.

Clearly, she was trying to ruin Zong Jinghao's reputation, but now—

Lin Xinyan came down from the car, and Guan Jing drove the car into the underground parking.

Zong Jinghao came down from the car and entered the elevator with Guan Jing following behind him. Guan Jing was particularly curious about Zong Jinghao's opinion towards Lin Xinyan, so he tentatively asked, "Mr. Zong, do you like Ms. Lin or Ms. Bai better?"

Chapter 26.

Zong Jinghao gave him a side-eye.

“Don’t be so curious about my matters.”

Guan Jing smiled apologetically.

“I was just curious. Ms. Bai had been with you longer; I think she’s more suitable.”

“Guan Jing.” Zong Jinghao’s words were slow, and it formed into a wave of inexplicable pressure. Guan Jing shuddered, and was about to explain before he saw his insincere smiling eyes. “You sound very interested in my personal matters. Why not we take a seat and talk about it?”

Guan Jing broke into a cold sweat, and he smiled apologetically, “I wouldn’t dare to.”

At this moment, the elevator stopped. Guan Jing hurriedly took a step back, distancing himself from Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao looked at him, indifferent, and walked out of the elevator.

As if she knew Zong Jinghao would return at this time, Bai Zhuwei was standing by the door with documents in her hand. When she saw Zong Jinghao, she quickly walked over. “I need your signature for this document.”

She mentioned nothing of last night’s incident.

Being unreasonable would only make him feel disgusted.

Being well-behaved and sensible, that was the true soft sword that could reach into a man’s heart.

Zong Jinghao reached for the document, signed it, and returned the document to her. “Let’s have dinner together tonight,” he said.

Was this a compensation?

Bai Zhuwei smiled, and said, “Alright.”

“Pick a place. Somewhere you like.” He had a responsibility towards this woman.

Bai Zhuwei followed behind him and reported his schedule to him as they walked.

When they reached the office entrance, Bai Zhuwei closed her book, and asked, “Is there anything you would like to drink?”

“A cup of coffee.” He walked into the office.

When Bai Zhuwei was making coffee in the pantry, she saw that the new HR Manager was bringing Lin Xinyan towards her side. She tensed. Why was Lin Xinyan here?

She put the coffee pot down and walked out to stop the manager. She looked at Lin Xinyan and said, “What are you doing here?”

Her eyes were defensive and shocked, as if she was not expecting to see Lin Xinyan in the company.

“I’m the translator.” Lin Xinyan smiled.

Bai Zhuwei’s hands clenched tight as she glared at her. After she left on that day, Lin Xinyan must have seduced Zong Jinghao.

Or else why would she be in the company?

Lin Xinyan leaned towards her and whispered, “My husband wanted to see me all day long. That’s why he wanted me to come to work, so that he could see me often.”

“Don’t act all high and mighty!” Bai Zhuwei glared at her angrily. “What do you think you are? You think Hao really likes you? Have you ever looked at yourself

in a mirror?"

Although she was furious, but the rationality that she still had in her mind had told her not to accidentally spill out her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

The entire company knew that she was the woman that Zong Jinghao would marry.

Lin Xinyan sneered when she saw Bai Zhuwei stomping her feet.

Ever since she had caused the mental illness in Zhuang Zijin, they would never be able to see each other eye-to-eye.

Quickly, rationalization returned to Bai Zhuwei. This was her territory. If she wanted to play with her, it was an easy feat.

Bai Zhuwei's gaze fled across her stomach. She would never let this baby come into this world.

"Does Ms. Bai know Ms. Lin?" The HR Manager had realized that there was something going on between the two, but they did not say anything. The HR Manager just pretended to know nothing.

No fools could work in these kind of company.

There was a usual smile on Bai Zhuwei's face, and she casually said, "I do. Since she's the new translator, hand her over to me and I'll do the arrangement."

"That'll be good." The manager smiled.

After the manager left, Bai Zhuwei deliberately left Lin Xinyan alone, and went back to make her coffee in the pantry.

Lin Xinyan frowned. Why was this woman so childish?

What would this do to her?

"Ms. Bai, if you're busy, I'll just go to my husband's office. He'll—"

"Shut up!" Bai Zhuwei had just calmed down before she was annoyed by her words again.

Why couldn't this woman just die?

"If you don't want someone to know, you shouldn't have done it. Ms. Bai, it was you who started this." Lin Xinyan smiled.

She— She knows?

How much did she know?

No, no. She could not have known. The only woman who knew was already dead. How could she have known?

She suppressed the anxiety in her, and calmly said, "I don't know what Ms. Lin is talking about."

"Mingwan District. Have you never been there?" Lin Xinyan stared at her face and asked.

Bai Zhuwei was stunned for a moment. So she was talking about this instead.

She was not expecting her to know about it that quickly.

As long as it was not that other matter.

Regardless, she would not admit to it. She pretended to be confused as she said, "Mingwan District? Is that where Ms. Lin stays?"

Lin Xinyan sneered, but did not continue. The both of them knew what was going on.

"Where is my spot?"

Bai Zhuwei pointed at the innermost corner position. "There."

"Even if I was placed at a corner, we're still living under the same roof." Lin Xinyan said to spite her.

She then walked towards the spot.

Wanyue was developing a new project in Country A, and there were many documents that were sent into the country. The documents were all backlogged as they did not have a translator previously.

Bai Zhuwei gave it all to her, and requested her to finish everything in two days, not allowing her a moment to take a break.

When it was time to go home, Lin Xinyan was still buried in between mountains of translation documents.

When Zong Jinghao walked out of the office, Bai Zhuwei had already changed away her work clothes. She now wore a long white dress; with her chestnut-colored hair and delicate makeup, she looked beautiful and dignified. She greeted him and held onto Zong Jinghao's arm.

"I've booked a spot at Fan Kong. I know you like the food there."

Zong Jinghao quietly hummed in response, he was not that interested.

He unintentionally glanced at Lin Xinyan, who was at a corner, and he raised his eyebrows.

Bai Zhuwei hurriedly explained, "There was only one empty spot left, so I could only place her there." At the end of the sentence, she added, "I was biased."

Even if she did not say it out, Zong Jinghao would have seen through her actions.

And so she would rather admit to it.

That she did not like her.

"Am I being too petty?" She lowered her head.

What could he say to this? She was already being so honest with him.

"Let's go." He was calm, and nothing could make a wave in his heart.

He could not understand what he felt towards Lin Xinyan, not to mention Guan Jing. He hated her, pitied her, and wanted to know more about her. Her cries and her laughter. What other secrets did she have that he had yet to find out?

She was such a conflicting woman, and he was interested.

When Zong Jinghao did not get angry nor said anything on her behalf, Bai Zhuwei felt more relieved. Lin Xinyan must not take up much place in Zong Jinghao's heart.

Perhaps it was just because of his dead mother.

After all, this was a marriage arranged by his mother.

When she thought about it like that, she felt much more relieved.

Lin Xinyan had seen Bai Zhuwei holding onto Zong Jinghao and leaving, she just pretended not to have seen it.

It was until the elevator doors closed then did Lin Xinyan raised her head. They were loving.

She did not understand why Zong Jinghao liked Bai Zhuwei. She looked simply, but she was devious.

Though that has nothing to do with her.

She lowered her head and smiled bitterly.

Just before twelve, she finally finished her work.

There was barely anyone in the building at this hour. Even the cars on the road were much lesser now than in the day. Without the noise, it seemed more peaceful.

She stood at the side of the road waiting for a cab. Not too long, a cab came.

She waved for it.

The car stopped beside her, and she pulled open the back door, and said to the driver, "Number 138, Tongfu Road."

The cab driver started the car.

Lin Xinyan looked at the speeding scenery. Her eyes were half-closed. She felt sleepy. She shook her head in an attempt to wake herself.

After a while, she realized that the car was going in the wrong direction.

"Mister, I'm going to Number 138, Tongfu Road."

The cab driver turned and looked at her, and he smiled as he said, "I've been a cab driver for a long time. I know the shortcuts."

Lin Xinyan nodded. After all, she was not familiar with the place.

After ten minutes, the cab had not reached the destination. If he had followed the usual route, they would have reached by now. Furthermore, the cab driver said that he was using a shortcut... She realized that there was something wrong.

Chapter 27.

Lin Xinyan calmed herself. "Mister, please turn back, I left something back at my company."

The cab driver pretended that he heard nothing.

Lin Xinyan raised her voice as she said, "Please stop the car!"

The cab driver sped up. Instead of the gentle tone from earlier, he now had a cold tone. "We're not there yet."

In that moment, Lin Xinyan felt her breathing quickened. Her remaining rationality told her not to panic now. She moved her hand quietly to her side in an attempt to take out her phone to call for help.

The cab driver saw her intentions, and he stamped onto the brakes. Unprepared, the phone that Lin Xinyan just took out fell from her hand.

"Who— Who are you? What do you want?" Lin Xinyan forced the wave of panic and fear to calm down.

The cab driver stepped onto the accelerator and looked at her through the rearview mirror. "Did you offend someone, Miss? I'm just doing what I'm paid for." Her heart thumped, and her hands shivered. Who wanted to hurt her?

Bai Zhuwei?

"I can pay you too!" Lin Xinyan tried to strike a deal with him.

The cab driver took a look at her. She was wearing a set of cheap clothes, unlike what a rich person would wear.

The cab driver did not believe in her words.

The place seemed to be getting more and more remote by the second. Lin Xinyan steeled her heart. If she were to jump off the car, she might have a chance in living. If she continued to stay on, she did not want to imagine the consequences.

She clasped her hands, and finally decided. She opened the safety lock and pushed open the door.

The cab driver glanced at her. "Even if you don't die from jumping, you're going scrape yourself bloody. You can't escape!"

Even if she could not escape, she would not continue to stay in the car with the cab driver, that'll be disastrous!

She was afraid, but she had no choice.

She rubbed her stomach. "Baby, please stay strong."

The strong wind whooshed, and it tangled her hair. She was determined.

It took her all her courage to jump.

The car had been speeding. When she came off, her knees came into contact with the floor first, and she sprawled onto the floor. Instantly, fiery pain rushed into her knees, and the blood gushed out in sync with the waves of pain.

She did not have the time to look at it; she got up and started running.

The cab driver had not thought that she had the courage to jump. He stopped the car and started chasing.

Lin Xinyan was limping and could not run fast. Every time her legs lifted; she could feel immense pain.

She persevered, because she knew that once she stops, she'll be doomed!

"Stay there!" In a blink of an eye, the cab driver seemed about to catch up with her.

She just desperately ran.

And ran.

There were lights not far into the woods. Perhaps it was someone. She could only seek for help now; she could not escape by herself.

She ran into the woods towards the light. She screamed help as she ran, hoping to catch the attention of the person.

The cab driver was strong, and Lin Xinyan was hurt. She was caught by the driver. "Don't think of running away!"

The cab driver dragged her towards the road and tried to stuff her back into the car.

Lin Xinyan turned around to bite on his arm. The cab driver screamed and slapped her. "B****, how dare you bite me?"

Lin Xinyan held on. Her mouth was filled with the metallic taste of blood. The cab driver released her in the pain, and she struggled out. This time, she ran even faster.

"Stop right there!" The driver continued chasing, but he tripped. And that was extra time for Lin Xinyan to escape.

Only when she was near the lights then did she realize they were from a villa. She knocked hard on the door. "Is there anyone home? Help me—"

The door shook under her heavy knockings.

By now, the cab driver had caught up. He stared at Lin Xinyan, who was trapped, and said, "Run! Keep running! Let's see where else you can run to!"

Lin Xinyan ignored him and knocked with renewed vigor. "Is there anyone—"

Before she finished her sentence, the door slowly opened and a slim figured emerged from behind it. He stood against the bright light, so Lin Xinyan could not see his face. She squinted her eyes as she said, "Help me."

Just as her words left her mouth, her legs gave out and she collapsed.

Blurrily, she saw the slim figure rushing to catch her.

"Yanyan." He Ruize called out worriedly.

Lin Xinyan gave a difficult smile. It was He Ruize. "Ruize—"

They knew each other! The cab driver turned and ran off when he realized that the situation was unfavorable to him.

He Ruize gave a short glimpse at the cab driver who ran away but he gave no chase. Lin Xinyan was the priority.

He carried Lin Xinyan into the house. Now that there was light, he finally saw the bloody state of her knees.

"What happened?" He asked, concerned.

Lin Xinyan could not find the strength to speak now that she felt relieved.

He Ruize placed her on the couch. "I'll get the first aid kit to treat your wound. We'll see how bad it is."

"Ruize, who is she?" A woman with a high hair bun and matching clothes asked.

On her finger was a large jade ring, graceful and luxurious.

At this moment she was watching at Lin Xinyan, who was sitting on the couch.

Lin Xinyan looked at the woman and her clothes. She did not seem like an average person.

Here—

The interior of the house was decorated with European-style. There was a large crystal chandelier, the light reflecting off the crystal onto the living room. It looked luxurious.

Was this He Ruize's house?

He— He was also a wealthy man?

He Ruize did not answer the woman. Instead, he took out the first aid kit from the cupboard and opened it on the table. He kneeled in front of Lin Xinyan. "It might hurt when the antiseptic touches the wound. Hold on for a bit."

Lin Xinyan nodded.

The woman seemed unhappy with He Ruize's attitude. "It's been many years since you lost Lin. How long are you planning to punish yourself?"

"Mom, go back." He Ruize was not keen on hearing her talk about this.

"Ruize—"

"Mom." He Ruize's looked at his mother and deepened his tone as he said, "I don't want to talk about things from the past. Now that I'm here, I'm never going back."

Xia Zhenyu was overjoyed. All these years he had been abroad and alone. He never told his family where he was, and he only sent a letter home to inform them that he was still alive and safe.

So many years of missing him, and only waiting for him to come back.

She felt glad that he had finally walked out of the shadow from losing Lin and returned back to the country.

Xia Zhenyu was worried that he would still leave; she hoped that he could stay here for long.

She wanted her son to marry here so that someone could anchor him here.

However, He Ruize did not like the idea, and she did not dare to push him too much. "Alright, I won't disturb you."

Xia Zhenyu took her bag and went towards the door. When she reached the door, she paused, and turned to look at Lin Xinyan.

He Ruize was carefully cleaning her wound. His eyes were lowered, and there were unspeakable emotions in them.

So many years, he had been blaming himself for what happened to Lin. Now that he suddenly came back—

Her gaze stopped on Lin Xinyan's face for two seconds. It's likely it's because of this girl.

She took a deep breath. She had never seen this girl amongst the rich families.

As if Lin Xinyan had sensed her gaze, she turned around and saw Xia Zhenyu looking at her. She smiled. "Aunt."

Lin Xinyan had found out her identity through her conversation with He Ruize.

She was He Ruize's mother.

Xia Zhenyu nodded as response and walked out of the house.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head looked at He Ruize who was cleaning her wound.

"Ge, I can't believe you're someone rich—"

Chapter 28.

He Ruize's hand paused. Money did not make him happy.

Lin Xinyan opened her mouth but closed it again. This "Lin" that his mother was talking about, was she his female friend?

It seemed like He Ruize did not like others to talk about it.

And so she did not ask.

He Ruize looked up and saw fingerprints on her face. He frowned and asked, "Who was it this time?"

Lin Xinyan did not know, but she guessed it was Bai Zhuwei.

She was a threat to Bai Zhuwei; she was afraid that she would be close to Zong Jinghao.

"I don't have any evidence." After all, a guess was not an answer.

He Ruize reached out and caress her face. Lin Xinyan instinctively back up, and he did not touch her. He felt a little disappointed, but he faked a look of anger.

"Ruize can't even touch your face?"

Lin Xinyan did not deliberately avoid him; it was just that she instinctively resisted any touch from the opposite sex.

He Ruize smoothed her hair. "Yanyan is feeling shy." Then his face turned grim.

"The wound on your knee—"

Although it did not reach bone, it was still quite serious.

"Bear with it for a little while." He just cleaned the wound earlier. Now he was going to wrap it up, and the process of applying medication was going to be painful.

Lin Xinyan nodded. She had bear through the pain when He Ruize was cleaning her wound.

She knew that no one could take the pain for her.

No one would feel sad for her.

She could only stay strong.

"Mmm." She pursed her lips.

He Ruize looked at her for a second before trying to make her laugh. "If you really can't bear it, you can bite on my hand."

Lin Xinyan smiled in cooperation, but her heart was heavy. Bai Zhuwei did not succeed this time; would the next time be even worse?

Suddenly, she realized she had nothing.

How would she be able to fight back?

He Ruize's head was lowered as he dabbed the medication and did not notice her expression. He was afraid that she would focus on the pain, so he kept talking to her. "This medication won't affect your baby, don't worry."

Lin Xinyan nodded.

He Ruize was thoughtful.

She placed her hand on her stomach. Perhaps this was the most joyful event she has had recently.

The baby was fine.

She did not feel pain nor discomfort in her stomach.

Her child was a brave and strong baby.

"Rest here tonight." He Ruize finished wrapping her wound, looked up, then realized that her forehead was filled with perspiration. "If you need anything, just ask it. I'm your Ruize."

Lin Xinyan nodded. Now she had to find out whether it was Bai Zhuwei or not. She was working at the company. It was convenient for her to investigate as she was near Bai Zhuwei.

He Ruize stood up and went to get a pail of cold water. He wiped her sweat and iced her face.

“Who did you offend?” They were so rough with her.

Lin Xinyan thought for a moment, then she said, “I have no evidence, but I’m assuming it’s Bai Zhuwei, Zong Jinghao’s girlfriend. She hates me, and I’m assuming it’s because I’m married to Zong Jinghao.”

On hearing her relationship with Zong Jinghao as husband and wife, He Ruize felt his heart numbed, but at least it was only for a month. “I’ll take care of you from now on.”

After she is divorced from Zong Jinghao, he was going to confess.

And he would take care of her from there on.

No harm will come to her.

Lin Xinyan did not hear his full sentence, but she hummed in response.

Lin Xinyan did not go home this night. Combining the fact that this was a foreign place and that she had gotten a fright in the night, she had woken up early the next morning.

He Ruize was very considerate. He had bought her new clothes; the ones on her was no longer wearable.

“It’s a dress. It’s more suitable to wear this considering your wound.” He Ruize handed the clothes to her.

Wearing jeans would rub onto the wound.

The dress was long, and it could cover the knees.

Excluding her mom, He Ruize was the nicest to her. This kindness was a pressure to her. She did not know how to repay him.

“Could you be less nice to me?” Her voice was rough.

He Ruize deliberately gave an easy smile. “Silly, you’re calling me Ruize. Isn’t it normal for me to take care of you? No need to be so polite with me.”

He tapped her nose as he continued, “You’re a mother soon, don’t cry now.”

Lin Xinyan sniffed and smiled at him. She took the clothes into her room. She took off her bathrobe and changed into the clothes.

After breakfast, He Ruize sent her home.

“I need to go to Golden Harbor.” There was still time, and she needed to go to the Lins. She had the contract for Repulse Bay given to her by Zong Jinghao, and that meant that she now had a bargaining chip to make an exchange with Lin Guoan.

She needed to take back those things. Only when she has money then could she fight back with those who wanted to hurt her.

Although it was not a lot, at least it solved her most urgent problem.

And the money that she owed He Ruize.

Although he told her that there was no need to pay him back, she could not really do that.

He Ruize turned the car around and went towards Golden Harbor.

In a moment, the car stopped.

Lin Xinyan got down from the car. Although she could walk, every step was painful on her knees. She bore with it and walked into the house.

Inside, the maids were preparing breakfast. They did not seem to be awake yet.

“Do you need to wake—”

“No need.” Lin Xinyan interrupted.

She once lived here. The last time she was here, she had been in a rush, and she did not look at her old bedroom. Although her memories of this place were not great, it was still a place she once lived as a child.

She still felt nostalgic.

She went to the second floor. She was about to open the door to the bedroom she once stayed in when she realized that there were voices coming from within. She pushed open the door lightly and realized that it was already taken over by Lin Yuhan.

Lin Yuhan was lying on the bed, and Shen Xiuqing was sitting by the bedside, seemingly disappointed. “I can’t believe she ran away.”

“What?” Lin Yuhan sat up from the bed abruptly. “How did she get away?”

Shen Xiuqing’s face was grim. “I was too careless. I thought a man could take care of a girl. Who knew that man was so useless, he couldn’t even catch a girl!”

Lin Yuhan shouted in anger. “If she doesn’t get ruined, how would Zong Jinghao get sick of her, then divorce her? If there’s no divorce, where would my chance be at?”

Shen Xiuqing covered her daughter’s mouth. “Speak softer. Don’t let your father hear you.”

Lin Yuhan softened her voice. “I’m angry—”

“Am I not?” Shen Xiuqing face was contorted. “Now that Zong Jinghao likes her, she’ll come and seek revenge with the Zongs at her back. We’ll be doomed.”

“So we need to get rid of her now!” Lin Yuhan said viciously.

Shen Xiuqing was more cautious. “We didn’t succeed this time. I’m afraid she’ll be prepared for the next. It’ll be difficult to mess with her the next time—”

“You—” Lin Yuhan saw the person standing by the door and jumped from the bed. She pointed at Lin Xinyan who was standing by the door, and snapped, “Why— Why are you here?”

Lin Xinyan had been so sure it was Bai Zhuwei, she had not thought that it was Shen Xiuqing and Lin Yuhan.

Shen Xiuqing was also surprised to see her. “When did you come upstairs? What did you hear?”

Lin Xinyan sneered. She stole her mother’s husband, took her father, and used her mother’s dowries. All she wanted was to take back her mother’s and her things.

And yet, she wanted to hurt her!

Hah.

Was she afraid that she’ll have the Zongs to back her up?

“What did you hear?” Lin Xinyan stared at Shen Xiuqing, and sneered,

“Everything I needed to know.”

Chapter 29.

Lin Xinyan had never thought about it, that one of the reasons that they wanted to hurt her was because she might take revenge on them with Zong Jinghao supporting her.

It was true that she never thought about it, but now it was different.

Now they were a threat to not only her, but also her baby!

In their eyes, her compromise was a sign of being weak.

“So what if you’ve heard it?” Since she could not cover it up, Shen Xiuqing gave up the pretense of not knowing.

“That’s right. What do you think you are? You’re just an abandoned—”

“So noisy in the morning— Why are you here?” Lin Guoan was about to start scolding but changed his topic when he saw Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan took a look at Shen Xiuqing and Lin Yuhan, and finally looked at Lin Guoan. “Didn’t you want the land at Repulse Bay?”

Lin Guoan was stunned. “You’ve got it?”

At the same time, Shen Xiuqing and Lin Yuhan gave her a scathing look.

They seemed surprised. Zong Jinghao was treating her well.

Or else he would not give her the contract for Repulse Bay.

Lin Xinyan took in their expressions. She would have to use the power of Zong Jinghao’s name today.

And pretend that she was powerful too.

She faked casualness, and on her face was the look of a shy woman happily in love. “We’re husband and wife. What’s wrong with him giving me something?”

“Impossible!” Lin Yuhan did not want to believe her words. She had been trying to brainwash herself that what she had seen were all an act.

Zong Jinghao would never fall in love with her!

Shen Xiuqing grabbed onto Lin Yuhan and shook her head, signaling her not to be agitated.

If Lin Xinyan really had the land at Repulse Bay, Lin Guoan’s attitude towards her would have drastically changed.

After all, the Zongs was a large tree.

And it was a tree that Lin Guoan was keen on climbing, now that his company was in trouble.

Indeed, after Lin Guoan heard Lin Xinyan’s words, a smile had crawled onto his face. “Have you had breakfast? If not, do eat here before you leave.”

It was not that Lin Guoan did not smile; it was that he had never smiled towards Lin Xinyan.

Looking at Lin Guoan, Lin Xinyan felt bitter. Did he change his attitude because he saw that he could use her?

In his heart, was she only worth using?

This was her biological father. How sorrowful was this?

“I’ve eaten. I’m just here to tell you to pack up my mother’s dowry and my things. I’ll bring it over tomorrow.”

She turned and went down the stairs. The pain on her leg was nothing in comparison with the pain in her heart.

Lin Guoan followed her and said, “Come back. You haven’t eaten here at home. You should leave only after you’ve eaten.”

“What else are you trying to achieve?” Lin Xinyan turned her head to look at Lin

Guoan.

He would not care for her if there was nothing he wanted. That was the kind of man Lin Guoan was.

Even when his intentions were found out, Lin Guoan still softened his tone and said frankly, "Yanyan, there are some troubles that the company has been facing recently. Could you ask Zong Jinghao to help me out?"

Lin Xinyan held onto the handrails as she walked down. "What happened to the company?" She asked with an indifferent tone, not looking at him.

"A real estate we invested in had collapsed—"

The company was facing a lawsuit, and their reputation was taking a hit.

The public had lost interest in anything the company had invested in.

He could barely collect the profits now.

Even if Lin Xinyan had given him the land at Repulse Bay, he had no funds to invest into it.

His priority was to solve the collapse incident.

If Zong Jinghao had appeared to suppress the news then they might be able to overcome the difficulties.

Lin Xinyan looked up the stairs. "I can't help you for free. We'll be making a deal."

Lin Guoan's expression froze, as if not expecting her to make deals. What did she want this time?

His face turned grim.

"Don't worry, I won't want your money. Just return what belongs to me and my mother to me. It's not a problem for me to help you, but—"

"What is it?" Lin Guoan asked.

"Divorce Shen Xiuqing. Then I'll help you."

Lin Guoan was in a dilemma.

Lin Xinyan did not say anything else. She wanted to see how much her father wanted this woman.

More than his company?

"Yanyan—"

"I'm only asking for this. If you're not interested, I won't force you." Lin Xinyan said.

Lin Guoan, did he really fall love?

Lin Guoan was stumped. "Yan Yan, I know you still mind that I sent you away. It's because Shen Xiuqing was pregnant with a son, that's why— that's why—"

"That's why you sent me and mother away. Did she give birth to a son for you?"

Lin Xinyan clasped her hands tightly. Did he know that her mother that he sent away was also pregnant?

The divorce had made her depressed during pregnancy, that's why her child was autistic.

Lin Guoan felt very sorry about that matter. "She had a miscarriage. So if I don't want her now, it would be really unfair to her—"

"The company or Shen Xiuqing. Pick one!" Lin Xinyan did not want to hear him say that it was unfair to divorce Shen Xiuqing because she once carried a son.

What about her mother?

She deserved to be abandoned?

She deserved to have an autistic son?

He was nostalgic now that she asked him to divorce Shen Xiuqing?

Did he felt nostalgic when he sent she and her mother away?
Lin Xinyan walked steadily out of the Lins' villa as her heart broke.
Outside the entrance, He Ruize was leaning on his car. The morning sun was gentle, softly landing on him, and it made him look kind and ethereal.
Lin Xinyan's footsteps paused.
He Ruize pulled open the door to the backseat when he saw her come out.
"Don't stand there, get on the car."
Lin Xinyan walked over and entered the car.
He Ruize closed the door and sat onto the driver's seat. He turned to look at her.
"Where do you want to go?"
"Wanyue." Lin Xinyan leaned on the window. "I'm working there."
He Ruize frowned. "If I have better jobs—"
"It's a deal with Zong Jinghao to work there." So she could not leave.
He Ruize started the car. He felt anxious, he thought that she was too involved with Zong Jinghao.
About twenty minutes later, the car stopped at Wanyue Group's office building.
He Ruize came down to open the car door, but Lin Xinyan had already pushed open the door. She saw him walk over, and she smiled. "I can do it myself."
He Ruize supported her. "Don't you know that you're hurt? Take care of yourself. Call me if there's anything you need."
Lin Xinyan nodded, and walked away from the car.
At this moment, there was another car that stopped at the entrance. A tall figure came down from the car, and Lin Xinyan looked over.
Zong Jinghao was standing beside the car, his gaze at her was like the coldest moonlight. A light touch, and she would shiver from it.
Zong Jinghao look was so unfriendly, that even He Ruize spotted it and moved in front of her to block the gaze.
Zong Jinghao was already angry at Lin Xinyan for not going home last night. And now, He Ruize was there, protecting that woman in front of him.
He just felt the scorching frustration in him, threatening to burn him up.
She had not gone home the entire night, and it was to accompany this man?
The more he thought about it, the more the fire in heart burned...

The fire burned and burned, and it was about to swallow him up. He lowered his voice, and a corner of lips turned upwards. His tone was cold with no hint of joy nor anger. "What I've said to you, it's not important, is it?" Lin Xinyan instinctively shuddered.

"Your marriage is just a deal; you have no rights to request anything from her." He Ruize's tone was also cold.

"If I don't have to rights, you don't too. Regardless if it's a deal or not, you're thinking of someone else's wife, that's not what a gentleman does." He looked away from He Ruize but gave a side-eye to Lin Xinyan. "I'll give you a minute." He walked into the building.

He Ruize turned around to look at Lin Xinyan. "Don't worry, I'm here. I'll accompany you in and explain to him."

Lin Xinyan shook her head. She was in the wrong. She promised him the last time, but now she broke the promise.

"It's alright, Ruize. You should go, I still need to work." Lin Xinyan walked into the building. Zong Jinghao had already went up.

Lin Xinyan took the elevator up.

Standing out Zong Jinghao's office, she steeled her heart and knocked the door. "Come in."

She pushed open the door and was about to explain before Zong Jinghao cut her off. "Let's end our marriage now."

He looked up at her. "A month is too long. Let's end it now."

Lin Xinyan could not stop her lips from trembling. She thought she had been strong and brave, but she was not.

It was not enough.

She could not save herself when the danger came.

If she had not found He Ruize, she might not have gotten out of there. Perhaps she would have been killed by Shen Xiuqing and Lin Yuhan.

Zong Jinghao did not want to continue his words. He picked the phone and said, "Lawyer Lee, draft me a divorce—"

"No!" Lin Xinyan rushed over, covered his phone, and shook her head. "I really didn't mean to not go home. There were some things last night, that's why—"

Hah.

Zong Jinghao's eyes landed on the dress she wore, and he laughed gloomily, the sound seemed to pass through her flesh and blood. "I'm giving you what you want, isn't that good?"

She was clearly wearing jeans and shirt yesterday, and today she was wearing a dress.

How crazy was last night, that her clothes were no longer wearable?

Perhaps she had her charms, but she was wild.

His time was not worth spending on this kind of woman.

"No." Even if they were to have a divorce, now was not the time.

If she were to lose Zong Jinghao as he supports, she would return back to her state eight years ago.

A fish out of the water, helpless.

Zong Jinghao stared at her. She was stunned, panicked, and disoriented like a deer in headlights. She was hesitating and at a loss. He was caught off guard by the sudden throb in his heart but he sneered. She was fooling around with other

men, but she wanted to keep the marriage?

Absurd! Ridiculous!

He remained indifferent and distant. "I'm giving you the chance to be with that man together and forever, but you're telling me no?"

Lin Xinyan was in a panic, and she was fearful. She was afraid Zong Jinghao really wanted to divorce her.

In that moment, Lin Xinyan thought about his unexpected kiss. Without further thoughts, she leaned over and kissed him.

The time froze.

Zong Jinghao was stunned for a moment. He lowered his eyelids and stared at the woman who was kissing his lips. He had forgotten how to react.

She was slutty in her real life, but her kissing techniques were like a beginner's. And there was this sense of familiarity, that made him not push her away within a second. His rationality returned, and Zong Jinghao pushed her away roughly. Unprepared for the push, Lin Xinyan's knees turned into jelly and she fell backwards. Her dress rode up and her legs were exposed.

The wound tore open again, and the bandage on her knees were seeped with blood. It was attention-grabbing.

Pain shot into her knees.

She trembled.

Zong Jinghao was shocked.

Her legs—

Lin Xinyan ignored the pain on her knees and crawled to stand up from the ground. She looked at him and continued to beg him. "Don't divorce me."

She was afraid. Afraid that she would lose everything. She finally managed to stand on equal terms Lin Guoan as Zong Jinghao's wife, and now this was floating away from her hands like bubbles.

Her tears fell in fear and in bewilderment.

Zong Jinghao walked to her, bent over, and pulled up the edges of her dress.

Both of her knees were wrapped with white bandages, the bright red on it was eye-catching.

She was hurt?

His voice held a tone of distress that was barely detectable. Perhaps even he did not realize it, that he would feel distressed when she was hurt. "What happened?"

Lin Xinyan wiped the tears on her face and took the chance to explain. "I was going home last night in a cab, but it turns out someone had arranged for the cab driver to hurt me. To escape, I jumped from the car, and that's where my knees were hurt. I didn't mean to not go back. I was only with He Ruize because he saved me."

Zong Jinghao did not want to admit that he felt his heart softened when he saw the wound on her knees.

He straightened; his expression was still cold. "Do you know who had wanted to hurt you?"

"Shen Xiuqing and Lin Yuhan. It's because I married you. They were afraid that you were going to support me if I take revenge on them, and so they decided to get rid of me first." She had nothing to hide for this matter. She had to convince Zong Jinghao not to divorce her. That was her priority.

So her unwillingness to divorce was not because she liked him but was because she was afraid of others waiting to harm her.

He was surprised to find himself a little disappointed.

He turned around to face the French windows, showing her a lonely back. "This is why you don't want to divorce me?"

Lin Xinyan did not deny it. "Our deal was for a month, so can we wait until then?"

Zong Jinghao closed his eyes and frowned. He was obviously disinterested to discuss further. Instead of agreeing or rejecting her, his tone was cold as he said, "Get out!"

"I won't be staying out all night. In this duration as your wife, I will be doing what a wife does. Don't worry, Mr. Zong." Lin Xinyan guaranteed.

Zong Jinghao was frustrated, and his tone was freezing cold. "Get out!"

Lin Xinyan hesitated for a second, then limped out.

When the door closed, Zong Jinghao held his forehead and laughed mockingly at himself. He was laughing at the irony; he was laughing at himself.

He lost control of himself because of this insignificant woman.

He had never done this.

He knew that she was not pure nor naive. Yet he could not restrain himself from acting unlike himself whenever she was involved.

Lin Xinyan returned to her spot. She pulled apart the bandage, and the blood from her wound bled out. She took out the medication that He Ruize gave her and poured it on her wound. She did not wrap it up again.

It was time for work, so the employees were slowly coming into the office. She quietly translated her documents. She was so quiet; it was as if she was not there. Even Bai Zhuwei did not appear to look for trouble with her.

In the afternoon, everyone went out for lunch.

Lin Xinyan was not with the others. She had bought packed lunch and ate it at her spot while looking through the documents. Bai Zhuwei had told her to finish the translations by two days. She had only translated half yesterday, and there was still half left. She was busy today.

To avoid Bai Zhuwei finding fault with her, she had to finish translating within the time given.

For lunch, Bai Zhuwei went to the office cafeteria with Zong Jinghao. Naturally, they came back together.

Zong Jinghao never asked anything regarding Lin Xinyan.

This made Bai Zhuwei feel relieved.

She had been too agitated and nervous the last time because Lin Xinyan was the girl of that night. The baby in her stomach was Zong Jinghao's child.

Now that she had time to think, she realized that Zong Jinghao would never know the truth of that night as the only woman who knew about it was already dead.

As long as she could keep Zong Jinghao's heart to herself... As for Lin Xinyan, she knew someone would get rid of her soon, and—