

Chapter 31.

The relationship between Bai Zhuwei and Zong Jinghao was known by everyone in the company.

Bai Zhuwei wanted to publicize it and Zong Jinghao did not stop her nor deny it, thus admitting their relationship indirectly.

Now, Bai Zhuwei was not merely a secretary but would possibly marry into the Zong family. Therefore, she was rather respected and always flattered by a lot of colleagues in the company.

As soon as Zong Jinghao entered his office, someone came up to her and said, "Zhuwei, how was your meal with Mr. Zong?" "We admire you very much."

Bai Zhuwei gave Lin Xinyan a sidelong glance and smilingly said, "It was nothing special. We had regular vegetables, a crispy pigeon, boiled chicken, crystal river shrimps..."

"Wow, all of these were your favorite dishes!" Qiu Yi flattered, "Mr. Zong's so sweet."

Bai Zhuwei smiled lightly while fiddling with her delicate fingernails casually. Even though she didn't say anything, everyone saw it as a tacit acknowledgement.

Qiu Yi came up to her and said, "Zhuwei, when will you marry Mr. Zong?"

Bai Zhuwei suddenly stopped fiddling with her fingernails when she thought about it. If it wasn't for Lin Xinyan, she was already a member of the Zong family. She got in her way!

She didn't go after Lin Xinyan as she had to keep up her image before Zong Jinghao. Nevertheless, she could use a cat's paw to hurt her to ensure that she could never do well in the company.

She smiled amiably and said, "Qiu Yi."

"Zhuwei." Qiu Yi was rather smooth-faced.

"The new translator is very thoughtless." Bai Zhuwei pretended to be upset.

"Did she annoy you?"

"Not really. Never mind, just do our work." Bai Zhuwei deliberately stopped speaking as she knew Qiu Yi would get what she meant.

Qiu Yi looked at Lin Xinyan's seat and thought to herself. Did this woman offend her because she wasn't aware of the relationship between Bai Zhuwei and Mr. Zong?

It must be so. Since she had just joined the company, it wouldn't be a surprise if she offended Bai Zhuwei.

She returned to her seat and thought to herself that she must reprimand her when she has the chance.

After Lin Xinyan finished her lunch, she threw away the disposable lunchbox and went to the pantry to drink some water.

Qiu Yi saw her and thought it would be a good chance. She then grabbed her cup and went to the pantry.

Qiu Yi stood behind Lin Xinyan and deliberately stepped forward when she finished filling her cup. As Lin Xinyan didn't realize there was someone behind and ran into her, her glass of water was spilled on Qiu Yi's dress.

"Are you blind?" Qiu Yi chastised her.

Spilling the drinks on Qiu Yi was indeed her fault. She immediately apologized to her, "I'm so sorry. It was an accident."

"Just because it was an accident, you could simply spill your drinks on me?"

Lin Xinyan was stunned as she had never thought Qiu Yi would say something so unpleasant.

"I have apologized to you, and it was an accident." Lin Xinyan explained it patiently.

"What's the use of apologizing?" "Can I simply slap you in the face and apologize, and you will forgive me?" Qiu Yi was determined and obviously reluctant to let it go.

Lin Xinyan frowned and thought, "Isn't that sophistry?"

How can one compare spilling water on her with slapping her in the face?

"What do you want?" Lin Xinyan's voice was as cold as ice.

Obviously, she did not want to let it go, and not even apologies can solve this.

Staring at Lin Xinyan, Qiu Yi grabbed her glass of water and said, "Since you splashed water on me, we will be even when I splashed it on you too."

Lin Xinyan stared at her glass of steaming water in disbelief. The woman wasn't just nasty, but it's clear that she even wanted to disfigure her.

Wouldn't she be scalded by the boiling water?

Lin Xinyan added cold water into her glass as she was in a hurry to drink just now. Even if she were to splash it on her, she would merely wet her dress and not harm her.

Stared at Qiu Yi piercingly, she clenched hands and said, "How could we be even. You'll have to be responsible if I'm scalded!"

Qiu Yi was pondering how severe would it be after splashing her glass of water on Lin Xinyan.

The water has been slightly cooled down right now and surely wouldn't be at 100 degree Celsius. At most, it will only give her several blisters.

Since she wanted to fawn over Bai Zhuwei, she had to do it real and hard. She sneered, "Sue me!"

She splashed the water on Lin Xinyan even before she finished speaking.

Lin Xinyan wasn't dumb to just stand still and wait for it to happen. But as she moved too swiftly, she accidentally tore her wound on her knee, lost her balance and fell down. The water was splashed on to the ground near her legs and spilled on the edge of her skirt, but luckily not on her body.

"What's going on?" The lookers-on immediately moved aside when they heard a stone cold voice.

Standing next to Zong Jinghao, Bai Zhuwei glanced at Qiu Yi and did not utter a word.

Others didn't know the relationship between Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao, but he knew it.

As speaking for anyone of them would complicate the matter, she chose to stay silent.

Qiu Yi glanced at Bai Zhuwei and thought to herself that she had nothing to be worried about since Bai Zhuwei would back her up and what's more, Lin Xinyan was just a newly arrived translator.

"She splashed me with water on purpose and refused to apologize. I splashed her back only because I was infuriated."

Zong Jinghao looked at the woman who's sitting on the floor and looked disheveled. Having mixed feelings when seeing her, he asked in a serious manner, "Is that true?"

Lin Xinyan wanted to get up from the floor but, perhaps due to her knee pain, her leg gave way when she was trying to stand up and fell again. Before she fell, someone reached out to hold her arm and pulled her into his warm hug.

Zong Jinghao held her by her waist that was as thin as a rake, as it very fragile and could be broken by him very easily.

Much to his own surprise, he was reluctant to let her go.

As if escaped death, Lin Xinyan heaved a long sigh and thought why she was so unlucky.

She fell down after being pushed by Zong Jinghao before, and now she fell down again.

“Can you stand?” Zong Jinghao asked her.

Lin Xinyan tried to move her legs, nodded and said, “Yes.”

Every looker-on and even Qiu Yi were stunned.

Usually, Zong Jinghao would never do such a thing.

Everyone turned the spotlight on Bai Zhuwei and was as if asking each other who this woman was.

Since she didn't look special after all, why would Mr. Zong care about her?

“Since everyone's fine, dismiss.” Bai Zhuwei wanted to end this farce quickly, and Zong Jinghao's reaction was beyond her expectations.

He said that he won't reveal her identity, yet what would others think when he hugged her so tightly before everyone?

Bai Zhuwei glared at Qiu Yi fiercely. What a useless bungler!

“Mr. Zong, it's time for the meeting.” Bai Zhuwei said lightly.

Zong Jinghao gently put Lin Xinyan down and stood in front of the pantry. He glanced coldly at the mess in the pantry and said in a deep voice, “Guan Jing!”

Guan Jing answered him.

“Connect the CCTV footage to my office.” He turned around after finished speaking, yet stopped suddenly and turned to Bai Zhuwei and said, “Postpone the meeting by half an hour.”

Qiu Yi was panicked once she heard it, and said, “Ms. Bai...”

Bai Zhuwei stared at Qiu Yi with a piercingly cold gaze, and she immediately stopped speaking.

Bai Zhuwei came up to Zong Jinghao and said, “Mr. Zong, the meeting has already started and everyone is waiting for you. If it is postponed...”

Zong Jinghao was poker-faced and stared at her calmly.

Bai Zhuwei was afraid to say one more word after looking at his emotionless expression. She immediately said, “I'll do it right away.”

But Qiu Yi couldn't stay calm because once they checked the CCTV footage, it would be crystal clear that she purposely splashed Lin Xinyan with water and found fault with her.

“Zhuwei...”

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"Shut up!" Qiu Yi was interrupted by Bai Zhuwei as soon as she opened her mouth. Bai Zhuwei scolded, "We should be friendly and helpful to each other since we are in the same company. Just because she spilled some water on you and you didn't want to let it go. Do you think you did the right thing?"

Qiu Yi was worried that the game would be up, yet dared not disobey Bai Zhuwei due to her status in the company.

She might possibly save herself if she kept quiet.

Lin Xinyan surreptitiously observed the interactions between Qiu Yi and Bai Zhuwei.

She felt that it was cold.

It wasn't her body that was cold.

But her heart was cold instead.

So many of them hated her just because she's married to Zong Jinghao.

She used to think that it was just a simple trade, yet was followed with so much trouble.

She couldn't understand why they couldn't tolerate her even though they knew the marriage between Zong Jinghao and her was merely a trade.

Qiu Yi glared at Lin Xinyan.

She acted as if she didn't see her.

She believed she was just a cat's paw and hadn't realized it yet.

Qiu Yi was stunned for a minute before she said, "I didn't mean to do that."

"You know exactly what you have done." Guan Jing turned around and glanced at everyone in the room. The lookers-on strained their necks to listen to what Guan Jing wanted to say.

"If you really want to know, watch the CCTV footage when you get off. This is our company and not a market, and so we do not want employees who are not united. I wish everyone can take it as a lesson." Guan Jing dismissed everyone once he finished speaking and said, "Go back and do what you have to do."

Everyone returned to his or her seat, and so was Lin Xinyan. When Zong Jinghao left his office to get to the meeting room, Qiu Yi saw him and rushed towards him.

"Mr. Zong, I didn't mean to do that."

Zong Jinghao wasn't interested to listen to her. He walked past her and continued to stride towards the meeting room.

Qiu Yi was pulled and stopped by Guan Jing when she was about to followed him. Guan Jing said to her, "You know exactly what you have done, and you should also know that Mr. Zong isn't very good-tempered."

"But..." Qiu Yi wanted to explain to him, yet realized that there was virtually nothing for her to explain.

Guan Jing glared at her warningly and went to the meeting room.

Qiu Yi didn't want to lose her job and had to beg Bai Zhuwei's for her help.

Considering the close relationship between Bai Zhuwei and Zong Jinghao, she's confident that what's done could still be undone as long as she could plead for her.

She waited at the entrance of the meeting room.

After conducting the meeting for about one and a half hours, the meeting room opened. Zong Jinghao was standing imposing at the door with Guan Jing and Bai

Zhuwei behind him.

They appeared to be frowning when they saw her.

Qiu Yi sprang upon Bai Zhuwei, grabbed her arm and said, "Zhuwei, you must plead with the boss for me. I picked on Lin Xinyan for you..."

"What are you talking about?" Bai Zhuwei pushed her away sternly.

"But she said you didn't like her." Qiu Yi never thought that Bai Zhuwei would turn her back on her so quickly.

"I might not like her, but did I ask you to do what you have done?"

Zong Jinghao was aware that she didn't like Lin Xinyan.

She couldn't deny that.

Bai Zhuwei didn't say it specifically, yet her hint was clear. Qiu Yi said, "But..."

"You must pay for what you have done." Bai Zhuwei called the security guards, "Drag her out!"

"Zhuwei, I beg for your help to plead with the boss for me. I really can't lose this job!"

Bai Zhuwei didn't turn softhearted at all. What would Zong Jinghao think about her after hearing such nonsense from this woman?

Save her?

Forget it.

As it was obviously hopeless to save her job, Qiu Yi screamed at Bai Zhuwei ferociously, "You are an ungrateful jerk who pretended to be kind at the while! You made me lose my job! Bitch!"

"Can't you see she is disrupting the order here. Drag her out already!" Guang Jing scolded and the security guards immediately did their job. Her screams eventually faded away.

Zong Jinghao appeared to be disgusted by the whole farce and walked away swiftly.

Bai Zhuwei immediately followed him.

Once they entered the office, Bai Zhuwei put her arms around his waist from behind and said, "Hao, listen to me..." She rested her head on his strong back and continued, "I did say I didn't like her, but I really didn't ask anyone to find fault with her..."

Zong Jinghao looked down at her hands around his waist and said, "I said I will accord the status you deserve to you. But why are you so impatient?"

After finished speaking, he loosened her arms and said, "I slept with you and no matter what, I will be responsible for what I have done with you. But you mustn't find fault with her."

"Hao, I really didn't do it. Even if I have done something wrong, I must have done it for you. Is it wrong for me to love you?" "Do you not know me yet after being with me for so long?" Bai Zhuwei stared at him tearfully, "I am willing to give you my body, not to mention my life even if I have to. I fell for you, love you, and am afraid to lose you!"

Zong Jinghao seemed to be slightly touched, not because of her sincerity but rather due to the fact that they slept together.

He wiped his tears and said, "I didn't scold you, but why are you crying? Are you trying to make me softhearted?"

Her tears dropped slowly as she wept and said, "I'm afraid that you will abandon me. I do not have any relatives ever since I was young and grew up in an

orphanage. To escape the life in the orphanage, I worked hard to study and live. I am fortunate enough to meet you, and now you are my one and only relative and lover. I can't afford to lose you..."

"You won't. I will give you everything that I have promised to you." He drew back her hands, turned around without looking at her, and then said, "Go do your work."

Bai Zhuwei found it harder to understand him.

"Hao..."

"Just go." He began to feel impatient, and obviously didn't want to delve into the topic.

Bai Zhuwei had no choice but to leave his office.

It became increasingly harder for her to understand Zong Jinghao. A ripple of unease flowed up her spine.

She went into the ladies' room and made a phone call.

"Didn't you say you have done it?" "Why is she still in the company, as if nothing happened to her?"

"We missed." Lin Yuhan was infuriated too.

Bai Zhuwei nearly wanted to berate her but held her temper as she could still use her. She then said, "Why did you miss?"

"My mom and I were too careless. We found only a man and she escaped!"

Bai Zhuwei almost couldn't stop herself from calling her an idiot!

"So you just let her go?"

"My mom said she must be alarmed now, and we can hardly take any action in the short term." "Plus, after something happened in the company, Lin Guoan didn't treat mother so well as he used to treat her before."

Now they had to first get Lin Guoan.

They would only be finished after being sent away, exactly like how Zhuang Zijin and her mother were sent away eight years ago.

Bai Zhuwei was rather impatient, yet she couldn't do it by herself and had to wait patiently. She then said, "Just do it quickly."

"Why are you even more impatient than I am?"

Bai Zhuwei was stunned and realized that she was too anxious. She immediately replied, "That's because I'm worried about you." "How could Lin Xinyan deserve to be with Zong Jinghao, am I right?"

"Certainly, I was supposed to marry Zong Jinghao. Who does that bitch Lin Xinyan think she is?"

Bai Zhuwei sneered and thought to herself, "Lin Xinyan surely doesn't deserve him, neither do you!"

Bai Zhuwei didn't really want to talk to her if it wasn't because she could use her.

"Don't you ever miss again." Bai Zhuwei hung up once she finished speaking.

Two days ago...

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She met Lin Yuhan at a bar when she went for a drink alone two days ago. They were sitting next to each other, while Lin Yuhan drank a little too much. Because she bumped into Zong Jinghao and realized that he didn't have a limp, she missed the opportunity to marry into the Zong family. She resented Lin Xinyan very much and was cursing her.

Bai Zhuwei therefore sat close and cottoned up to her. She knew from her that she was also a member of the Lin family, and resented Lin Xinyan deeply. As Bai Zhuwei was with Zong Jinghao every day, it would be rather noticeable if she went after Lin Xinyan by herself.

Therefore, she decided to use Lin Yuhan at that time.

Lin Yuhan looked exactly like Shen Xiuqing, yet was way stupider than her and rather immature even though she was 17.

Bai Zhuwei was rather eloquent since she started working very early and had been working for Zong Jinghao for quite some time.

She told Lin Yuhan that she worked in Wan Sheng and could help her to get rid of Lin Xinyan.

Lin Yuhan was successfully cajoled by Bai Zhuwei to collaborate since then.

Therefore, Lin Yuhan told Shen Xiuqing what she thought when she got home.

Shen Xiuqing was worried too that Lin Xinyan would take revenge on them once she became powerful.

Eight years ago, she bore Lin Guoan a son and successfully gained wealth and fame. Later, in the name of her unborn child she got Lin Guoan to send the mother and daughter away.

So, Shen Xiuqing agreed to it as soon as Lin Yuhan mentioned it.

Both of them bribed a man, scheming to take Lin Xinyan to a deserted area to rape her. They planned to take photos to destroy her life and make Zong Jinghao detest her.

But it was unexpected that she managed to escape.

Lin Yuhan rushed downstairs after answering Bai Zhuwei's call to talk to Shen Xiuqing about their next move to go after Lin Xinyan. However, she could feel that everyone in the living room was in a grim mood.

Lin Guoan and Shen Xiuqing looked grave.

She sat next to Shen Xiuqing, held her arms and asked, "Mom, what's wrong with you?"

Shen Xiuqing was emotionless and did not utter a word.

Lin Guoan also looked emotionless as he spoke coldly, "I didn't ask you to do something difficult, but merely apologize to her and stop finding fault at her. Our company is in trouble and we need her help!"

They needed Zong Jinghao's help, to be exact.

Lin Xinyan seemed to have successfully pleased Zong Jinghao, and so he had to get to Lin Xinyan for a start.

He knew that Lin Xinyan's not over what happened before after listening to what she said.

Lin Guoan still loved Shen Xiuqing and didn't want a divorce before running out of other options.

"Dad, who do you want mom to apologize to?" Lin Yuhan was bewildered.

"You too. Yan is your sister and you should be kind to her." Lin Guoan stared at

Shen Xiuqing said, "Think about it. I'm gonna give her a call and invite her over for dinner."

Lin Yuhan wasn't as patient as Shen Xiuqing. She immediately jumped up from the couch once she knew that he wanted her mother to apologize to Lin Xinyan, and said to him, "Dad, why on earth should mom apologize to her?"

Lin Guoan was stunned as he didn't expect his sweet and obedient daughter would be so aggressive.

"I'm your dad. Is that how you're supposed to talk to me?" Lin Guoan was irritated and yelled, "I tell you what, apologize and everything will be fine. If you don't, I'll divorce you!"

He will still choose his company over a woman.

What kind of women he couldn't possibly have when he has risen to the top of the world?

A person is truly nobody if he doesn't have any money or social status.

"Dad..."

"Han!" Shen Xiuqing interrupted her daughter. It is crystal clear that Lin Guoan wanted to keep his company and cared nothing about her dignity.

He would really divorce her if he's determined to do so.

Even after marrying Zhuang Zijin for so many years, it was still easy for him to divorce her.

Lin Yuhan asked him while stamping her foot angrily, "Dad, why?" "Who does Lin Xinyan think she is? Why must mom apologize to her?"

Bang!

Lin Guoan smashed a glass on the table to the ground with a loud crash.

Infuriated, he glared at Shen Xiuqing and said, "Is this how you taught our daughter?"

Shen Xiuqing immediately stood up and said, "Guoan, Han just didn't want me to be wronged, and didn't mean it." She pulled Lin Yuhan's hand and said, "Apologize to your dad now."

Lin Yuhan was unwilling to apologize as she didn't think she was wrong.

"Say it!" Shen Xiuqing berated her in a rough voice. It's fine to be arrogant sometimes, but this time is completely different!

She will infuriate Lin Guoan. They will be finished if they are kicked out of home!

Lin Yuhan breathed heavily with anger and wouldn't budge.

Shen Xiuqing slapped her on the back in a fit of rage and said, "What did I usually teach you?" "Apologize to your dad now!"

Shen Xiuqing winked at her when she spoke.

Noticed that the whole incident could become far more serious, Lin Yuhan said reluctantly, "Dad, I was wrong."

Lin Guoan didn't want to squabble continuously on the same topic and said, "Prepare a nice dinner."

He left the house after finished speaking as he still had to deal with tons of troubles in his company.

He stopped when he reached the door, looked back at them and said, "You can't help solve my problems in the company, but know very well on how to spend my money. If you can't even do this single task well, what's the use of keeping the two of you?"

Lin Guoan was heartless.

Even though he loved Shen Xiuqing, she could still be sacrificed for greater benefits.

Lin Yuhan clenched his teeth in anger and said, "Did he have a stroke just now?" Shen Xiuqing sat back on the couch in desperation and ridiculed herself by saying, "Who says he suffered a stroke? He is shrewd enough! When he knows that Zong Jinghao likes Lin Xinyan now, he hopes to utilize her so that Zong Jinghao can solve his company's mess."

Lin Yuhan was even angrier when she heard this and said, "If I were married to Zong Jinghao, dad will surely not treat us like this!"

Shen Xiuqing looked at her daughter lovingly. She knew that her daughter was as good as Lin Xinyan.

She pulled Lin Yuhan over to sit beside her and said, "Now is not the time to be pissed off." She turned around, looked at her daughter and said, "Do you love Zong Jinghao?"

Wasn't it very obvious?

Lin Yuhan blushed as soon as she thought about Zong Jinghao, as a young girl like her couldn't contain herself. She looked down coyly and answered gently, "Hmm".

Shen Xiuqing held her daughter's arms tightly and said, "Actually, it is not something impossible."

"Is it possible?" Lin Yuhan was overjoyed.

Shen Xiuqing already had a well-thought-out plan. She looked at her daughter and said, "You shouldn't be worried about it. Your job for now is to dress yourself up, and I will do the rest."

Before Lin Xinyan got off from work, she received Lin Guoan's call and was invited to have dinner along with Zong Jinghao at his place.

Lin Xinyan wasn't sure if Lin Guoan was suspicious and wanted to pump her for more information about her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

If Lin Guoan came to know that she wasn't liked by Zong Jinghao, it would become very difficult for her to take back her belongings and take revenge on Shen Xiuqing for harming her.

But, asking Zong Jinghao to return to the Lin family together would be rather impossible.

After finished translating the last document, Lin Xinyan sat at her seat, contemplating ways to convince Zong Jinghao to go to Lin's house with her.

She contemplated for a long time, but still couldn't think of a good way to do it.

Bai Zhuwei left her seat due to work, and therefore Lin Xinyan wanted to take this opportunity to get into Zong Jinghao's office and talk to him.

She stood up but felt that it would be wired if she went in without reason. She glanced at the document that she had just finished translating and grabbed it along.

Bai Zhuwei would usually stop her from approaching Zong Jinghao and hand over the translated documents to Zong Jinghao herself.

Stood in front of the office door, she took a deep breath before knocking on the door.

She pushed open the door after someone in the office answered.

Chapter 34.

Zong Jinghao's office was particularly modernized, spacious and plainly furnished, making it look imposing and magnanimous. At both sides, French windows were placed at the front wall to allow in sufficient sunlight.

Standing there, she could overlook the entire city.

Zong Jinghao was reading his document and didn't look up.

Lin Xinyan stood in front of the desk and handed the document over to him.

Zong Jinghao didn't take the document but merely said coldly, "Put them on the desk."

Lin Xinyan had no choice but to put down her document. She wanted to open her mouth but couldn't find the right words to say to him.

How should she start?

Should I say, "Mr. Zong, can you go home with me?"

Lin Xinyan knew that he would definitely refuse her request.

Zong Jinghao thought it was Bai Zhuwei and asked her, "Any problem?"

He flipped a page, yet his eyes were still focusing entirely on his document.

"I would like to ask Mr. Zong a favor." Lin Xinyan mustered up the courage and said.

As she didn't sound like Bai Zhuwei, he looked up and saw Lin Xinyan standing nervously in front of his desk.

Lin Xinyan immediately smiled and said, "Mr. Zong."

His eyes sparkled with excitement when he saw her, yet it was only short-lived.

He seemed to be surprised that she would be in his office.

Zong Jinghao closed his document, leaned back on his chair and stared at her body. He didn't refrain himself from scanning every inch of her body parts, including her face, neck, chest and waist.

"You want to say something?"

Lin Xinyan avoided his gaze and said, "Mr. Zong, did you realize that you have brought me a lot of troubles."

"Oh?" Zong Jinghao was surprised to hear that.

Lin Xinyan shook her hands and said calmly, "I'm sure Mr. Zong knew that Bai Zhuwei always finds fault with me. Also, I was almost hurt by someone just because I've married Mr. Zong. So, can Mr. Zong go to Lin's house with me for my safety."

Zong Jinghao held his forehead with his hand while massaging his temple. He seemed tired and didn't want to say anything.

Standing still, Lin Xinyan was bewildered and didn't know what he was thinking.

"What did you just said?" he asked.

"Can you go to Lin's house with me?" Lin Xinyan immediately repeated.

He answered in a deep and low voice, "Oh."

Just answer yes or no.

Lin Xinyan was having butterflies in her stomach.

She wanted to ask him directly but immediately thought that it might not be suitable. When she was still contemplating, she noticed that he kept massaging his temple.

Since Lin Xinyan was asking him a favor, she made up her mind, walked past the desk, came up to him and said awkwardly, "Let me help you."

He put down his arms and closed his eyes, acquiescing to her offer.

Lin Xinyan didn't have any relevant experience but was merely trying to massage his temple for him.

His muscle was obviously tense at the moment when their skin touched each other.

Lin Xinyan thought he was uncomfortable, and so she massaged him gentler and asked, "Is this okay?"

He answered in a slightly rough voice, "Hmm."

Lin Xinyan massaged his temples by exerting the same force. As she looked down, she realized that his muscles were sturdy and bouncy. His face, neck and Adam's apple looked particularly hot.

Lin Xinyan dared not look at him anymore. She averted her eyes from him and tried to ask him, "It's nothing special for you to go to Lin's house with me."

He slightly opened his eyes in disbelief and replied teasingly, "Is that so?"

She got nervous and knew that she couldn't hide it from him.

She opened up to him, "I just want to let Lin Guoan see that you actually 'like' me. I want to take back something that belongs to me from him. So, Mr. Zong, can you go with me?"

Lin Xinyan was worried that he might refuse, and then added, "Mr. Zong, I was almost splashed with boiling water today. If it wasn't for Mr. Zong's woman who thinks too highly of me, such a disaster won't happen to me at all."

She stopped for a while and continued, "As for the document that I spent the whole night to translate for you at home, you haven't paid me yet even though we agreed on the price. Now, I don't want the money but only hope that Mr. Zong can do me a favor."

He finally opened his eyes and said, "Since you said so, it seems that I can't refuse."

"Thank you Mr. Zong..."

Knock, knock...

Before Lin Xinyan could finish thanking him, someone knocked on the office door. Feeling tense, she consciously stopped massaging for him, put down her arms and stepped aside.

Zong Jinghao glanced at her, yet didn't say anything and acquiesced to it.

Lin Xinyan looked down and rubbed her fingers. Her palms were sweaty.

She would never dare flatter Zong Jinghao if it wasn't for the purpose of using him.

She's all alone and could only use his 'husband's' power now to take back things that belong to her.

Bai Zhuwei came in with her document but frowned immediately when she saw Lin Xinyan. Before she wanted to ask why she was here, Zong Jinghao said, "You want to see me?"

"Please sign the document." Zhuwei smiled stiffly.

He took and glanced through the document, and then said, "You may leave now."

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and left the office.

Bai Zhuwei turned around and glanced at her. She couldn't wait to slap her on her face. Is she trying to seduce Zong Jinghao when she was not around?

This is her territory, and Lin Xinyan must never think about crossing the boundaries!

"Hao, she..."

“I asked her to hand over the translated document to me. Anything wrong?” He was completely emotionless.

She couldn’t tell at all if he was lying.

He subconsciously shouldered all of the responsibilities.

He could tell that Bai Zhuwei wasn’t friendly to her.

But he could do nothing to Bai Zhuwei.

He had to responsible for her.

“Nope.” Bai Zhuwei walked over to massage his shoulder and said, “Just let me handle such tasks next time.”

Zong Jinghao agreed to it calmly.

After getting off from work, Lin Xinyan stood at the roadside outside the building.

She stood straight once she saw a black car coming out of the garage.

That’s because she knew to whom the car belonged.

The car soon pulled over near her, and the car window was rolled down. He was driving the car by himself and Guan Jing wasn’t with him today.

Zong Jinghao stared at her.

She was wearing a red boat-neck sheath dress that was knee-length, showing her fair-skinned and thin calves.

Lin Xinyan felt his gaze and explained, “I’m worried to be a disgrace to you if I don’t dress myself up, since I’m your ‘wife’.”

She had an ax to grind as she didn’t want Lin Guoan to figure out that Zong Jinghao and her were not in love.

She returned to the villa during lunch hour to get the dress. It was a gift given by He Ruize when she was 18, and she hadn’t worn it ever since then.

Since Lin Xinyan was fair-skinned, she looked particularly gorgeous as the red dress perfectly matched her skin, collarbones and slim neck.

It was unforgettable.

Zong Jinghao averted his gaze slightly and said calmly, “Get in.”

Since they were going to Lin’s house, she had to sit on the front passenger seat to look like a real couple.

Zong Jinghao looked extremely calm, and Lin Xinyan couldn’t read his mind.

Did I pick the wrong dress?

She seldom wore bright-colored dress.

He Ruize used to say the dress was becoming on her.

Everything outside of the car moved backwards as the car moved forward, and their reflections were flashed across Zong Jinghao’s handsome and tough face like a series of enchanting fantasies.

It was so unreal and far away.

It was just like the distance between them. So near, yet so far.

Lin Xinyan hesitated for a while before she asked him about her doubts, “Did I dress badly?”

Chapter 35.

Zong Jinghao slightly moved his fingers as he was holding the steering. He glanced at her and said, "Not bad."

Lin Xinyan felt relaxed and didn't speak again.

Both of them didn't talk to each other.

They sat in the car with complete silence.

Lin Xinyan unconsciously gazed at his hands on the steering. They were elegant and well-shaped with long and slim fingers and trimmed fingernails.

They were just as easily recognizable as the person.

"Elegant, aren't they?" He didn't even look at her.

Realized that she was enthralled unconsciously when looking at him, Lin Xinyan immediately turned around to look out the window and pretended that she didn't hear it.

Zong Jinghao turned around to look at her with a slight smirk, "Does my face look better than my hands?"

Lin Xinyan still acted as if she didn't hear it, and even closed her eyes and pretended to be asleep.

She even taunted him quietly, "I thought he's always noble and cold."

"Why does he look like a narcissist?"

The car pulled over at the entrance of Lin's villa after 20 minutes or so.

Lin Guoan went home very early while Shen Xiuqing was preparing a nice dinner with lots of impressive meals. He was rather satisfied, and most of the tensions between them faded away.

"Ms. Lin is here," the maid informed them.

Lin Guoan glanced at Shen Xiuqing and Lin Yuhan and warned them, "This is very important to me, and don't you guys mess this up."

Kept her anger, Shen Xiuqing smilingly tidied up his suit and said, "Don't worry. I will do everything she wants just to make sure she can vent her anger and help you solve the problems of your company. I might not be able to help you with solving the problems in the company, but I can do this small thing. "

Lin Guoan felt that she was well-behaved and said, "I will make up for your loss once the problems of the company are solved."

Once finished speaking, Lin Guoan walked out of the door to welcome them in person.

Lin Xinyan was standing beside Zong Jinghao with a land contract of Repulse Bay in her hand.

Zong Jinghao looked at her and lifted his arm, "Hold my arm."

Lin Xinyan held his arm and walked towards the house.

"I've been waiting for you, please come in." Lin Guoan came up to them with a welcome gesture.

He didn't put on airs and graces at that moment, yet looked more like a man who kept flattering them.

As Zong Jinghao didn't have a high opinion of Lin Guoan, he didn't utter a word other than slightly nodding his head coldly.

Lin Guoan's face darkened. He thought that as Lin Xinyan's father and Zong Jinghao's father-in-law, he would be respected by him. However he never thought that Zong Jinghao didn't show him with respect at all.

It was a slap in his face!

Lin Xinyan smilingly said, "That's how he usually reacts."

He was slightly brightened after hearing this and said, "Please come in."

Shen Xiuqing played the role of a perfect wife and woman today, and was busy preparing the meals. When she saw them coming in, she smiled unwillingly and said, "You have come home! Please have a seat. Your dad asked me to prepare a nice dinner as soon as he knew that you will be here tonight. I hope you will enjoy the dinner."

Lin Xinyan was smiling too. Who doesn't know how to act?

"I'm not an outsider anyway. You shouldn't have!" She held Zong Jinghao's arm tightly once finished speaking.

She did it purposely.

Shen Xiuqing held in her anger when she saw Lin Xinyan was dressed up nicely.

She still pretended to be benign and replied, "You are absolutely correct."

Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao held hands and sat in front of Shen Xiuqing and Lin Yuhan.

Lin Yuhan wore a red dress too and looked mature and coquettish with her delicate makeup, even though she was still young.

Lin Xinyan glanced at her nonchalantly.

She sneered deep down. Is she trying to seduce Zong Jinghao?

Looked at her eyes who were fixed on him, she said jokingly, "Sister, why are you staring at your brother-in-law? Is there something on his face?"

Zong Jinghao gave this woman a sidelong glance.

He was bored of looking at women with heavy makeup. Even though both were wearing red dresses, Lin Xinyan with no makeup looked way more lovely and gorgeous.

Lin Yuhan quickly lowered her head.

Shen Xiuqing grabbed Lin Yuhan's hand and gave her a signal to stay calm.

"Alright, it's getting late and I'm sure you are famished." Lin Guoan wanted to talk to Zong Jinghao, yet couldn't think of a suitable topic to start with.

Zong Jinghao seemed to be an outsider who stayed out of their conversation completely as soon as he entered their house.

He only showed his love for his wife by occasionally getting some food for Lin Xinyan.

Lin Guoan was watching them silently. He never thought that the daughter whom he didn't think highly of would be the apple of Zong Jinghao's eye.

He was truly impressed by her.

Lin Xinyan didn't plan to be here just for dinner. She put the land contract on the table and said, "This is what you want and I get it for you today. You didn't forget what you have promised me, did you?"

Considering how hard it was to get Zong Jinghao to back her up, she surely didn't want to miss the chance to take back the things that belonged to mother and her.

Lin Xinyan almost wiped the smile off Lin Guoan's face. He then said, "We are family. Whatever you want, just say it."

His priority was to solve the problems of his company, and giving him this piece of land wasn't helpful at this moment.

He repeatedly winked at Lin Xinyan, in the hope that she could ask Zong Jinghao for a favor. Lin Xinyan pretended that she didn't get it and asked him caringly, "Is

your eye spasming?”

Lin Guoan would be infuriated if Zong Jinghao wasn't here.

Zong Jinghao glanced at her again.

It's obvious that she's playing the fool.

Somehow, she looked clever, and cute.

Shen Xiuqing tried to smooth things over by getting some food for Lin Xinyan and said, “Yan, your dad's company is facing some problems...” She then looked at Zong Jinghao and said, “Since Jinghao is our son-in-law, we hope that you can help us. We're sorry if we had ever done something wrong to you.”

Lin Xinyan stared at her coldly. Zong Jinghao's her son-in-law? Don't put the feather in your cap!

“Did you give birth to me or raise me?” Lin Xinyan leaned towards Zong Jinghao, looked up to him and said, “How could my husband suddenly become your son-in-law?”

Shen Xiuqing clenched her fists, yet still said to her smilingly, “I know that you are mad at your dad and me, but we are truly in love...”

“I'm here today to reclaim what was mine!” Lin Xinyan interrupted Shen Xiuqing. Truly in love?

She wanted to see whether Lin Guoan will choose her or his own interests!

Lin Guoan felt that they couldn't discuss anything at the moment. He stood up and said, “Follow me.”

Lin Xinyan stood up, looked back at Zong Jinghao and smilingly said, “I'll be right back.”

“Hmm,” he answered lightly.

Lin Xinyan followed Lin Guoan into the study.

Lin Guoan stopped being gentle and asked her sternly, “Have you told Zong Jinghao?”

Lin Xinyan looked at Lin Guoan and felt emotionless, as if she had been accustomed to it after being hurt for so many times.

“Return my things to me.” This was a rare opportunity, and she had to get her things back.

Lin Guoan stared at her and said, “I can give you the things, yet you have to ask Zong Jinghao to help me solve the problems in my company.”

“You said before that I will give you the land in return for my own things, and I did now. As for the problems in your company, that's an entirely different deal. I said that I can persuade Zong Jinghao to help you, on condition that you'll divorce Shen Xiuqing.” Lin Xinyan paused for a while before she continued, “As you have seen, Zong Jinghao still loved me very much. Once I ask him for a favor, he will agree to it.”

Lin Guoan fell silent.

Lin Xinyan continued, “Whether your company or a woman who can't bear you a son is more important? Think about it yourself.”

Lin Xinyan left the study once she finished speaking.

Lin Guoan stopped her and said, “I agree.”

Just as she expected.

Lin Xinyan stopped, turned around and looked at him, “I want to take all of my things back today.”

She wanted to take them back as soon as possible. She could leave the big stuff

here but had to take the small stuff and her money. After all, mom's medical expenses for this month had to be paid soon.

Lin Guoan clenched his teeth and said, "Yan, we are family."

Lin Xinyan smilingly said, "I know that. But things that belong to my mom and me have to be returned to us, am I right?"

A family?

Now he could finally recall that they were a family?

Chapter 36.

Lin Guoan was reluctant to do it, yet he still took out some of it, considering the relationship between Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao.

Among Zhuang Zijin's dowries, cash alone was worth as much as two million.

The total value would be around five million if the valuable jewelry was considered.

Lin Guoan gave her a check and some jewelry, yet some of the jewelry were missing, including the bracelet that she once saw Shen Xiuqing wearing. Lin Guoan seemed to have figured out her doubts and explained, "It's been a long time, and so some were broken and others went missing. This is all I have."

Lin Xinyan knew full well but didn't call him out, as she felt that getting these back was better than nothing. Furthermore, she could slowly take the rest of her belongings back. She kept the check, picked up the box and put it into the trunk.

She then went back to the house with Lin Guoan.

But it didn't seem right.

Lin Xinyan saw pieces of a broken glass on the floor and water spilled on Lin Yuhan's disheveled dress. She was weeping and her eyes were puffy and red.

She sprang upon Lin Guoan as soon as she saw her and said, "Dad!"

It appeared that she felt deeply wronged.

Lin Xinyan glanced at her, then came up to Zong Jinghao and realized that there was something unusual on his face.

Did he drink?

But his glass in front of him was still full.

Lin Xinyan came up to him and asked lightly, "What's wrong?"

Zong Jinghao struggled to open his eyes as his vision was blurred, as if trying to restrain himself from doing something.

He snorted coldly, "Help me up."

Lin Xinyan put his arm around her shoulder, grabbed him by his waist and said, "We are going home."

"You can't leave!" As soon as Lin Xinyan helped Zong Jinghao up, Shen Xiuqing stood up quickly and said, "Don't you have to be responsible for what you did to Han?"

"What happened?" Lin Guoan also realized that something's wrong.

"Dad..." Lin Yuhan cried harder and said, "Just now.... just now..."

"What happened just now?" Lin Guoan looked at her daughter's disheveled dress. He then stared at Zong Jinghao frowningly and said, "Young master Zong,

what have you done to my daughter?"

Although he seemed to be questioning him, he really wished that he did something to Lin Yuhan.

He would not be threatened by Lin Xinyan anymore.

Looking at the broken glass on the floor, she was totally disappointed and shocked. Shen Xiuqing could really stop at nothing to achieve her goal, including using such a dirty trick!

She looked at Lin Yuhan and said, "Do you want to say that my husband molested you and wanted to do something indecent to you?"

She sneered, "My husband will not be interested in a contemptible woman like you."

"Han, your sister was hurt. How could you speak for an outsider?" Lin Guoan said coldly.

Lin Xinyan said in disdain, "Sister? My mom has only one daughter, and it's me. Why do I have a sister? Besides, I'm definitely close to my own husband. "

Zong Jinghao looked at one side of her face. He began to have an illusion after she called him husband for so many times."

He felt that he was truly her husband.

Lin Xinyan carried Zong Jinghao to leave once she finished speaking. When they passed by Lin Guoan, Zong Jinghao suddenly stopped. He looked at them sternly and said, "I've experienced how the Lins treated their guest. I will pay you back for this!"

Feeling shocked, Lin Guoan turned around, looked at Shen Xiuqing and said, "What happened?"

She was panicked too as things went south. But since it had already happened, she sat down on a chair and said while crying, "It was my fault. I couldn't even protect my own daughter."

Lin Yuhan cried as well as she was frightened.

Shen Xiuqing had put drugs into the glasses of water and wine as well as plates that Zong Jinghao used. He didn't taste anything apart from the glass of water while he was waiting for Lin Xinyan.

Noticed that he drank the water, Shen Xiuqing signaled to Lin Yuhan to move near to him, carry him to the room and go to bed with him.

But when Lin Yuhan was about to help him up, Zong Jinghao immediately smashed the glass on Lin Yuhan. Lin Yuhan could still remember vividly Zong Jinghao's expression at that time.

He clenched his back teeth due to extreme anger. There was an air of ferocity around his sunken cheeks.

He was staring at her with that kind of facial expression.

Lin Yuhan was still frightened even until now.

Lin Xinyan glanced at Lin Yuhan who was snuggling in Lin Guoan's arms. The mother and daughter were extremely impudent!

They were not ashamed of playing such a dirty trick!

Since she had a knee injury while Zong Jinghao was sturdy, it was rather strenuous for her to carry him. But once she thought that he was harmed because of her, she felt guilty and became determined to carry him out of Lin's house.

Lin's villa was still ablaze with light.

Lin Guoan also realized that something wasn't right. What kind of women had Zong Jinghao not seen before? Was it really necessary for him to molest Lin Yuhan at the dining table?

He pushed Lin Yuhan away and asked her sternly, "What had really happened?" "Zong Jinghao was infatuated with our Han..."

Slap!

Before Shen Xiuqing could finish her words, Lin Guoan slapped her on her face, glared and asked, "You still don't want to tell me the truth? Is your daughter an angel? Can she seduce a man like him to molest her?"

Knowing that she couldn't keep it from him, Shen Xiuqing immediately kneeled down, hugged Lin Guoan's legs and said, "Guoan, I did it for your own good. Since Lin Xinyan obviously didn't want to help us, I thought if Han can be close to Lin Guoan, the problems of your company can be solved easily. I might have not considered it thoroughly, but my intention was good as I just wanted to do something for you."

She leaned her face on Lin Guoan's trousers with tears streaming down and said, "Guoan, I'm nervous ever since I knew the company is in trouble. But I am just a woman after all and can't do much for you. That's why... It's my fault." He had not simmer down but was at a loss as he heard a buzzing noise in his head.

Lin Yuhan beside them was crying her eyes out.

"All of you, shut up!" Lin Guoan scolded them.

Shen Xiuqing glared at Shen Xiuqing and said, "Look at you, what a disgrace!" Their maids were watching them.

At that moment, the maids were afraid to come out of the kitchen.

They dared not be the lookers-on of the farce of their boss, or they might lose their jobs.

Shen Xiuqing stood up tremblingly, wipes away her tears and said, "Guoan, I wanted to help you..."

"Did you?!" Lin Guoan was already irritated by the troubles in his company, all the more so after giving Lin Xinyan some money. Shen Xiuqing did such a stupid thing when he was still fuming.

His rage was so uncontrollable, to the extent that he could even kill someone right now.

Lin Yuhan had never seen his dad to be so boiling with rage and cried out again.

Lin Guoan kicked her and scolded, "What else do you know apart from crying? What a waste to raise a worthless creature like you! Conquer Zong Jinghao today if you are capable enough! What's the use of crying your eyes out?"

Lin Guoan was so enraged that he shut Shen Xiuqing and Lin Yuhan out of the house.

Outside of the house.

Lin Xinyan put Zong Jinghao down in the car. Zong Jinghao seemed drunk and was rather unconscious. Since she couldn't drive, she said to herself, "I must ask someone for a favor."

She took out her phone. Since she didn't have a lot of acquaintances in Mainland China, perhaps only He Ruize could help her.

She took out her phone and looked for He Ruize's number. When she was about to call him, her wrist was grabbed by someone. The man who was unconscious

just now stared at her, "Who are you calling?" She replied, "I..."

Zong Jinghao had seen the name shown on the screen and seemed to have some evil thoughts in his head. The doctor, He Ruize?

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a while, and instinctively reached out her hand to touch his forehead. All of a sudden, Zong Jinghao grabbed her by her waist, turned over and held her down on the car seat...

Chapter 37.

Lin Xinyan was at a loss for a few seconds. He could see that she was trying to shake him off for quite some time before she stopped and asked, "You, are you alright?"

She was guarding against him instinctively.

Zong Jinghao's sturdy body lay on top of her. He was burning with sexual desire and almost couldn't control himself. Nevertheless, he forcefully restrained himself and said, "You think I've got a fever?"

Touched his forehead?

Does she know that he can't be touch now?

Particularly women!

But it was merely Lin Xinyan's instinct to touch someone's forehead when he or she was sick. Since he didn't feel well, Lin Xinyan treated him like a patient.

"It's good to know that you're fine." Lin Xinyan could feel the danger at the moment and tried to slip away from under him.

Zong Jinghao held her down even more to constrain her from trying to move her body, and said, "You don't want to pay me back after using me?"

His lips were so close to her ear and nearly touched her skin. The wisps of warm steam puffed from his lips, fell on and numbed her. The intimate gesture ripped open her old dream that was buried deep within herself. That night, the man held her down and forced himself upon her.

She was shivering, whereas he was tense.

"Mr. Zong... I, I'll take you to the hospital." She forced herself to remain calm and said, "I'm not a virgin, and I'm sure you won't like it."

Lin Xinyan deliberately stressed on the words 'not a virgin'.

She seemed to be reminding, or rather, deliberately making him detest her.

Once he detested her, he would be able to restrain himself even if he longed for it.

After hearing the words 'not a virgin' from Lin Xinyan, his desire was still burning, yet not as strong as just now.

He slid his finger down her cheek and chin, but suddenly clutched her neck and yelled angrily, "Were you involved?"

Lin Xinyan shook her head and said, "No, not all. Why would I plot against you with them when we are at daggers drawn? I have to count on your backing and know very well which is more important to me."

His sweats dripped on fell on Lin Xinyan's face, making her body tense. She could feel that he was really restraining himself. His sweats on his forehead were visible when the light outside of the car fell on him.

Lin Xinyan tried to move her arm and Zong Jinghao didn't stop her. Once she opened the car window, the fresh air gushed into the car. The air of intimacy was somehow diluted, and Zong Jinghao became slightly sober too.

He said in a deep and rough voice, "Call Guan Jing."

He lay down once he finished speaking. Lin Xinyan got up and touched his pocket. She didn't know which shirt pockets he put his phone in, and couldn't find it after fumbling in the shirt pockets twice. When she touched his trouser pocket, Zong Jinghao frowned and said, "Don't fumble."

His voice was particularly restrained. Suddenly, he opened his eyes, stared at Lin Xinyan and said, "If you fumble again..."

He's afraid that he couldn't control himself.

He grabbed Lin Xinyan's hand and put it on the trouser pocket on his right side and said, "Here." Once finished speaking, he loosened his grip and closed his eyes again.

Lin Xinyan took out the phone from his trouser pocket, found Guan Jing's number and called him.

Lin Xinyan got out from the back seat and waited for Guan Jing outside.

It was too dangerous inside the car.

Who knew whether Zong Jinghao could really restrain himself?

Guan Jing was pretty fast as he managed to get Zong Jinghao back to the villa in just 10 minutes.

Lin Xinyan was supposed to ask Guan Jing to take Zong Jinghao to the hospital, as she was worried that his health might be affected.

But Zong Jinghao asked Guan Jing to drive back to the villa.

Once they returned to the villa, Lin Xinyan poured cold water into the bathtub, trying to sober him up. He was actually sober even though he looked intoxicated.

After submerging in cold water for more than an hour, Zong Jinghao was prostrated and could only be carried by Guan Jing and Lin Xinyan out of the bathtub.

After putting him to bed, Guan Jing looked at Lin Xinyan and said, "I'm afraid I can't help you anymore. I will wait outside, just call me if you need anything."

Lin Xinyan replied, "Wait, if you leave, he..." Lin Xinyan pointed at the man who was completely drenched. "What should I do?"

Guan Jing shrugged his shoulder to indicate that he couldn't help her, and said, "I'm surely unable to help with changing his clothes, and only you can do it. Since you are Mr. Zong's legitimate wife, taking care of him and changing clothes for him are totally reasonable and legal."

Lin Xinyan said hesitantly, "Well, it is reasonable and legal, but..."

"I'll wait outside." Guan Jing left the room once he finished speaking and closed the door. He stood in front of the door and shivered. Changing Zong Jinghao's clothes, and looking at his naked body?

Guan Jing could imagine Zong Jinghao being infuriated by it.

Who knew he might even fire him.

Lin Xinyan stood next to the bed and felt vexed and she stared at the man on the bed. If the wet clothes were not changed, he might have a cold.

Change it. She looked at the chandelier on the ceiling helplessly, took a deep breath and said, "Since you are suffering this because of me, I can't just abandon you."

She bent down and unbuttoned his suit, lifted his arm to take off his clothes.

Then, she removed his belt, turned around and pulled his trousers down, searched the quilt like a blind person and covered him up with it.

Lin Xinyan looked at him only after doing all these steps. He had sunk into a deep sleep.

She took his wet clothes out. Guan Jing stood up from the couch once he saw her and asked, "Have you changed his clothes?"

Lin Xinyan nodded and passed the wet clothes to Aunt Yu.

"Mr. Zong would need someone by his side tonight. You will stay here and call me if you need anything. I'll go home now." Guan Jing grabbed his jacket.

Lin Xinyan nodded, as if resigned herself to her fate. Then, she took a dry towel to dry his hair.

When she was about to stand up and put the towel back after drying his hair, Zong Jinghao suddenly grabbed her by her wrist and pulled her to the bed. He turned over his body and held her down. When Lin Xinyan tried to push him away, he hugged her even tighter.

His wrapped his arms around her slim neck tightly, leaned his head close to her neck, and said gently, "Don't be afraid..."

Lin Xinyan was afraid to move. Since his voice was too soft and she couldn't hear what he said, she asked him gently, "What did you say?"

But no one replied her.

After that, Lin Xinyan lay on the bed as she was very tired and slept.

Warm sunlight slowly streamed into the room through the drapes, and Zong Jinghao moved his eyelashes for a few times before he could open his eyes. Perhaps due to his sound sleep yesterday, he couldn't adapt to the sunlight so soon. He closed his eyes again for a minute before opening them again.

As soon as he wanted to move, he realized that something was on his arm. He turned around and saw a woman sleeping on his arm.

She had long black hair as well as thick and curly eyelashes that looked like beautiful butterflies resting on her eyelids. Her rosy and cherry lips and wave-like breaths were somehow enticing to him. As soon as he gently moved his arm, Lin Xinyan muttered.

She slightly moved her body and eyelashes. When she slowly opened her eyes, an impeccable face came into her view.

He was still in sleeping soundly.

She was nervous at first, but soon heaved a sigh a relief. How embarrassed would she be if he is awake?

She threw back the quilt and wanted to leave the room before Zong Jinghao could notice her. When she stood up barefoot and turned around to cover him with the quilt, her gaze unknowingly fell upon his shoulder.

She suddenly held her breath.

Why would there be some bite marks on his shoulder?

She was very confused yet sober. Suddenly, a shocking thought came into her mind!

Chapter 38.

She had been translating documents for Zong Jinghao in the company and knew that his new project was launched in Yilan City in A Nation. She was in Yilan City too when she lived overseas.

These were not important.

More importantly, at that night when she sold her body in return for the surgery cost of her brother and mother, she bit the man as it was rather painful for her first sex. Following the request of the woman who recommended him to her, it was a complete darkness in the house as no light could be turned on.

Although she couldn't see his face, she could remember that she bit the man on his right arm.

Was it a coincidence?

She couldn't help but moved a step backward.

Why would such a coincidence happen?

The first thing that she knew when she was translating the documents was that Zong Jinghao went to A Nation two months ago.

If it was real, then...

She unknowingly covered her belly with her hand.

He is the father of the child?

Lin Xinyan was shocked when the thought came into her mind.

Zong Jinghao could felt clearly that someone was staring at her. What is the woman doing?

He pretended to be just awake and slowly opened his eyes, thinking that Lin Xinyan was peeking at him when he was sleeping. However, what came into his sight was someone shedding tears.

He startled when he saw her crying.

Zong Jinghao woke up so quickly that Lin Xinyan didn't have the time to avoid him. She quickly faced away from him and ran out of the room as fast as she could.

She tore her wound on her knee as she moved too quickly, but she didn't have time for this. She quickly ran into a room and locked herself out. She leaned against the door and couldn't recollect herself together.

She finally regained her composure after quite some time.

All signs pointed to Zong Jinghao being the man at that night, yet it could still be merely a coincidence.

It must be so. It must be just a coincidence.

No, it won't be real.

She slowly calmed herself down, changed her clothes in the bathroom, and wrapped her wound on her knee again.

Zong Jinghao's mind was wandering for a few seconds upstairs. That woman's expression... Was she crying?

Why did she cry? Why did she run?

He sat up and pressed his forehead. Even though he was drugged, he did not do anything to her. But why did she look like that?

Once he thought about what happened yesterday, he pulled a long face. He grabbed the phone on the desk, called Guan Jing and said, "I don't want to see the Lins ever again!"

"Understood." Since it happened in Lin's house, Guan Jing could figure out that

the order made by Zong Jinghao was not a coincidence but a certainty. After hanging up, he threw his phone away and threw back the quilt. He only realized now that he was just wearing underwear.

Last night... He closed his eyes.

He could vaguely recall that Lin Xinyan took off his clothes.

That woman...

Zong Jinghao always felt that she was like a mystery with many layers.

Knock, knock...

After knocking on the door, Aunt Yu said, "Young master, have you gotten up?

The breakfast is ready."

Zong Jinghao responded with a yes. He got up to clean himself up, changed his clothes and went downstairs.

Lin Xinyan was already in the dining room. She had changed her clothes and looked calm, as if nothing happened earlier on and what he saw was simply an illusion.

He slowed down as he walked to the dining room with his flip flop.

Lin Xinyan put a bowl of bland porridge before him and said, "Having some bland food in the morning is good for your liver."

Zong Jinghao sat down and gave face to her by scooping some porridge to eat. It was indeed bland and virtually tasteless.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and said, "I was too careless last night, and never thought that Shen Xiuqing would do such thing."

Zong Jinghao looked up and laughed, revealing a line of white teeth. He then said, "I've seen a lot of shameless bastards, yet those as shameless as the Lins were indeed rare."

He had scolded everyone whose surname was Lin.

Lin Xinyan was crestfallen as her surname was also Lin.

"I... I would like to request a leave." Lin Xinyan looked up at him. Since she had not been to the hospital to visit her mother, she really had to go there.

Also, she had to cash the check and deposit it in the bank. The money was crucial to her as her mother might need it regularly.

Furthermore, she had to pay He Ruize back for the medical expenses that he helped pay earlier.

Zong Jinghao asked her coldly while still eating his porridge without looking up, "You have something to do?"

Lin Xinyan nodded and said, "I have to visit my mom."

"Hmm," Zong Jinghao replied gently, indicating that he gave his permission.

After breakfast, Zong Jinghao went to his company as usual while Lin Xinyan stayed to help Aunt Yu to clear the table. Aunt Yu took the plates in her hand and said, "I can handle it. Just go and take some rest."

Ah?

Take a rest in the morning?

Aunt Yu looked at her and said in earnest, "You're married into the Zong family, and yesterday... Since you're the true lady of the house, don't let any mistress take their chances."

Lin Xinyan blushed. What is Aunt Yu thinking? She was with Zong Jinghao in the same room for the whole night, yet nothing happened. Anyway, Aunt Yu surely won't believe it.

Lin Xinyan had no choice but nodded.

Aunt Yu was still backing Lin Xinyan, even though she was dissatisfied with her past behavior.

“To my eye, young master might not necessarily love Ms. Bai.”

Lin Xinyan said with a frown, “How do you know Zong Jinghao might not necessarily love Bai Zhuwei?”

“Ms. Bai was already with Young master for quite some time, and young master didn’t fall for her. But two months ago, he suddenly acknowledged her status after returning from overseas. I still don’t understand why he had suddenly fallen for her.” Even now, Aunt Yu couldn’t figure it out.

On the other hand, Lin Xinyan was shocked. Two months ago?

She calmed herself down and asked, as if nothing happened, “Zong Jinghao didn’t fall for Bai Zhuwei in the past, yet two months ago, after he returned overseas, he suddenly acknowledged his girlfriend’s status?”

Aunt Yu nodded and replied, “Yup, since Young master isn’t an airheaded person, I think something happened that made him acknowledge her.”

Lin Xinyan was lost in thoughts. Bai Zhuwei seems to be very hostile to her. Is it just because she’s married to Zong Jinghao, or there’s a lot more to it than meets the eye?

She couldn’t figure it out at the moment, and so went to the hospital to visit her mother. Before going to the hospital, she cashed the check, withdrew some of the money that had to be spent and deposited the rest. Then, she went to the hospital and paid the medical expenses. Arranged by a nurse, she finally met Zhuang Zijin.

Zhuang Zijin was locked in a small room with almost nothing except a bed, a table, and a plastic cup half-filled with water.

A patient with mental health disorders would be unaware of self-harm. Therefore, she was searched by a nurse before entering the room to make sure that no potential items that could result in self-harm were brought.

Wearing a blue hospital gown, she huddled at the bedside and murmured to herself.

Lin Xinyan couldn’t really make out what she said. Once the door was pushed open, she looked up as Lin Xinyan walked into the room. She was in a trance for a while before opening her mouth and said, “Yan.”

Lin Xinyan’s nose turned red and eyes turned puffy as soon as she heard it. She sprang upon her, hugged her tightly and said, “Mom.”

Zhuang Zijin caressed her hair gently and asked, “Why are you here alone? Why didn’t you bring along Xinqi to visit me?” “I haven’t seen him for ages.”

Chapter 39.

"Your brother is dead..." The doctor's words and merciless voice was ringing in her ears.

Tears were streaming down her face.

She held Zhuang Zijin in her arms tightly and replied, "Brother is still at school. I'll bring him along next time."

Puzzled, Zhuang Zijin nodded in confusion and did probe further.

Lin Xinyan wiped away her tears and asked smilingly, "Mom, what do you want to eat? I will buy it for you."

Zhuang Zijin said nothing but merely clasped her hands around her knees, indicating that she felt unsafe.

When Lin Xinyan was speaking to her, she stared stolidly at somewhere. Her eyes looked dull and weren't focused on any point.

"Mom..." Lin Xinyan grabbed her by her shoulder, shook her and said, "Talk to me, look at me. I'm Yan, your daughter."

She recognized her just now and even called her by her name.

Lin Xinyan couldn't accept that she was so disoriented and could remember something now but forget it the next second.

"Please don't do that." Noticed that Lin Xinyan was emotional, the nurse who was patrolling outside entered the room and stopped her.

Lin Xinyan looked at the nurse and asked, "Is my mom's illness getting worse?"

"It is a normal condition of a patient with mental disorders." The nurse checked the time and said, "Your visiting time is almost up. Don't be emotional in front of the patient, or you might affect her."

Lin Xinyan nodded and said, "I understand."

Lin Xinyan shared their past stories with her and was immersed in the memories. Only when the nurse informed her that the time was up, she recollected herself, looked at Zhuang Zijin and said unwillingly, "Mom, I will come back to visit you in a few days."

"Yan." When Lin Xinyan reached the door, Zhuang Zijin suddenly said something. Lin Xinyan turned around and noticed that Zhuang Zijin wasn't even looking at her.

Zhuang Zijin was staring blankly at somewhere and said to herself, "My daughter Yan is pregnant. What should she do when her child has no father?"

She cried as she spoke.

That wrenched Lin Xinyan's heart.

Worried that she might be unable to hold back her emotions, she turned around and left the room.

She sat on the bench in the passageway alone.

"Yan." He Ruizhe, who was wearing a lab coat, came up to her.

Lin Xinyan stood up.

When He Ruize was in front of her, he patted her on her shoulder, signaled at her to sit down and said, "I have something to tell you."

Lin Xinyan sat back on the bench with He Ruize beside her. He Ruize asked, "Have you seen her?" Lin Xinyan replied, "Yes."

She clasped her hands and her palms were sweaty.

"You must be mentally prepared that she might not fully recover." He Ruize heaved a sigh and continued, "Since she experienced a trauma, the

repercussions will be severe. She will suffer from selective amnesia by forgetting some painful memories and become disoriented.”

Lin Xinyan said while biting her own lips, “She forgot the fact that Xinqi was gone, and asked me why I didn’t bring him along to visit her.”

He Ruize hugged her, rubbed her shoulder and said, “Don’t cry, I’m here. Don’t worry, I will take good care of your mom here.”

Lin Xinyan said while lowering her head, “Thank you.”

“Don’t mention it.” He Ruize closed his eyes tightly for a while, and finally spoke his mind after contemplating about it for many times, “Yan, once the agreement between Zong Jinghao and you expires, can you let me take care of you?”

Stunned, Lin Xinyan looked at He Ruize and said, “Ruize...”

“I know it might be difficult for you to accept me now, but you and I have known each other for so long. I’m not a bad person, who wants to take care of you. If you don’t care about yourself, think of your baby. The baby needs a complete home for him to grow up, and I can do that.”

Since He Ruize said it bluntly, she would be stupid if she didn’t understand it. She treated He Ruize like her family.

“Don’t worry; I will treat him like my own child.” He Ruize was particularly serious. Lin Xinyan was baffled and didn’t know how to answer. She finally said, “Ruize, I, I had never thought about...”

“Take your time. Don’t say no for now.” He Ruize looked at her and said, “Have you ever thought that when the baby grows up, what would you say to him if he asks you who his father is? I’m a psychiatrist, and I know very well that a child who grows up in a single-parent family will suffer from personality disorders. Just think about it thoroughly, for your child.”

He Ruize was very sincere and different from his usual relaxed attitude. Since Zhuang Zijin’s could hardly get better and she was poor, her life would be even more difficult once the child was born.

He really wished to take care of her.

Lin Xinyan lowered her head and thought to herself. Part of what He Ruize mentioned was right, as the child needs a complete family for him to grow up healthily. But...

This was not something that she could easily accept.

He was not the father of the child.

Also, he wasn’t from an ordinary average family.

“Yan...”

“Ruize.” Lin Xinyan quickly interrupted her. She took out some money from her purse, handed it over to him and said, “I’m paying you back for the medical expenses that you had previously paid on behalf.”

She was supposed to contact him after visiting Zhuang Zijin, but never thought that they would meet coincidentally, and he even said something that she had never expected to hear.

He Ruize’s face was darkened as he looked at the money. “Did he give you the money?”

Lin Xinyan shook her head and replied, “No, Lin Guoan gave it to me.”

She didn’t tell him the particulars.

He Ruize didn’t believe her. Why would the heartless man give her the money?

“Yan...”

“Ruize, I have to go to the office.” Lin Xinyan stood up, tucks the money in He Ruize’s arms and said, “I owe you this, so I should pay you back.”

She left hurriedly after finished speaking.

He Ruize didn’t catch up with her. He knew that he had to give her more time to digest it as she might be difficult to accept right now.

It was almost noon when Lin Xinyan reached the company.

Someone stopped her as she was walking towards her seat. She was Wu Meixia, Qiu Yi’s best friend. She knew that Qiu Yi was fired because of Lin Xinyan, and even if it was Qiu Yi’s fault, she wouldn’t simply frame her for no reason.

She must have done something wrong in the first place.

“You are late, aren’t you?” Wu Meixia was staring at her.

“I’ve requested a leave.” Lin Xinyan said coldly.

She knew that the whole office was unfriendly to her as a newcomer, and she wasn’t bothered about it. When she was about to walk past Wu Meixia, Wu Meixia grabbed her by her arm and said, “You’re lying!”

She had already heard it from Bai Zhuwei that Lin Xinyan never requested a leave from her.

“I’ve indeed requested a leave. Can you please let me go?”

“No! You’re obviously lying! Do you really think you can do whatever you want just because Mr. Zong backed you once!” They didn’t really think deeply about the incident that happened earlier, and merely thought that Zong Jinghao happened to have help her impulsively.

Lin Xinyan said with a colder voice, “Please let me go. You can reconfirm with Mr. Zong if you don’t believe me.”

She didn’t want to make an enemy with anyone and just hoped to do her job quietly. Why would everyone want to give her a hard time?

“There’s a meeting with the CEO of HSBC Bank at 2pm, and a banquet at 8pm...”

Zong Jinghao walked steadily with his hand in the pocket while listening to Bai Zhuwei reporting on his schedule behind him.

“Let Guan Jing attend the dinner on my behalf.” He spoke without haste.

“But as this banquet is Dingfeng’s centennial celebration, I’m afraid it would be inappropriate if you choose not to attend it.” Dingfeng was a company established since the last century and started off with the jewelry business. It had a history that spanned 100 years until today...

“Mr. Zong, Secretary Bai.” As if finally found her witnesses, Wu Meixia dragged Lin Xinyan over and said, “Ms. Bai, did she request a leave from you?”

Bai Zhuwei looked up at Zong Jinghao and replied her while shaking her head, “No, what’s going on?”

“She’s late, and even claimed that she took a leave.” Wu Meixia said in a high-pitched voice, “So the newcomers won’t have to follow the rules of the company now?”

Chapter 40.

"Ms. Bai, should her wage be deducted?" Wu Meixia said provokingly.

Bai Zhuwei replied in a professional manner, "Based on the rules of our company, yes."

"I didn't mean to make a scene out of this trivial issue. But she still insisted that she took a leave even though she's obviously late. The character of those who make such lies must be..."

"She requested a leave." When Wu Meixia was elatedly insulting Lin Xinyan's character, a deep voice interrupted her.

Wu Meixia was stunned and thought that she heard it wrong. Would Mr. Zong be troubled by such a trivial matter? Quite Impossible.

"A person who's late and lies about it must have a poor character and should not stay in our company."

"She requested a leave, and I agreed to it. Do you want me to repeat it?" Zong Jinghao said it slowly and with emphasis, as if questioning someone overbearingly.

This time, Wu Meixia heard him loud and clear. The first time could just be a hallucination, but the second time surely wasn't a hallucination anymore.

It was totally inconceivable to her.

Such a matter should be dealt with by Ms. Bai, and the boss won't need to handle it by himself.

Who is this woman to Mr. Zong?

It has been the second time...

"Alright, do your work." Bai Zhuwei pretended to be indifferent.

But she was rather anxious.

When Lin Xinyan casually glanced at Bai Zhuwei who was pretending to be calm, a thought crossed her mind. She wished to prove what Aunt Yu said earlier; that Zong Jinghao didn't really love her but did so due to some reasons.

The reasons were related to the trip to Country A.

She initially wanted to think it as a mere coincidence.

But what Zhuang Zijin and He Ruize said to her today deeply moved her.

Her child needs a father.

Bai Zhuwei entered the office with Zong Jinghao. After reporting on his schedule, she handed over the itinerary and asked him tentatively to sound him out,

"Should Ms. Lin accompanies you to the banquet?"

As Zong Jinghao seemed tired, he closed his eyes and remained silent for a few seconds before he replied, "You will go with me."

Bai Zhuwei heaved a sigh of relief and said, "I'll go back to work."

Once the door was closed, Bai Zhuwei turned around and stopped when she saw Lin Xinyan standing behind her.

"Ms. Bai, I have something to ask you. Can I have a word with you?" Lin Xinyan asked.

Bai Zhuwei didn't expect that she would look for her voluntarily.

As she's also tempted to listen to what she had to say, she replied, "Of course, let's go to the cafe downstairs."

They took the lift to the cafe on the ground floor.

Then, they sat somewhere quiet.

Both of them didn't open their mouths for quite some time. Finally, after the coffee

was served, Lin Xinyan said, "Ms. Bai, you seem to be pretty hostile to me."

"Hao and I are the perfect match, yet we are separated forcefully. If Ms. Lin were me, what would Ms. Lin do?" Bai Zhuwei retorted.

Lin Xinyan held her spoon and stirred the coffee in the cup, yet didn't even take a sip of it.

"You know, Mr. Zong and I are just fulfilling our affiance, which won't last long. But Ms. Bai seems to be rather impatient and fearful of me." She slowly looked up at her.

"How so?" Bai Zhuwei smiled and took a sip of her coffee.

"We both know very well that you spread the news in my neighborhood that I'm pregnant, bought off someone to slander me and provoked my mother. I'm sure Ms. Bai knows very well the reason behind all these." Bai Zhuwei might be good at pretending, yet Lin Xinyan concealed herself even better, as if she had grasped everything.

"I'm not really sure what did Ms. Lin mean. I did all these simply because I resented the fact that you're married to Hao. I won't mind if Ms. Lin wants to complain about this, because Hao will understand that I'm just a woman who's in love. Since my status was seized by someone else, it's understandable if I've slightly crossed the line." Smiled lightly, she looked at Lin Xinyan and said, "Instead, it appears that Ms. Lin comes to me because you are getting impatient." Lin Xinyan smiled lightly but didn't say a word. Her unfathomable expression was rather frightening to Bai Zhuwei.

She said coldly, "What are you laughing at?"

Lin Xinyan replied, "I heard something interesting. Would Ms. Bai want to hear it?"

"What is it?" asked Bai Zhuwei.

"I heard that Ms. Bai has been with Mr. Zong for long, yet he never fell in love with Ms. Bai before. Suddenly, he acknowledged Ms. Bai as his girlfriend because..." Lin Xinyan purposely paused and observed Bai Zhuwei's expression. Her facial expression did change. Even though she was trying very hard to hold her feelings in, she could still sense something different.

"Because of what?" Bai Zhuwei wasn't as composed as before.

"It was just some gossip, and Ms. Bai doesn't have to be worried about it." Lin Xinyan purposely revealed only half of it and didn't want Bai Zhuwei to know how much she knew about it.

"Hao and I truly love each other, and surely there would be those would spread rumors because they don't want to see it happen or are jealous. If Ms. Lin wants to think that the rumors are true, there's nothing I can do about it." After finished speaking, Bai Zhuwei stood up, and added, "You only have half a month left. What belongs to me will eventually be mine."

She glanced at Lin Xinyan, turned around and wanted to leave.

"How did Ms. Bai know that I'm two months pregnant?" Lin Xinyan also stood up and said.

Bai Zhuwei replied, "Like I said, I just made a guess."

Lin Xinyan came up to her and said, "I haven't started showing yet, and so it's totally impossible to know how long I've been pregnant. But, Ms. Bai could easily get it right. Even a woman who has pregnancy experience won't be as sharp-eyed as Ms. Bai, would she?"

"It might just be a coincidence? I just happened to get it right. Wonders never cease! Maybe I happen to have such power?" Bai Zhuwei walked towards the lift once she finished speaking.

When the lift doors closed slowly, their eyes met through the gap.

Although nothing was revealed in the conversation, Bai Zhuwei knew that Lin Xinyan must have realized something, or else she wouldn't try to sound her out. However, Bai Zhuwei didn't know how much she knew, and to what extent she knew about it.

Lin Xinyan's energy was drained of as soon as the gate of the lift closed.

The truth was she could be right.

But she could not get to the particulars.

If it really was Zong Jinghao, why would the woman who recommended him pay her the money? Why would Zong Jinghao... Just wanted to satiate his lust? She couldn't figure it out. The whole problem was like a mystery with hidden conspiracies.

But, she didn't know where to start to dig into the matter.

She went home as usual after work.

"Just you alone?" Aunt Yu looked behind Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan nodded. She was listless as she saw Bai Zhuwei dressed up nicely and got into his car after work.

She wavered. Perhaps Zong Jinghao really loved Bai Zhuwei? They just didn't realize it in the past.

She was confused.

"Why didn't you come home with young master together? Communicate more and you two will get along well soon."

"He went out with Ms. Bai." Lin Xinyan sulked. Since she made that guess, her impression of Zong Jinghao had changed.

Aunt Yu sighed and said, "You have to try harder."

Lin Xinyan smiled. As she didn't want to continue this conversation, she deliberately said, "I'm tired and want to take a nap."

Aunt Yu could clearly feel that she's in a bad mood, and replied, "Take a rest. I will inform you when the dinner is ready."

Lin Xinyan responded with a yes and entered the house.

She lay on her bed tiredly and slowly closed her eyes to take a nap. When she was drowsy and almost fell asleep, her phone rang.

She fumbled to get her phone and picked it up.

"Yan, can you do me a favor?"

This voice...

Lin Xinyan was suddenly awakened. She sat up and said, "Tell me."

"I have to attend a banquet, and you will be my partner."

After remaining silent for a while, Lin Xinyan replied, "Okay."

"Send me your location, and I'll pick you up."