

CHAPTER 91.

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

After the meal, the two left the restaurant.

“Where are you going? I’ll send you.”

Lin Xinyan thought for a second before answering, “I’m going home.”

The store was not done with its renovation yet. The work that she now had were still the ones from Country A.

She had arranged a time with the client to look at the designs.

Then make the attire based on the chosen style and the chosen fabric.

When Zong Jinghao heard Lin Xinyan mention about home, he looked at her and mocked, “Your children don’t even have a father, can your home be called a home?”

Lin Xinyan wanted to refute that he himself did not have one yet, but she swallowed her words.

If she were to refute, she did not know what he was going to say again. She turned to glare at him and went into the car.

Zong Jinghao gave a faint smile.

It was silent inside the car. The atmosphere felt tense.

Lin Xinyan was leaning against the window. Her eyes were closed as she pretended to be asleep.

Her acting was not the best. Zong Jinghao had seen through her act with one look, but he did not say anything about it.

Almost twenty minutes later, Lin Xinyan slowly opened her eyes and pretended that she had just woken up. She had been counting the time; she knew the car was reaching the district.

She rubbed her eyes, opened the car door, and got down the car. “Thank you.”

She was thanking him for sending her back.

Zong Jinghao leaned over, his hand was casually on the steering wheel. "Your thanks sound insincere."

Lin Xinyan paused in her motion of closing the door. "What do you mean?"

"If you really wanted to thank me, shouldn't you invite me to your house for a drink?" There was a teasing smile on his face.

And Lin Xinyan was his target.

Lin Xinyan slammed the door, and said coldly, "I've invited you for a meal. That was my display of sincerity."

Lin Xichen was hostile to him. If Zhuang Zijin saw him, she would not be happy either.

She would have gone crazy before she invited him to her house.

Lin Ruixi was chewing on her fingers as she widened her round eyes and looked at Lin Xinyan, who was at the roadside. "Is that mommy?"

Lin Xichen was just thinking about how he should get back his tablet and smartwatch from Lin Xinyan when he heard his sister's question. "Where's mommy?"

Lin Ruixi pointed to the district's entrance.

Lin Xichen looked over and saw Lin Xinyan talking to someone at the side of the road. That side profile—

Why did it look so familiar?

Soon, he recognized it. That man who was talking to Lin Xinyan, was he not that heartless man?

Why was mommy with him?

Lin Xichen stared with a gloomy look.

Lin Ruixi pulled his hand. "What's wrong, Xichen?"

Lin Xichen gave a cold snort. "Ruixi, do you see that man in the car?"

Lin Ruixi nodded honestly. "I see him."

"He's our dad." Lin Xichen clenched his hand.

He was mommy's ex-husband, so naturally, he was their dad.

Lin Ruixi blinked. Dad had never appeared in her life. She had only heard other children calling for their dads, but she had never done so herself.

When she heard Xichen telling her that she had a dad, she became excited and started running in that direction. "Dad—"

Lin Xichen was quick to hold her back and covered her mouth. "Hush!"

Lin Ruixi struggled. "I want to find my dad."

She did not have complicated thoughts like Lin Xichen did.

She only knew that someone was her dad, and she wanted to see how he looked like.

"He's not our dad." Lin Xichen said with a determined tone.

What?

Lin Ruixi was confused. He was for a moment, then not in the next. Was he their dad or not?

She looked at her brother with wide eyes.

She seemed to be questioning him.

"He's our dad, but he abandoned mommy and us, so we can't call him our dad anymore."

Lin Ruixi could not understand. She fluttered her long eyelashes and asked quietly. "Is it dad? I want a dad."

Lin Xichen hugged his sister. "I'll find us a good dad and find mommy a good man."

Lin Ruixi did not answer him.

She could not understand his words.

She stared at the man's side profile from afar, and thought, so that's dad?

What did he look like?

"Have Xichen ever seen dad?"

Lin Xichen nodded. "Yes."

"Does he look good?" Lin Ruixi asked, wanting to run over and see.

Lin Xichen did not want to admit it, but Zong Jinghao did look good. That was what he was frustrated with.

Where would he find a man who looked even more handsome than him?

“He looks good.”

Lin Ruixi became more excited.

“I’ve got it.” Zhuang Zijin walked over with the foldable umbrella. They were supposed to go to the aquarium today, but she only remembered that the forecast said it was going to rain at three after they went downstairs.

That was why she went back up to get the umbrella.

“Grandma.” Lin Ruixi felt upset. Xichen had seen dad, but she had not.

Now there was a chance to see how dad looks like, but Xichen did not let her see.

Bad Xichen!

“What’s wrong?” Zhuang Zijin carried her.

“Xichen...”

Lin Ruixi had just opened her mouth before she heard Lin Xichen shouted, “Mommy.”

She interrupted her.

Lin Xinyan walked over and saw the bag on Zhuang Zijin’s back. She asked, “Are you going out?”

“I’m thinking of bringing them to the aquarium. It’s not good to stay cooped at home.”

Lin Xinyan carried her daughter from Zhuang Zijin’s arms. “How will you be going there? By subway?”

If it was by subway, it would be difficult bringing two children along.

“By cab. If it’s by subway, it’s quite inconvenient to have them and change trains.” Zhuang Zijin replied.

Lin Xinyan walked to the side of the road. “I can’t go with you; I still have some work to be done. When I’m free, I’ll buy a car, so it’ll be easier for us to go out.”

“Go and do your work. I can take care of both of them.” Zhuang Zijin reached out to carry Lin Ruixi back into her arms.

Lin Ruixi did not want Zhuang Zijin to carry her. She seemed to be upset and kept holding onto Lin Xinyan’s neck. “Mommy.” She said, her voice soft.

“What’s wrong?” Lin Xinyan looked at her daughter and smoothed her hair. “Do you want mommy to go along with you?”

Lin Ruixi shook her head. “No, Xichen said—”

“Ruixi, didn’t you want to see the dolphin performance? If we don’t go now, we won’t make it. I already promised to use my pocket money to buy you a dolphin pillow. Do you still want it?” Lin Xichen deliberately interrupted his sister.

He did not want Lin Xinyan to know that he knew who their father was.

Mommy had her reasons for not telling them about this.

Lin Ruixi looked at her brother. “Are you really buying it for me?”

Lin Ruixi was naive, and her attention was diverted by Lin Xichen in a second.

“I’ll buy it.” Lin Xichen said determinedly.

“Then I want a lollipop too.” Lin Xichen had a happy smile on her face.

Lin Xichen looked at Lin Xinyan. “You need to ask mommy whether you are allowed to eat this.”

Lin Ruixi pouted. Mommy had always told her that eating sweets would ruin her teeth; mommy definitely would not let her eat it.

The little girl became upset again.

Lin Xinyan kissed her daughter’s cheeks. “I’ll let you have one today.”

Lin Ruixi’s eyes shone bright with hope. “Really?”

“Really.” Lin Xinyan affirmed.

“Mommy, can I have one too?” Lin Xichen looked up at her.

“Both of you can have one today.” Lin Xinyan crouched down to hug her son.

The two children, who were allowed to have sweets, were obedient. Zhuang Zijin brought them to the aquarium, and Lin Xinyan went home to work.

He Ruilin went home with anger stewing in her.

He Ruize was no longer working at the hospital. Instead, he was learning from He Ruixing on how to manage the business.

If it was not for the success of the previous generations, the company would have collapsed long ago.

The two brothers of He Ruize's generation were no businessmen. He Ruize was only interested in psychiatry. He Ruixing was slightly better. He had, at the very least, some capability from working in the business for years. However, he still struggled to return the He family to the peak.

They were struggling to maintain it.

When he saw his sister's red eyes, He Ruize put down the documents given to him by his brother and stood up from the couch. "What happened?"

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He Ruilin's hatred burned when she thought about him betraying her.

Were all his love and care for her faked?

Why did he have to betray her?

He Ruilin stood by the door, swaying as she said, "Ruize—"

He Ruize walked over, then realized that she had injuries on her knees. He frowned. "Have you been fighting with others?"

How else would she end up like this?

He Ruilin shook her head and looked at He Ruize. "Ruize, are you faking your love for me?"

"How could it be?" He Ruize really did love her. It was partially his fault when she had gotten lost years back. All these years he had been living with guilt. It was not easy getting her back.

He felt apologetic and heartache towards her.

It had never been fake.

"Hah—" He Ruilin suddenly laughed. In the next second, her smile disappeared, and all that was left was her hysteric voice. "If you really loved me, how could you betray me for a woman?"

“What are you talking about?” He Ruize felt confused. “Let’s go in.”

He pulled his sister, who seemed to have lost her control. The atmosphere at home had been gloomy ever since his sister’s engagement was broken off and He Wenhui seemed unhappy about it.

If He Wenhui were to hear her fuss again, he would be furious.

He Ruilin was almost dragged into the house by He Ruize.

“Sit here. I’ll go and get the first aid kit. You’ll need antiseptic for your knees, or else it would become infected.

He Ruilin did not seem to comprehend his words. She sat motionlessly and her eyes were staring into space without focus.

She had thought that by becoming the daughter of He family, she could be together with Zong Jinghao. She would have a high societal status, a lover that others would be jealous about, and a brother who loved her.

There would be no regrets in her life.

However, it did not happen.

Everything changed. She had a higher societal status, but she did not have Zong Jinghao. Even He Ruize’s love for her had to be split and shared with that woman.

Her familial love and romantic love were ruined by Lin Xinyan.

Her hands sunk into the couch and tightened. The veins on the back of her hand were visible. It was obvious she was furious.

He Ruize walked over with the first aid kit and crouched in front of her to clean the wound on her knees. He was afraid that she would be in pain, so he did it as gently as possible.

“Ruize.” He Ruilin lowered her eyes. “Are you this gentle with Lin Xinyan too?”

He Ruilin was acting unusual today.

“What are you trying to say?” He Ruize put down the antiseptic on his hand. He had to talk to her today.

“Lin, Zong Jinghao isn’t the only man in the world. There’s no need to hang yourself on this one tree. You’re good enough to look for better—”

“Lin Xinyan isn’t the only woman in this world too. Why do you have to like her?” He Ruilin interrupted him before he could finish talking.

He Ruize could not find any way to refute her.

Yes, he had forgotten about his own stubbornness as he gave his advice to his sister.

“Ruize, you can betray your own sister for the woman you like. Your love is great.”

He Ruize was alert when he heard He Ruilin mentioned about this. “Lin, you’ve seen her?”

“Yes.” He Ruilin did not deny.

He Ruize frowned. “What did you mean by me betraying you?”

Was it related to Lin Xinyan?

“You’re asking me?” He Ruilin laughed mockingly. “Don’t you know what you have done?”

“I don’t. I haven’t done anything to harm you.” His conscience was clear for his sister.

When he had found out that Zong Jinghao was the man from that night, he did not want Lin Xinyan to know about it out of selfishness. Then he realized that she was his sister, and she liked Zong Jinghao. This secret sunk even lower in his heart.

He said nothing even when he saw that Lin Xinyan’s two children had no father.

Now, she criticized him and said that he betrayed her.

He Ruize felt disappointed and upset.

He Ruilin’s words broke his heart.

“How could you not have? Tell me, how did Lin Xinyan know that the one who caused the accident six years ago was me?” He Ruilin did not believe in him.

“She— She knows that the accident from six years ago was because of you?” He Ruize was in disbelief. Lin Xinyan had found out about what he did not want her to know.

After all, the one who hurt her was his sister.

Her knowledge about it would affect her relationship with him.

He Ruilin sneered. “Stop pretending to be surprised. It’s been six years since this accident. The one who knew about it, excluding the both of us, is dead. It can’t be me who told her about this.”

He Ruize stiffened, and mumbled, “I didn’t tell her.”

The fact that Lin Xinyan knew about it made him panic.

Would she be angry at him?

He fell onto the couch.

She was just about to accept him, yet she found out about the accident.

He did not dare to think any further.

He Ruilin looked at his miserable look and slightly furrowed her eyebrows. "Was it really not from you?"

He Ruize laughed bitterly. "Why would I lie to you?"

"Then how did she know about this?" He Ruilin could not understand. After all, not many knew about this. The only witness had died.

The only person who knew about it now was she and He Ruize. If not for He Ruize, and she had not said it out herself, how did Lin Xinyan know about the accident?

"Rest." He Ruize stood up. He needed some silence to clear his mind. What was he going to do when he saw Lin Xinyan?

How was he going to explain this?

"Ruize." He Ruilin hugged him from behind, her face leaning on his back. "Ruize, you're not that young anymore, nor am I a teenager. We're not young anymore. Help me, for us—"

She liked Zong Jinghao, and yet he liked Lin Xinyan. If he marries Lin Xinyan, she would be able to be together with Zong Jinghao.

"How can I help you?" He Ruize laughed bitterly. He could barely help himself. How could he be able to help her?

"What I said the last time. Think about it."

Afraid that he would reject her, He Ruilin said hurriedly, "Don't be in a rush to reject me. Think about it, it's impossible to make Lin Xinyan fall in love with you, I'm sure you know that too. The only way is to make love to her, so she'll have to be with you. Women are sensual beings, when her body belongs to you, her heart would feel something for you. And when you marry her, I'd be able to be with Zong Jinghao. My marriage with Zong Jinghao would connect the two families, and dad would be happy. A stone for two birds, why not?"

He Ruize did not say anything. He really loved Lin Xinyan.

It was not a mere two years that he had known her, but ten years. How could he use such dirty tricks to dirty her, to dirty the relationship they had?

“You’ve seen the situation of our family. You and Ruixing aren’t good with business. Dad is old. Why dad had wanted me to marry Zong Jinghao was because he’s thinking about He family’s future. You really want to see the collapse of our family?” He Ruilin tried to convince him.

“Still a no.” He remained stubborn on his rejection.

Although he was a little older than Lin Xinyan, Lin Xinyan was the first woman he ever loved.

He did not want to ruin the good memories.

He Ruilin let go of him and took a step back. She was disappointed with him.

“My happiness and the family’s future aren’t as important as that woman to you?” Her tone was heavy with questioning. “You enjoyed the benefits of being in this family, yet you have done nothing to contribute back. For so many years you’ve been abroad doing everything you wanted, and mom and dad have been supporting you. What have you done for them?”

He Ruize’s body stiffened. What she said was right, he had done nothing.

“Ruize—”

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“Stop it.” He Ruize cut her off.

He felt conflicted. He Ruilin’s words stabbed the weakest parts in him.

He had done nothing for the family business. It had all been He Ruixing’s efforts.

He enjoyed the societal status of being a member of the He family, but he had done nothing to contribute back.

“Let me think about it.” He Ruize’s lowered his head.

“Alright. I shall wait for your good news.” He Ruilin did not continue to push him.

He had already agreed to think about it, that was good.

After all, he had rejected her straight away the last time.

“Don’t think about it too long. It’s not good for either you or me.”

He Ruize said nothing else and walked away.

Lin Xinyan logged off her chatting software. She had discussed with her client about their choice of style and fabric types and had arranged to start making the attire at Country A. The bespoke attires were always handmade.

The store here was not done with its renovations yet, so she could only arrange to make it in Country A.

She closed her laptop and rubbed the spot between her eyebrows. Thinking about Zhuang Zijin's inconvenience in bringing two children out, she took her phone out of her pocket, planning to buy a car.

She dialed Doudou's number, and the call quickly went through.

"Hello?"

Yu Doudou's voice came from the other end.

"Hello, I'm Lin Xinyan."

"Oh, I realized!"

"Are you free?"

"Yes."

"I'm thinking of getting a car, but I've been abroad for many years, so I'm not familiar with the models. If you're free, would you mind bringing me to look at cars?"

"Sure, I'll come in half an hour's time to your place."

"Alright, I'll be waiting."

After Lin Xinyan ended the call, she saved his phone number into her contacts list.

Half an hour. That meant she still had some time. She went to take a shower and changed the dress she was wearing into a T-shirt and pants. If she was going for test drives later, wearing a dress would be inconvenient.

Just as she finished her tasks, Yu Doudou arrived.

She locked her house door and went downstairs.

Yu Doudou was waiting at the entrance of the district. When he saw her coming, he pulled open the door to the backseat.

“Thank you.” Lin Xinyan smiled. “You’re too polite. I can open it myself.”

“It’s fine.” Yu Doudou smiled and sat in the driver’s seat. He looked back at Lin Xinyan and asked, “What’s your budget for the car?”

Lin Xinyan thought about it. “A car with good safety features, between 300 thousand to 500 thousand.”

Yu Doudou smacked his lips. “You’re quite rich.”

Lin Xinyan cleared her throat. “I’m still alright.”

She had been saving up over these years. She had a house abroad, but she had sold her car.

Yu Doudou was about to ask more, but he did not. If her mind was made up, she would tell him. If he kept asking, she might find him bothersome.

Lin Xinyan could see that he wanted to ask her something.

Before meeting with He Ruilin, she had decided not to hold her accountable for the accident because of He Ruize. Yet after meeting with He Ruilin, she realized that even if she did not want to, He Ruilin would not let her off.

Their enmity was formed long ago.

It was impossible to resolve it.

“Doudou. Can I call you this?” Lin Xinyan asked.

“Sure.” This was his name.

When others heard his name was called Doudou, they would give him a look, then say, “You’re a man, why is your name Doudou?”

What could he do about it? His parents gave him this name.

“Have you found out about the background of the woman who killed your brother?”

Yu Doudou shook his head.

“Have you heard of He family in B City?”

Yu Doudou nodded. “Yes. They have a jewelry business, and it’s at least a century-old. They’re one of the rich households in B City.”

“If I told you that the person who killed your brother was from the He family, would you still want to continue investigating?” It was already difficult to investigate a cold case for an average person, not to mention a cold case involving people with powerful connections.

It would be difficult to turn the table for this case.

If Lin Xinyan was going to work with him, she had to know how determined he was.

After all, this was not an easy path to walk.

Yu Doudou was stunned for a moment as if not expecting the woman to have powerful connections.

His hands gripped onto the steering wheel tightly. “I can’t just back down because she’s from a rich family. An eye for an eye, a life for a life.”

His words were spoken with a determined tone.

His brother was guilty, but his life was up for the law to judge.

“Alright, let’s work together.” It was within her expectations.

If he could be stubborn about this case for so many years, he should have perseverance.

Yu Doudou gave a bitter laugh. “I’m not human if I didn’t care about my family.”

As they spoke, the car came to a stop at the car dealership store.

“This area is full of car dealers; you can take a look and see what models you’re interested in.”

Lin Xinyan got down from the car and pointed to the first dealership. “I’ll look from here first.”

“Sure. I can’t afford cars but now I can finally look at cars.” Yu Doudou said, jeering at himself.

Lin Xinyan took a look at him. “What you’re driving isn’t a car?”

“That’s true, I drive every day.” Although it was a cab, it was still a car.

The glass door had sensors. When someone came close to it, it automatically opened. The salesman walked out to greet her. “What cars would you like to see? We have a new coupe model. Do you want to take a look?”

Lin Xinyan shook her head. “I want to look at seven-seater cars.”

Comfortable and spacious. She would be able to put other things in the car even if she had two children sitting in the car.

“What about this model?” The salesman brought Lin Xinyan towards a commercial seven-seater SUV. “This model has a spacious interior. There’s a sales going on right now, and you can have a discount of by a few thousand. It’s worth it.”

Yu Doudou quietly moved closer to Lin Xinyan and whispered in her ear, “This car brand had quite a few petrol leakage incidents. Its reputation is questionable. Why don’t we look at others?”

Lin Xinyan turned to look at him.

He nodded confidently.

Lin Xinyan understood his words and smiled at the salesman. ‘I’m sorry, I don’t quite like the style of this car.’

When he heard Lin Xinyan’s words of dissatisfaction, the salesperson’s expression turned cold. “If you can’t afford it then just say it honestly. Don’t say words like I don’t like the style. Aren’t you just thinking it’s too expensive?”

The salesman looked up and down at Lin Xinyan’s clothes. T-shirt and jeans, how unfashionable.

“Do you know how to talk?” Yu Doudou was furious.

Why were there people like this everywhere?

Looking down on others.

Lin Xinyan pulled him and shook her head. There was no need to start a conflict over small matters like this.

They would just go to another store.

After exiting the store, Yu Doudou still felt angry. “There are lots of lousy people around this year.”

Lin Xinyan looked at him. “Since you know that that’s a lousy person, why should you be angry?”

Yu Doudou thought about it. “You’re right.”

“That one. That brand has a good reputation. Their safety features were also tested. It’s just that they were more expensive.” Yu Doudou pointed at the foreign brand store at the opposite.

Lin Xinyan thought about it. “It’s okay if it’s expensive, as long as I get something I like.”

It was not strangers who sat in her car but the people she treasured. The safety feature was the most important part of her.

The two walked into the store. Unlike the previous store where someone greeted them, the salesman who wanted to stand up had sat back down after seeing her and Yu Doudou.

The salesman thought that Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou could not afford the car.

Lin Xinyan raised her eyebrows.

The corner of Yu Doudou's mouth twitched. "This is worse than the previous one."

Lin Xinyan smiled. "Perhaps their attitude is because they're not worried about the sales, as the car is good. It's alright."

"This brand does manufacture good cars, but the price is high." Yu Doudou admitted.

Every car was at least a million.

The office door opened, and Guan Jing came out in the front as the manager walked beside him. "I'll get someone to drive your car over."

CHAPTER 94.

"Mmm." Guan Jing gave a quiet hum in response.

He had sent his car for maintenance. He had matters to settle here today, so he had driven his car over for maintenance.

Guan Jing was an old client. His off-road and coupe were bought from this dealership.

The manager was respectful towards old, rich clients.

Lin Xinyan was looking at a commercial seven-seater. The model, interior, and safety features fit her preferences perfectly.

"Excuse me, can I test drive this car?" Lin Xinyan asked.

There were a few salespeople seated on the couch. Some were playing with their phones and some were making calls. A saleswoman who had heard Lin Xinyan's question coldly answered, "No."

"It seems like we're not buying cars here. We're just buying attitudes." Yu Doudou said quietly.

Lin Xinyan could only laugh helplessly.

This was new. She could not spend her money even when she wanted to.

"Your car, sir." The manager handed him the keys. "The car is stopped by the entrance."

Guan Jing took the keys. When he walked to the door, he saw someone who looked like Lin Xinyan from the reflection of the glass door. He turned around and saw Lin Xinyan talking with Yu Doudou.

Was this not the man who harassed her the other day?

Why did they seem friendly today?

"Why don't we go to the other stores? They're not the only ones who sell cars." Yu Doudou said quietly beside her.

"I quite like this car." Lin Xinyan liked this model.

From Guan Jing's angle, Yu Doudou's actions seemed intimate.

He frowned.

He was about to move forward to pull Yu Doudou away, but he had second thoughts. Instead, he took out his phone to take a photo and sent it to Zong Jinghao.

If he did not realize what Zong Jinghao's thoughts were earlier, he now did after seeing Zong Jinghao break off the engagement with He Ruilin. It was obvious he cared about Lin Xinyan.

Would he be angry if he saw Lin Xinyan being intimate with other men?

The more Guan Jing thought about it, the more excited he became.

It was rare to see Zong Jinghao as a laughing stock.

This is an opportunity, he thought as he pressed on the send button.

Then, he added: I'm driving at 4S and saw Lin Xinyan and a man buying a car together. Their actions were intimate.

After that, Guan Jing spun the keys on his hand and walked out the door.

He turned to look at Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou and smiled as he wondered about the expression on Zong Jinghao's face when he saw the picture.

How exciting.

Guan Jing's mood was good. He hummed as he sat in his car. Just as he started his car and was about to leave, his phone rang.

He took his phone out and looked at the screen. It was Zong Jinghao's number.

"That's fast." That was quick of Zong Jinghao to call back.

Guan Jing cleared his throat before answering the call. "Mr. Zong."

"Where are you?" There was a hint of anger in his tone.

He felt an uncomfortable squeeze in his heart when he saw that she was being intimate with other men.

"BC4S." Guan Jing replied honestly.

"Watch her for me." And the call ended.

Guan Jing huffed and stared at his phone screen. "Is he angry?"

He kept his phone and was about to get down from his car when he saw Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou walking out of the store. He sat back into his car. It seemed like they were about to leave the store. Zong Jinghao had asked him to watch her, but what was he going to say when she leaves?

No, he could not let them just walk off.

After Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou walked out, he came down from his car and went in through the left door into the manager's office.

The manager immediately stood to greet him when he realized it was Guan Jing. "Is there something wrong with the car?"

"No."

Guan Jing waved at him. "Come over."

The manager hurried over.

"Do you see those two people out there?" Guan Jing pointed at Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou, who was across the window.

The manager nodded. "Yes."

"They were looking at cars in your store earlier. Now, you have to make them stay."

Huh?

The manager did not comprehend.

They were walking further now. Guan Jing's expression turned cold. "Why? Can't you do it?"

"Of course I can." The manager had climbed his way from a salesman to a sales manager.

Not only was Guan Jing rich, but he was also Zong Jinghao's man. That was why the manager was so respectful of him.

He could not offend a person like him.

The manager was smart. He went out of his office and ran towards Lin Xinyan and Yu Doudou.

"Hold on." The manager called out at them.

When Lin Xinyan heard someone calling for them, she turned around. She saw a man near his forties wearing a black suit with a beer belly and a friendly smile.

"Were you looking at cars in our store earlier?"

Lin Xinyan nodded.

"Did you fancy any?"

"Yes." Lin Xinyan answered honestly.

The manager breathed a sigh of relief. If she was interested in a model, that meant he had an excuse to bring her back into the store. He smiled as he asked, "Did you buy it?"

"We were interested to buy, but you didn't seem interested to sell." Yu Doudou said, indignant.

"That can't be it. We sell cars. If you're going to buy, we can't possibly be not selling." There was a constant smile on the manager's face.

Although his body shape was fat, his words sounded good to the ears.

"Your salespeople were looking down on us." Yu Doudou pointed at himself and at Lin Xinyan. "It seemed like they thought we could not afford the cars, so they just ignored us. Even when we wanted to know more about the details, no one bothered. I used to think that customer was king, but I've learned today that this was wrong. Not all customers were king, it depends on the person. We're not rich, so there's no need to do this."

Yu Doudou was frustrated, and he complained at the given opportunity.

“This is the first time I’ve met a car dealer who wouldn’t sell when the customer wanted to buy. Isn’t it interesting?”

“This actually happened?” The manager’s expression turned grim, and he seemed dissatisfied. “I’ll give them a talking later.”

The manager had a smile on his face again when he talked to them. “If you’re interested in that model, tell me, I’ll serve you personally. I’m the manager of this store; it’s my responsibility for not giving you a good service. If you were to buy a car from us today, I’ll give you the best discount.”

“Alright.” Lin Xinyan thought about it. The manager seemed sincere.

Standing beside Lin Xinyan, the manager started introducing the cars. “Our cars have guaranteed quality, and we have a good reputation. You can check it online. Our sales are annually at the top.”

Lin Xinyan smiled.

The manager opened the door and invited Lin Xinyan inwards. “Zhang, pour two cups of coffee.”

The saleswoman, who was playing with her phone, looked up when she heard her manager’s voice. She saw the two poor customers and frowned. “Manager, what are you doing?”

There were other salespeople who had also looked up. “Maybe the manager thinks they have the potential to afford our cars.”

This salesman who spoke was just on the phone with a client. In comparison with the deal he was about to close, he was less enthusiastic to greet the new customers who did not seem rich.

“Hah! They don’t look like people who can afford BC.” The saleswoman had a lopsided grin on her face. “Maybe he saw that the woman looked pretty, that’s why he’s being so enthusiastic.”

“Sit.” The manager pulled the chair for her.

Zhang served the cups of coffee.

“Which model were you interested in?” The manager asked.

“That one.” Yu Doudou pointed to the commercial seven-seater that was near to the door.

“You can test drive the car here. That car has the best safety features. There are airbags for every seat. Many models only have front airbags, but this model has airbags for both front

and back. Furthermore, it has an auto-brake function. If the car malfunctions and skids, the car will automatically lock the wheels to force a stop to the car's motions."

Yu Doudou glared at him. "Hadn't you said there was no test drive?"

CHAPTER 95.

The manager took a glance at the few salespeople who remained seated and frowned. They ignored the customers. Did they no longer care about their performance evaluation?

Were their brains full of shit?

The salespeople lowered their heads and pretended not to notice their manager's gaze.

"They might be engaged with other customers, that's why they couldn't come for you. It's my fault that I'm not stern enough with them, I hope you can forgive me. I'll try to make it up for you, is that alright?" The manager had an apologetic smile on his face.

Yu Doudou wanted to continue complaining but Lin Xinyan stopped him. The manager was already doing his best, they should let him off.

Yu Doudou coughed. He realized that he had been agitated and had said too much.

"I'll make a call to ask when the test drive car will be available. The sales of this car had always been good." The manager took out his phone and made his call.

She did not know what happened, but the manager was furious after listening to the call.

"Why don't you just drive it out of the country? Don't you know you can't let the person drive out too far? Are you going to pay for petrol?"

The customer had driven out to the countryside. It would take them at least an hour before they could come back.

Guan Jing had told him to keep them here, and he had tried his best, but without the test drive, how was he going to keep them here?

"How about this? I'll come back next time." Lin Xinyan stood up. It was already past four, Zhuang Zijin should be coming back with the children. They must be tired after playing all day. She had to go home and prepare dinner. She could not be wasting her time here.

There was cold sweat on the manager's forehead. What should he do? He looked at the office and saw Guan Jing crossing his legs on the chair while watching him.

The manager felt lost. First, it was terrible service, now he had no cars available for test drives, what was he going to say?

The manager handed her his name card. "Please call me the next time you come; I'll be serving you."

Lin Xinyan reached out and took the card. "Alright."

The manager sent them out the door.

At the parking, Yu Doudou opened the car door for Lin Xinyan. "I'm surprised that the manager was nice for this store."

In comparison with their salespeople, the manager had much better customer service.

There was no expression on Lin Xinyan's face. She just felt that the manager was too enthusiastic.

Just then, another car stopped by their car. Lin Xinyan gave a casual glance and saw the man who came down the car.

He was standing against the wind. In his black suit pants was a pair of slender legs. The shirt on him was loose, and it made him seem casual.

His expression was cold, and he was staring at her.

Lin Xinyan felt odd. Why would he appear here?

He was in no shortage of cars.

There were a few limited edition cars in his villa's garage though she barely saw him drive those. Perhaps all men liked cars, even if they did not drive them; they still like to have them.

Zong Jinghao gaze landed on Yu Doudou, who had opened the door for Lin Xinyan. His eyes then moved towards Lin Xinyan and stared at her. There were violent waves in his eyes, and the blood vessels were stretched from the corner of the eyes to the center.

Lin Xinyan shrunk back. She had never sensed him feeling so violent under this calmness.

"Why— Why are you here?" She had no idea why her words became incoherent.

"Come down." The corner of his mouth twitched.

Lin Xinyan sat motionlessly. "What is it?"

He was obviously angry. She did not want to interact with him right now.

Zong Jinghao narrowed his eyes. "Are you sure?"

Lin Xinyan did not reply him.

The threat was explicit. He was threatening her.

Lin Xinyan glared at him.

What had she done?

He looked at her as if she owed him money.

Yu Doudou sensed Lin Xinyan's rejection, and he leaned over. "Do you need help?"

Zong Jinghao moved forward, pulled Yu Doudou away, and punched him. How dare he come so close to her in front of him?

Yu Doudou was stunned by his attack, and he took a few steps back. There was a metallic taste in his mouth and he wiped his lips. There was blood on the back of his hand.

He looked up at the man who had just hit him.

His mind was still blank. He did not remember meeting with this man before, but he did look familiar. Suddenly, Yu Doudou remembered where he had seen him.

He was a frequent guest on economy news.

The youngest millionaire.

When did he offend him?

Was he allowed to bully because he was rich?

Yu Doudou clenched his hands.

Lin Xinyan was not expecting him to hit others, and she hurried down to take a look at Yu Doudou. The skin at the corner of his mouth was torn, and it was bleeding.

"Are you alright?" Lin Xinyan asked, concerned.

Yu Doudou shook his head.

Lin Xinyan turned around to glare at Zong Jinghao. "Are you crazy? How can you just hit anyone?"

“We haven’t had our divorce yet. You’re still my wife, and yet you’re being intimate with other men. Do you think I’m blind?”

“What are you talking about?” Lin Xinyan frowned. She was confused.

Who was she being intimate with?

“Clarify yourself.” Lin Xinyan’s expression also turned cold. So now she could not even have a friend?

He was too domineering.

Guan Jing, who was hiding at the side, walked over and took out his phone. He showed Lin Xinyan the photo that he took. “I sent my car here for maintenance while I was working nearby, but I saw you and...”

He pointed at Yu Doudou. “I just took a photo on the way.”

Lin Xinyan stared at the photo with a grim look. She knew Yu Doudou was talking to her at that time, but from Guan Jing’s perspective, it looked like Yu Doudou had kissed her cheeks.

She mocked, “That’s a great angle.”

Guan Jing huffed. What did she mean by that? This was what he had seen.

It seemed like they were having too loud of a commotion, as people had started crowding them. Zong Jinghao was well known, and to avoid any gossiping, Guan Jing suggested for them to first leave the place. “This place isn’t suitable for talking.”

Lin Xinyan also did not want to argue with him in front of a crowd.

“I know a place.” Guan Jing said.

Lin Xinyan was about to enter Yu Doudou’s car before her wrist was grabbed by Zong Jinghao and she was shoved into his car.

She wanted to struggle but saw the warning look that Zong Jinghao gave her. “Be obedient. Do you want to make a fuss here?”

Lin Xinyan’s face was twitching. If it was not for the crowd, she would have argued with him here and now.

Who was the one fussing?

He was the one who had punched someone without reason, how could he say that she was the one fussing?

She suppressed the fire in her heart and sat motionlessly.

The location was one of Guan Jing's properties. It was furnished, but he did not stay here. Someone had been cleaning this place frequently, as the place was clean. It was quiet here, which was suitable for a talk.

The group entered the house, and Guan Jing made Yu Doudou sit on the couch. "Tell me, what's going on?"

Zong Jinghao grabbed onto Lin Xinyan's hand and leaned against a low cupboard. His head was lowered, and he was observing and playing with her hand.

As if her hand was some artifact, and he could find out something interesting from it.

Lin Xinyan was about to struggle away before he held on even tighter. "Don't move."

Yu Doudou blinked. What was he supposed to tell him?

He looked at Lin Xinyan, signaling for help.

"Tell them your relationship with me." Lin Xinyan could not struggle out of Zong Jinghao's grasp, so she could only let him be, but she was facing outside the window instead of him.

Yu Doudou said honestly, "I'm cooperating with Ms. Lin."

Guan Jing thought that was interesting, and asked, "What are you cooperating on?"

CHAPTER 96.

Yu Doudou looked at Lin Xinyan, who stood by the window, and said, "We have a common enemy."

There was a moment of silence.

Guan Jing felt even more interested. He bent over and leaned towards Yu Doudou. "Tell me about it."

Zong Jinghao's head remained lowered as he continued playing with Lin Xinyan's hand. His eyelashes fluttered slightly when he heard Yu Doudou mentioned that he had a common enemy with Lin Xinyan.

His thumb repeatedly brushed on the back of her hand.

It was not a complicated matter, yet not an easy one too. It was difficult to explain the entire matter within a few sentences.

Yu Doudou thought about it. "Let me start from the beginning. I met Ms. Lin when I was trying to get a customer. She was extremely shocked when she saw me. She seemed to know me, but I did not know her back then..."

Yu Doudou explained how he had met Lin Xinyan. "My brother died six years ago. Before he died, he was paid to knock someone down, and to cover it up as a car accident—" He looked up at Lin Xinyan before he continued. "Ms. Lin was the one who was injured. She was lucky. Her cab driver died, and she was severely injured."

Lin Xinyan curled her fingers and her hands were wet. Yu Doudou's words were peeled her wounds from the past and exposed it to the air. It was painful.

There were pieces of the car stabbing into her flesh, and it was near the tailbone. If she did not have surgery, it would have pressed onto her nervous system and cause her to become paralyzed. She would definitely need anesthetic for the surgery, but she was pregnant back then and could not have anesthesia.

If she did, it would affect her baby.

She wanted her baby well, and also did not want to spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair.

She could not afford to be paralyzed. Who would take care of her children?

Who would take care of Zhuang Zijin when she grew old?

She could not be paralyzed.

She could not give up on her children. She could not bear to part with them, especially after she found out that they were a pair of twins.

The moment they started growing in her womb, they were connected to her in flesh and blood.

As long as she was here, they must be here.

She could not give up on them.

In the end, she chose to have the surgery without anesthesia.

Whenever she thought about the pain of her flesh tearing apart, she still trembled viciously, as if she was experiencing that indescribable pain once again.

She almost fainted from the pain, but pregnant women could not pass out. She had to stay conscious, or else her babies would be harmed.

The women who had caesarean delivery knew that the anesthesia only affected lower down of their bodies. Their heads were clear the entire time.

It was the same just like her needing to be conscious now.

She did not want to think about it. In fact, she wanted to forget about it. Yet the pain was immersed deep in her memory. She could not forget it.

And whenever someone mentioned about it, she would remember it in clear detail.

It was just like now. It had been six years since then, the indescribable pain still crashes into her like the violent waves in the sea.

She clenched her hands abruptly.

Zong Jinghao realized her unusual behavior and looked at her. He saw that the strands of hair by her ears were soaked with sweat. She was nervous, she was in fear.

Haunted by bad memories, she was being dragged into terror.

He reached out and hugged her. His large hands caressed her back, comforting her. "Don't be afraid."

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes and buried her face into his chest.

His breathing and his firm chest seemed to be soothing. Lin Xinyan slowly calmed down.

This was the first time she exposed her vulnerable side to him.

Zong Jinghao's heart skipped a beat and hugged her tighter. His lips touched the top of her head.

"The person who bribed and killed my brother and the person who crashed Ms. Lin was the same person. That was why we have a common enemy. We agreed on cooperating with each other today. I've only seen Ms. Lin about three times. This time, she needed to get a car, and she wasn't familiar with the cars here, so she had asked me for help. That's all."

Guan Jing rubbed his nose and took a secret glance at Zong Jinghao.

He was comforting Lin Xinyan and was not looking at him.

He let out a sigh of relief, and asked, "You know who that is?"

Yu Doudou nodded honestly. "Yes. It's a woman from the He family. She has some connections, so it'll be difficult to turn the tables for this case."

From He family?

Guan Jing licked his lips. "He family of Pioneer Group?"

Yu Doudou nodded. "He Ruilin."

Yu Doudou knew who it was when he had heard Lin Xinyan said she was from He family.

The He family had two sons. There was major news when they found their long-lost daughter a few years back.

The room was suddenly quiet.

There were only soft breathing sounds.

Yu Doudou secretly glanced at Guan Jing, and asked softly, "Why did he punch me?"

Guan Jing did not answer him.

This was actually his fault. If he did not want to see Zong Jinghao as a laughing stock and sent him the photo without finding out what was going on, Yu Doudou would not have been punched.

Was this Yu Doudou an idiot?

How could he not see it's because of jealousy?

He just could not bear seeing other men being close with Lin Xinyan.

Yu Doudou seemed to realize after seeing Guan Jing's expression.

He felt wronged. All he did was bringing Lin Xinyan to look at cars, and he got a punch in return.

Feeling upset, he mumbled, "So it's alright for the rich to bully?"

Zong Jinghao seemed laid back at a side, but he had heard Yu Doudou's words.

He Ruilin.

"What do you want as compensation?" Zong Jinghao asked calmly.

He was not a bully. He just did not like the idea of other men going too close to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan did not realize when she had started leaning into Zong Jinghao's embrace. Her face reddened slightly, and hurriedly left his embrace.

She pretended to be calm as she looked at her watch. "It's getting late, I should be going back."

Yu Doudou stood up. "Why don't you compensate me some money?"

After all, he had been punched. Some compensation would be normal.

Also, Zong Jinghao had more than enough to give.

He did not want to be punched just like that.

Zong Jinghao held Lin Xinyan's shoulders, and said, "I'll send you back."

Lin Xinyan wanted to reject, but Zong Jinghao held tighter. "I've lent you my chest. Are you planning to burn the bridge after crossing it?"

Lin Xinyan realized she will never win him in these. She sighed and decided to let him be.

When they walked past Yu Doudou, Zong Jinghao eyes were looking straight as he warned, "She's married, stay away from her. Tell Guan Jing how much you want."

After finishing his sentence, he held Lin Xinyan and left.

In the car, Zong Jinghao buckled her safety belt.

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes and watched him. "Don't you think you're interfering with my life?"

"No." He did not think he did anything wrong.

"I'm not your item. I have my own life and my own social circle. You shouldn't do this anymore." Lin Xinyan was not keen for this to happen again.

"We are husband and wife; don't you belong to me?"

"We are not husband and wife."

"We have a certificate."

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

She lost her words upon hearing his.

She did not go through the divorce earlier, so it was now something he can hold against her and use it to disrupt her life.

"Tell Guan Jing to settle that—"

Before she could finish her sentence, the back of her head was grabbed and her lips were pressed upon—

CHAPTER 97.

Before she could finish her sentence, the back of her head was grabbed and her lips were pressed upon forcefully. Under his force, her lip was squashed. His pliable and powerful tongue drove straight in without giving her any room to think. It hooked onto her retracting tongue, and inch by inch, swallowed all of her.

His desire flourished with some invasiveness.

It felt like he was going to swallow her whole.

“Mmm...”

Lin Xinyan heart was thumping against her ribcage, fluttering out of control. All because of this man.

Her remaining rationale told her what he was doing.

If it was impossible, why did he have to insist on it?

He was only using less than a quarter of his strength and was already restraining her from moving.

Lin Xinyan felt her mouth starting to hurt, and she bit onto his tongue hard.

Zong Jinghao paused. Thinking that she was playing with him, he bit onto her lower lip in return.

Lin Xinyan seized the opportunity and pushed him away forcibly.

She did not like it this way.

“If you know that the both of us being together is impossible, why can’t you just cut it out now?” Lin Xinyan’s had a shimmering layer of tears, her voice was choked when she said, “Don’t do this. It’s not good for either of us.”

She turned to wipe the tears in the corner of her eyes.

Zong Jinghao remained still when she pushed him away. He quietly watched her a few more seconds before he sat back straight.

He lowered his car window, and the fresh air rushed in to blend out the scent of intimacy which was hanging in the air.

His arm was on the car window, and his gaze was focused on a parasol tree on the side of the road. The leaves on the tree swayed gently with the wind.

He lowered his eyes. He was a grown man. He knew why he cared so much about Lin Xinyan.

“I can’t accept your children. I’m not that generous nor big-hearted to raise the children you have with another men. If I were to see them every day, I’d go crazy eventually” He took the bottle of water from the cup holder, and opened it for a drink. His head was tilted up and his neck showed off a long slender curve. Even his sexy Adam apple was obvious. The look of it was resolute and prideful.

“At the same time, I don’t want to let go of you, and see you with other men.”

Lin Xinyan rubbed her face hard. She felt that she was in despair.

Zong Jinghao pulled her over, cupped her face, and made her look at him. Two pairs of eyes looked at each other, and Lin Xinyan could see her disheveled self in his eyes.

The reflection that Zong Jinghao saw in her eyes was of a mad man. He never felt this way before.

He wanted this woman.

“Let’s be real husband and wife. As for your children, I’ll pay for someone else to take care of them.”

“No way!” Lin Xinyan rejected instantly.

There was no room for discussion.

“We can have another child that belongs to us—”

“This is ridiculous!” Lin Xinyan broke away from him. “You’ve never been a parent; you don’t know what a child means to the mother. For me, they are my life. You’re asking me to give up on my life; don’t you think it sounds like a joke?”

There were crashing waves in Zong Jinghao’s eyes. “Are they that important to you?”

“Yes.”

Lin Xinyan did not hesitate.

He pulled his collar, and the smile on his face was wild and arrogant. "You're right; I've never been a father. Give birth to a child for me and let me be a father. Let me know how that feels."

Lin Xinyan had no idea what to say. She unlocked the safety lock and went down the car.

There was no way to communicate with this person. Just a few steps away from the car, she was carried up onto someone's shoulder. She shouted in fright and hit his back. "What are you doing? Let go of me."

Zong Jinghao pulled open the door to the backseat and put her down. His body pressed down onto hers. He restrained her hand above her head with one hand, and he held her chin with the other. "You're unwilling, but have you thought about this? What would you do if I were to hide your children away from you? You know that I am capable of doing it."

"You shameless man!" Lin Xinyan glared at him.

Instead of being angry, Zong Jinghao smiled. "I don't mind becoming even more shameless."

As he spoke, the hand held onto her chin slid down along her chin, to her delicate collarbone, and into her collar—

Lin Xinyan shook her head. "No—"

Bit by bit, his fingers wrapped around her roundness and into his palm. It felt great.

How do you maintain its beauty?" He said softly. He lowered his head to her lips, and gently bit it.

The redness had spread from Lin Xinyan's face to her ears. She felt shameful.

She was trembling all over.

From anger.

"Have you thought about it?" He whispered by her ear. He leaned down and kissed her neck.

"He Ruilin was the one who caused your accident. If I don't want her to go to jail, you can't do anything about it." He bit her ear, and continued temptingly, "As long as you say yes, I'll help you. How about that?"

Lin Xinyan closed her eyes in despair. The tears flowed down from the corner of her eyes and disappeared in her hair.

"I can promise to be with you without mentioning about the divorce, but my children have to be with me. And regarding you wanting a child, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. I can no longer get pregnant. If you agree with this, I'll say yes. If you don't—"

“If not, what would you do?” There was a layer of red in his vision. She could no longer be pregnant?

He put more weight on his fingers.

Lin Xinyan frowned in pain, but she pursed her lips. She remained silent.

“The world is big. I won’t believe that there won’t be any place for me. If I really couldn’t run away from you, I’ll give up on my life. What about that?”

Zong Jinghao looked at her for a second, and finally agreed.

He did not dare to push her too much. What he wanted was this woman, if she died, where would he be able to look for another Lin Xinyan?

He adjusted her clothes. “You’re not allowed to go close to other men from now on. If I want to see you, you have to appear in front me right away.”

“Okay.”

“I’ll send you back.” Zong Jinghao stood up and adjusted her messy shirt again.

Lin Xinyan remained still.

Zong Jinghao started the car and drove.

The scenery outside of the car went past in a flash.

“Will you really help me?” Lin Xinyan asked. Fearing he did not understand what she meant, she explained, “With the case.”

After all, he once had a relationship with He Ruilin.

Lin Xinyan was not sure.

“Yes.” A simple answer.

If he said he would, that meant he would.

Lin Xinyan leaned against the window. So be it.

This man was too domineering; she could not go against him.

It was good. At least he had agreed to help her, and she did not have to separate from her children.

She could benefit from having his protection in this country.

Zong Jinghao had a hand on the steering wheel, and the other holding her hand in his.

“Your hand is soft.” The corner of his lips was up.

She had slender fingers and soft hands. They were as soft as her body. He felt the natural impulsiveness of a man when he held her in his embrace.

Lin Xinyan pretended not to hear it.

Not long after, they reached the district.

On the side of the road, Zhuang Zijin was with the two children. Her road was blocked by someone, and the man seemed to be talking to her.

Zhuang Zijin was unwilling to talk to him.

Although, he seemed adamant.

The man turned his face over, and Lin Xinyan saw his face.

CHAPTER 98.

Lin Guoan?

Why was he here?

Lin Xinyan opened the door quickly. Seemingly remembering something, she turned around to look at Zong Jinghao. “Go back. I’m afraid that my mom won’t be happy seeing you.”

Zong Jinghao had also seen the people in the front. It was him who mentioned the divorce last time, it was normal for Zhuang Zijin to dislike him.

Furthermore, Lin Guoan was here. His appearance would be unsuitable.

He gave a quiet hum in response. His gaze landed on the little girl in Zhuang Zijin’s arms. She had black hair tied into two braids and a fair face. Combined with her arched eyebrows and watery eyes, she looked like a delicate doll. She looked cute.

His gaze turned to Lin Xinyan. His hands unconsciously gripped tighter on the steering wheel.

He could not say anything else. Her children had good genes.

The son was smart, and the girl was this cute.

“You are not that unlucky after all.” Although she was abandoned by her father, she still had her mother. And now, she had two cute children.

“What?” Lin Xinyan looked at him with confused eyes.

His words came too sudden, and she did not understand what he meant.

Zong Jinghao reached out to tuck a strand of her hair, which had been hanging in her face, behind her ear. “Nothing. Go.”

Lin Xinyan was stunned for a moment, then nodded. “I’ll get going.”

She closed the car door and hurried towards Zhuang Zijin. She pulled away Lin Guoan and stood in front of her mother as she glared at Lin Guoan. “What are you doing here?”

“Yan—” Lin Guoan looked at her with his hands by his side. “Dad was wrong.”

Six years ago, Lin Yuhan had escaped with the money. Shen Xiuqing was still locked up in jail because she had hurt someone.

When he had his difficult moments, it was this daughter that he had been ignoring that helped him.

Regardless of him being right or wrong, Lin Xinyan no longer wanted to hold him accountable. She had the peace of someone who had let go of the matter. “Don’t bother us from now on.”

She carried her son up, and Lin Ruixi was in Zhuang Zijin’s arms.

Lin Guoan ran after them. “Yan.”

“If you continue, I’ll call the police.” Lin Xinyan’s expression turned cold.

Lin Guoan looked at Lin Xichen in his arms. His eyes were a little red as he asked, “Is this your child?”

“Yes.” Lin Xinyan said impatiently.

“He had good looks, just like you.” Lin Guoan shifted his feet. “I don’t mean anything else. It’s just that, I saw your mother today—”

He looked at Zhuang Zijin as he said, “Then I knew that you were back. You can look for me if there’s anything you need.”

He hurriedly took out a name card from his pocket and handed it to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan did not take it.

Lin Guoan seemed distressed. "Just. Just treat me like a friend. What if you need me someday?"

Lin Xinyan looked at him.

Over these years he looked much older. There were white hairs at the side of his head. She went in a hurry that year, and she did not know how he had gone through his difficult times.

Lin Xinyan reached out to take the card.

Lin Guoan smiled, and moved aside instantly to make way for her.

His careful actions seemed humble, as if he was a child who did something wrong, and he just wanted to try to repent.

It would be a lie to say that she felt nothing at all.

This was her father, her biological father.

The same blood as his was flowing in her veins.

"Fake." Zhuang Zijin pulled Lin Xinyan. "Let's go. Don't be fooled by him."

Zhuang Zijin hated Lin Guoan.

He was unforgivable.

Lin Xinyan turned away with a touch of melancholy and followed Zhuang Zijin home.

At the corridors, Lin Xinyan asked, "How did you meet him?"

"After leaving the aquarium, we were waiting for a cab at the side of the road. We met there, and he kept talking to me and asking whether the two children were yours. I didn't want to bother with him, but I wasn't expecting him to follow me back here." When Zhuang Zijin was talking about Lin Guoan, there was no smile on her face, just hatred.

Lin Xinyan knew how badly Lin Guoan had hurt Zhuang Zijin, so she kept quiet. It was uncomfortable for her too.

Throughout the years, her thoughts were mostly focused on the two children. She had let go of many things from her past.

Shen Xiuqing was jailed, and his beloved daughter had betrayed him.

Karma had come for him.

“You’re not allowed to contact him in the future.” Zhuang Zijin said. She was afraid that Lin Xinyan would not stand firm against Lin Guoan now.

“He abandoned us inhumanely, and made you marry—”

“Mom, that’s enough.” Lin Xinyan interrupted her. The two children were with them.

Zhuang Zijin realized with a shock, and quickly stopped. She soothed Lin Ruixi’s hair. “Was Ruixi frightened by grandma?”

Lin Ruixi shook her head. She did not understand what her grandmother was talking about. She only knew that grandma did not seem to like that old man.

However, Lin Xichen understood perfectly what they said.

That was grandma’s husband, and mother’s dad. His grandfather.

However, he did something wrong, that was why grandma did not want to forgive him.

“It’s late, are you hungry?” Lin Xinyan asked.

Lin Ruixi nodded vigorously. “I want to eat pizza.”

This little girl was the happiest. She did not think about anything, she just wanted to stay happy by eating and playing.

“Alright, let’s have pizza today.” Lin Xinyan lovingly pinched her daughter’s cheek. “In our house, Ruixi is the boss.”

“What about me?” Lin Xichen asked.

“Xichen is the second.” Lin Xinyan said with a serious look.

Lin Xichen was not happy. “Why? I’m the older brother.”

“Then tell me, will you admit to your wrongs?”

Lin Xichen instantly stopped talking.

Why hadn’t she forgotten about it, he thought.

There was regret in his heart. Why did he have to ask her?

Lin Xichen felt like he just dug his own grave.

Entering the house, Lin Xinyan changed the shoes for the children, and Zhuang Zijin retreated to her room with a bad mood.

Lin Xinyan looked at her back. She knew why Zhuang Zijin's mood was suddenly down. She might be missing Xinqi.

Ever since the two children came to this world, Zhuang Zijin had been busy helping her take care of them. When she was busy, she did not have that much time to think about the past. When she saw Lin Guoan today, she might have thought about things from the past.

Lin Xinyan held the children's hands and walked to the living room. She took out her phone and asked, "Which pizzas do you want?"

"Durian." Lin Ruixi grabbed onto Lin Xinyan's arm and asked in a cute tone, "I want to eat durian pizza."

"Alright." Lin Xinyan added it to her order and looked at Lin Xichen. "What about you, Xichen?"

"Cheese." Lin Xichen looked at Lin Xinyan. "Mommy likes it."

Lin Xinyan looked up at her son. "Why, are you trying to bribe me? Don't go about thinking that as long as you please me, I won't hold you accountable. If you don't admit that you're wrong, I won't give you back your things."

Lin Xichen sighed. That was hopeless; his plans were found out in a second.

After Lin Xinyan order the pizza, she put down her phone. "Xichen, play with your sister in the living room. I'm going to the room to look for your grandma."

"Okay."

Lin Xichen was exceptionally obedient.

He wondered when Lin Xinyan would return him his things.

"Mommy, can I have a cup of juice first?" He was thirsty.

"Hold on." Lin Xinyan poured two cups in the kitchen. The juices at home were freshly squeezed. There were no preservatives in it, so it was healthy.

After giving the children the juice, Lin Xinyan went to Zhuang Zijin's room.

She held onto the handle, turned, and lightly pushed open the door. She saw—

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She held onto the handle, turned, and pushed open the door lightly. She saw Zhuang Zijin sitting at the edge of the bed, crying softly.

Lin Xinyan closed the door before she walked over. When she heard the sound, Zhuang Zijin hurriedly wiped her face. "Why are you here? You should be watching the kids outside."

"I'm here to see you." Lin Xinyan reached out to hug her. "Mom, let's not think about the things from the past."

She buried her face in Zhuang Zijin's shoulder. "I'll take care of you when you're old. And when I'm old, Lin Xichen will take care of me..."

"What are you talking about?" Zhuang Zijin patted Lin Xinyan's back. "You're still young. Doctor He is quite a good man."

Lin Xinyan ran her fingers through her hair. She was afraid of Zhuang Zijin saying words like this.

"Yan..."

"Mom."

Lin Xinyan knew what Zhuang Zijin was about to say. She had wanted to accept He Ruize at the start, but now, it seemed quite unlikely.

If she was going to investigate about the accident, it was no longer possible to be with He Ruize.

"Mom, He Ruize's mother once looked for me."

"What?" Zhuang Zijin was surprised. She held her daughter's shoulder and looked at her. "What was the reason that she had looked for you?"

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. She wanted her to give up on this idea, so she said honestly, "It was six years. She saw He Ruize and I together, and she thought we were in love. She came to look for me and told me that I wasn't suitable for him. Only someone with a similar background as his was suitable for him."

Zhuang Zijin opened her mouth, but no words came out.

Finally, her tears fell.

“Mom, why are you crying again?” Lin Xinyan reached out to wipe her tears away.

It took her a lot to divert her attention away.

Why did she started crying again?

“How can I not feel upset?” She felt upset when she thought about her daughter being framed in the past. “If it wasn’t for me that time—”

“Mom, let’s not talk about the past anymore, alright?” Lin Xinyan knew what she was worried about. She explained to her patiently, “I don’t love He Ruize. Even if I were to be with him, I won’t be happy, mom.”

Lin Xinyan held her hand. “You want me to happy, right?”

“Of course.” Even in her dreams, Zhuang Zijin wanted her daughter to be happy.

She was still young. She should have a good man to love her.

“Do you believe in me?”

“Of course.” Zhuang Zijin looked at her daughter. “You’re the best in my eyes.”

Her daughter had walked her way here. Throughout her path, she had suffered, and now she had her own career.

In her eyes, her daughter was the best.

“If you believe in me, then you shouldn’t worry about my marriage. We’ll cross the bridge when we get to it.” Lin Xinyan took the opportunity to persuade Zhuang Zijin.

She did not want Zhuang Zijin to worry about her marriage every day.

She would be stressed, and Zhuang Zijin would be stressed.

She felt that she was like that because of her.

“Mom, I’m just 24, I’m still young. I still have a long way to go. Maybe I’ll meet a man who doesn’t mind that I have children and is willing to take care of Xichen and Ruixi with me.”

Zhuang Zijin was not sure. “Really?”

Who could really see the future?

“Maybe I will. Your constant saying will stress me out. I can’t look for someone carelessly. That person has to be someone who can accept Xichen and Ruixi, or else I wouldn’t want him.” Lin Xinyan wanted to tell Zhuang Zijin today what her thoughts were too.

Zhuang Zijin knew how important these two children were to her. It was obvious since the time when she would have given up her life for the two children.

“Alright, I won’t say about it anymore. It’ll come when it’s meant to come.” Zhuang Zijin combed her daughter’s hair with her fingers. “I won’t pressure you.”

After He Ruize’s incident, she had finally come to a conclusion.

For someone like Lin Xinyan, even if the man loved her, his family will be a major obstacle.

Who wanted their son to marry a woman with two children?

She understood why He Ruize’s mother did not agree on this. With her kind of family, they would want to look for someone with a similar status.

However, her daughter was caught up in it.

Lin Xinyan felt much more relieved now that Zhuang Zijin had promised her this. She had felt stressed out from Zhuang Zijin’s constant nagging. She did not dare to talk to her in fear of her mentioning about it.

Now it was sorted out.

At this moment, the doorbell rang, and Lin Xinyan stood up. “It might be our pizza.”

She opened the door, and it was a delivery boy who was dressed in yellow.

“Are you Lin Xinyan?”

“Yes.”

“Please sign here.”

Lin Xinyan signed her name on the receipt and took the two boxes of pizza. She placed it on the dinner table. “Xichen, Ruixi, go and call your grandma to come and eat. I’ll pour milk for the both of you.”

“Okay.” Lin Xichen answered, and went to Zhuang Zijin’s room with his sister’s hand in his.

Lin Xinyan turned back to look at her son and smiled.

Zhuang Zijin was in a bad mood today. If she had gone to ask her out for food, Zhuang Zijin would not come. If the two children went, Zhuang Zijin would not have the heart to reject them.

Lin Xinyan poured the milk and put the cups on the table. She arranged their cutleries and plates.

She opened the pizza box.

Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi were each on one side of Zhuang Zijin, and they were holding their grandmother's hand.

Lin Xinyan pulled the chair for them. She knew that two children would be able to get Zhuang Zijin to come and join them for food.

"Ruixi wanted pizza today, so I didn't cook."

Zhuang Zijin looked at the table. The two large pizzas were enough for them. "Our Ruixi is a little glutton."

Zhuang Zijin did not know whether it was praise or a derogatory word. She blinked, and asked, "What's a glutton?"

"That means you can eat well. Other than eating, you don't know how to do anything else." Lin Xichen explained to her.

Lin Ruixi blinked. "Are you praising me?"

"Yes."

Lin Xichen looked at his sister and sighed internally.

This girl just wanted to be praised all day long.

"Wow." Lin Ruixi called out excitedly, "Then Xichen is a big glutton, he doesn't know anything else other than eating."

Lin Xichen was speechless.

Zhuang Zijin was amused by the two children, and her mood had lightened up by a bit.

"Grandma says you're a glutton." Lin Xichen placed a slice of durian pizza in his sister's plate.

"Yes, you're also a glutton. I'm praising you." Lin Ruixi took the pizza that her brother gave her, and bit it. She said happily, "Tasty."

Lin Xichen had a helpless look on his face as he looked at his sister, and asked Lin Xinyan, "Mommy, who did Ruixi take after?"

The room went quiet.

"Of course it's me. I gave birth to the both of you." Lin Xinyan pushed a cup of milk to her son. "No talking while eating."

The corner of Lin Xichen's lips went downwards.

After the meal, Lin Xinyan cleared the table. Lin Ruixi was pestering Zhuang Zijin to bring her for a walk. Lin Xichen quietly walked into the kitchen, and hugged Lin Xinyan's legs. In a sweet tone, he asked, "Mommy, can you return me my tablet and smart watch?"

"Tell me, do you admit that you're wrong?" Lin Xinyan lowered her head to look at her son.

Lin Xichen felt discouraged. "Never mind."

He would not give up in taking revenge on that heartless man.

In comparison with him abandoning them, all he did to him was to make him embarrassed in public for a while.

They were still at the losing side.

Lin Xichen let go of Lin Xinyan and ran into his room.

She did not know who he had taken after for his temper.

Lin Xinyan sighed, and put down the cup in her hands. She washed her hands. She wanted to talk to Lin Xichen. He was too caught up with Zong Jinghao.

It made her feel anxious.

When she reached the door of her son's room, the phone in her pocket rang. She took out her phone. After seeing the name on the screen, she sucked in a deep breath.

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Then she accepted the call.

"It's me."

"Mmm."

Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes and walked back to the living room. She said nothing, and she waited for him to talk.

"I'm outside your place. Are you free now? I want to see you." He Ruize said after a moment of silence.

Lin Xinyan hummed quietly in response and ended the call. She took off her apron and knocked on Lin Xichen's door. "Xichen, I have some matters to settle downstairs. Grandma is coming back soon, so don't leave the house."

Lin Xichen stood at the window and looked downwards where He Ruize and Zhuang Zijin were talking. When he heard Lin Xinyan's voice, he answered, "Okay."

Lin Xinyan changed her footwear before she went downstairs. In the park, He Ruize was talking with Zhuang Zijin. He Ruize wanted to carry Lin Ruixi, but Zhuang Zijin did not let him. "The girl is cheeky."

Zhuang Zijin had never rejected him.

This time, He Ruize sensed her obvious distancing.

After she knew that He Ruize's mother had talked to Lin Xinyan, and that they were impossible to be together, she no longer felt close to He Ruize.

After all, she had treated He Ruize as a son-in-law previously.

Now, she could not be as enthusiastic.

Nor did she have the need for the children to be that close to him.

"Auntie, did I do something wrong?" He Ruize asked.

"No, no." Zhuang Zijin waved her hand and tried to explain, "This girl had been fussing lately. I'm afraid she'll start crying."

"I watched her grow up. She's familiar with me. She won't cry if I hug her."

"Ruize."

Lin Xinyan walked over quickly. "Mom, it's cold now. Bring Ruixi back home."

"Alright." After bidding He Ruize goodbye, Zhuang Zijin hurried away with Lin Ruixi in her arms.

"Have you eaten?" Lin Xinyan asked.

He Ruize gave a slight smile. "I haven't. Will you make me food?"

"Sure."

The two looked at each other and smiled.

“Let’s take a walk.”

“Okay.”

It was obvious that something had changed in their relationship.

They were no longer as close as before.

“You know.” He Ruize looked at the road ahead of him. “I’m about to say that I just found out. Would you believe my words?”

“I don’t know.” Lin Xinyan gave an ambiguous answer.

“You still don’t believe in me.” He Ruize smiled bitterly.

He knew it. When Lin Xinyan knew about the truth, she would change her attitude towards him.

“If He Ruilin and I were in danger, who would you save?” Lin Xinyan suddenly stopped in her tracks and looked at He Ruize. “It’s a ridiculous question, right? You would think of He Ruilin first, then you’ll think of me.”

“Why are you so sure?” He Ruize looked at her.

“There are many types of relationships in this world. Blood is thicker than water. Family is the most important, and she is your sister. If you can ignore your sister’s survival, how cold-blooded would you be? Who would dare to be in love with you?”

He Ruize did not say anything. He just looked at her quietly.

Her words were not wrong. Between He Ruilin and her, he would think of He Ruilin first.

It was not because of their familial ties, but it was because he felt guilty to her.

They had lost her that year because of his negligence.

“This doesn’t mean that my love for you has lessened.”

“However, I can’t accept this you. I don’t think your family can accept me either. Let’s just turn back the time, back to when you treated me like a younger sister.”

He Ruize frowned. He knew that with Lin Xinyan’s personality, she would change her attitude after knowing, but he had not expected her to be that resolute.

Were his many years of company not worthy enough to be with her?

Even if he had been hiding some matters, his love for her was not fake.

Was that not in her consideration?

He Ruize's heart was in turmoil.

Suddenly, he started laughing.

He looked at Lin Xinyan. "Will you really not consider the times I had been nice to you?"

"No. I've been treating you like a brother." Lin Xinyan said sincerely.

When she found out that the person behind the accident was He Ruilin, she had not held her accountable because of He Ruize.

For their future, Lin Xinyan had to be firm with her stance now.

If she really managed to pin He Ruilin with her crime and she goes into jail, He Ruize would feel complicated when facing her.

"My life is such a failure." He Ruize laughed.

He Ruilin did not understand him.

Even Lin Xinyan did not believe in him.

Lin Xinyan continued on. She took light steps as she walked by the side of the road.

"Perhaps it's fate." She smiled too. "I was actually about to accept you. We've known each other for nearly ten years..."

It was because of Zhuang Zijin, and because he took good care of her.

Who knew that Bai Zhuwei would turn out to be his sister, He Ruilin?

He Ruize pulled her into a tight hug. "That's her, and this is me. You can't reject me because of her. This is unfair to me."

"She's your blood sister. Do you think that's alright?" He was only lying to himself.

"She hurt you, so you reject the kindness from me?" It was as if He Ruize was questioning her.

Lin Xinyan did not give him an explanation.

She never rejected it.

She just knew that she and He Ruize were not meant to be together.

He did not realize it.

“What if I don’t want to be siblings with you, I just want to be a couple with you?” He Ruize looked at her shadow, which was merged into the tree’s shadow. He could not differentiate whether he was looking at the tree or her.

His gaze deepened, as if he had made some decision. “I’ll promise you what you want, but you have to have a drink with me. I’m having a bad mood.”

“It’s late.” Lin Xinyan tried to refuse.

“Can’t you accompany me just for one drink? Must you be so distant from me now?” He Ruize cupped her face.

He looked into her eyes and wanted her to look back at him.

If that would make him let go, she would say yes.

“Alright.”

“I know a quiet place.” He Ruize held onto her hand.

It was almost as if she was dragged along by him.

After they entered the car, He Ruize handed her a bottle of water. “Your lips look dry.”

He started the car.

Lin Xinyan reached out to touch her lips. It seemed fine, and she was not thirsty. The bottle remained in her hands, untouched.

The car was driving smoothly on the road. He Ruize turned around to glance at her. “You’re not drinking the water I gave you. Are you afraid that I poisoned it?”

“What are you talking about? I’m just not thirsty.” Lin Xinyan opened the bottle and drank. It tasted like normal mineral water, and she placed the cap back on. “Is it alright now?”

He Ruize did not answer me; he looked focused on the road.

If you noticed carefully, his blue veins were seemed throbbing in his temple.

Soon, the car stopped outside a private club.

He Ruize came down, then opened the door for her.

“I can come down myself.”

He Ruize held her hand. Lin Xinyan wanted to retract her hand, but he held on to it tighter. “Just this once, let me hold your hand one more time as your boyfriend. After tonight, it’ll be great if you still want to treat me like your brother. If not—”

“What are you talking about? Why do you sound like you’re going to cut ties with me?” Lin Xinyan realized that He Ruize was acting unusual today.

However, she could not think of the reason why he was acting unusual today.

He Ruize smiled.

He was really domineering her. With her personality, she would definitely cut ties with him after today.

Unlike what He Ruilin said, she would not feel anything for him even if he was her man.

If it was like that, then would she never forget the man who first had her forever?

His heart skipped a beat when he thought about Lin Xinyan’s first man.

He grabbed her hand tightly. He was not to be blame.