

CHAPTER 141.

When they arrived at the villa, Lin Xinyan passed his car key to him and said, "The car is still parked at the restaurant."

"I'll ask Guan Jing to drive it."

Lin Ruixi who was sitting on the couch heard some noise and turned around. When she saw them coming in, she quickly got down from the couch and rushed towards them. However, she gave a hug to Zong Jinghao instead of Lin Xinyan, looked up at him and said, "Daddy, what took you so long? Have you had your lunch?"

She was staring him in the eye with her big round eyes on her gorgeous face.

She looked just like an angel.

Zong Jinghao picked her up and said to her patiently, "Mommy and I have had our lunch outside."

Wow! Lin Ruixi's eyes were sparkling. Did Mommy and daddy get along well?

Did they have a date outside?

She was joyous.

"Mommy, is what daddy said true?"

Lin Xinyan held her emotions back and said smilingly, "Yes."

"Can daddy and mommy bring brother and I to eat out next time?" Lin Ruixi grabbed Zong Jinghao by his collars tightly and looked at him expectantly.

Zong Jinghao lowered his eyes to glance at her. She wrinkled his neat collars when she was grabbing them with her little hands.

However, he wasn't annoyed at all but said to her smilingly, "That depends on how your mommy performs."

...? What does that mean?

Lin Ruixi didn't know what he meant. She blinked her big round eyes that looked like grapes and asked innocently, "What does mommy have to do with that?"

Lin Xinyan looked slightly uneasy and tense. She reached out to hold her daughter up and said, "Mommy's gonna put you to bed."

Lin Ruixi wrapped her arms around Zong Jinghao's neck tightly, apparently didn't want to go with Lin Xinyan.

Standing by the door, Aunt Yu said, "This kid was nagging all the time and asking repeatedly when will daddy come home. She didn't even go to bed and just waited on the couch in the living room."

Zong Jinghao said the two kids are not his own children, yet why would they be so close to him?

She believes that blood is thicker than water.

If they are not his children, why would they be so close to him?

"Really?" Zong Jinghao pinched her face that was as soft as silk.

The little one was shy and buried her head into his chests.

Aunt Yu laughed and thought to herself that they looked exactly like a pair of father and daughter.

"It's getting late. You guys should go to bed. Xi had fallen asleep in your mommy's room." Aunt Yu said to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan nodded and replied, "I'll check up on him."

"Okay." Aunt Yu entered the house once she finished speaking,

When Lin Xinyan was about to open the door of Zhuang Zijin's room, Lin Ruixi said, "I want to sleep with daddy tonight."

Lin Xinyan frowned.

Before she could reply, Zong Jinghao picked the little one up in his arms to go upstairs. He said to Lin Xinyan before they left, "Come upstairs later."

Lin Xinyan wanted to refuse, yet didn't say it when she saw Lin Ruixi in his arms.

She gently pushed the door open. The bedside lamp was still on, and Zhuang Zijin hadn't fallen asleep. Lin Xichen was sleeping soundly in her arms.

Lin Xinyan walked over to check up on her son's wound. His face didn't look swollen anymore even though his wound hadn't fully healed. She gently caressed his son's head.

"He has gotten much better." Zhuang Zijin said gently, "Don't worry."

She was worried about Lin Xinyan.

“You should plan for yourself. We can’t be staying here forever.”

“I know.” Lin Xinyan pondered over this before. This was surely not somewhere that she should live forever. But since He Ruilin’s hatred against her was so deeply entrenched, she’s worried about her next move and had no choice but to stay here at the moment for the sake of her children’s safety.

“Once everything’s settled, we will move back to our house, or look for another house.”

“It’s alright as long as you know what to do. I could see Ruixi is very close to him, and so I’m afraid that in the long run...”

Lin Xinyan was worried about it too. She held Zhuang Zijin’s hands and said, “Mom, I’m worried too. But to separate Ruixi from him now is definitely impossible.”

Since Lin Ruixi was fond of him now, it was impossible to stop her from getting along with Zong Jinghao.

“I know.” Zhuang Zijin knew it even better than Lin Xinyan. Lin Ruixi seemed bewitched today as she was always asking where her daddy was.

She heaved a long sigh.

“It’s getting late. Sleep tight.”

“Hmm.” Lin Xinyan glanced at her son again.

“Don’t worry. I’ll be here.”

Lin Xinyan caressed her son’s hair again before she left the room. The spacious living room was extremely quiet now and the clock on the wall indicated 12 o’clock. After taking a shower in the bathroom, she put on her pajamas that weren’t revealing and went upstairs.

Zong Jinghao took a shower too and was lying on the bed in his casual wear. Lin Ruixi curled up in his arms, with her little soft hands touching his chest.

This was Lin Ruixi’s habit.

Lin Xinyan came up to him and said, “Let me hug her and sleep.”

“If you can pick her up, why not?” Zong Jinghao remained silent long ago. He didn’t know why this kid had such a habit to put her hands on his chest. She couldn’t even sleep if her hand was put away.

She would be awake as soon as he moved an inch.

At the moment when Lin Xinyan gently picked up her hands, the little one woke up and said, "Mommy, what are you doing?"

"I'll hug you to sleep."

"I want daddy to hug me, but..."

Lin Xinyan didn't get it and asked, "But what?"

Pursing her lips, Lin Ruixi said with slight disappointment, "Why are daddy's chests flat and hard?"

Mommy's were soft instead.

Zong Jinghao, "..."

Lin Xinyan, "..."

How should she explain this?

"Ruixi, come and I'll hug you to sleep, okay?" Lin Xinyan was trying to coax her to go to bed with her.

It's not good to be clung to Zong Jinghao too much as she was not her father.

Since they will have to part ways sooner or later, it would be excruciating for her when she became too close to him but had to separate with him later.

Lin Ruixi was torn.

She wanted Lin Xinyan to hug her to sleep, yet was afraid that her father would disappear.

She twisted her face slightly as she found it difficult to make a choice. Mommy won't abandon her, yet it's possible that daddy might not want her. So, she has to cling on daddy.

"I want daddy to hug me to sleep." Lin Ruixi snuggled into Zong Jinghao's arms and continued to put her hands on his chests while murmuring, "Mom's chests are softer."

Zong Jinghao didn't really hear what she said and asked, "What did you say?"

"I said mommy's chests are softer and have breast milk. I used to be breastfed by mommy when I was young."

Lin Xinyan immediately blushed.

Why would the kid say such things?

Even though one shouldn't be offended by what a kid says, it depends on who's in front of her too.

Zong Jinghao smirked while staring at her chests with his glowing eyes, and said teasingly, "Really?"

Lin Ruixi nodded repeatedly and said, "Of course."

Zong Jinghao quirked his lips and laughed. His eyes looked particularly evil beneath the light as he said, "I don't believe what you said. For me, touching is believing."

"Mommy, let daddy touch them..."

"Zong Jinghao!" What a shameless man!

Can he just behave himself before a kid?

"Don't go too far!" Lin Xinyan was shy and very embarrassed.

"Your daughter said it." He said with an even broader smile, "Is it right to beat my head off?"

Lin Xinyan shivered and stared at him angrily.

"She's just a kid. How would she know it? Would she say such things if you didn't teach her?"

Zong Jinghao spread his arms and said, "Still, your daughter said it."

Lin Ruixi was shocked and flinched as she rarely saw Lin Xinyan getting so angry, and tears streamed down her face.

"Boohoo..." Lin Xinyan immediately coaxed her and said, "It's okay, Ruixi. Mommy wasn't yelling at you."

"Boohoo." Lin Xinyan sobbed softly.

Lin Xinyan picked her up and took her into her arms. She then patted her on her back and said, "Ruixi."

Kissed on her face, hair and forehead, Lin Xinyan said gently, "Ruixi, Mommy didn't mean it, and wasn't yelling at you. Did I frighten you?"

Lin Ruixi nodded.

Lin Xinyan continued to coax her and said, "It's alright. Don't be scared. Mommy will not yell at Ruixi."

Looked at Lin Xinyan, Lin Ruixi wiped away her tears and said, "I'm sleepy now."

“I’ll hug you to sleep.”

“Can we sleep with daddy?”

Lin Xinyan was speechless.

Lin Ruixi was red-eyed and about to cry as she thought Lin Xinyan didn’t want it.

“Alright.” Lin Xinyan agreed to it and put her daughter to bed. She was lying at the side of the bed while her daughter was at the center. As Lin Xinyan was slim while Lin Ruixi was small, they didn’t occupy much space even though they were cuddling. So, most of the space of the bed was still preserved for Zong Jinghao.

He lay on the bed while staring at the sky quietly.

“Ruixi, you don’t want daddy anymore?”

CHAPTER 142.

Embraced by Lin Xinyan, Lin Ruixi seemed to have heard him while she was in a daze, and murmured, “I want.”

She wants daddy.

The little one was too tired and didn’t cling to him. Lin Xinyan covered her ears so that she couldn’t hear him speak again while patting her gently to sleep.

Lin Ruixi leaned closer to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan hugged her tightly.

Zong Jinghao turned around and stared at Lin Ruixi’s tiny hand. Her hands looked fair-skinned, soft and chubby, and was put on Lin Xinyan’s chests.

Even though he didn’t touch them at all, ripples of excitement kept fluttering through him, as if he could feel them by just looking at them.

When their eyes met, Lin Xinyan pulled the quilt to cover Lin Ruixi’s tiny hands. She then closed her eyes and pretended to be asleep.

Even though she wasn't sleepy, she thought that it would be the best for her to pretend to be asleep as she didn't want to have any verbal or non-verbal communication with Zong Jinghao.

Zong Jinghao heaved a long sigh. Why would he have such a miserable life?

He couldn't even touch her even though they had registered for marriage.

He turned around and lay on his back while staring at the chandelier on the ceiling with bitterness and disappointment.

Lin Xinyan initially pretended to be asleep, but after a while she really fell asleep. On the other hand, Zong Jinghao kept moving around and couldn't fall asleep.

He suddenly stood up and casted a sideways glance at the pair of mother and daughter who were sleeping soundly.

Felt bitter, he said to himself, "Are you two here to take your debit? I must have killed your entire family in my past life, and so you are here to torture me now."

After all, he was a normal man who hadn't touched a woman for a long time. He could feel his surge of desire when he saw Lin Xinyan lying on the bed.

He heaved a long sigh and got out of the bed to take a shower, trying to extinguish his surging evil desire.

Zong Jinghao could only fall asleep at daybreak.

When he was awake, Lin Xinyan had already left to make her final preparation for the opening of her shop tomorrow.

Zong Jinghao didn't even have the breakfast prepared by Aunt Yu.

Aunt Yu asked Zhuang Zijin if she could bring Lin Xichen along to the supermarket and said, "Don't worry. He will be very safe as the driver will be with us all the time."

Since they lived together, Zhuang Zijin found it difficult to refuse her request. She agreed to it and added, "Please come home as soon as possible as the wounds on Xichen's head haven't fully recovered."

"Sure. Is there anything you want to buy? I can buy it for you." Aunt Yu said delightedly.

"Nothing." Zhuang Zijin smilingly replied.

Sitting on the couch, Lin Xichen looked at Aunt Yu with his rolling eyes. Why would she still want to bring him to the supermarket even though she knows that he is injured?

He could sense that something doesn't seem right.

Aunt Yu had thought about it last night. After Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao have left the house, she will bring Lin Xichen to Zong Qifeng's house.

She always felt troubled as long as she hadn't ascertained whether the two kids were Zong Jinghao's own children.

It troubled her so much that she always had no appetite to eat and couldn't sleep.

"I'm ready. Let's go." Aunt Yu said smilingly, "Let me pick you up since you still have wounds on your head."

"It's fine. I can walk myself." Lin Xichen was curious to know what Aunt Yu was up to.

Even though he was only here for a short time, he was confident that she wasn't a bad person and wouldn't put him in danger.

"Alright." Aunt Yu held his hand and walked to the door to change his shoes for him before leaving the house.

When they got into the car, the driver asked, "Going to the supermarket?"

"No. To the old villa."

The driver turned around to look at her and Lin Xichen. Then, he sat tight and quietly started the car, as if he understood what she's up to.

Lin Xichen deliberately asked, "Where is the old villa?"

"It's your grandpa's house." Aunt Yu's instinct told her that Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi were Zong Jinghao's children.

She believed that Lin Xinyan wasn't an indecent woman.

If she was with a man before, why would she be entangled with Zong Jinghao?

Lin Xichen now realized that it was the house of the heartless man's father.

He would be even safer because of that.

"By the way, does Aunt Yu know why my mommy was divorced from him?" Lin Xichen always used words like "you" and "he" to address Zong Jinghao.

To him, Zong Jinghao was his father, but he didn't want to acknowledge him as such because he abandoned his mother, sister and him.

Therefore, he only called him with "you" and "he".

Aunt Yu startled when she recalled Zong Jinghao's attitude about their divorce. It was difficult for her to tell him as he was still a kid and would be very upset about it.

"Aunt Yu, please tell me." Lin Xichen looked at her with his puppy eyes while pulling her sleeves, and said, "Please. I beg you."

Aunt Yu couldn't stand it and said, "Your father used to have a girlfriend then, so..."

"He had a girlfriend even after he's married?" Lin Xichen knew that there must be a reason behind it, yet never thought that Zong Jinghao cheated on his mother. That woman was surely not a girlfriend but a mistress.

Lin Xichen said angrily, "All men are bad!"

Aunt Yu was amused by this kid and asked, "Aren't you a man?"

Li Xichen was at a loss for words for a while before he replied, "I'm still young, but I'll never be a heartless man who abandons his wife and children like my father."

Aunt Yu was startled. This kid knew that Zong Jinghao is his father?

Did Zhuang Zijin and Lin Xinyan really conceal it from Zong Jinghao? They didn't tell him even when his children were in front of him in order to take revenge against him for divorcing her?

"You, you knew that he's your father?"

"Of course. Since he's my mommy's ex-husband, he is certainly our father. My mommy was never with any other man before." Lin Xichen said it affirmatively and confidently.

Aunt Yu caressed his head and said, "Xichen is a very good boy. I'm sorry that you have to suffer from it."

She could imagine how difficult it was for a woman to raise two children alone.

"We aren't suffering from anything as we still have mommy and grandma." Li Xichen's face slowly darkened when he recalled his uncle who's gone.

Aunt Yu heaved a sigh and said, "Your father will have a hard time."

He did everything by himself. Now that the children had all grown up, she wasn't sure how he would feel.

It's more or less a form of retribution to him for abandoning them in the past.

After a while, the car pulled over at the old villa of the Zong family, and Aunt Yu picked Lin Xichen up and got out of the car.

Lin Xichen blinked his eyes before the massive building. Their own villa was huge too, yet looked less imposing than this.

Aunt Yu said smilingly, "Let me bring you in."

Lin Xichen hesitated. Since mommy never told him about his father, is she still mad at his father?

Will mommy get even more furious when she knows that he had been here?

"What are you pondering over?" As Aunt Yu could sense that he was torn about it, she laughed and said, "Don't worry. You are their grandson, and they will surely love you."

"Really?" Lin Xichen was rather looking forward to it.

His heart went pit-a-pat.

He had always been looking forward to meeting his relatives, yet the moment he wished for came too suddenly and caught him off guard.

"Of course." Aunt Yu held her arm and said, "Let's go. We'll go inside."

Lin Xichen was completely spaced out on their way to the villa, and merely following Aunt Yu's steps like a wooden puppet.

After they pressed the doorbell, Mr. Feng who was watering the flowers heard the sound. When he lifted the door latch, he was at a loss for a moment once he realized that it was Aunt Yu. Ever since the late Madam Zong passed away and Zong Jinghao moved out when he was still in junior high school, she had left along with him to accompany and take care of him.

Since Zong Jinghao didn't really like to come home, she rarely came here too.

Why would she show up all of a sudden? And who is the little boy beside her?

This boy looks...

After Mr. Feng lifted the door latch and opened the door, he put down his bottle and went to the study to inform Zong Qifeng about their arrival.

CHAPTER 143.

Bang, bang...

Zong Qifeng didn't even look up when someone knocked on the door. He just calmly gave his permission to come in while focusing entirely on his brush writing.

Mr. Feng pushed the door and said, "Aunt Yu is here."

Aunt Yu? Zong Qifeng forgot about this person.

Mr. Feng reminded him and said, "The maid brought along by the late Madam when she's married into the family."

Zong Qifeng suddenly recalled about her and asked calmly, "Why is she here?"

"I'm not sure, but I saw a little boy with her." Mr. Feng recalled the little boy's face and said rather solemnly, "That boy might be young master's child."

Since he had served the Zong family for many years and saw Zong Jinghao when he was still young, he thought that the boy looked exactly the same as Zong Jinghao when he was a boy.

"What?" Zong Qifeng looked confusedly at Mr. Feng and asked, "He has children now?"

Why doesn't he know?

He put down his writing brush, walked out of the study and said, "Let's go and take a look."

As if a thought flashed through his mind, he said, "Go upstairs to ask her to come along."

Yuxiu was taking a rest upstairs as she wasn't feeling well these two days.

"Alright." Mr. Feng turned around and went upstairs.

Zong Qifeng went to the living room first and saw Aunt Yu and Lin Xichen sitting on the couch. After noticing a little head from the back of the couch, he hesitated for a while and quickly came up to them.

He wanted to see Lin Xichen' face as soon as he could.

When Zong Qifeng was coming up to them, Aunt Yu stood up.

"You're here." Zong Qifeng looked calm.

Aunt Yu nodded and said, "It's been a long time."

Although their villas were not far from each other's, they rarely had the chance to meet. The last time they met was when Zong Jinghao got married, Zong Qifeng asked her to come here and questioned her.

Zong Qifeng sighed deeply. Indeed, time flies and they are all old now.

"This kid?" He looked at Lin Xichen who had fair skin and a pair of sparkling eyes that looked as clear as a fresh spring. This little face, these eyes...

Lin Xichen was staring at him too. He had a face with clear-cut features as well as a pair of eyes with wrinkles on their sides and was standing straight in his Chinese tunic suit.

Lin Xichen blinked his eyes while nervously trying to grab his own sleeves with his little hands. Is this his grandfather?

Is he dreaming? It felt like a fantasy to him.

Aunt Yu hesitated for quite some time as she didn't know what to say to them. Finally, she said, "Young master was married once..."

It's rather abrupt to mention about his marriage as it was short-lived and happened long ago.

"Um." Zong Qifeng understood it.

But what he was puzzled about was that, if this kid was really Zong Jinghao's child, why was she bringing him here now only after he's grown up?

"Young master divorced Ms. Lin in the past, am I correct? They were born only after they were divorced." Aunt Yu looked down at Lin Xichen's head, caressed him gently and said, "Ms. Lin might have felt disgruntled after they were divorced, and so she didn't tell young master that the children were his. Therefore, I'm here to..."

Since Lin Xichen was here, she couldn't say explicitly that she hoped the children could do paternity testing with Zong Jinghao.

That would hurt their feelings a lot.

"Two?" Zong Qifeng didn't really get it.

Would it be that he has another child?

Aunt Yu explained smilingly, "Xichen had another sister, and they are twins."

"What twins?" Yuxiu was coming downstairs. She put on extra clothes and looked pale, as if she was seriously ill.

“We will talk in the study.” Noticing that Aunt Yu was having some reservations, Zong Qifeng ordered his maid to take care of Lin Xichen in the living room and said, “Make some food for him.”

“I’m not hungry.” Lin Xichen said.

Zong Qifeng replied, “Fine. Let the maid bring you to walk around.”

“Sure. Thank you.” Lin Xichen really wanted to take a look at this place. Is this where his father used to live when he was young?

He followed the maid expectantly.

Yuxiu who looked pale came downstairs and asked, “What are you discussing?”

Zong Qifeng held Yuxiu’s arm and asked caringly, “Do you feel better?”

Yuxiu smiled gently and said, “I feel a lot better now. Since it’s not some serious illness, don’t worry about me.”

“Do you think you are still young?” Zong Qifeng glanced at her and said, “We’re all old.”

Yuxiu was slightly downhearted and said, “I think that I’m still young, and meeting you for the first time just seems like yesterday.”

When they reached the study, Zong Qifeng helped Yuxiu sit on the chair. He then looked at Aunt Yu and said, “You can now tell us.”

“Wait, tell me about the twins first.” Yuxiu interrupted them.

Zong Qifeng repeated the whole thing.

“What?” Yuxiu shivered with excitement. Zong Jinghao has children now?

“You are still ill. Don’t be too emotional.” Zong Qifeng comforted her.

Even though a usually composed person like her couldn’t stay calm when she heard that Zong Jinghao had children.

“What’s going on?” Yu Xiu held Zong Qifeng’s arms tightly.

She didn’t even notice that she was poking him in his skin with her fingernails.

Aunt Yu explained, “I think Ms. Lin didn’t want to tell the truth about the children to young master because she was still mad at him. So, I was thinking if we can do a paternity test like in the tv shows for two reasons: Firstly, Ms. Lin won’t be able to deny the fact; Secondly, confirming the identity of the lineal descendants of the Zong family is very important to the family.”

Zong Qifeng was contemplating what Aunt Yu said.

On the other hand, Yuxiu couldn't sit still anymore and asked, "Where is the child? I want to see him by myself."

"Don't be impatient." Zong Qifeng held Yuxiu's shoulder.

"How can I be patient? He's over thirty and finally has children. How can I not be excited?" Yuxiu forgot that she was just his stepmother.

Considering her forbearance and bitterness for all of those years, Zong Qifeng asked Aunt Yu to bring Lin Xichen in.

As the stairs were located at the back of the living room, she merely heard them mentioning something about twins when she came downstairs just now but didn't notice that there was a kid in the living room.

Aunt Yu took Lin Xichen in her arms and brought him into the study soon.

Yuxiu got up from the chair wobbly, yet her gaze was fixated at the little boy in Aunt Yu's arms.

With a little straight nose, plump forehead and a pair of sparkling big eyes, he looked exactly like Zong Jinghao when he was young.

Aunt Yu came up to Aunt Yu wobbly and touched Lin Xichen's face with her shaky hands. She wanted to say something, yet she felt that her heart and body were being torn apart.

"What's your name?" She sounded hoarse.

"Lin Xichen."

"Lin Xichen?" Yuxiu turned around and looked at Zong Qifeng. What's going on?

Why is his surname Lin?

"This kid has been living together with Ms. Lin. Since Ms. Lin was divorced from young master, this kid would have taken her surname instead." Aunt Yu explained.

Yuxiu understood it.

But it's unnecessary to do any paternal test. Look at his face and eyes, and she is certain that he is Zong Jinghao's child.

"Ask him to come here." Holding back her emotions, Yuxiu reached out her hands to pick Lin Xichen up and said, "Let me pick him up."

Lin Xichen blinked his eyes and asked, "Are you my grandma?"

Yuxiu was shivering, as if her heart was being torn by a blunt knife.

"Yes, she's your grandma." Zong Qifeng answered him on her behalf.

He came over to support Yuxiu's wobbly body and said firmly, "You are his grandma."

Yuxiu fell into his arms and whimpered.

Perhaps due to her illness, her willpower became weaker.

"Ask him to come back." Yuxiu was downhearted and said softly in his arms.

Considering the current situation, Zong Qifeng thought that Aunt Yu had a point. Since Lin Xinyan is disgruntled with Zong Jinghao, what can they do if she insists that the children are not his?

Therefore, it's better to get the evidence first so that she could not refute them.

"Don't rush into it. Even he might be kept in the dark now."

"What should we do then?" Yuxiu was panicked.

This kid was obviously Zong Jinghao's son and the descendant of the Zong family.

Zong Qifeng heaved a sigh, patted her on her back, and said, "I have an idea. Don't worry."

Yuxiu slightly recollected herself and said, "Then Xichen should stay."

"She can't." Aunt Yu opened her mouth before Zong Qifeng could say anything. Since she used an excuse to bring the kid out and kept it from the rest, she couldn't let the kid stay here without having a piece of substantive evidence.

"Aunt Yu, you can go home for now. I will ask Mr. Feng to go to the villa later." Zong Qifeng had an idea.

They will take the hair of Zong Jinghao and the kid or the toothbrushes that they used from the villa to do paternity testing.

Once they have the evidence, no one can ever deny it.

"Sure." Aunt Yu nodded.

CHAPTER 144.

Walking out of the Zong family's estate, Aunt Yu looked at Lin Xichen in her arms. "We're going to the supermarket. Can you not tell your mommy and grandma about coming here today?"

She had told them that they were going to the supermarket. If she did not buy anything back, she was afraid that Zhuang Zijin would get suspicious.

Furthermore, there was no conclusion about this matter yet. If Zhuang Zijin and Lin Xinyan knew about this and stopped the testing, she might never know what the truth was for this.

Although they had avoided him when discussing the test, Lin Xichen had still realized it and it made him uncomfortable.

He pursed his lips. "Are they suspecting me?"

Aunt Yu shook her head. "No."

Lin Xichen smiled with an obvious look of disbelief on his face.

Aunt Yu explained, "The reason why your mommy isn't telling your daddy who you are is because she's mad at him. That's why we have to use the evidence to convince him."

That sounded logical. Lin Xichen looked up into the sky. "I don't know if mommy would be angry if she knows about it."

"Do you want mommy and daddy to be together and live as a family of four?" Aunt Yu asked him.

Of course.

Ruixi looked happier nowadays.

He wanted a family where there were mommy, daddy, grandpa, and grandma. That would be the perfect family.

Aunt Yu smiled. She knew that he understood.

She carried him into the car and went to the supermarket. After the supermarket, they went home.

While Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao were not back in the afternoon, Zhuang Zijin let the two children play in the room. She plucked Lin Xichen's hair and found Zong Jinghao's hair in the bathroom, then gave them to Mr. Feng.

"Master said to take care of the two children." Mr. Feng said to Aunt Yu.

He could not appear before the results were out, just in case his appearance raised questions. He could only come when the results were out.

"Tell Master to not worry, I'll take good care of them."

"That'll be good." Mr. Feng took the hair and left.

Aunt Yu returned to the villa.

It was like their meeting had never occurred.

Time flew by, and soon, Lin Xinyan's LEO boutique in Country Z had start operating.

Early in the morning there were several cars coming that brought dozens of flower stands. They lined the entrance of the store.

Qin Ya, who was in a purple dress, was stunned. Who was the one who sent all these flower stands?

She ran over to ask the people who were moving the flower stands. "Who sent these?"

"We're just working. We don't know who sent all these. You can look if the cards have names on it."

Qin Ya did not see any names, that's why she went to ask them. "Never mind."

She walked into the store. There were clients who would come because of Mrs. William, and she had to check what other preparations she had not done yet. However, she had only taken one step before another car stopped outside the store. The person came down from the car and started moving the flower stands from the car to the store.

The flower stands this time were a lot too. They were the big and colorful ones.

Soon, the flower stands crowded the storefront and the pathway outside the store.

Qin Ya walked over. This time, there was a card in the flower stands—Shen Peichuan.

Unlike Su Zhan, Shen Peichuan had given his name when the florists asked for the sender's name.

It was Lin Xinyan and they were Zong Jinghao's best buddies. Naturally, they would have to support her publicly to let others know there is someone behind this shop owner.

Qin Ya understood who had sent these. She looked at the flower stands that lined all the way onto the road and sighed. "What a spectacular sight."

The opening has not officially started, and it was already so "merry".

Mrs. William was also wearing formal attire. She wore a royal blue suit and her hair was up. This time, she wore a set of emerald jewelry. She looked graceful and elegant.

Ellen's hands were holding onto a bag of clothes as she followed her into the lounge. Lin Xinyan was checking the decorations at the lounge and making sure that nothing was out of place. The lounge was spacious; on the right were drinks and desserts, on the left was an exhibition for the opening, and in the middle was a walkway. There would be a catwalk later to show off LEO.

Although Lin Xinyan had no connections in the country, she had a certain level of reputation in the industry. Combined with Mrs. William's connection and LEO's reputation, there would be many attending the opening today.

"Lin." Ellen called to her.

Lin Xinyan was adjusting the clothes on the "model" when she heard Ellen's voice and turned to face her. She asked, "Yes?"

She handed her the bag. "For you."

Instead of taking it immediately, Lin Xinyan asked, "What's this?"

"You'll know when you see it." Mrs. William said with an elegant smile on her face.

Lin Xinyan remained curious and took the bag. She placed it on the table and opened it. In it was a dress she was familiar with, because she was the one who designed it.

It was her award-winning design— "The Beginning".

When He Ruilin and Zong Jinghao were about to get engaged, they bought this dress. Why was it here now?

She looked at Mrs. William with confused eyes. "This is..."

"Someone asked me to hand it to you." She did not tell her who asked her to hand it to Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan was about to continue asking but Ellen, who knew that Mrs. William did not want to answer, cut her off. "Quickly wear it. The time's almost up. You'll have no time to wear it when the crowd comes in."

Lin Xinyan hesitated and Ellen pushed her into the staff room. "Hurry up, stop hesitating."

Lin Xinyan was now in the staff room, but still she made no move to wear the clothes. In a panic, Ellen moved to take off her clothes. "Seriously. You need to wear your own design so you can show off the true value of it."

Unable to withstand Ellen's "violence", Lin Xinyan said, "I'll wear it myself. Please go out."

Ellen was still worried as she said, "Hurry, or else the crowd will come soon."

"Okay." Lin Xinyan answered.

The door closed. She looked at the clothes on her hand. It was just a dress but sewn in it was her dream. She once had a dream to become a famous fashion designer.

Later on, she thought that she no longer had the chance to become one. Perhaps fate decided that she had been too cruel to her, so now she was here.

Knock knock.

"Lin, are you done?" Ellen did not leave. She had been standing by the door. When she heard no sounds coming from inside, she knocked onto the door to rush her.

Lin Xinyan said half-heartedly, "Soon."

"Hurry up. There are guests who have arrived. You're the spotlight of today. She would be the one in charge of the shop from now on.

She was the main character in the show today.

Naturally, she would have to socialize with the guests coming today.

Lin Xinyan looked at the time and hurriedly changed her clothes.

She was not wearing any makeup, but her skin still looked fair and delicate. She casually put her hair into a bun with strands dangling around her ears. She looked feminine.

Pink was the color of naivety. It was gentle and pure like a newborn baby, simple and cute. This was why she had chosen this color for her work, *The Beginning*.

It represented youth.

She had never thought that she would wear this dress ever.

Looking at herself in the mirror, she fell into a momentary trance.

Knock knock.

"Lin, hurry up, the people are here."

“Alright.” Lin Xinyan opened the door to find Ellen standing in front of her. When Ellen saw Lin Xinyan, she could not help herself but said, “Lin, you’re looking too good.”

Lin Xinyan gave her a look. “Have I always been ugly?”

“No.” Ellen’s eyes were looking at her from head to toe and in her light blue eyes was surprised.

Ellen was a citizen of Country A but she knew how to speak Country Z’s language since her schooling days. That was why Mrs. William had told her to help Lin Xinyan here.

She could help with the communication.

Including her, the shop now had three designers. Although Qin Ya was now able to take on clients by herself, having only three designers was a little stressful for them. They had one front desk clerk, one receptionist, and two dressmakers. They might need to hire more in the future.

Lin Xinyan returned back to the topic. “Let’s go.”

“Alright.” Ellen walked beside Lin Xinyan. “I saw the people who arrived. They’re all handsome men!”

CHAPTER 145.

“What?”

The corner of Ellen’s mouth twitched. “Don’t tell me that you don’t know them.”

Lin Xinyan indeed did not know until she saw the people at the exhibition section.

It was Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan.

“Who designed this?” Su Zhan was standing in front of a long dress. It had a visible signature stating who the designer was, but he pretended not to see it and deliberately asked Qin Ya.

“I did.” If she had not known that this man was not only rich but also powerful, she would have cursed him. Not only was he a man looking at dresses, but he kept asking questions.

“Oh—” Su Zhan dragged his word and it made others uncomfortable. Qin Ya said impatiently, “Do you have other questions? If not, you can look around by yourself. I’m busy.”

“I have more questions.” Su Zhan pulled the thin dress strap. “What’s your design inspiration? The dress strap is so thin. Is it for taking off easier or to show more of your skin?”

Qin Ya’s face turned red and she glared at him.

“You’re here to mess things up, aren’t you?” She said in a cold tone.

“No, no. I’m just curious.” Su Zhan smiled. “Mess things up? I’d like to live longer.”

This was Lin Xinyan’s place.

Who was Lin Xinyan?

She was the light of Zong Jinghao’s life right now. He did not dare to cross her.

“If you like it, you can buy it. Then, I’ll tell you where my inspiration comes from. How about that?”

“I don’t have a girlfriend. What use do I have for a dress?” Su Zhan’s mouth twitched.

Qin Ya smiled, and cute dimples appeared on her cheeks. “If you’re interested, you can get it for yourself.”

Su Zhan was rendered speechless.

Hah!

Beside him, Shen Peichuan could not hold back his laughter.

“Not bad, he can get it for himself. Let me tell you, he certainly has this kind of preferences.” Shen Peichuan took the opportunity to make a dig at him.

Su Zhan glared at him. “No one would think you’re a mute if you don’t talk.”

“Of course— What are you looking at?”

Shen Peichuan realized Su Zhan’s expression had suddenly changed.

He followed Su Zhan’s gaze and saw Yuxiu walking in the entrance.

As Zong Jinghao’s buddies, Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan knew that Yuxiu was Zong Jinghao’s stepmother.

It was because of this woman that Zong Jinghao had moved out and lived by himself at a young age.

It was because of her that Zong Jinghao and Zong Qifeng's relationship was terrible.

Naturally, they would not have a good impression of her.

However, this was only about her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

Although Yuxiu was the mistress, she did not dress fancily. The feeling that she gave others was that she was a gentle and peaceful person.

"What is she doing here?" Su Zhan narrowed his eyes.

Shen Peichuan did not say anything, but he knew it must not be anything good if she was here.

Yuxiu had bad health and her face was pale. To avoid others knowing about it, she had put on light makeup.

Qin Ya walked over to greet her. "Madam."

"I'm looking for—"

At this moment, Lin Xinyan had walked over. When they met last time, she said to invite her for the shop opening and Lin Xinyan had given her an invitation. She had not thought that she would be this early, because it was not the intended time yet.

"You're here." Lin Xinyan smiled as she greeted her.

"Of course." She was not planning to stay for long. She had intentionally come earlier to avoid Zong Jinghao. She knew that if he was to see her here, he would be unhappy.

"Can I have some time with you?"

There was still time left, so Lin Xinyan agreed. "Of course, come with me."

Lin Xinyan walked in front of her.

Yuxiu deliberately walked slowly to look at her back. She was skinny, and the pink dress fitted perfectly on her.

She looked young with no hint of ever having a baby.

My son is outstanding, and this daughter-in-law is not bad too, she thought.

She liked her even more when she found out that she had given birth to her son's twins.

Although the testing results were not out yet, she knew that they must be Zong Jinghao's children.

Lin Xinyan pushed open the meeting room door and turned to say to Yuxiu, "It'll be quiet here."

"Alright." Yuxiu walked in and sat on the couch.

Lin Xinyan poured a glass of water and placed it in front of her, then she sat on the couch opposite hers.

No matter how long Yuxiu looked, Lin Xinyan still looked gorgeous.

Lin Xinyan felt shy from her constant staring, so she said, "How have you been? You don't look too well."

Yuxiu returned to the present and she dismissed her questions, "It's just a little cold."

She took the glass of water and drank from it to hide her embarrassment from spacing out just now.

When she put down the glass, she said, "Don't tell Jinghao that I came here today."

Lin Xinyan smiled. "Alright, I won't."

"I know you won't." She had so many things to tell her, but she did not know where to start. She took a wooden box from her purse and pushed it in front of Lin Xinyan. "This is for you."

Lin Xinyan did not want to receive it so she pushed it back to her. "It doesn't seem good for me to accept this."

After all, they were not familiar with each other.

Furthermore, as Zong Jinghao's wife, he would be unhappy if he found out that they had been in contact.

"You're going to reject me without taking a look at it?" Yuxiu looked at her. "Are you scared that Zong Jinghao would not be happy?"

Lin Xinyan pursed her lips. She was right.

However, there was also another reason for her not to accept it. This was just their second meeting; it would be inappropriate for her to accept her gift as they were still unfamiliar with each other.

Neither would they be familiar with each other in the future.

After all, they were standing on opposite sides.

“I have to take his feelings into consideration.” Lin Xinyan used Zong Jinghao as her excuse.

If Yuxiu and Zong Jinghao were not having the kind of relationship that they were having, she would not have been rejecting this woman.

She was like water, gentle and elegant.

Yuxiu felt upset and happy at the same time.

She was upset that Lin Xinyan would not accept her gift, but she was happy that Lin Xinyan cared about Zong Jinghao.

“You don’t need to overthink our relationship. You’ll still be you and I’m still me, there would be nothing else in between. I’m just here for your opening. I can’t come empty-handed as your friend.” She pushed the box over again. “Open it and take a look.”

“This isn’t appropriate—”

“Open it and take a look.” Yuxiu said again, as if she would continue to repeat this until Lin Xinyan accepted it.

Lin Xinyan reached out to open the box. Lying in the brocade box was a translucent emerald green jade bangle. There were no impurities in the jade and the color was outstanding. With one look, she knew that the bangle must be costly.

Lin Xinyan felt even more reluctant to accept it. “This gift is too expensive for me to accept it.”

What did she mean? By giving her this lavish bangle, did she mean to bribe me? Lin Xinyan thought.

“You’re the Zong family’s daughter-in-law. Why can’t you take it?”

Lin Xinyan could not give her an answer for a moment.

She didn’t even know what her relationship with Zong Jinghao was. Were they husband and wife? Were they lovers? Were they friends? None of these could describe her relationship with Zong Jinghao.

Yuxiu took out the bangle and wore it on Lin Xinyan’s wrist. Lin Xinyan instantly kept her hands to herself, but her hands were gripped by Yuxiu. Yuxiu looked at her. “Don’t reject me.”

She had a low tone as she spoke, as if she was trying her best to hide words that could not be spoken out loud.

Lin Xinyan was stunned. “But...”

"I like you very much." Yuxiu tightened her grip. "When I have a chance, I'd like to tell you a story next time."

Lin Xinyan saw the sorrow in her eyes and she stopped struggling. Yuxiu slid the bangle onto her wrist. "This was given to me by my mother-in-law, and now, I give it to you."

Her mother-in-law?

Was that not Zong Jinghao's grandmother?

Was she not a mistress?

Lin Xinyan was confused.

"You should be very busy today. I'll take my leave now." She said as she stood up. Lin Xinyan followed after her. "Let me send you off."

"Alright." Yuxiu was joyous.

Yet Lin Xinyan felt anxious. She did not feel comfortable receiving this gift.

She would return it to her when the time comes.

Yuxiu's car was just parked by the road. Lin Xinyan opened the car door for her and Yuxiu entered the car. She winded down the window to look at Lin Xinyan and praised her as she smiled, "You look beautiful today."

Lin Xinyan had a slightly tense look on her face. "Thank you."

Yuxiu made her return back to the store, then she winded up the window and told the driver, "Let's go."

Lin Xinyan stood at the side of the road and watched the car drive off. She narrowed her eyes. She was not familiar with Yuxiu. She had not seen her many times.

Although, she could sense that Yuxiu was not a bad person.

There were many things hidden in her eyes that seemed like she could not say.

That kind of suppression—

Lin Xinyan did not know how to describe it.

Yuxiu must have her own secrets.

She was spacing out in her thoughts, and had not known that not too far away, a black car had stopped at the side of the road.

The man was wearing a fitting suit. The lines were smooth, and no one could see a single wrinkle on it. It made him look aristocratic. The sunlight littered along the pathway. The cold weather, combined with the bright sun, made the air feel perfectly cool.

His gaze fell onto the delicate body enveloped by the sunlight.

CHAPTER 146.

This was the first time Zong Jinghao had seen her in formal wear. The pink silk on her displayed her elegant curves. The ankle-length dress was perfectly tailored and the waist was gathered to show off her thin waist. Her hair was casually done up and it gave off the unique charm of femininity.

It was only when she turned around then she realized the burning gaze from the man beside the car.

She was about to greet him when Zong Jinghao started walking into the store with no signs of wanting to talk to her.

Lin Xinyan seemed to understand his reaction. He must have seen Yuxiu's car earlier.

After Yuxiu had followed Lin Xinyan to the meeting room, Su Zhan had called Zong Jinghao.

He came hurriedly, worrying that Yuxiu would put her in a difficult position or embarrass her. Who knew that when he came, the two were talking happily as if they were familiar with each other.

He felt surprised. Lin Xinyan had not come back that long so how did they know each other?

And it seemed like they were on close terms.

When Su Zhan saw Zong Jinghao come in, he immediately walked over to him. "They just left."

"I saw." The corner of Zong Jinghao's lips were turned upwards, but it was not a joyous smile.

Su Zhan shrugged. "They went into the room to talk so we didn't hear anything. I don't know what they'd talked about, but I'm sure that's definitely not the first time they've met."

When they met, they did not seem like strangers to each other.

“You’ve brought her home before? Is that why she knows her?” Su Zhan did not think that it was a plausible reason. It was not Zong Jinghao’s style to bring Lin Xinyan home back then.

His matters were decided by only himself. He was unable to reject the marriage because it was arranged by his late mother.

He coldly said, “No.”

Su Zhan immediately stopped talking. It seemed like there was something going on here. How did Lin Xinyan come to know Yuxiu?

Su Zhan opened his mouth and was about to continue talking when Shen Peichuan pulled onto him. He reminded, “Can’t you see that he’s in a bad mood?”

Su Zhan closed his mouth.

By this time, many guests have arrived. Lin Xinyan did not see Zong Jinghao when she returned to the lounge and Mrs. William had pulled her along to introduce her to friends, so Lin Xinyan packed away her thoughts.

“You’ll be taking care of my clothes from now on.” The woman, who looked like she was in her fifties, had a graceful look. Her figure was slightly plump and she was wearing a black dress with a veil cape. She looked noble in her clothes.

The people who can afford to wear LEO’s designs were either rich or powerful.

As Country Z’s capital, B City naturally had many rich people.

“Thank you for your trust.” Lin Xinyan answered with a smile.

“When I wanted to wear LEO’s designs, I had to go out of the country just to design my clothes. Now this is much better.” She looked at Mrs. William, and as if she was complaining, she said, “It’s long due for you to open a branch here.”

She seemed curious as to why Mrs. William had decided to open a branch here in Country Z. “Why did you think of opening a branch? And here, Country Z, of all places? Is there a story behind it?”

Mrs. William’s expression turned tense. The story behind this was a long story, and she did not want to talk about it. Lin Xinyan came to her rescue and said, “It’s me. I’m the one who asked Mrs. William to open a branch. I’m from Country Z, so naturally, the store is here.”

“Oh, I see.” It was not a serious question, so the woman did not suspect the truth behind her words.

“There’ll be a catwalk later. The designs are exclusively for LEO’s opening. If you like them, you can get them.” Mrs. William continued chatting with her.

At this moment, a few guests had come in. It was Xia Zhenyu and He Ruilin. Perhaps it was because of the incidents at home, Xia Zhenyu looked tired. However, she had come because she was familiar with Mrs. William.

Holding her arms was He Ruilin. She was Lin’s eldest daughter, naturally she had dressed up well. She was wearing a black dress that exposed her back. There were slits on the dress that went up to her thigh. She looked seductive.

She knew that Lin Xinyan would be here, so she had spent time and effort in dressing up.

She no longer had the impulsiveness from before when she met with Lin Xinyan. This time, she was quietly standing beside Xia Zhenyu.

The plump woman from earlier greeted Xia Zhenyu. Rich wives often accompanied their husbands for events, it was normal for them to know each other for a few meetings.

And they knew Mrs. William was because of their clothes.

As the wives of CEOs and Presidents, they had to wear fanciful clothing. Bespoke wear perfectly fits their requirements.

They would not have to worry about meeting someone else with the same clothing.

And they could even request for matching sets to match with their husband’s suits.

Xia Zhenyu did not show anything else but a smile for greeting Lin Xinyan despite the fact that Lin Xinyan was involved in causing her family troubles. After all, this was a public place.

Lin Xinyan was not familiar with her. It was only because of He Ruize that she knew about her.

She returned a smile to her.

In a corner, Shen Xiuqing was holding a broom as she glared at Lin Xinyan. Her daughter was missing and she had suffered in prison while Lin Xinyan was enjoying her life here.

At this moment, a man walked in. Instead of looking energetic, the man looked tired. The suit on him wrinkled with his slumped back.

When she saw the man who came in, Shen Xiuqing opened her mouth and was about to call him. However, she remembered his heartlessness, and she closed her mouth.

“Yan.” He walked towards Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan’s expression darkened. Why was he here?

"It's your shop opening, I'd definitely come to support you." His voice was soft. He had seen the cars outside and knew that there were many rich and powerful guests today.

He could not really be considered as her supporter.

"No need, please go back." Lin Xinyan rejected.

She did not want to hold him accountable for the past, but neither did she want to forgive him.

Lin Guoan did not leave nor give up because of Lin Xinyan's words. After that incident six years ago, he finally realized who was good to him.

The daughter that he loved had run off with the money when the times were difficult, and he had to take care of the mess that she left behind.

"Yan, dad wants to thank you."

Lin Xinyan frowned. "Thank me for what?"

"Six years ago, the company had troubles. If Zong Jinghao was not there to help me, I wouldn't be here now."

What?

The troubles in the company six years ago were dealt with by Zong Jinghao?

"I was curious why he had helped me back then, and he told me it was because of you."

Lin Xinyan understood even less after his words. Why did Zong Jinghao do this?

Suddenly, she recalled that there was a pregnant woman who wanted to commit suicide. She had told her that she would give her money to her.

Did it look like she had wanted Lin Guoan to be fine in Zong Jinghao's eyes?

She had only wanted the pregnant woman to not be in danger. She was pregnant at that time, so she had not wanted terrible things to happen to the other pregnant woman.

Zong Jinghao had given her the money and then requested for a divorce later. She had then left Country Z. Out of Country Z, she did not know what happened in the country and how the company troubles were resolved.

"I think he loves you a lot, or else he would not help me because of you." It was because of this that Lin Guoan had locked himself in the house without drinking or eating for a day. It was not because he was touched, but because he was frustrated. If he had not been so estranged from Lin Xinyan, the Lin family might have been richer and more powerful.

When he coincidentally saw Zhuang Zijin with the two children the last time, he had decided to chase after Zhuang Zijin again to get Lin Xinyan's forgiveness.

Lin Xinyan had given birth to two cute children for Zong Jinghao, so he must have been good to Lin Xinyan.

It would look great for him if he was publicly known as Zong Jinghao's father-in-law.

If Lin Xinyan had no worth, he might not be as humble and eager to please her as he is right now.

It was not easy to change a person's personality.

Lin Xinyan had not thought that Zong Jinghao would care about Lin Guoan after she left.

Was it really because of her that he had done this?

"I won't be in your way. I'll look for somewhere quiet and stay there. The more people there are, the merrier it looks. You can just treat me as someone to fill in the space here." Lin Guoan was afraid that Lin Xinyan would chase him out. So he quickly retreated to a quiet place to stay.

Lin Xinyan did not bother with him any further. If he wanted to stay, then he would stay.

She still would not forgive him so easily.

The hurt that he had brought to her and Zhuang Zijin was an unerasable mark. Every time she thought about it, it still hurts.

Shen Xiuqing was furious. Her face had lost its lustrous look in prison, and her eyes were glaring hard as if her eyeballs were going to pop out of their sockets. She looked terrifying.

She had never seen Lin Guoan as humble and as eager to please someone, but he was doing it now.

And it was to please Lin Xinyan.

She could not accept his change. She could not accept her downfall. All of these were because of Lin Xinyan's return.

Go to hell! Go to hell!

She threw away the broom and walked towards Lin Xinyan. When she was near Lin Xinyan, she took out the hidden knife that she had brought.

"Lin Xinyan, go to hell!"

“Careful.”

Lin Xinyan turned around to find a woman who looked like a demon from hell stabbing a knife towards her heart—

CHAPTER 147.

Lin Xinyan’s pupils constricted and in her eyes were the reflection of the sharp knife. It was as if she could imagine the pain when the sharp knife enters her body—

The knife was already so close to her, but she could not react from shock.

Just as she was about to be stabbed, a dark figure flew towards her and pulled her by her arm. She turned and dizzily crashed into a warm and solid chest.

She heard an angry voice. “Damn!” Then she saw Shen Xiuqing’s body flying across the room and crashing onto the corner of a table. The drinks on the table fell off and shattered on the floor.

Zong Jinghao’s gaze was sharp. “How did she come in here?”

Qin Ya hurriedly explained. “She was hired yesterday as a cleaner.”

She was shocked too. She had not thought that a cleaner had just tried to kill Lin Xinyan.

Lin Xinyan returned to her senses and moved away from Zong Jinghao’s arms to calmly arrange for the security to bring Shen Xiuqing away. She would investigate her appearance here later.

“Ya, get someone to clean up the floor.”

“Okay.”

“I’m really sorry. There had been an accident just now, I apologize for the shock you just experienced.” She told the crowd. After arranging the clean up, she pulled Zong Jinghao towards the staff room.

He Ruilin stood on the outside as she watched with indifferent eyes.

It was a pity that Lin Xinyan had not died from that attack.

However...

It was as if her gaze was coated with poison.

Zong Jinghao followed her into the staff room.

“Let me see your arm.” Lin Xinyan pulled his arm to look at it. She had seen that his arm was scratched by the knife in Shen Xiuqing’s hand when he had kicked her away.

It seemed like he was not actually scratched. He must have dodged it.

How fortunate. How lucky.

He had not been hurt.

“Are you worrying about me?” His gaze wavered.

“I don’t want you to get hurt because of me.” Lin Xinyan lowered her eyes.

She thought she would not have survived today.

She had not expected Zong Jinghao to appear at the last minute and protected her.

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

She felt grateful and touched.

It was all for this man.

“If you’re not hurt, I’ll go outside to take a look and see if anyone’s affected—”

“Don’t you have something to say to me?” Zong Jinghao cut her off and narrowed his eyes.

“What?” Lin Xinyan looked up at him.

Soon, she realized what he meant.

“We’ve met a while back. She said to invite her when my shop opens.”

“So, you invited her?” There was an inexplicable terrorizing tone in his voice. “Do you know who she is?”

Lin Xinyan held her breath and her hands clenched into fists. “I do.”

“You still contact her when you do?” This time, he did not conceal his dissatisfaction, his unhappiness, his disappointment.

“She’s not someone bad—”

“How long have you known her?” Zong Jinghao sneered, “What did she bribe you with?”

His gaze landed on her wrist. He had never seen her wear accessories save for an occasional watch. Where did this jade bangle come from?

“She gave this to you?”

Lin Xinyan hid her hands behind her back but Zong Jinghao pulled her back out. He stared at the jade bangle and asked, “You like these kinds of things?”

Lin Xinyan shook her head. “No.”

“Then why did you take it?”

“I couldn’t reject her.”

There was a fire in his eyes, and it kept burning hotter and hotter.

“Did she look pitiful?” That was why she could not reject her.

“No.” She could not reject her with that atmosphere and when she saw her eyes.

“Perhaps she had some difficulties at that time.” Lin Xinyan tried to explain for Yuxiu.

Zong Jinghao scoffed. “How long have you known her? How dare you try to excuse her behaviors with me?”

“Officially? Twice. It’s not been long, but I don’t think she’s someone bad.”

The fire in Zong Jinghao seemed as if it wanted to spread outwards to burn the woman in front of him. How could she be making excuses for Yuxiu?

His tone was as cold as the wintry wind forcing itself into her bones. “Return this to her. I’ll buy you the things you like.”

“Okay.” Lin Xinyan answered easily. She had not planned to keep this anyway; it was too expensive for her to receive this. She had only accepted it because she could not bring herself to reject her at that time.

Lin Xinyan’s quick response cooled him a little. “Don’t meet with her next time.”

“Okay.” Lin Xinyan answered this easily too.

She did not think that Yuxiu was bad. In fact, she felt that Yuxiu was a good person. However, she was in a relationship with Zong Jinghao and she did not plan to be in frequent contact with Yuxiu.

At the very least, she would not be the one initiating contact with her.

The fire in Zong Jinghao had been put out by her words. He pulled her into his arms. As if his arms were iron pliers, he held her tightly in his embrace. It was so tight that Lin Xinyan felt like she was suffocating.

She pushed him. "You want to strangle me to death?"

"Yes, it'll be good. All you do is make me angry." Although that was what he said, he had loosened his grip.

Her breath returned to her and Lin Xinyan said, "Why was Shen Xiuqing here?"

She knew that something was going on here.

"Would Lin Guoan be involved?" That she was only here because of Lin Guoan.

"No." Zong Jinghao gave a half-hearted smirk. Lin Guoan was a heartless man. Shen Xiuqing was just a useless chess piece to him. He had given her up back then.

Lin Guoan would not take her back in.

There would be no more cooperation between the two.

Lin Xinyan thought back to the moment in the past that was similar to today. She frowned. "Wasn't she in prison? When did she come out?"

Zong Jinghao raised his hand. He had a light scar on his hands from the wound back then. He still remembered the look on Lin Xinyan's face when she jumped towards him trying to stop Shen Xiuqing's attempted murder.

It was a crazy act that made him remember her.

"I'll check it out." His gaze turned sharp.

He had pulled some strings to charge Shen Xiuqing a life sentence for her attempted murder. She would not be able to come out unless someone had pulled some strings too.

It was obvious that the incident today was just the prologue and she was just a side character.

"Don't go out alone for these few days."

"Okay."

Knock knock.

There was a series of knocks from the door. The voice of Qin Ya came after that. "Ms. Lin, the catwalk has started. It's time for you to go on stage."

She was not going to walk on the stage. She was going to give a speech as the owner of the shop.

"Alright." She turned to look at Zong Jinghao. "I have to go now. I don't think you like these kinds of occasions. If you're busy, you can go first. If not, you can rest here."

Zong Jinghao quietly hummed in response.

Just as Lin Xinyan was about to walk off, he called out to her.

"Hold on."

"Yes?"

Lin Xinyan turned to look at him again.

Zong Jinghao reached out to tuck a loose strand of hair behind her ears. Instead of lifting his hand away, he slid his hands downwards and stopped at her earlobe. His eyes were half-lidded as his warm fingers touched her neck. He said softly, "You look pretty."

Lin Xinyan looked away from him and slightly lowered her head, hiding her reddened face. "I should go now."

She rushed away.

As if Zong Jinghao would do something to her if she was any slower.

It seemed like she had been shy just now.

There was a faint smile on Zong Jinghao's face.

"Yo, what have you been doing here? You look so happy." Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan walked in. It felt inappropriate for them to come in when Lin Xinyan was here earlier, but now that she had left, they were here.

"Are you injured? It looked dangerous." Shen Peichuan asked in concern.

"I'm fine." He kept his smile away and changed into a serious expression. "Make a check for me on how the woman just now had come in here."

"Okay." Shen Peichuan sat down. "I've already sent someone to investigate. Give me a day to come out with the results."

Su Zhan smacked his lips and sat on the couch, bored. His arms laid across Shen Peichuan's shoulder. "Why don't we go to Night tonight?"

“Missing the company of women?” Shen Peichuan dissed him.

“I miss you.”

“I can’t take you on.”

Su Zhan reached out to touch Shen Peichuan’s chest as he pretended to be frivolous.

“You’ve never tried it; how would you know you can’t take me on?”

“Get lost.” Shen Peichuan pushed him away and shivered in disgust. He could feel the goosebumps on his arms.

Su Zhan laid on his back after Shen Peichuan’s push. Shen Peichuan was strong.

He sat back up and glared at Shen Peichuan. “Tsk, how boring. Let’s go out to look at the beauties on the catwalk.”

“Other than women, what else is in your head?” Shen Peichuan looked at him. “Look at your useless look.”

“Thinking of women doesn’t mean that I’m useless. This is a man’s instinct, get it?” Su Zhan did not want to bother with explaining further. “The nerves in your brain never worked. I’m not going to keep this up with you. Wow, look, it’s our sister-in-law.”

It was Lin Xinyan’s turn on stage.

The three of them stood on the outermost side. They looked at Lin Xinyan across the many heads in front of them.

Under the light, the pink of her dress was beautiful. Her strapless dress showed off her delicate collarbones. It looked simplistic, and she looked soft in her dress.

She was outstanding amongst the crowd.

There was tenderness and pride in Zong Jinghao’s eyes.

This woman now belonged to him.

“Hello, I’m Lin Xinyan, the person-in-charge of LEO. I’m joyous to be able to open a branch here in B City and I’m grateful for your attendance today. I look forward to our future meetings.” Lin Xinyan smiled. It arched into a perfect angle, and she looked elegant and confident.

He Ruilin sat on a chair as she looked at Lin Xinyan coldly. The corner of her mouth turned upwards.

She hid her cunningness under the smile.

She had learned to hold back her impulsiveness after that incident.

She took out a phone and sent a photo of Lin Xinyan walking out of MOEN hotel's room 608 from six years ago. Along with the photo, she sent a message: Do you want to know who that man was from six years ago?

CHAPTER 148.

After sending the message, she kept her phone away and continued to watch Lin Xinyan on the stage. The smile she had on was cunning.

Lin Xinyan finished her speech and the lights and music came on. The model walked out with the highlight of the day.

It was a wedding dress designed by Mrs. William.

Mrs. William had not designed for a long time. This design was intended for LEO's opening today.

The wedding dress was of the purest color—snow white. The dress had many layers of veils and was covered with satin-woven roses and gems. Under the light, the entire dress shone with luxury and elegance. The crowd looked at it with amazement in their eyes.

Lin Xinyan fell into a trance looking at it below the stage.

Wedding dress represented the hope of love and the dream of happiness.

Although she was married, she had never worn a wedding dress. Nor did she have a wedding or a ceremony. She had no wedding dress. Even her marriage registration was not done with her husband.

“Ms. Lin.” Qin Ya walked over and handed her phone to her. “Your phone.”

Qin Ya had been holding onto her phone while she was on stage.

Lin Xinyan took her phone and Qin Ya said, “It seemed like you have a message.”

Lin Xinyan unlocked her phone with a slide and clicked onto the message. Her face turned pale after looking at the contents of the message. She could hear the thunderous beats of her heart in her ears. Her heart squeezed and she trembled without control.

“Ms. Lin, what’s wrong?” Qin Ya realized that there was something wrong with her and she hurriedly held onto Lin Xinyan’s trembling body. “Are you not feeling well?”

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

She held her phone tightly as she retreated away from the loud crowd.

Looking at her panic retreat, He Ruilin smiled mockingly.

It was all thanks to Lin Xinyan that she had this photo with her. Back then, she had asked He Ruize to investigate in Country A and this was a photo from the video footage he found.

If anything, she would want to thank Lin Xinyan personally.

Would Lin Xinyan be terrified to find out the origin of this photo?

He Ruilin sneered.

Lin Xinyan went upstairs alone.

Here, it was quiet and away from the crowd.

Her legs turned weak and she sat in a slump on the floor.

The scene of that night kept replaying in her mind as if it was a movie that she could not stop.

She lowered her head and clicked on the photo again. Her face was clear in the image. It was as clear as her memory from that night.

She had once fantasized having her first night with a man she loved. And yet—

Splash.

Her tears fell onto the screen.

Her heart had also fallen to the unending depths.

She had lost her ability to react and think as she fell into the void of terror and fear.

She did not want to recall this incident, but it was right in front of her and reminding her that this was a stain on her. This was the nightmare of her life.

She rarely cried and she cried even less after having her children. She was a mother; she was a daughter. She had the responsibility of raising her children and taking care of her mother. She could not cry and she could not be weak.

However, she could not hold back her tears at this moment. Her heart hurts. It hurt terribly and the pain suffocated her.

The light shining on the floor was covered away and she drowned in its darkness.

“You’re crying?”

Lin Xinyan hurriedly wiped away the tears on her face and turned the phone around to face its screen towards the floor. “No. I’m— I’m not crying.”

Zong Jinghao looked at her from above.

He had sensed that there was something wrong with her when he saw her retreating away from the crowd. The event was reaching an end, and after Su Zhan and Shen Peichuan had left, he had come upstairs to look for her.

Then he saw her crying. Her face was covered in tears and yet she said she was not crying. Did she think that he was blind?

He crouched down and turned her head to face him. “What happened to you?”

The corner of her eyes was damp and there were warm tear tracks on her face.

As if her eyes were veiled, she could not see his expression clearly. She felt disassociated, as if her flesh and blood had been separated and all that was left were her lifeless bones.

Zong Jinghao wiped her tears away with his thumb. He tenderly caressed her cheek. Her look worried him greatly. “Tell me, what happened?”

Lin Xinyan hugged him and buried her face into his chest. “I saw Lin Guoan today and I thought about the time he had abandoned me and my mom...”

She lied. She tried to hide her upset.

Zong Jinghao smoothed her back as he consoled her. “It’s alright, I’m here from now on. Don’t be scared.”

Lin Xinyan had calmed herself down but when she heard his words, her tears renewed.

It used to be her who took care of her brother and her mother. After she had her children, she had taken care of her children too. No one had ever told her to not be scared and that they were there for her.

This was not a pick-up line. These were not fancy words. These were not unforgettable words. These were simple and sincere words that crawled its way into the softest parts of her heart.

“Ms. Lin.” Qin Ya’s voice came from the stairs. Perhaps she had been missing for too long, that was why Qin Ya had come to look for her.

He wiped Lin Xinyan’s tears away and smoothed her messy hair. “Don’t cry. You won’t look good.”

“Okay.” She moved out of Zong Jinghao’s arms and sniffed. She took a glance at the time. “It should have ended. You can go home first. I should be busy today.”

“I’ll come for you tonight.”

“Alright.”

“Ms. Lin.” Qin Ya walked up. Lin Xinyan had calmed down by then. When Qin Ya saw that there were only Lin Xinyan and Zong Jinghao upstairs, she wondered if she had interrupted them with her presence.

“Mrs.— Mrs. William is leaving.” Qin Ya stumbled with her words.

“So early? Have all the guests left?” Lin Xinyan walked over. “Let’s go down and take a look.”

She turned around to look at Zong Jinghao. He was taking a call and he did not seem happy.

“What’s wrong?” Lin Xinyan asked.

“I understand.” Zong Jinghao ended the call and looked at Lin Xinyan with an intense gaze.

The call was from Shen Peichuan. He had called to tell him that Shen Xiuqing had committed suicide and that he was now investigating it.

It was evident that this was not going to be a simple matter and someone was targeting Lin Xinyan.

However, he did not want Lin Xinyan to worry about it. He would investigate and resolve it by himself. “It’s some matter in the company. I’ll leave first.”

“Okay.” Lin Xinyan did not think beyond his words.

Qin Ya rarely inquired about Lin Xinyan’s private affairs but Zong Jinghao’s appearance made her sense that his relationship with Lin Xinyan was not simple.

He looked at Zong Jinghao’s tall figure and asked, “Ms. Lin, he’s the father of Xichen and Ruixi, right? I realized that they looked alike, especially the eyes and the forehead. No wonder the children were good looking. It was because they had inherited good genes.”

Lin Xinyan’s expression changed.

She did not want to mention this because Xichen and Ruixi were not related to Zong Jinghao.

“Are there still people downstairs?” She deliberately changed the topic.

“Mrs. William had already sent off some clients and I’ve sent the rest off. There should not be many people downstairs other than the cleaners. Mrs. William is waiting for you there.”

Qin Ya sensed that Lin Xinyan was not comfortable with the subject, so she did not insist on the previous conversation.

“Okay.” Lin Xinyan answered quietly.

The lower floor was empty and the lounge was in a mess. There were remains of the desserts and drinks that littered over the table.

“It’s been tiring today but it has been a good day. The clothing on the catwalk was all sold out, including Mrs. William’s wedding dress. Do you want to take a guess as to how much it was sold for?”

“How much was it?” Lin Xinyan was not interested, but Qin Ya had asked her and so she had no choice but to respond.

Qin Ya lifted three fingers. “Three million.”

Lin Xinyan was not surprised. There were other designs by Mrs. William that sold for even higher prices, so this wedding dress had not been expensive.

Although, she was curious as to who had bought it. “Who bought it?”

“He Ruilin from the He family. She said she was buying it for her future marriage.”

Lin Xinyan turned to look at Qin Ya. “He Ruilin?”

“Yes.” Qin Ya did not know about their relationship. “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing.” She just felt odd. He Ruilin’s engagement with Zong Jinghao had just been broken off recently. She had not heard about any upcoming marriage nor any boyfriends she had.

She was wearing it for her wedding?

With who?

CHAPTER 149.

However, she realized that He Ruilin was no longer that young anymore. Even if she was not marrying Zong Jinghao, there were still other men from rich households. Even if she did not love them, she might marry the man to connect the families.

She no longer felt weird that He Ruilin had bought the wedding dress when she thought about it this way.

“Lin.” Mrs. William walked over.

Lin Xinyan tucked her nonsensical thoughts away and looked at Mrs. William. “Madam.”

Mrs. William held onto her hand. “I’ll be going back. You’ll take care of this place from now on. LEO is my blood and sweat, please take good care of it.”

“I understand.” Lin Xinyan knew the importance of LEO to Mrs. William. “I will protect it with the rest of my life.”

“I know you will.” Mrs. William hugged her and touched her cheeks with Lin Xinyan’s as a farewell. “Take care of yourself.”

“Can’t you stay for a few more days?” Lin Xinyan tried to keep her here.

Not only did she treat this woman as her boss, but she was also one of Lin Xinyan’s loved ones who had lent her a helping hand when she needed it.

“I still have some things to settle. It’s been a while since I’m here. I should be returning.”

“I’ll send you off.” Lin Xinyan told Qin Ya to bring the car keys over.

Mrs. William smiled. “How are you going to drive like that?”

Lin Xinyan lowered her head to look at her dress then laughed. She reached out to raise her skirt and tied a knot in the front, revealing her slender legs. “I’ll be able to drive like that.”

Mrs. William smiled and she twirled Lin Xinyan’s hair tenderly.

Qin Ya and Ellen sent Lin Xinyan and Mrs. William to the door. Lin Xinyan turned to look at the two of them. “I will send Madam to the airplane safely. Please clean up the place for today.”

“Alright, don’t worry about this.” Ellen gave her an okay gesture and waved her hands.

After sending Mrs. William off, Lin Xinyan returned to the shop. Everything was already cleaned up by Qin Ya and Ellen. On the couch in the lounge, there was a man.

When Yu Doudou saw Lin Xinyan walking into the shop, he stood up. He complained, "We should be considered friends, right? Why didn't you invite me for your opening today? Although I'm not rich, I can be here to support you."

"I didn't mean it. I really forgot about it." Lin Xinyan apologized.

Yu Doudou knew that she was not that kind of person and he was just pretending to be angry with her. He had come over to ask about the case. Zong Jinghao had delayed the case and he had felt insecure. That was why he was here to ask her about it.

"What are your thoughts about the accident? Aren't you anxious about it? Why is the case being delayed? Isn't it disadvantageous for the case to be delayed?"

She had not asked Zong Jinghao anything else when he had said to leave it to him. If Yu Doudou had not asked her about it today, she would have forgotten about it.

She sat on the couch and rubbed her eyes. She could feel a headache coming on.

"Are you feeling unwell?" Yu Doudou asked in concern. "Should I not ask you about this?"

"No." Lin Xinyan shook her head. "I'll ask him about it when I see him tonight. About why he is delaying it."

"Alright." Yu Doudou could see that Lin Xinyan was not in a great mood. "I'll take my leave. Call me if you hear about anything."

"Okay."

After Yu Doudou left, Lin Xinyan and Qin Ya organized the orders that they had received today. This was not a clothing store. Every clothes they sold were exclusive. Every order they received were customized based on the client's request.

And of course, the price was vastly different from normal clothing.

The average person would not be able to afford it.

Qin Ya needed to have an opportunity, so out of the two orders, Lin Xinyan had assigned her one of them.

And she assigned the other to Ellen.

However, Ellen rejected it. "They specified you as the designer. It wouldn't be suitable for me to take this order. Also, I don't need this order to show that I have the capability."

She tilted her head upwards and said proudly, "I'm already famous. I don't need these opportunities."

Qin Ya remained quiet. She needed these opportunities.

She loved designing.

"Alright, then I'll give it to Ya." Lin Xinyan smiled as she handed Qin Ya the client's file. "Do your best."

"But—" Qin Ya did not think that she was capable of handling these alone. After all, Lin Xinyan gave her plenty of opportunities.

"No buts. I'll show the clients the designs, and if they're satisfied, I'll tell them you were the one who designed them. By then, the client would have been satisfied with your designs, so you won't be getting any backlash." Lin Xinyan had already planned it out.

"But..."

"No more buts." Ellen cut her off. "Lin doesn't need more opportunities to prove herself, but you do. You've been with her so long; she would want to give you the best. Just take it."

Qin Ya felt grateful and tried to cover up her emotions. "Are you afraid that I'll steal the spotlight from you?"

Lin Xinyan patted her head. "I wish you would."

This girl had been following her for a long time. She was serious, responsible, and capable. All she needed was an opportunity to show herself off.

Qin Ya stretched out her arms to hug Lin Xinyan. "Thank you, sis."

"You're already calling me sis, what are you thanking me for?" Lin Xinyan patted her back.

"Do you two no longer want me?" Ellen said jealously.

"No." Lin Xinyan pulled her over and the three women hugged.

Lin Xinyan patted the backs of the two and released them. "Go home earlier today. It's been a tiring day."

"Indeed, it was." "It's been a while since I've worked like that." Ellen said.

"Yes, I need to think about the clients' requests." Qin Ya said.

"Alright. You two should leave first. I'll leave later."

"Don't stay here too late."

“Why don’t I stay to close the shop instead. Xichen and Ruixi are still waiting for you at home.” Qin Ya felt that Lin Xinyan was much busier than her, and she had more things to worry about.

“No worries. I just want to stay here for a while. You two can go on ahead.” Lin Xinyan felt her thoughts muddle up.

Too many things have happened recently. She needed some time alone to sort through it.

“Let’s go.” Ellen placed her arm across Qin Ya’s neck. It was obvious that Lin Xinyan had things in her mind and she needed some piece. She understood how that felt.

Qin Ya was dragged out by Ellen. The two of them were staying together. Qin Ya had a car and the two worked at the same place. It was convenient for them.

After they left, the place quieted down. Lin Xinyan sat on the couch and supported her head with her hands. She thought back to the events of today. When did things go wrong?

Is there a connection between Shen Xiuqing and the messages she received?

It became a mystery when Lin Xinyan placed the two incidents together.

Who was the one who sent her the photo?

The person who had sent the messages to her knew what happened back then.

And they knew who she was. It made her anxious.

She took out her phone and typed in the message box: Who are you and why are you sending me messages?

The text remained in the message box without being sent.

She knew that the other party wanted to use these to lure her out. However, she did not know what that person’s aim was.

At this moment, her phone rang, and broke her train of thoughts. The screen turned to the calling window and it covered the message box.

It was Zong Jinghao.

Lin Xinyan looked out. The sky had already turned dark. She picked up the call and a male voice came from the other end. “I’m outside.”

“Okay.”

Lin Xinyan stood up and patted her face to clear her thoughts. She turned off the lights and locked the doors. She turned around and saw the car by the side of the road.

The sky was already dark and the streetlights had turned on. Zong Jinghao had taken off his suit jacket and was wearing a thin dress shirt. He was leaning against the car door looking at his phone.

On his phone was Shen Peichuan's message. He had the results of Shen Xiuqing's death, and it was indeed suicide.

In the afternoon after her attack, she was locked up. No one had come into contact with her and she did not have any devices on her to contact anyone else. Her death could only mean one thing—it was pre-planned.

What he could not understand was why Shen Xiuqing wanted to commit suicide.

There must be someone behind the scene.

Shen Peichuan sent another message.

"What are you looking at?" Lin Xinyan walked over.

"Nothing much." Zong Jinghao kept his phone away then realized that she had tied a front knot on her dress, revealing her slender and fair legs. His gaze wavered. What kind of dress up was this?

Who was she showing this to?

CHAPTER 150.

He raised the corner of his lips, but he was neither joyous nor angry. "It's hot."

Lin Xinyan followed his gaze down and realized that the knot she had made earlier to drive easier had not been released.

She was about to explain but Zong Jinghao opened the door and cut her off. He took out his suit jacket from the car and draped it over her. "Get in."

She did not know when he had taken his jacket off, but his warmth and scent still lingered on it. She felt comfortable in it.

Lin Xinyan went into the car. Recalling Yu Doudou's question, she asked, "I heard from Yu Doudou that you're still not planning to work on the case?"

Zong Jinghao looked at her. "He came to look for you?"

Lin Xinyan nodded in honesty. "Yes."

"It's not appropriate." After all, He Ruize had just entered prison. If he exposed that He Ruilin had committed a murder now, there would be enmity between his family and the He family.

It was not that he was afraid of the He family, but that there were rules between the families.

However, He Wenhui seemed to be unhappy with him based on his earlier actions. He did not know what He Wenhui was going to do next.

"Don't worry. It's in good hands. It's just not the right time yet."

Lin Xinyan felt her anxiety disappear. Although she was involved with this case, it was not as important to her as it was important to Yu Doudou. After all, his brother had died because of it. Although his brother had his own faults, he did not deserve to die.

Zong Jinghao held her hand in his.

As if his large hands had the magic to comfort her, Lin Xinyan felt herself calm down.

"You won't even need to appear in court." Zong Jinghao had planned it out. He was only going to let Yu Doudou appear in public.

The He family already had a son in prison. It would be a public embarrassment if their daughter was jailed too.

They would not take the embarrassment quietly. Whoever that appeared in public would be the He family's target for revenge.

He would not put Lin Xinyan in danger.

"Okay." Lin Xinyan did not think it was as complicated as he did. The enmity between her and He Ruilin was long formed.

She felt tired, and she leaned against the chair with closed eyes.

The interior of the car became quiet. The two no longer kept up the conversation as they contemplated with their affairs.

As if thinking of something, Lin Xinyan suddenly turned to look at Zong Jinghao. "What happened to Shen Xiuqing? Did you find out anything? Why did she appear today? Is there someone behind the scenes?"

Zong Jinghao's eyes slightly turned away from her gaze. He said quietly, "I'm still checking it."

He did not mention Shen Xiuqing's death, just in case she started overthinking.

He was going to find out the reason for her death and who was behind the scenes.

Lin Xinyan nodded and leaned back on the chair. She was about to close her eyes again when her phone vibrated. She jumped as if she had gotten an electric shock. She lowered her head and unlocked her phone. It was another photo and in the photo was her taking the money from the woman.

A text message followed after the photo: You took the money and sold yourself. You were pregnant but you don't want to know who the father of your babies is?"

Her hand started shaking uncontrollably and anxiety rushed into her head. She quickly typed out a text message. Who are you? What are you aiming for? How did you know about this?

Without hesitation, she pressed the send button.

"What's wrong?" Zong Jinghao realized that she seemed uncomfortable.

Lin Xinyan could not control her rapid breaths, so she lied, "Ya just asked me some questions about work."

Zong Jinghao did not suspect her. His gaze swept across her face. "Tell me if there's anything."

"Okay." Lin Xinyan lowered her head.

How could she tell him about this?

Was she going to tell him that she had sold herself?

That she had sold her body?

She did not know how many more evidence was in the other party's hands. She was afraid that her past would come into light.

She was especially afraid that he would find out about it.

To be honest, she still could not fully trust Zong Jinghao.

There was a large valley that distanced her from Zong Jinghao.

Did he really not mind that she was no longer a virgin?

Did he really not mind that she has had children?

He just avoided it.

It was not that he did not mind.

He just closed his eyes and pretended not to see them.

Soon, another message came in again.

Lin Xinyan clicked on it.

A witness.

It was just two words, but it was as if it was a bolt of lightning that struck her.

A witness?

The man from that night?

Lin Xinyan was in a panic.

At this moment, He Ruilin was in a bar and there was an unfinished glass of wine on her table.

Her lips were turned upwards as she sent another message. You can contact me any time you want to see me. I've heard that you have a shop opening today. Congratulations.

The anxious feeling she had worsened and it enveloped her entire body. She knew nothing about the other party, but that person seemed to know everything about her.

She felt like she was being watched and it felt terrible.

There was a person who could come out any time to disrupt her life.

While she had spaced out, the car had stopped at the villa.

On one side was a car that neither belonged to Zong Jinghao nor Lin Xinyan.

Zong Jinghao came down from the car and he frowned when he looked at the car beside his. His expression darkened.

"Young master." Mr. Feng did not enter the house and was standing by the door, as if he was waiting for them to return.

When he saw them, he immediately went over to greet them.

"Is there a reason for why they are here?" There was a hint of coldness in his tone.

They were rarely here and Zong Jinghao was unhappy with their sudden appearance.

Mr. Feng smiled. "Of course, there is."

He turned his gaze to Lin Xinyan. "This must be Young Mistress."

Lin Xinyan kept silent.

She did not know how to react to the title.

"Let's enter quickly. They've been waiting for the two of you." Mr. Feng smiled as he went to open the door.

Lin Xinyan stood on one side and looked at Zong Jinghao. "Your parents are here?"

Zong Jinghao did not answer her. It was obvious that they were here.

"They're rarely here." His tone was dark, and there was a hint of rejection in it that was barely detectable.

Lin Xinyan felt an inexplicable panic. Although she had seen Yuxiu, she had not officially met with Zong Jinghao's father.

She felt nervous meeting with his parents.

Seeing her hesitation, Zong Jinghao reached out to hold her hand. "I'm here for you. What are you afraid of?"

"Who's afraid." Lin Xinyan pretended to be firm.

Although, she was panicking internally.

She did not know why they were here.

At the bar.

He Ruilin took a sip of her wine. She felt bored and so she took out her phone and sent two more photos to Lin Xinyan. This time, it was not her photo, but Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi's.

And it was a recent photo.

This time, she was well prepared.

She knew that Lin Xinyan cared deeply for her children.

Now that the children were living in Zong Jinghao's villa and the children were always supervised, she had no chance to do anything. However, she could still secretly take photos of them.

She finished the wine in her glass and typed a sentence to her.

Your children are cute. They look like you and their dad.”

Lin Xinyan’s phone vibrated again. She clicked on the messages and panicked when she read the new message.

How did he have Lin Xichen and Lin Ruixi’s photos?

Was he watching her?

Her entire life was exposed to a stranger and she felt terrified.

She could not calm down especially when her two children might be in danger.

“What’s wrong?”

Zong Jinghao looked back at her when Lin Xinyan suddenly stopped walking.

She looked at Zong Jinghao and was silent a second. “I left something at the store. I need to go back and take it.”

She took her hand from Zong Jinghao’s hand.

“Is it that important?” Zong Jinghao looked suspiciously at the phone she was gripping tight.