Call Me Maybe?

by MinMin_Minah

Summary

Love is such a cruel thing. More if you are in love with your childhood friend that is younger than you and will never love you back.

(Right?)

BingQiu Week 2019

Day 4
Modern AU/Confessions/Reunions

Notes

This is WAYYYYYY to late, but here it is anyway.
It turned a little darker than anticipated, but I am so satisfied with it I don't think there is even any need for a continuation.
(The titles of these works have been kicking me in the ass, send help!)

See the end of the work for more notes.

Shen Yuan opened his eyes with a groan as he woke up after a long, long night.
Yesterday he had gone to tutor Luo Binghe in Calculus at the little café down the street. The boy had an important test coming up and he had tearfully begged Shen Yuan for tutoring sessions.

Shen Yuan was weak against Binghe, he admitted it.

Shen Yuan had often babysat his sister and Luo Binghe when they were younger, and once they started middle school, their tutoring sessions began. This went on for the next three years until Luo Binghe began high school, when Shen Yuan was forced to stop due to his departure to the States where he would attend university.

Shen Yuan and Luo Binghe remained in contact, though they unfortunately grew apart due to the time zones and distance between them. Nonetheless, Luo Binghe wrote to him faithfully for two years twice a month until he reached his last year of high school and his letters and emails became fewer and far in between. Shen Yuan tried to reach out to him, but it became nearly impossible when it seemed like Luo Binghe was the one avoiding him.

Did he do something? Has Shen Yuan said something and Luo Binghe took it the wrong way?

Did...

Did Luo Binghe realize Shen Yuan had a feeling for him?

He couldn’t have, right? Shen Yuan had made sure to keep his affections at a minimum without it looking like he was acting out of the ordinary. He had realized his feelings after living in the states for a few months, and he had panicked. It was a little blessing though, that he hadn't had to interact with Luo Binghe directly and rather through letters and emails. The next few months he worked hard to settle his thoughts, but it was difficult.

He couldn’t be with Luo Binghe, he couldn’t!

Shen Yuan did not thing there was anything wrong with same sex relationships, his cousin Shen Jiu had a boyfriend of his own, but this was different. Shen Jiu and Yue Qingyuan had been childhood sweethearts.

Shen Yuan babysat Luo Binghe.

He was entirely too old for Binghe. The youngest of the two was basically a baby!

It didn't matter that Luo Binghe was almost eighteen. Shen Yuan was an adult, had been for years, and he was not a predator.

He would not do that to Binghe.

He would not.

It felt like his world was crashing down when Ning Yingying, a junior from his high school to tell him that Luo Binghe was planning on attending the same university he was attending and if, he can live with you for a little while senior Shen, just until he finds his own place!

He wasn't going to survive this.

Shen Yuan didn't think he would be able to stop his feeling from growing if that was the case. He would not be able to stop his lips from curling into a smile every time he looked at Binghe, or thought about Binghe, or went somewhere with Binghe...
Still, Shen Yuan had to bite his tongue and agree when his mother called him not even a week later to ask him to allow Binghe to stay with him for the following year. To allow Binghe to get used to life in the states and school, and find an apartment without feeling like time was against him.

Shen Yuan had to agree.

His family was rich, his parents had made their fortunes during the youth, and he and his sibling had grown well cared for and very pampered since they were young.

Luo Binghe was different.

He had been abandoned in front of an orphanage, a single note saying his name was “Binghe.” He spent some years there until his mother Luo MeiYin adopted him. The reason why Luo Binghe was introduced to the Shen family was because Luo MeiYin was Shen Yuan's sworn sister. The woman wasn't as rich, she could even be called poor in comparison to them. But she was a nice and humble woman that had no desire for material good, but love and family. It was because of this that Shen Yuan had no intention of making the poor woman suffer trying to help Binghe pay for his schooling and rent if he could help it.

The year that Luo Binghe spent under his roof was torturous. The little lamb that used to follow him around had turned out to be a handsome stallion! Shen Yuan had more often than not found himself drooling after the handsome man that acted more like his wife than his roommate. He would not lie, Shen Yuan found himself daydreaming about the what if sometimes late at night. (And he might had experienced a naughty dream once or twice, but he would never say it.)

But... Loving Binghe had been as easy as breathing.

Parting with him less so.

That year went by soon enough, and suddenly Shen Yuan found himself alone in his apartment once again. The crushing loneliness he felt when he realized he would no longer wake up to the smell of Binghe's delicious food, nor be greeted by Binghe's sweet smile whenever he went back to the apartment.

He wished he had never tasted heaven only to be pushed into the Abyss a moment later.

The following and final year of Shen Yuan's schooling was... hard. Not only was he finishing getting his credits, but Shen Yuan suddenly felt like he was alone. He was still being surrounding by his usual friends, and he still caught glimpses of Binghe around campus once in a while but....

It wasn't the same.

“You should talk to him.” Shang Qinghua had told him one day, “tell him how you feel.”

But not, he wouldn't.

He didn't want Binghe to date him because of pity.

Graduation came and went, and suddenly Shen Yuan found himself without much to do. He still had six months of his lease left, and his parents had suggested he stayed there and took that time as a “vacation” before he went back to China and started looking for a job.

And Shen Yuan did.
Days went by, and suddenly Luo Binghe contacted him again. After almost a year of leaving him cold turkey.

*(As if he had been dumped.)*

Which was exactly how Shen Yuan had found himself at that little café tutoring Binghe.

He had never expected things to turn out like they did.

“I was wondering... if you like anyone.” Luo Binghe's words had frozen him. Did he know? Fear gripped his heart and he found himself tongue tied.

“I don't...” He struggles to form the words, but he had no idea what he wanted to say. “Why is Binghe asking?” He settled for.

“I have someone I like.” The younger man confessed, and Shen Yuan felt like someone had kicked him in the chest.

He knew it. He knew Binghe would never like him back. He was only like an older brother to him, Nothing else.

*He knew it.*

“I see...” His voice shook. “C-Congratulations!” But no matter how hard he tried to feel excited for the younger man, he just couldn't.

“Thanks...” Luo Binghe let out a sigh, as if he was feeling sad. “The only thing is... I don't think they like me back. I tried so hard to make them notice me, but it didn't work, and then I thought that maybe if I put a little distance between us they would react but...” Tears suddenly gathers at the corner of his Binghe's eyes, and Shen Yuan ignored his own focusing on the feeling of indignation that bloomed inside him.

“What!? How can that be? My Binghe is the best! Who is this stupid person!?” Shen Yuan immediately regretted his outburst, but didn’t take his words back.

“No, they... they are actually pretty smart. They just don't know... I never said anything so...” His white lotus bit his tongue and the waterworks began. Shen Yuan's heart went out for Luo Binghe. His little lamb didn't deserve this. If this person didn't notice his Binghe's feeling despite the young man making it very obvious then they were a dumb little shit that didn't deserve him!

*(And if he felt relief at the fact that Luo Binghe had been rejected, only he would know)*

Shen Yuan had allowed Binghe to cry on his shoulder, and because he simply hated seeing his little lamb so sad he had suggested Luo Binghe to stop beating around the bush and tell that person to their faces loud and clear that he loved them. Luo Binghe had smiled sunnily at him and thanked him.

*(Shen Yuan, you idiot.)*

After that Shen Yuan had insisted the young man was in no condition to walk alone back to his apartment so late at night and he could crash at his place.

Shen Yuan, being the loving person he was, had given his bed to Luo Binghe to sleep while he took the couch. He was sure his Binghe would have protested if he hadn't fallen asleep the moment his head hit the pillow. The poor man was exhausted.
The night was a hard one. Sleep eluded Shen Yuan, and when it seemed like he finally was
beginning to fall asleep, the sudden images of Luo Binghe hugging a faceless person, looking so,
so happy assaulted him. He only managed to sleep for a few hours before the nightmares became
too much.

He dressed himself and left the apartment in search for food. He was sure Luo Binghe would wake
soon, and he had no desire to make him suffer with his food, so take out it was. He also didn't think
the man would be up to cooking, especially since he was no longer Shen Yuan and had no reason
to cook for him.

Half an hour later, Shen Yuan opened the door of his apartment and was greeting with an empty
place. His shoulders sagged.

(Of course.)

Shen Yuan grimaced at the loud music of the bar. It had en three days since he had last heard
anything from Binghe and Shen Yuan thought that perhaps his little white lotus had already
managed to conquer his mysterious crush and was already dating him. He had certainly looked
chummy with that woman the other day...

Perhaps it was time to move on.

However, despite his thoughts, he had never expected to find himself in a gay bar after going to
Shang Qinghua for advice. Not even twenty minutes after he arrived, he found himself alone after
his friend had already snatched someone to suck faces with.

The traitor.

Wait, was that the rumored Mobei Jun?

Whatever.

Shen Yuan had tried to socialize too. He had found a couple of guys to talk with, but nothing came
out of it. He was ready to call quits, but decided to make a quick stop to the bathroom before
leaving.

He was such a fool.

A drunk man tried to corner him in the bathroom and get handsy, but Shen Yuan managed to dodge
his attempt when another man crashed against him and it looked that they might start fighting. He
quickly fled the small room and decided that it would be best to leave using the back door. He
didn't even think of telling Shang Qinghua he was leaving, the man was too exchanging saliva with
his “king.”

_Idiot. Idiot. Idiot._

He never expected to be cornered again.

The new man was clearly intoxicated too, but he also seemed to be in better control of his body. He
took both of Shen Yuan’s wrists in one hand while his legs were immobilized by the other person’s
legs. He shook when the other hand reached for his zipped and fumbled his belt.

No... no... no, no, no, no, nononononono

(Binghe, he wanted Binghe. Where is he? Please, please, please-!)

“Help!”

The man on top of him suddenly went limp and fell to the grown. The sudden action causing Shen Yuan to fall on his ass too.

“Yuan-gege!” Perhaps it was the shock, but Shen Yuan could swear he heard Luo Binghe calling him. “Gege, please? Are you okay? Did- did he hurt you? Please, gege... talk to me!” Strong hand gripped his shouldres and shook his entire body.

“B-Binghe?” His voice sounded pathetically small.

He was suddenly engulfed into a hug. It was warm, and he felt safe in those arms.

It could only be Binghe.

The adrenaline suddenly left his body, and he felt like he was about to faint, but strong arms held him and preventing him from falling.

“I'm sorry, gege. I should have been here earlier. Shang Qinhua sent me a text earlier saying you were going to be around here, but I didn’t check my phone until I left work twenty minutes ago. If I had known- If I had been here-!”

“It's okay, it was my fault.” Shen Yuan tried to reassure, not wanting to see his Binghe cry.


The taller man shuddered as helped Shen Yuan stand and guided him to his car which he had hadn't even bother lock. He had been in such a rush when he saw Shen Yuan being assaulted that he had left the driver's door wide open. Luo Binghe helped Shen Yuan settle inside the passenger's seat before he hurried to the driver's seat. He drove in silence to Shen Yuan's apartment, sometimes opening his mouth as if he was going to say something, but he never did.

The silence was oppressing.

Ten minutes later Shen Yuan found himself fumbling with his keys as he tried to open his door with shaky finger, in the end Binghe had to pry the keys off his hands in order to allow them in.

The sat together on the couch, and it was as if suddenly a dam broke.

The severity of what had just transpired a few minutes ago hit home and tears started to pour out of Shen Yuan's eyes. There were so much and so sudden he was unable to stop himself from hiccuppung. Once again he found himself in Luo Binghe's embrace as he pat him in the head and rubbed his back in soothing motions.

“It’s okay. I'm here.” He repeated again and again.

He loved this man.

When Shen Yuan's tears finally subsided, Luo Binghe carefully cleaned the remaining tears at the
corners of his eyes. Another tired sigh left his mouth.

“This isn't how I planned things to go.” The young man admitted, taking Shen Yuan's hand in his own. “I thought there would be a dinner with delicious food and candles. I would have roses and maybe even arrange for some fireworks.” The words confused Shen Yuan, but Luo Binghe continued. “I wanted to make the night when I finally confessed my feeling so special there was no way to forget it, but... given the recent events I can no longer wait. I will not allow anyone to take what is mine.”

Luo Binghe's grip on his hand tightened, but it wasn't painful. His other hand grabbed Shen Yuan's chin and titled his head towards Luo Binghe's.

“I love you.”

Never had he tasted something so sweet, and he swore that if he died right then and there he would reach Nirvana and it wouldn't compare to this moment.

They separated after a moment, and a shaky breath left Luo Binghe.

“But... you never...”

You never said anything. You never looked at me like that, right? I would have known, I would have.

Wouldn't I?

“At first, I was too shy, but then I noticed that you had many admirers and lost confidence. But you never looked at anyone like you looked at me so I thought that I might have a chance after all. I tried to woo you, but it didn't work, and then I tried to make you miss me, but that only seemed to make you sad so I...” The younger of the two leaned and rested his forehead against the other man's. “I tried to go back immediately but school got in the way, and then my job laid me off so I had to hurry and find another, and by the time I realized so much time had already passed and your graduation was around the corner.” He admitted.

“You... love me?” Shen Yuan couldn't help but sound so hopeful. “All this time?”

“Yes. And I never want to let you go. Never again.” His Binghe said determinedly. 

Never.

End Notes

I'm a whore for praise, so let me know what you think!

Come find me in Twitter so you can yell at me @MinMin_Minah

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!