

**Chapter 361: Uneasy**

When the headlights of the car shone past the signboard of Xiushui Road, Liang Zhou frowned.

Xiushui Road was a villa district. The scenery was very beautiful, and the air was much better compared to the downtown area. Initially, Liang Zhou had taken a liking to this place and wanted to buy a villa here. However, at that time, Mu Qing had said the people living here were mostly mistresses raised by wealthy men. He had said how could a decent woman like her live in such a place. For that reason, she gave up on the idea of living here. After all, she was not a mistress.

At this moment, Mu Chen said to A Jiang who was driving, "Mr. Hiang, please give a brief explanation of this place..."

A Jiang said in a deep voice, "This place is very famous. The women who live here are all young and beautiful. They come and go in luxury cars and wear famous brands. However, most of them are mistresses raised by wealthy men."

The car slowly drove past the community gate. It was obvious the car was authorized to enter this place.

Liang Zhou looked at Mu Chen in shock. "Mu Chen, do you have a lover here?"

Mu Chen smiled noncommittally.

Liang Zhou said anxiously, "Mu Chen, you and Song Ning have such a good relationship. Your son is only a few months old. H-how can you do such a thing? If your grandmother finds out about this, she won't let you off the hook..."

At this moment, Liang Zhou's words to Mu Chen were sincere. She knew better than anyone else what Jiang Jin's stance was regarding those who betrayed their marriages. Up until now, she had never been able to gain acceptance from Jiang Jin. Even Mu Qing had a hard time regaining Jiang Jin's acceptance.

Liang Zhou grew even more anxious when she saw Mu Chen did not seem to care at all.

After a brief moment, the car pulled to a stop in front of a villa.

Mu Chen opened the door and alighted from the car.

A Jiang opened the door for Liang Zhou as she hesitantly alighted from the car and followed Mu Chen into the villa.

The villa was well-decorated. It was simple yet luxurious.

Mu Chen only turned on the lights on the hall before walking in.

Liang Zhou was puzzled. It did not seem like anyone was living here. Where did Mu Chen hide his lover?

Mu Chen entered the master bedroom and continued making his way to the balcony.

Liang Zhou followed behind him skeptically. She looked around the place as the doubts in her heart grew. There was no sign of anyone living in this place.

The entrance to the balcony was covered by curtains, and high-powered binoculars stood at the entrance.

Mu Chen slightly drew the curtains to the side before he pointed to the villa opposite.

Liang Zhou looked in the direction he pointed and saw a similar villa. However, the villa was brightly lit. From this vantage point, she could vaguely see a couple in the living room. She turned to look at Mu Chen uncertainly.

Mu Chen retracted his hand, letting the curtains drop. Then, he pointed at the binoculars and said, "If you're curious, you can use these binoculars to see the people in that villa."

Liang Zhou looked at the binoculars. As though she was being controlled, she walked toward the binoculars. She bent down slightly and looked through the binoculars. She could easily see the living room and the man sitting in front of a table, drinking tea. At this moment, she suddenly felt as though her heart had stopped beating.

The man was Mu Qing. Mu Qing who had told her he was having tea with a friend at a teahouse on Shi Fu Road.

She was shocked, and her mind was blank. She instinctively took a step back, feeling as though she was stuck in a nightmare..

### **Chapter 362: Cheating**

Liang Zhou straightened her back and turned around to look at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen stood at the side with his arms crossed. He raised his chin slightly, indicating for her to continue looking.

Liang Zhou's breathing quickened as she lowered her head to look through the binoculars again. She wanted to verify that the man in the opposite villa was truly her husband, Mu Qing.

At this moment, Gao Wen saw a woman in Mu Qing's arms. The woman held a small teacup in her hands as she snuggled close to Mu Qing. Then, the woman turned her head slightly and kissed Mu Qing. Although Mu Qing did not take the initiative, he did not avoid the woman's touch either. He allowed the woman to kiss him and snuggle up against him like she owned him.

Liang Zhou felt as though her heart was going to explode. She stumbled back as she grasped the clothes in front of her chest. She felt like she could breathe at this moment and had no choice but to lean against the wall for support. However, all her strength seemed to have left her body at this moment as she slid limply down the wall and sat on the ground. She curled up as though this was the only to alleviate the crushing pain in her heart. Unfortunately, the pain did not ease at all. She panted heavily like a fish brought onto land.

'How's this possible? No, how can this be? He lied to me! He's cheating on me with another woman!'

Liang Zhou's heart at this moment was as cold as the floor she sat on.

Meanwhile, Mu Chen looked at the woman sitting on the floor indifferently. He was completely unmoved. Back then, was his mother not in such pain as well? At that time, did anyone consider his mother's feelings? This was karmic retribution. He did pity nor sympathize with the woman in front of him. In fact, he wanted to add salt to her injuries.

Mu Chen slowly squatted down in front of Liang Zhou before he said tonelessly, "By the way, there's something else I think you should know. Back then, Mu Qing lost hundreds of millions of public funds. Grandma wanted him to turn himself in, but he refused. He cried and begged Grandma to help him. However, Grandma is the head of the Mu family so she could not easily interfere in such things." He paused briefly before he continued to say, "As a result, he used me and my custody to negotiate with Grandma. If Grandma helped him repay the funds he lost, if she didn't report him to the police or expose the matter to the public, he would give up his custody of me and leave the Mu family. For the sake of his reputation, he decided to play the role of a man who chose love over money. He promised Grandma that he'd never return to the Mu family to fight for power with me for the rest of his life..."

Liang Zhou was curled up tightly into a ball. She was so still at this moment that it looked as though she was dead. At this moment, she really wished she was dead. Perhaps, all the pain would be gone if she died. In this life, she envied Liang Zhen more than anything else; if she died, she would no longer have to feel that way.

As it turned out, retribution was real. She stole Liang Zhen's husband so the heavens punished her and turned her life into a joke.

In the past, she had told herself countless times that she was not wrong. She had only followed her heart and pursued true love. How could true love be wrong? Even if she had gotten Mu Qing at the cost of her sister's life, she told herself she was not wrong. She was not wrong because she and Mu Qing were truly in love.

All those years, she had lived a happy life with Mu Qing abroad. Although Mu Qing grew indifferent and cold, she thought it was normal. After all, as time passed, couples would lose the initial excitement as they returned to their daily lives. It was fine as long as they loved each other. She did not need grand proclamations of love. Their love was simple and true. This was her definition of love.

Deep in the depths of her heart, she knew her happiness was stolen from her sister. Her happiness was built upon her sister's death. For this reason, she did not dare to act ostentatiously and she did not dare to ask for more. She lived her life treading on eggshells, too afraid to breathe loudly..

### **Chapter 363: Benefits and Value**

After so many years, Liang Zhou's wounds had long scabbed over and became a part of her. She numbed herself to the pain and deluded herself that her life was as beautiful as she used to imagine it would be. She told herself over and over again that Mu Qing loved her deeply, that she was the rightful Madam Mu, and that one day, she would return to the Mu family as Madam Mu.

She knew that Mu Qing had secretly been making preparations to return to the Mu family. She was naturally delighted. It was her dream to return to the Mu family. She wanted to be Madam Mu and rightfully replace Liang Zhen and erase all traces of Liang Zhen. She had always been looking forward to that day. Moreover, she had no doubts that day would come. After all, she had absolute confidence in Mu Qing. For this reason, she was able to endure the endless humiliation by Jiang Jin and the disrespect Mu Chen showed her.

Now that her illusion shattered, her heart shattered along with it.

Mu Chen's words were like knives stabbing at her heart. It felt like he had stabbed her heart before twisting the knife.

Mu Chen twisted the proverbial knife further into Liang Zhou's heart as he said, "You don't believe me? I'm not surprised. After all, these words are too cruel. Unfortunately, it's true he struck a deal with Grandma. Why do you think he let go so easily this time? You should know how long he had planned to return to the family and how thorough his plan was. Even if his plan was exposed, was it not a pity to give up just like that?"

Mu Chen paused for a moment and sneered. "He gave up so easily because Grandma said he had broken the agreement they had and threatened to expose his wrongdoings in the past. She would rather tarnish the Mu family's reputation than let him off. In the end, he's still a coward like before. He apologized very quickly and begged Grandma to spare him on account of his age. He used you, saying that you've been punished enough. You lost the ability to give birth, and because of that, I'd be the only grandson. He even said that if Grandma exposed him, it would affect my reputation. Once again, Grandma compromised because of me."

Mu Chen's sneer deepened. "As for you, you became his shield once again. You became a tool for him to gain sympathy. Do you know why I told you not to compare me and Song Ning with both of you? It's because there's no love between both of you at all; how can you compare? Love is mutual. Yours, unfortunately, is just wishful thinking. Mu Qing has never loved you. Everything is just your wishful thinking, Aunty!"

Mu Chen's emphasis on the word 'Aunty' seemed to be the last straw for Liang Zhou. She wailed loudly.

Mu Chen looked at her and slowly rose to his feet. He pointed at the villa across the street and said, "You didn't have a good look at the woman, right? However, it doesn't matter I suppose. Let me tell you, she's not Mu Qing's only lover. He has several villas and several lovers."

"He only cares about himself and what benefits him. The women love him and are willing to live and die for him. They're willing to do anything he asks of them. All he had to do in return was provide them with a house and living expenses when what he gains from them is much more than that."

"As for you, your value is the lowest. Apart from being his shield, you have no other uses. Hence, he doesn't need to spend much effort coaxing you. There's no need for that after all."

Liang Zhou had stopped crying a while ago. The pain was so intense that she had grown numb. Perhaps, it was her body's way to preserve her sanity..

#### **Chapter 364: Just a Tool**

What a joke. When Liang Zhou first arrived, she had been sincerely worried about Mu Chen. She had thought Mu Chen had a lover outside of his marriage and was thinking about ways she could cover up for him in front of Jiang Jin. Who knew the joke was on her? She was like a clown.

At this moment, she had broken down completely, torn to pieces. Her eyes brimmed with despair and her face was stained with tears as she looked at Mu Chen in a daze. After a while, she asked hoarsely, "W-why... Why did you bring me here and show me this?"

Mu Chen said, "Don't misunderstand. I don't have any good intentions."

Liang Zhou was not surprised by these words. She only smiled bitterly as she covered her face with her hands. This was her retribution.

"Now, do you want to know who that woman is?" Mu Chen asked emotionlessly.

Liang Zhou did not give herself any more time to mourn her feelings. What right did she have to mourn anyway? She slowly rose to her feet, feeling as though her flesh was being torn and her bones were breaking. She composed herself, no longer looking as sorry as before. With great difficulty, she used the wall to support her as she stood up. She felt as though she was walking on knives as she made her way to the binoculars again. She smiled bitterly as she wondered if this was the pain Liang Zhen had felt back then.

She inhaled deeply before she looked through the binoculars again.

At this time, the woman was no longer in Mu Qing's arms. She was feeding Mu Qing's grapes, and Mu Qing's lips held the grape and that woman's fingers, lightly biting that woman's finger. That woman reached out with her other hand and stroked Mu Qing's face before retracting both her hands. When she turned around, the smile on her face did not fade at all.

Liang Zhou lost her strength and sat limply on the ground again. She looked at Mu Chen as though she had seen a ghost. Her lips opened and closed, but no words came out. She felt as though she had fallen into an ice cellar; she felt frozen.

Mu Chen's expression was frosty.

Liang Zhou mustered up all her strength and said two words with great difficulty, "Song... Ning..."

Mu Chen took a step forward and looked down on Liang Zhou.

Liang Zhou had to crane her neck up to look at him.

"Listen carefully. That woman isn't Song Ning. She's Ye Xin," Mu Chen said slowly, emphasizing each word.

Liang Zhou felt as though her brain had broken down at this time. She could not process Mu Chen's words. She understood the words, but she could not process them.

Mu Chen reached out and lifted the curtains slightly. "You have two options now. First, you can rush there and fight to the death with Mu Qing and Ye Xin. However, let me warn you, Ye Xin currently is of

great use to Mu Qing. Hence, he'd definitely take her side. You'd only humiliate yourself if you go over there now. If you don't believe me, go ahead and try."

Mu Chen lowered the curtains again before he said, "There's a second option. Ye Xin disguised herself as Song Ning to enter the Mu family. The Ye family is unaware of this. Ye Xin's mother, Gao Wen, is currently searching high and low for psychics and exorcists to exorcize the demons or ghosts in Ye Xin's body. It's up to you to expose Ye Xin or not."

Mu Chen stood at the entrance of the balcony as he said, "I've already bought this villa so you can come here at any time. If you like it, you can tell Mr. Jiang to transfer it to your name. If you need money or manpower, you can look for Mr. Jiang. However, don't misunderstand; I have no intention of helping you. I only want to borrow your hand to deal with them. The choice is in your hand now.. What do you want to do?"

### **Chapter 365: Disgusting**

After Ye Xin told Mu Qing everything she knew about Zhuang Ji, Mu Qing gave her detailed tasks and taught her how to do them step by step.

Ye Xin understood everything he told her quickly.

Mu Qing taught her well, and Ye Xin happily learned from him.

At this point, Ye Xin had grown obsessed with Mu Qing. Although he treated her gently, he always maintained his bottom line.

Ye Xin asked, aggrieved, "Is there something wrong with me? Why aren't you interested in me at all?"

Ye Xin had always been blunt, hence, she was like this in her relationship as well.

In the past, she loved Mu Chen so much. However, in hindsight, Mu Chen had never even pretended to show interest in her at all. It was all her wishful thinking. The person whom she fell in love with was just a projection of what she wanted, and what she had loved was love itself.

However, she thought Mu Qing was different. Mu Qing's face resembled Mu Chen, but he was mature, steady, and gentle. He satisfied all her criteria in regard to men. Most importantly, his face allowed her to immerse in the feelings of her first love. For all these reasons, she fell hopelessly in love with Mu Qing and was completely devoted to him.

The current her was no longer a celebrity. She had experienced the extreme lows of life. Currently, she had thrown her past away. She only wanted to pursue what she wanted, whether it was a person or an object.

She wanted to obtain Mu Chen in the past because she saw Mu Chen as prey. She wanted the sense of accomplishment a hunter would get when they caught their prey. It did not matter to her now that she did not have Mu Chen because she had Mu Qing.

However, she could not help but feel very insecure because Mu Qing treated her too politely. It made her feel a sense of alienation.

Mu Qing looked at her affectionately and reached out to pat her head before he said with a smile, "Silly girl, what's the rush? We have the future ahead of us. You're still so young so I don't want you to make such impulsive decisions. After all, I'm an old man now. I'm the same age as your father."

Ye Xin said, annoyed, "Love transcends age! I love you, and that's that."

Mu Qing smiled dotingly. "Alright, alright."

Ye Xin hugged Mu Qing's arm, pouting.

Mu Qing patted her hand gently and said, "Let's wait until we deal with this matter. Take this time to think things through. I'll always be waiting for you so there's no need for you to rush. No matter what decision you make, I'll respect it."

Ye Xin leaned against him. "I don't need to think things through. I've already made my choice. I want to be you. Apart from you, I don't want anyone else. You're the only one who treats me sincerely in this entire world."

A hint of sadness welled up in Ye Xin's heart when she said this.

Mu Qing said, "Don't be sad. Moreover, you haven't gone to see Ning Zhe yet. He dotes on Song Ning a lot."

Ye Xin frowned and said angrily, "I hate her!"

Mu Qing put his arm around her shoulders and said, "If you hate her so much, then you should snatch the things that belong to her and make them yours..."

Ye Xin did not respond. She lay lazily in Mu Qing's arms.

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Liang Zhou stood in front of the binoculars and quietly watched the scene in the villa across the street. She could not hear their conversations but she could clearly see their expressions and actions.

The couple was really intimate.

Liang Zhou suddenly felt nauseous when she looked at Mu Qing wrapping his arm around Ye Xin's shoulders. She spun around and rushed out, looking for the bathroom.

She pushed open one door after another before she finally found the bathroom. She kneeled in front of the toilet and began to throw up.

She was disgusted. Even if that woman was not Song Ning, that woman had the face of his daughter-in-law. How could he do such a thing? How dirty was his heart that he was capable of such an act?

Liang Zhou's stomach churned, and she vomited again..

**Chapter 366: Biological Father**

Ning Zhe looked at his daughter with barely concealed excitement. "Xiaxia, you look well. It seems like Old Madam Mu took really good care of you. How's the baby? I heard there was a fire at the hospital when you were there. Were you hurt?"

Ning Zhe's expression was one of concern as he asked about his daughter's well-being.

Ye Xin's heart ached when she heard the question. The man in front of her was also her father, after all. However, he was so good to Song Ning. What virtues did Song Ning have that so many loved her? Why did she have to live in Song Ning's shadow for the rest of her life?

When Ye Xin raised her head, her eyes were slightly teary.

Upon seeing Ye Xin's appearance, Ning Zhe thought she was unhappy. He asked tentatively, "Xiaxia, did something happen? Is there anything I can help you with?"

Ye Xin calmed herself down. Then, she inhaled deeply before she said, "I need money."

Ning Zhe was stunned. When he regained his senses, he asked, "How much do you need?"

"A million," Ye Xin bluntly replied.

Ning Zhe nodded without any hesitation. "Alright, give your account number. I'll transfer the money to you immediately."

Ye Xin was taken aback. "You... Aren't you going to ask what the money's for?"

Ning Zhe smiled. "Silly child, you've always been sensible since you were young. Since you asked for the money, I believe you have a good reason. There's no need for me to ask so much. Alright, give me your account number."

Ye Xin hesitated for a moment before giving her account number to Ning Zhe.

Ning Zhe did not waste time and instantly used his phone to transfer the money to Ye Xin.

Following that, Ye Xin lowered her head and twiddled her finger as she hesitantly said, "Recently, I've been learning to manage Zhuang Ji from Grandma. However, there was an order that wasn't handled properly so there's a deficit. Since no one notices it yet, I want to make up for the deficit..."

Ning Zhe's smile deepened. This was the first time in a long time that his daughter had spoken to him so calmly and asked him for help. He knew how stubborn his daughter was. At this moment, it felt as though spring had arrived in his heart.

"Xiaxia, you've never run a business before and have no experience so it's normal that you made a mistake. It's your good fortune that Old Madam Mu is willing to teach you. You have to learn well. Don't worry. If anything happens, I'll be there for you," Ning Zhe said gently.

Ye Xin had mixed feelings about this. Why was the treatment between her and Song Ning so different? She was the Young Miss of a wealthy family. The Ye family's assets were not to be underestimated, after all. Although her father and brother had always given her money when she asked for it, it was still vastly different from Ning Zhe's treatment of Song Ning. Her father and brother spoiled her and covered for



her, but Ning Zhe loved Song Ning unconditionally. Everything about Song Ning was better than hers. Why was God so unfair?

Ye Xin bit her bottom lip to stop herself from crying.

However, when Ning Zhe saw this, he assumed she was ashamed and sad that she had to ask for help. Hence, he said in a tone even gentler than before, "Xiaxia, remember this. You'll always be daddy's daughter. I'll always be your safe harbor."

After taking a deep breath, Ye Xin said, "Thank you, Daddy."

Ning Zhe looked as though he had been struck by lightning. He was overjoyed. His daughter had not called him 'Daddy' for more than ten years now. He really did not expect to be able to exchange a million for the word 'Daddy'.

Words could not describe the joy he felt at this moment. He was willing to spend all his money as long as his daughter returned to the Ning family.

He answered in a trembling voice, "Xiaxia, you don't have to be polite with Daddy. When you're free, come home and have a look at your childhood room. I didn't touch it at all; it still looks the same. Xiaxia, don't forget the door of the Ning family will always be open to you.."

### **Chapter 367: Testing the Water**

Ye Xin hesitated briefly before she nodded.

Ning Zhe said worriedly, "It's not easy to manage a business. All these years, you've always been focused on studying medicine. Now that you changed fields, you must not be used to it. Don't be afraid to ask questions just because you're worried Old Madam Mu might think less of you. You must learn earnestly just like how you did when you were studying medicine."

Ye Xin nodded reluctantly.

Ning Zhe thought about it for a moment before he tentatively asked, "Do you want me to send someone to help you? Perhaps, I can get you an assistant. You can rest assured that I'll find you someone you can rely on who'll advise you as well. That way you won't feel anxious all the time..."

Ye Xin's eyes lit up as soon as she heard these words.

Upon seeing his daughter's reaction, Ning Zhe was delighted. He quickly added, "Don't worry. Although I'm hiring the assistant for you, he or she will definitely only listen to your orders."

Ye Xin felt even more relieved when she heard these words. She nodded. At the same time, bitterness rose in her heart again. It seemed like Song Ning had everything she had ever wanted.

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When Ning Zhe came home, the smile on his face still had not faded.

Ning Chun who was walking behind Ning Zhe said, "Master, I've already found someone."

Ning Zhe nodded. "I really didn't expect I'd be able to arrange for someone to stay by Ning Xia's side so easily. We must seize this chance, understand?"

Ning Chun nodded. "Don't worry, Master."

"By the way, have the lawyer come over in two days. I want to change my will," Ning Zhe calmly said.

Ning Chun nodded.

At this time, Su Tong stood at the corner of the stairs in a daze, holding a teacup in her hand. Her heart skipped a beat when she heard Ning Zhe's words. 'What does he mean by that? Why is he changing his will? No, no, no one can take away what belongs to Ning Dong!'

While Su Tong was lost in her thoughts, Ning Dong suddenly appeared next to her. Just as she was about to speak, he lifted his index finger to his lips and shushed her.

Subsequently, Ning Dong held a tray of tea set and made his way upstairs to the study.

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Ning Zhe drank the tea his son poured for him and nodded in satisfaction. Then, he said, "Dongdong, I saw your sister today. From now on, both of you have to support each other. The future of the Ning family depends on both of you."

Ning Dong calmly asked, "Is Sister coming back?"

Ning Zhe shook his head gently. Then, he said, "Remember, we have to get our hands on Zhuang Ji. Only after we obtain Zhuang Ji can we move on to the next step."

Ning Dong nodded obediently.

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When Ye Xin received the resume that Ning Zhe sent over, she looked at it briefly and was very satisfied. After that, she excitedly went to look for Jiang Jin.

"Grandma, I..." As soon as Ye Xin entered the room, she saw the baby was getting his diaper changed again. She instinctively shut the door. When she regained her senses, she hurriedly opened it again. She ignored the baby and tried her best to focus on Jiang Jin. She acted like nothing had happened and said with a smile, "Grandma, I came to see the baby."

Jiang Jin and Sister Yu were advanced in age so they left A Nuan to change the baby's diaper. They had seen Ye Xin's earlier behavior, but they did not care at all.

When Ye Xin reached to hold the baby, the baby in A Nuan's arm instinctively twisted his body away, avoiding Ye Xin's hands.

Ye Xin's expression turned slightly unsightly.

Upon seeing this, A Nuan hastily explained, "Young Madam, Little Master is grumpy at this time every day. He needs to drink his milk first. He'll be fine after that."

Ye Xin's hands froze in mid-air as A Nuan carried the baby away. She suppressed her embarrassment and walked to Jiang Jin and Sister Yu before she said awkwardly, "This baby's temper is just like his father's. They don't like to be touched.."

### **Chapter 368: The Old House**

Jiang Jin smiled. "Babies are like that. When they grow up and become more sensible, they'll naturally be better."

Ye Xin sighed in relief inwardly when she Jiang Jin paid no mind to her earlier transgression. Then, she said excitedly, "Grandma, I went through Zhuang Ji's list of clients over the past two days. Apart from that, I also feel that there are many areas that we can improve on. I plan to go to Zhuang Ji today. In fact, I plan to go there every day."

"Oh?" Jiang Jin smiled as she glanced at Ye Xin. She said gently, "I'm old, and my health isn't good so I can't accompany you. You'll have to go to Zhuang Ji alone. When you return, you can just report to me. What do you think?"

Ye Xin did not expect things to go so smoothly. She hurriedly nodded and said, "Okay! In fact, I was going to suggest that as well. Since you're getting older, you can't be accompanying me all the time. It's better for me to go to Zhuang Ji alone."

Jiang Jin smiled. "It's rare for you to be so attentive. This isn't a bad idea. Go then..."

After that, Ye Xin hurriedly responded and turned to leave. Midway to the door, she remembered the baby and hastily turned around to have a look at the baby.

The baby was drinking milk at this moment, His chubby fingers held on to A Nuan's hands. His eyes were twinkling, and he looked very happy.

Ye Xin reached out and touched the baby's face.

A Nuan instinctively took a step back before she said in a small voice, "Young Madam, Little Master has a bad habit. If he's interrupted while he's drinking his milk, he'll start to cry."

Ye Xin withdrew her hand and said in disappointment, "What a brat. Why does he have such a bad temper?"

A Nuan smiled and said, "Old Madam said Young Master had a bad temper when he was young as well..."

"Well, the baby definitely inherited his bad temper from his father," Ye Xin said. Then, she bade farewell to Jiang Jin and left.

After the door closed behind Ye Xin, Jiang Jin sighed softly.

Sister Yu stepped forward and gently patted Jiang Jin's back. "Old Madam, don't worry. Arrangements have been made regarding Zhuang Ji."

Jiang Jin said, "I was just thinking how could there be people like this in the world? Is it really all for benefits?"

Sister Yu comforted Jiang Jin. "Everyone has their own path to walk. No one can control the path that another person chooses to walk..."

Jiang Jin nodded slightly.

...

Cheng Che looked at the Zhuang family's old house in front of him and could not help but sigh. 'Although sister-in-law's family house is low-key, it's quite luxurious...'

The small town had the cultural feel of Jiangnan's water villages; it was very quaint.

The Zhuang family was one of the most famous families in the town. This was because Old Master Zhuang was a famous Chinese medicine practitioner, and Old Madam Zhuang was a famous embroiderer. However, since the old couple was no longer around, the house had fallen into slight disrepair. It was currently being looked after by some people appointed by the Zhuang family.

Cheng Che contacted the caretaker of the house and introduced himself. He had said he was planning to shoot a television drama set in the old Republic of China period so he wanted to visit the old house to study it.

The caretaker tactfully refused, saying that there were still members of the Zhuang family around and that he was not qualified to make such decisions. Hence, he gave Cheng Che the contact information of one of the family members and told Cheng Che to obtain consent from them.

Upon seeing the contact information that was given to him, Cheng Che smiled bitterly. It was the contact information of his sister-in-law. The person who was using the phone number now was not Ye Xin; it was now in Mu Chen's hands.

Cheng Che sighed as he called Mu Chen. Then, he told Mu Chen that Song Ning definitely did not return to her old family house.

Mu Chen remained silent for a moment before he told Cheng Che not to disturb the people there or attract attention.

After Cheng Che ended the call, he took a few photos of the house for Mu Chen. Then, he chatted with the caretaker briefly to make sure the caretaker really did not know anything before he finally left.

Cheng Che grew more and more anxious. He was really worried about his sister-in-law's safety..

### **Chapter 369: Plastic Surgery (1)**

Song Ning stood behind Yang Li and placed her hand on Yang Li's shoulder. "Are you nervous?"

Yang Li reached out and held Song Ning's hand before nodding slightly. Her head and her face were wrapped in gauze, only leaving her pair of eyes exposed.

At this time, Pengpeng and the doctor walked in. She smiled and asked, "Are you ready?"

Song Ning and Yang Li held hands and nodded.

The doctor studied Song Ning. There was a very obvious scar on her left cheek and neck from the burn she sustained. There was also a scar on her left temple. At this time, the scars had already turned pink, marring the gentleness of her face.

Finally, the doctor asked, "Song Ning, are you sure you don't want to remove these scars? It's a very easy procedure to get them removed..."

Song Ning smiled and shook her head. "Qiu Yan, they're like my badge of honor. I'll keep them for now. If I decide to remove them in the future, I'll definitely look for you."

Qiu Yan was a plastic surgeon she had met during a study exchange in the past. He was humorous and interesting. Moreover, he came from a wealthy family and was also slightly famous in the industry. His family had been urging him to quit practicing medicine and to return to inherit the family business, but he was, for personal reasons, opposed to that.

Due to the severity of Yang Li's injuries, many hospitals and doctors were unable to help her. Hence, Song Ning thought of Qiu Yan.

Qiu Yan was rather interested in Chinese medicine so he had a deep impression of Song Ning, an outstanding student he had met during a study exchange. When he received a call from her, he did not ask any questions and drove over to pick her up.

When this passionate plastic surgeon saw Yang Li's severe burns, his fighting spirit was ignited. After learning about what happened to Yang Li and her subsequent plans, he began to make a surgical plan tailored for her. The surgery could be considered a big gamble.

Qiu Yan would not be affected whether he performed this surgery or not. However, this surgery was important to Yang Li. It was a risk that she had to decide if she wanted to take.

Yang Li smiled bitterly. She had nothing left. She could only hope to win this huge gamble in one go. She did not even have any stakes.

As they were wheeling Yang Li into the operating theater, Yang Li held Song Ning's hand and said, "If I die in there, then I can only blame it on my fate. However, Ning Xia, I feel unwilling and resentful. Hence, if I die, you have to live well and avenge me."

Song Ning smiled and shook her head. "I've read Qiu Yan's surgical plan. I have great confidence in him. Sister Yang Li, you have to trust me and Qiu Yan. I'm a doctor as well so I'll stay by your side and do my best to protect you. However, the most important thing is that you have to believe in yourself."

Pengpeng was so moved that tears streamed down her face immediately.

Due to the two women's special circumstances, all the expenses were paid by Pengpeng. To treat their injuries, she had even sold the house her parents bought her.

During this time, the three women grew very close to each other.

Pengpeng felt bad that there was nothing she could do apart from making monetary contributions, and when Song Ning and Yang Li found about this, they had vehemently told her that they would have died without her money.

During times of adversity, one would be able to see who was sincere and insincere.

Upon hearing the women's conversation, Qiu Yan said in an attempt to lighten the mood, "Beauty, don't cry. Remember not to cry tears of joy when you see my work later. Tears will irritate your skin, understand?"

Yang Li nodded weakly but did not respond. She only held on to Song Ning and Pengpeng's hands, clearly nervous..

### **Chapter 370: Plastic Surgery (2)**

The face reflected in the mirror was still slightly swollen. However, the skin was smooth and flawless. There were no signs of burns and scars at all.

Yang Li's tears welled up.

Qiu Yan hastily said, "Beauty, don't cry, don't cry! You'll ruin my work!"

Qiu Yan was 1.8 meters tall and was handsome. When he did not speak, he was truly a sight to behold. However, once he spoke, he would reveal his childish nature.

Qiu Yan whistled before he said, praising himself, "Dr. Qiu's work is really getting better and better. If it weren't because you have plans of becoming a huge star in the future, I'd print a huge photo of this face and hang it in the most eye-catching spot in my office..."

Yang Li's gaze was determined as she said softly, "Dr. Qiu, when I become famous, I'll publicly announce that I've undergone plastic surgery. At that time, you can hang my picture up. You'll definitely be famous when people find out about it..."

Qiu Yan turned pale with fright as he hastily said, "No, no, no. Then wouldn't my clinic be overcrowded? At that time, I won't have time to date handsome men!"

The three women laughed when they heard Qiu Yan's words. Three of them were aware that Qiu Yan preferred men. This was the reason he avoided returning to inherit the family business.

At this time, Song Ning chimed in, "Sister Yang Li, there's no need to be polite with Qiu Yan. We're all good friends, after all. In the future, we'll share happiness and woes together!"

Qiu Yan nodded. "That's right! Friends are the most important!"

Yang Li's gaze grew even more determined.

Song Ning looked at Yang Li in the mirror and said, "From now on, your name is Zhuang Ning. We've completed the process of legalizing this identity. Peng will be your manager from now on. Are you ready, Siter Yang Li?"

Yang Li met Song Ning's gaze through the mirror and said softly, "From now on, you should address me as Zhuang Ning."

Song Ning nodded, placing a hand on Yang Li's shoulder before saying, "Alright, Zhuang Ning."

Pengpeng followed suit and placed her hand on Yang Li's other shoulder before she echoed Song Ning's words, "Alright, Zhuang Ning."

Yang Li reached out to hold their hands. She raised her head slightly so the tears would not roll down her face.

'Ye Cheng, I'll definitely take down the Ye family. Not a single person from the Ye family is allowed to get away!'

...

Pan Hao was clearly excited when he found Cheng Che. He hurriedly said, "Cheng Che, I've cast the female lead!"

Cheng Che, who was studying a map, looked at Pan Hao in surprise. After a moment, he asked, "So fast?"

Pan Hao rubbed his hands excitedly as he said, "Good scripts and good actors are hard to come by... If we have both, then the result will be divine!"

Cheng Che smiled as he looked at Pan Hao, who was slightly balding now that he was in his forties. "It seems like Director Pan is very satisfied with the female lead."

Pan Hao nodded. "Yes, yes, I'm very satisfied. After two months, I finally found the perfect female lead. However, there's something I need to discuss with you, President Cheng."

Cheng Che listened attentively with a smile on his face.

Pan Hao bit his lower lip before he said, "The actress is a newcomer. However, I used to know her manager."

Then, Pan Hao stared at Cheng Che intently.

Cheng Che asked in confusion, "So?"

Pan Hao was stunned. "So?"

Cheng Che nodded. "Yes. So what? What's wrong if the actress is a newcomer or if you used to know her manager?"

Pan Hao looked at Cheng Che before he asked tentatively, "So... Does this mean you have no objections to me casting this actress?"

**Chapter 371: Director Pan**

Cheng Che was puzzled. "Director Pan, you put a lot of thought into the casting so why wouldn't I agree? Since you know the manager, working together would be easier, right? It doesn't matter if the actress is a newcomer. As long as you think the actress is suitable, then it's fine. Why would I have any objection?"

Pan Hao was slightly stunned by Cheng Che's reply. Then, he replied, "P-president Cheng, you're an investor. You have a say in the casting. I thought... I thought..."

"Director Pan, don't tell me you think I have a girlfriend, and I want to make her the lead actress?" Cheng Che asked. When he saw the sheepish expression on Pan Hao's face, he laughed. Then, he explained, "Director Pan, my girlfriend is a doctor. She's a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner. If you're unsure about medical facts, you can consult her. However, if it's acting, then you can forget it. She has no interest in acting."

Cheng Che's expression turned serious as he continued to say, "Director Pan, you come highly recommended by my sister-in-law, Song Ning. I've watched all your works and studied them in detail. I have no doubts about your ability. All you need to do is select the scripts that you think have potential, and I'll give you my opinion. However, you have more experience so you don't have to base your decision on my opinions. As for the casting of actors, I'll leave it up to you since you have more experience. I won't interfere. I don't want you to be affected by unnecessary matters that will affect the quality of your work. Rest assured."

Pan Hao was so moved by these words, he had the urge to cry. He wiped his face and said, "President Cheng, thank you! I-I will make sure the movie is good. I won't let you down!"

Cheng Che smiled and said to lighten the atmosphere, "There's no need for you to be so moved. I'm just a businessman who doesn't lack money. Although I seem reasonable, it depends on economic benefits as well. It's best if the movie becomes a blockbuster, I'd be able to profit from it. If I lose money, I'll be upset as well..."

Pan Hai said, slightly embarrassed, "But... The genre of our movie isn't the explosive kind..."

Cheng Che nodded. "I know, but I like it. My grandmother likes it as well."

This is an example of how money could not buy people's hearts. Instead, Cheng Che's consideration had won over Pan Hao. After listening to Cheng Che's words, Pan Hao's fighting spirit was instantly ignited.

Cheng Che smiled. "Focus on the movie, Director Pan. Don't worry about matters unrelated to the movie. I won't interfere unnecessarily."

"Alright! I promise to work hard!" Pan Hao said excitedly.

Cheng Che smiled and shook his head as he watched Pan Hao leave. Pan Hao was quite famous because he was highly talented. However, it was difficult for Pan Hao to grow even more famous because he was too focused on creating a perfect movie and did not understand the ways of the world. If Pan Hao was tactful, Pan Hao would have told that he had found a good actor and invited him to have a look. However, Pan Hao was really direct and came looking for him to inform him of the matter immediately. Nevertheless, he did not mind Pan Hao's straightforward personality.



Pan Hao was naturally nervous since Cheng Che was an investor and had the right to call the shots. Hence, he was very touched when Cheng Che said that he trusted him and would not interfere unnecessarily.

Cheng Che believed if he cooperated with Pan Hao a few more times and gave Pan Hao creative control, Pan Hao would never leave his company for the rest of his life. After all, his trust would show Pan Hao that Pan Hao was valued.

Once again, Cheng Che realized how important the principles his grandmother and his brother had taught him were. He could not help thinking about his grandmother at this moment and began to miss her. Hence, he wasted no time in bringing his phone out to start a video call. At this moment, he realized that he felt strange if he did not listen to his grandmother's nagging after a few days..

### **Chapter 372: Audition**

After Zhuang Ning's tears rolled down her face, Pan Hao shouted excitedly, "Cut!"

Then, Pan Hao rushed over and grabbed Pengpeng's hand and said, "Pengpeng, where did you find her? Her acting skills are superb!"

Pengpeng glanced at Zhuang Ning, whose expression had already returned to normal, before she said, "Director Pan, Sister Ning has no prior experience. If you're satisfied with her performance, then I hope you'll cast her and continue to guide her."

Peng Hao nodded. "Of course! It doesn't matter if she doesn't have experience. I want someone with skills and passion. I'll definitely cast her again in the future if there are suitable roles! Pengpeng, President Cheng Che is our investor so you don't have to worry about those dirty things in the entertainment industry."

Pengpeng nodded. She looked around briefly before she asked, "Is President Cheng around?"

Pan Hao shook his head. "President Cheng is very busy. Moreover, he's also personally helping us to scout for suitable locations. In any case, when we start filming, I'll invite him over to have a look."

After a brief pause, Pan Hao asked, "You still don't have any news about Yang Li?"

Pengpeng shook his head gently in response.

Pan Hao sighed. "I wonder where she went. There's no news of her at all. This is really worrying. I don't even know where to start looking for her. How can she just up and leave? She should at least inform us where she went."

At this moment, Pan Hao did notice that Zhuang Ning, who was standing behind him, had tears in her eyes again.

...

In a hotel room.

Song Ning and Zhuang Ning were going through the script together.

At this moment, Pengpeng came into the room and placed the food she bought on a small table. "Sisters, come and eat. I bought a lot of delicious food."

After putting the script away, Song Ning patted Zhuang Ning's shoulder and said, "I think your interpretation of the character is very accurate. As long as you practice a little more, there won't be any problem. I'm here to help if you need me."

Zhuang Ning's gaze became more determined and confident as she nodded. "Alright!"

Pengpeng smiled. "I'm really happy everything is going smoothly."

After Pengpeng set the table, all of them sat down to eat together.

While they were eating, Pengpeng passed her phone over to Song Ning and said, "Sister Song Ning, have a look at this. I found someone to help me keep an eye on things."

Song Ning looked at the phone. The picture displayed on the phone was of Mu Chen, Jiang Jin, Mu Qing, Liang Zhen, and the woman who looked like her.

Pengpeng pointed at the picture and said, "Mu Chen leaves for work early and returns really late. In fact, he seems so busy that oftentimes, he doesn't even go home. I don't know what's going on with the Mu family."

After a brief pause, Pengpeng continued to say, "As for the fake Song Ning, she has stopped working at the hospital. Over the past month, she had visited Zhuang Ji with Old Madam Mu. She seemed interested in Zhuang Ji. I heard that the baby is primarily taken care of by Old Madam Mu, and the helper, Sister Yu. Old Madam loves her great-grandson a lot and only smiles when she's with him..."

"Zhuang Ji's business is quite good. However, recently, the fake Song Ning has increased the number of members. She said that she wanted to make Zhuang Ji more accessible to the people. It seems like the Mu family is letting her manage Zhuang Ji..."

Song Ning looked at the photo silently.

Zhuang Ning looked at Song Ning and softly said, "Song Ning, just wait a little longer. We'll wait until my filming progresses further. Once I gain recognition, we can find an opportunity to get close to Mu Chen and Cheng Che. At that time, those people won't suspect anything, and we'll be able to act more freely."

Song Ning smiled. "Don't worry. There's no rush. Xiao Peng, continue gathering information. Focus on Zhuang Ji. Don't worry about Mu Chen and the Mu family for now.."

### **Chapter 373: Is Zhuang Ji the Target?**

Pengpeng was perplexed. "I thought you missed the baby?"

Song Ning lowered her gaze as she said, "The baby is very safe now. Since Grandma is taking care of him, there's nothing to worry about. Moreover, from the looks of it, their target isn't the baby so there's no need to worry about him."

"What about the Mu family?" Xiao Peng asked.

Song Ning said, "Something is going on. Mu Qing and Liang Zhen are appearing so frequently at the Mu family house, which is unusual. Apart from that, everyone in the family knows that I'm terrible at business management, and I have no interest in managing a business at all. Grandma has never once pushed me to manage Zhuang Ji. She had always said I should do what makes me happy. However, why did she bring that fake Song Ning to Zhuang Ji?"

Pengpeng nodded as she chewed her food. Then, as though she had just recalled something, she brought her phone out again and pulled up a picture before handing it to Song Ning. "I almost forgot. Sister, look at this. That fake Song Ning went to visit Ning Zhe!"

Song Ning froze slightly. In the picture, Ning Zhe and the fake Song Ning sat across from each other. Based on Ning Zhe's expression, it was not difficult to tell that the conversation between the duo was going well. Otherwise, Ning Zhe's expression would not be so happy.

Song Ning frowned. "Is their target Zhuang Ji?"

Pengpeng and Ning Zhe looked at each other in confusion. "Who?"

Song Ning did not respond immediately. Her mind was racing as she chewed her food. After a moment, she finally said in a low voice, "The fake Song Ning and Ning Zhe. Ning Zhe has always coveted the trademark of the embroidery manual that my mother left behind. He proposed cooperation with Zhuang Ji many times before, but I refused him. Even the Fu family and Ye family covet Zhuang Ji. Before I met Mu Chen, Zhuang Ji was on the verge of closing down. In hindsight, those people must have been waiting to buy Zhuang Ji at the last minute. They probably did not expect Mu Chen and Cheng Che to swoop in and save Zhuang Ji. That's why they had to resort to seeking cooperation with me. Mu Chen and Cheng Che knew everyone's eyeing Zhuang Ji so they guarded it carefully."

Pengpeng was taken aback. "Then what should we do now? That fake Song Ning has already begun to interfere with Zhuang Ji's affairs."

Song Ning remained silent. She was unable to figure out what was happening as well. The fake Song Ning had expended so much effort to join the Mu family; was it all for Zhuang Ji? Were there other reasons? Or were they planning to start with Zhuang Ji and slowly take over the Mu Corporation? However, Zhuang Ji and the Mu Corporation had nothing to do with each other. Previously, Jiang Jin was adamant that Zhuang Ji belonged to Song Ning alone; Jiang Jin had said it was Song Ning's dowry. Moreover, the Mu family had no need for such a small business. Although Mu Chen and Cheng Che were helping her to run Zhuang Ji, Zhuang Ji belonged to her alone. Zhuang Ji would never be a part of the Mu family's assets, and if she wanted, she could leave it to her child in the future.

Mu Chen and Cheng Che had been very meticulous in managing Zhuang Ji. Every staff member was carefully scrutinized to ensure everything would go smoothly.

Song Ning had left Zhuang Ji's management to Mu Chen, Cheng Che, and Jiang Jin completely. She felt grateful that she did not have to give up the business that her mother had put her heart into.

No matter how Song Ning thought about it, she could not figure out why Jiang Jin would suddenly bring the fake Song Ning to Zhuang Ji. In her opinion, if the fake Song Ning voiced out her intention to run Zhuang Ji, based on Jiang Jin's intelligence, Jiang Jin would know that something was amiss. No matter how a person changed, there would still be traces of one's former self. Since Jiang Jin brought the fake

Song Ning to Zhuang Ji, did it mean that Jiang Jin had already noticed something was amiss and had plans of her own?

With these thoughts in mind, Song Ning felt slightly relieved. Perhaps, things were not as bad as she had imagined them to be..

### **Chapter 374: Heartbreak**

Liang Zhou did not sleep the whole night, and Mu Qing did not return either. She curled up on the couch, replaying each word Mu Chen had said. That night, it felt as though her heart had been diced into bloody pieces. As the night passed, the excruciating pain she felt slowly numbed her.

It was early in the morning when streams of sunlight shone into the living room and the couch. Despite the sunlight, Liang Zhou felt cold.

At this time, the helper, Xiao Yu, walked into the living room. She was taken back when she saw Liang Zhou. She instinctively asked, "Madam, why are you sitting here so early in the morning?"

Liang Zhou looked at Xiao Yu in a daze. Her eyes were empty and lifeless.

Xiao Yu walked over and asked tentatively, "Madam, do you feel unwell?"

Liang Zhou could not control the tears that brimmed in her eyes at this moment. She did not expect the only person to show concern toward her was Xiao Yu, the helper. After a moment, she tried to rise to her feet to move her stiff body. However, after sitting the entire night, her legs had grown numb, causing her to fall to the ground with a soft thud.

Xiao Yu was frightened out of her wits upon seeing this. "Madam? Madam? Are you alright? Did you hurt yourself? Tell me where it hurts."

Xiao Yu hurriedly reached out to help Liang Zhou up.

Liang Zhou held onto Xiao Yu, borrowing Xiao Yu's strength to rise to her feet. She smiled bitterly as she said, "My feet are numb."

Xiao Yu helped Liang Zhou back to the couch before she kneeled by the couch and propped one of Liang Zhou's legs up to massage it for her. "Madam, just bear with the pain for a moment."

The dull pain caused Liang Zhou to cry. She felt complicated as she looked at the young helper massaging her leg. The person whom she treated sincerely her entire life abandoned her like a pair of worn-out shoes while the helper whom she normally did not pay attention to was massaging her leg for her. She had been wrong her entire life; her feelings were misplaced for so long.

Upon seeing the expression on Liang Zhou's face, Xiao Yu thought Liang Zhou could not bear the pain. Hence, she tried to quicken her pace as she said, "Madam, bear with for a moment. I'm almost done."

Liang Zhou could not help but reach out and pat Xiao Yu's head. She smiled with tears in her eyes as she said, "Thank you."

Following that, Xiao Yu helped Liang Zhou to her feet. Every step she took sent chills to her heart. How could the pain from the fall compare to the pain in her heart?

After a moment, Liang Zhou patted Xiao Yu's hand and said, "I feel much better now. Thank you."

Xiao Yu said with a smile, "That's good. Madam, you have to walk slowly for now. It'll be fine after a while."

Liang Zhou let go of Xiao Yu's hand and wiped her face. Then, she smiled and said, "You don't have to help me; I'm fine. You can return to your tasks."

Xiao Yu nodded and smiled before she left.

Liang Zhou's eyes narrowed slightly as she looked at Xiao Yu's back. How great was it to be young? When she was Xiao Yu's age, her mind was only filled with love. She wanted nothing more than to find a man who loved her and whom she loved to spend her life with. Hence, when she met Mu Qing, she did not hesitate to pursue him even if she knew he was her sister's husband. After all, in her mind, nothing was more important than love. Love was sacred and inviolable. To her, everything else ranked behind love. So what if the other woman was her sister? She would spend her entire life with her lover, not her sister.

All these years, she never thought she would be betrayed. The thought had never crossed her mind at all. She knew how difficult it was for Mu Qing to be with her. He had lost so much just to stay with her. In her mind, he was the perfect example of someone who chose love over wealth and power. This was the thing she felt the proudest about. It was the glory of her life. Hence, whenever she had minor conflicts with Mu Qing, despite feeling sad, she would cheer up again when she recalled the things he had given up for her.

However, she knew now that she had overestimated herself..

### **Chapter 375: Awakening**

As it turned out, the love she had cherished that had filled her with pride was nothing to Mu Qing. From the very beginning, she was just a shield to conceal his crimes.

Liang Zhou slowly climbed up the stairs. She felt like the stinging pain on the soles of her feet was from her stepping on her own broken heart.

Liang Zhou filled the bathtub before she immersed herself in the warm water. Despite the water's temperature, her heart was cold. She desperately wanted to find something to warm herself. Tears dripped into the bathwater as she cried. She submerged herself in the water, washing the tears away.

Liang Zhou knew crying could never solve problems. She understood this since she was three years old. She and her sister were twins, and her parents had always treated them equally. However, she was not satisfied; she wanted their love all to herself. Hence, she would cry to get their attention. Although she managed to get their attention, the attention came with reprimands as well. Therefore, she had to constantly think of new ways to make her parents pay more attention to her. After a while, she found that the better she was, the happier her parents would be. Hence, she studied hard to become a

straight-A student. As long as her parents gave her all their attention and ignored her sister, she was willing to do anything. With this, she developed her stubborn character.

In the process of competing with her younger sister to gain her parents' favor, she strove to be the best. As time passed, a terrifying thought appeared in her mind: she would destroy things she failed to obtain. If she could not obtain it, then no one deserved to obtain it.

Mu Qing was the person who had stayed with her the longest. She loved him like nothing else in the world. Their time together was long but fleeting as well. She had given him her youth and her entire life; how could he treat her like this? How could she allow him to treat her like this?

Liang Zhou emerged from the water. Due to her irregular breathing, she choked on the water and began to cough violently. As she coughed, she could not help but laugh. Soon, her laughter turned into tears again.

At this moment, Xiao Yu knocked on the door. "Madam, are you okay? Do you need my help? Breakfast is ready."

Liang Zhou washed her face before she cleared her throat and tried to say in the most normal voice possible, "Alright, I'll be right there."

Currently, the bathwater had turned as cold as her heart. Just like her heart, it would only grow colder.

Her skin pruned slightly due to the time she spent soaking in the tub. When she saw her pruned skin, she thought to herself that time really did not spare people. She was once beautiful when she was in her prime, but now, she was old and decrepit. What right did she have to keep a man's heart?

Someone had said that men remained young till the day he died, but it was not the case for women. How unfair. It was unfair that she wasted her youth on him, but it was not enough for him.

Liang Zhou's expression hardened slightly. 'In this life, our lives are tied together. I don't care if you have any ulterior motives. Since you've chosen me, you're not allowed to abandon me!'

There was a weed growing in her garden now. It did not matter. She would pull the weed out. No matter how they grew, she would remove the weed from her garden.

She would show him that not only could she shield him and protect him, but she could drag him to hell as well. She would accompany him in hell. She would show him that she was the one who loved him and would accompany him to the end.

Liang Zhou reached out and wiped the foggy mirror, revealing her pale and swollen face. She smiled bitterly. Was it worth it to torment herself over a man?

No matter what, it was a good thing that she finally woke up from her dreams and delusion. It was the first step. The rest will fall into place with time.

She thought it was not a bad idea to cooperate with Mu Chen. This kind of relationship was better. They would directly state their conditions; it was better than those hypocritical relationships. Moreover, he was her nephew, to begin with. Since she had wronged his mother, she would try to right her wrong even if it was just a little. She would protect the last person in this world who was connected to her by flesh and blood on behalf of her younger sister whom she had bullied since they were young..

## Chapter 376: Taking the Bait

When Xiao Yu saw the expression on Liang Zhou's face, she asked tentatively, "Madam, did you not sleep well last night? You look a little tired..."

Liang Zhou nodded. "Yes. I'll be going to the spa to get a massage and relax. When Master comes home, you can attend to him."

Xiao Yu was slightly taken aback. The woman in front of her always waited for her husband to come home no matter what. Moreover, she would personally take care of his daily needs.

Liang Zhou lowered her head and ate the breakfast that had been prepared for her. A determined expression could be seen on her face at this moment. From now on, she had to take good care of herself. She would eat healthily, lose weight, and take care of her appearance. She would start all over again; it was not too late.

...

Gao Wen knelt on a small futon on the ground as she piously chanted Buddhist scriptures. Before rising to her feet, she kowtowed seriously.

As she walked to the entrance, she stuffed a wad of cash into the donation box. When the young monk standing by the entrance bowed at her, she returned the bow before she walked out of the temple.

She let out a long sigh once she left the temple. She had visited many temples in M City, but she still could not figure out what was wrong. She thought about reaching out to Jiang Jin, but she did not want to see the young woman who resembled Ye Xin.

"Gao Wen?"

A surprised voice rang behind Gao Wen at this moment. When she turned around, she saw someone she knew.

"Ah, it's really you!" Liang Zhou said warmly.

Gao Wen forced a smile on her face. "What a coincidence. What are you doing here?"

Although the duo was not familiar with each other, meeting in the suburbs far away from the city in a temple felt like

"Gao Wen?" A surprised voice sounded behind her.

She turned around.

"AH, it's really you!" Liang Zhou welcomed her warmly.

Gao Wen forced a smile. "What a coincidence! Why are you here?"

They were not very familiar with each other, but meeting in this temple in the suburbs far away from the city, felt serendipitous. As such, they entered the meditation hall where temple goers could rest.

Liang Zhou took a sip of tea before she said, "The tea and rice in this temple are really good. I come here quite often, but this is my first time seeing you here. Did you come to the temple to give thanks?"

"Give thanks?" Gao Wen looked at Liang Zhou in confusion.

Liang Zhou set her teacup on the table before she said with a smile. "Yes. Mu Qing often had nightmares in the past so I found a master here to help me with his problem. Soon after, Mu Qing was really cured of his nightmares! Since he's doing really well, I came to give thanks."

"Master? What master?" Gao Wen's eyes lit up immediately.

Liang Zhou looked as though she was at a loss for words as though she did not know how to explain herself.

Gao Wen asked urgently, "Where did you find the master? Where can I find him? Is he really able to solve problems?"

Liang Zhou solemnly said, "Of course! Otherwise, why would I come here to give thanks? Everything is going so smoothly, after all."

Gao Wen seemed somewhat hesitant at this moment.

Liang Zhou moved closer and looked around to confirm that no one was paying attention to them before she said in a conspiratorial tone, "Mu Qing had trouble sleeping at night for a long time. We'd seen countless doctors and experts and tried so many methods, but nothing worked. Later, someone suggested I meet the master. Guess what the master said when I saw him?"

Gao Wen's interest was piqued. She instinctively leaned closer to Liang Zhou and listened attentively.

"Mu Qing and I originally had a baby. However, due to an accident, we lost the baby. Indeed, it was Mu Qing's fault for arriving late, resulting in the loss of the baby. The master said that the unborn child was disturbing Mu Qing, causing him to be unable to sleep at night," Liang Zhou said in a low voice.

Gao Wen was aware of this matter. At that time, the Old Madam of the Mu family had been determined to protect her legitimate daughter-in-law so Liang Zhou was not welcomed in the family even if Liang Zhou was pregnant. At that time, Mu Qing was young so his mind was still fickle, unable to make a decision. In the end, due to Mu Qing's wishy-washy attitude, Liang Zhou lost her child. It made sense to her that the couple's unborn child resented Mu Qing..

### **Chapter 377: A Chance Encounter**

Gao Wen did not expect Liang Zhou to bring up such private matters, but this also confirmed Liang Zhou's words were true. So, she hurriedly asked, "Really?"

Liang Zhou nodded solemnly. "At that time, that master communicated with the unborn child. He was a boy. The master told that he blamed Mu Qing for causing him to be unable to come to this world. Hence, he was very resentful and pestered Mu Qing every day."

Gao Wen asked anxiously, "Then, what happened?"



Liang Zhou continued to say solemnly, "The master told us that infant spirits are hardest to appease. They usually carry the strongest resentment. However, it's not like there was no way to solve that matter. We followed the master's instructions meticulously. What do you know? After doing as the master instructed, that night itself, Mu Qing had a good sleep."

Gao Wen became even more interested after listening to these words.

Liang Zhou's expression grew even more solemn as she said, "Tell me, with that, how can I not believe in these things? In any case, I'd do whatever was necessary as long as Mu Qing would get better..." Then, she laughed before she continued to say, "If you meet Mu Qing in the future, take a closer look. His condition is so much better than before. He's very energetic now. He sleeps well at night and has a good appetite as well."

Gao Wen could not help but ask, "Then, what about the child? Did the master exorcize him?"

Gao Wen's imaginations ran wild at this moment.

Liang Zhou waved her hand. "How can that be? The master said that was our fate. We owed the child so we had to send him away with proper rites to end the karma that tied us together. After we appeased the child and it moved on to the afterlife, we're able to live in peace."

Liang Zhou did not give Gao Wen a chance to speak and continued to say, "Gao Wen, let me tell you this. Don't dismiss this kind of thing as superstition. When we were dealing with this matter, we met another family. In the beginning, they did not believe the master and were skeptical. Unfortunately, when they finally believed, it was too late. The spirit of the child targeted their daughter. Originally, their daughter was a very obedient child, but she became very strange. She even tried to kill someone with a knife! It was as though she had gone crazy."

Gao Wen was shocked by these words. When the shock subsided, a gloomy expression appeared on her face.

Ye Xin being admitted to a mental hospital was the biggest embarrassment of the Ye family. Liang Zhou's words were no different from pouring salt on Gao Wen's injuries. It reminded Gao Wen of her daughter.

Upon seeing the gloomy expression on Gao Wen's face, Liang Zhou seemed to realize she had misspoken, and she immediately felt embarrassed.

Gao Wen forced a smile on her face and asked, "Then, where's the master who helped you?"

When Liang Zhou saw that Gao Wen did not seem offended by her words, she seemed relieved. Then, she hurriedly said, "You can find him in an alley on East Street. It's quite hard to find the place. You..." She suddenly trailed off and looked at Gao Wen before she tentatively asked, "Do you want to meet the master?"

Gao Wen remained silent. She had yet to make up her mind.

Liang Zhou moved closer to Gao Wen before she said in a low voice, "Gao Wen, I consider us friends. As the master would say, I think we have fate between us. Hence, I'm going to say something that might sound unpleasant."

Gao Wen still did not say anything. She only bit her lower lip as she looked at Liang Zhou.

When Liang Zhou saw Gao Wen struggling with herself inwardly, she said, "I've always been fond of Ye Xin. It's really a pity she's unable to marry the Young Master of our family. However, why did so many strange things happen to her? Her actions don't seem to belong to a pampered and delicate Young Miss.. To put it bluntly, don't you think you should bring her to see the master so he can see if there's anything wrong with her?"

### **Chapter 378: Introduction**

Gao Wen was overwhelmed with the urge to cry as she looked at Liang Zhao. The burden she bore alone was too great.

Ye He and Ye Cheng once doted on Ye Xin. If she wanted the stars and the moon, they would pluck them from the sky for her. However, now, it seemed like they were content with leaving her in the mental hospital. They had not been thinking of ways to get her out of that place at all.

Recently, Ye He and Ye Cheng had grown even busier. They hardly went home so Gao Wen did not even have a chance to speak to them about Ye Xin. When she called them, Ye He was impatient while Ye Cheng was prevaricating. In the end, she could only depend on herself to think of ways to save her daughter. She did not expect an unrelated person would care about her so much.

Liang Zhou immediately sensed the change in Liang Zhou so she reached out and patted Gao Wen's hand. She said with a smile, "There's no need for you to think too much. I'm only helping you accumulate good karma. The master said that Mu Qing and I are fated to be together in this life and that we have to do more good deeds in order to have a good life. After all, who doesn't want to live a good life?"

Liang Zhou continued to say, "However, I have to warn you that these things depend on fate. I don't know if you have any fate with the master, and it can only be determined once you meet the master. If you need support, I can accompany you to meet the master."

Gao Wen was even more moved when she heard these words. She held Liang Zhou's hand as tears streamed down her face. "Liang Zhou, you have to help me."

Liang Zhou's heart raced in her chest upon seeing Gao Wen's reaction. Joy rose in her heart as she looked at Gao Wen who was covering her face and crying.

After Gao Wen suppressed her turbulent emotions with great difficulty, she said in a low voice, "To tell you the truth, my daughter is now locked up in a mental hospital. I can't count on my son and my husband to help her at all. I don't understand why my daughter did such crazy things. It's not like her at all. Liang Zhou, please bring me to see the master. I have to find out if there are spirits haunting my daughter."

When Gao Wen looked up, she saw the sympathy on Liang Zhou's face. This made her heart feel even warmer, causing her to lower her guard. "Liang Zhou, you know this matter is a huge scandal for a family like ours. To be honest with you, I've been looking for a master to help me with this matter, but I didn't find anyone suitable. I was about to give up in despair when I met you today. It seems like we're really fated!"

Liang Zhou smiled. "That's right. Didn't I say earlier we're fated? I come here twice a month to give thanks, who knew we'd meet here? In any case, let me know when you're ready. I'll accompany you to see the master."

Gao Wen shook her head. "There's no need to wait. I'm ready. I can meet the master at any time. All I want now is for Ye Xin to get better."

After Gao Wen finished speaking, tears began to roll down her face again.

Liang Zhou hurriedly said, "Alright, alright, don't cry. I'll arrange for you to see the master later today."

"Can't we go now?" Gao Wen asked.

Liang Zhou revealed a troubled expression on her face.

Gao Wen squeezed Liang Zhou's hand, feeling anxious.

Finally, Liang Zhou nodded. "Alright! I'll bring you to see the master now."

Upon hearing these words, Gao Wen could not help but smile in relief. She had a strong feeling that she was fated to meet this mysterious master. He would definitely be able to solve her problem for her and save Ye Xin from that hospital. With all these thoughts in her mind, she felt even more grateful to Liang Zhou.

When Gao Wen returned to her senses, she saw Liang Zhou standing in the middle of the hall and piously kowtowing three times in each of the four directions. She asked curiously, "Did the master teach you this as well?"

Liang Zhou nodded. "Yes. Master said that God is always watching us. No matter what's on our minds, God is aware of it.. If we have good thoughts and intentions, the evil around us can be dispersed as well..."

### **Chapter 379: Master**

When Gao Wen heard this, he could not help but yearn in his heart. "Can you really do it? No matter what you've done in the past?"

Liang Zhou held her arm. "You can ask master about this yourself. I only know how to do it myself. I Can't Lead You Astray. We each have our own fate."

The more she said this, the more Gao Wen believed it.

Liang Zhou brought Gao Wen to a small alley on the East Street. Gao Wen was a native, but she had never been to this place.

The path paved with bluestone was very old. The houses on both sides were old buildings with pink walls and tiles. Such houses had been taken back by the government, and the owners only had the right to use them without the right to buy or sell them, they were not allowed to have decorations outside of the rules. Everything was maintained in its old appearance, which was why it had such an ancient

atmosphere. It also added a sense of mystery to it. It was very suitable for talented people to live in such an environment.

At this time, Gao Wen was already certain that he had come to the right place.

Liang Zhou's expression had also become solemn. She took Gao Wen's hand and entered a courtyard deep in the alley. As soon as they entered the courtyard, a low and indistinct chanting sound came from behind their ears.

Gao Wen's heart suddenly calmed down.

Liang Zhou immediately knelt on the ground and bowed respectfully for three times. He announced his and Gao Wen's names and stated his purpose of coming.

Gao Wen unconsciously knelt down with Liang Zhou. His gaze secretly sized up this neat little courtyard. He did not know where his master was at the moment.

There was a Japanese-style style at the entrance. A dark-colored curtain covered everything inside.

After Liang Zhou finished announcing his name, someone walked out from behind the curtain. It was a young woman in her twenties. She put her palms together and bowed to them. "Please come in."

Liang Zhou knelt down and bowed again. Then, he stood up with Gao Wen. He took off his shoes at the door and walked in through the curtain.

The light in the room was a little dim. An old lady in a Chinese-style jacket was sitting behind a long table with her eyes closed. Incense was burning around her. The young woman who had just come in was kneeling at the side, she said to the old lady, "Master, Liang Zhou is here."

The old lady opened her eyes and smiled kindly. "You're here?"

Liang Zhou pulled Gao Wen to sit down on his knees and bowed respectfully. "Master, it's disciple Liang Zhou."

The old lady nodded. "Mm, you're from the temple, right? The incense in the temple today was not bad. It was peaceful and smooth. It's much better than before. Your husband's health is also much better."

Gao Wen could not help but be surprised. What the old lady said was an affirmation, not a polite question.

She took a look at Liang Zhou and actually knew where she came from. She even knew the situation of the incense in the temple. She even said with certainty that her husband's health was much better.

It was really too magical.

Liang Zhou was a little excited. "Yes, master. I have always followed master's instructions. Now, my mind is peaceful. I do not force things. On the contrary, everything is smooth. Thank you, Master."

The old lady's smile became even more benevolent. "It is because you have good intentions in your heart. There is no need to thank me."

Only then did Liang Zhou say, "Master, I have brought a friend over today. A friend has something to ask of me."

The old lady's gaze fell on Gao Wen, and her smile faded. "I may not be able to do what you have asked of me. I need the person responsible to come over. However, it is hard to say if I can bring her over!"

Gao Wen looked at the old lady in surprise and mumbled, "Master, how do you know what I'm asking for?"

The old lady smiled. "A parent's love for their child is far-reaching. The only thing you care about is your daughter.."

### **Chapter 380: Deceived**

Gao Wen was shocked. She immediately lowered her head and said, "Please help me, Master. Help my daughter out of her misery."

The elderly woman raised her hand and gently said, "Tell me about your situation."

Gao Wen told the elderly woman everything about Ye Xin from the beginning to the end. Finally, she said, "My daughter has been locked up in the mental hospital since then. I haven't seen her in a few months. I don't know what her situation is like. Although my daughter is a little arrogant, she would never commit homicide. After listening to Liang Zhou, I realized something was wrong. It's my fault for being ignorant and causing my daughter to suffer. Master, please help me."

As Gao Wen spoke, she kowtowed heavily on the ground.

The elderly woman nodded slightly.

Then, the young man next to the elderly woman stepped forward and handed a pen and a piece of paper to Gao Wen. "Write down your daughter's name and her birthdate."

"Okay." Gao Wen took the items with both hands and wrote down Ye Xin's birthdate and name with a devout expression on her face.

After Gao Wen was done, the young woman handed the piece of paper to the elderly woman.

It was so silent at this moment that one could hear a needle drop.

The elderly woman took a look at the paper before she closed her eyes.

Gao Wen saw Liang Zhou clasped her hands together with her gaze lowered as she kneeled, she could not help the hope that blossomed in her heart. She stared unblinkingly at the elderly woman who seemed to be in a meditative state, afraid she would miss out on the slightest detail.

After a while, the elderly woman slowly opened her eyes. Her expression was gentle as she nodded at Gao Wen. "Your daughter isn't in a mental hospital."

Gao Wen was stunned and confused by these words.

The elderly woman looked at Gao Wen and said, "I see your daughter is living very well now. She lives in a nice house and isn't suffering in a mental hospital. Are you mistaken?"

Gao Wen looked at Liang Zhou as though Liang Zhou had deceived her.

Liang Zhou hastily said, "Master, Ye Xin was personally sent to the hospital by her brother. This matter has even been reported in the media."

Gao Wen nodded to confirm Liang Zhou's words.

The elderly woman sighed as she shook her head. "I only told you what I saw. If you don't believe me, you might as well go and verify it yourself. Once you get a clear picture, you can look for me again."

Liang Zhou asked Gao Wen, "Is it possible that Ye Cheng has secretly brought his sister out and didn't tell you in fear of the news leaking to the media?"

Gao Wen felt slightly suspicious. However, Ye Cheng knew how much she loved Ye Xin. Moreover, she had blamed him a lot for this matter. If he really brought Ye Xin out, there was no reason for him not to tell her. However, the master had spoken with such certainty that she could not help but be swayed. She wondered if it had anything to do with Ye He.

Liang Zhou nudged her.

Gao Wen said hesitantly, "Then, why don't we go to the hospital to have a look?"

The elderly woman nodded. "Go. You'll know what to do next after you have a look." Then, she looked at the young woman next to her and said, "There's no charge this time since she hasn't thought about what she wants to do."

"Yes, Master." The young woman nodded before saying to Liang Zhou and Gao Wen, "Please leave. If you need anything, you can come again next time."

Liang Zhou pulled Gao Wen to her feet before she bowed at the elderly woman with an embarrassed expression on her face, "Sorry to have bothered you, Master."

When they left the courtyard, the sun shone down on them again.

Gao Wen felt as though a lifetime had passed since she first arrived. She could not help but turn back to look at that small courtyard. It seemed like a place out of time.

"Gao Wen, are you mistaken? How could you not know where your daughter is?" Liang Zhou asked with a hint of blame..