

Chapter 441: A Family of Three

In one of Jiang Jin's houses.

Song Ning was cooking. She was rather skilled.

The baby was firmly held in his father's arms as he looked at his mother curiously. He seemed greatly interested in the flames that surge from time to time. He struggled slightly in his father's arms, trying to get to his mother.

Mu Chen had to focus all his attention on the baby to prevent him from falling. He had brought the baby here today because he wanted the three of them to spend quality time together as a family.

Song Ning was naturally overjoyed. She played with the baby the entire morning, and the baby was so excited that he refused to nap. She and Mu Chen lay on each of the baby's sides as they tried to put him to sleep. It did not take long before the baby calmed down and fell asleep while sucking on his thumb. With that, Song Ning and Mu Chen, who had time off today, dozed off next to their son. She cherished this time very much.

Finally, Song Ning woke up and began to prepare lunch for the father and son. The baby had already started on solid food.

The baby did not sleep for long and woke up soon. As soon as he woke up, he climbed on his father and patted his father's face as though to wake his father up. He babbled incessantly as though urging his father to bring him to his mother.

When Mu Chen woke up, he played with the baby. However, when the baby grew impatient, he carried the baby to the kitchen.

Just as Mu Chen reached the entrance of the kitchen, the baby let out a happy giggle when he saw Song Ning.

Song Ning was cooking. Her hands were wet so she could not carry the baby. Hence, she only rubbed her cheek against the baby's cheek.

The baby reached out with his chubby hands and hugged Song Ning's head, drooling on her face. The mother and son laughed happily.

Mu Chen brought out a piece of tissue to wipe Song Ning's face before wiping the baby's mouth. He complained, "He's been drooling a lot lately. He even gnaws on people. Sometimes when he bites on my fingers, he even refuses to let go."

Song Ning washed her hands and wiped them clean before she brought the food she prepared from the oven. She showed it to the father and son with a smile on her face.

The baby reached out, but Song Ning held his chubby hands and gently said, "It's still hot so you can't have it yet. You can have a taste when it cools down."

Mu Chen reached out to take one of the stick-like biscuits. "What's this?" After taking a bite, he said, "Hm? It's quite delicious."

Upon seeing Mu Chen eat, the baby grew anxious. He struggled and waved his hand.

Fortunately, Mu Chen's hold on the baby was firm. Otherwise, the baby would have fallen.

Song Ning hurriedly reached out to support the baby as she said, "These are called teething sticks. They're for babies."

"Teething sticks?" Mu Chen was curious. He had never heard of such a thing.

Song Ning put the plate in her hands down and took the remaining teething stick from Mu Chen's hand.

The baby looked at Song Ning intently.

After checking the temperature and making sure it was okay, Song Ning handed the teething stick to the baby. Then, she said, "He's been drooling and biting because he's teething. His gums will be itchy and swollen during this time so he'll bite to relieve the itchiness."

"Is that so?" Mu Chen curiously reached out and gently pried his son's mouth open. "Baby, let Daddy have a look. You have teeth? Why didn't I notice?"

The baby bit Mu Chen's finger and even shook his head as he did so.

"Ouch!" Mu Chen did not know whether to laugh or cry as he pulled his hand away. "Look at him! He does this to Sister Yu and A Nuan as well. Thankfully, he's rather smart and doesn't do this to Grandma. Otherwise, I would've spanked him."

Song Ning smiled and said to the baby, "Baby, have a taste of the teething stick Mommy made."

Mu Chen nodded. "Try it. It's delicious.."

Chapter 442: Family Bonds

The baby waved his chubby hand and stuffed the half-eaten teething stick into his mouth. After confirming it was delicious, he continued to eat as he babbled happily.

Song Ning patted the baby's head. "Baby, you're so obedient."

Mu Chen reached out and stroked Song Ning's hair. "You've suffered. I really wish I can stay here and not leave. The baby misses you too."

Song Ning reached out to hug Mu Chen and the baby. "Let's wait a little longer. When the time is right, I'll return. We have to think of the other members of the Mu family. We can't push them into the storm."

Mu Chen was a little helpless. "Song Ning, you have too many people and things in your heart. You don't care about yourself, me, or the baby."

Song Ning ignored his complaints and went to check on the soup and the other dishes she had made. She said with a smile, "The food will be ready soon. We can eat soon."

Mu Chen carried the baby to the dining table. The baby busied himself with the teething stick.

Song Ning had baked the teething sticks with cornflour. The baby seemed to like it very much based on how he was chewing on it continuously.

Mu Chen seemed amused by the baby's antics.

Song Ning made a lot of dishes. She even packed them in various containers so Mu Chen could bring them back for Jiang Jin and Sister Yu.

After that, she served the dishes and the egg tofu soup that was specially made for the baby.

Upon smelling the delicious aroma, the baby began to struggle and kick his feet again.

Mu Chen patted the baby likely on the baby's bottom as he said, "Do you have springs in your feet? Can you stop for a moment?"

A sweet smile appeared on Song Ning's face as she looked at Mu Chen and the baby.

With his mother around, the baby did not seem to care about his father. He continued babbling and struggling to go to his mother.

Song Ning scooped some rice for Mu Chen before she carried the baby to the baby seat. After tying a bib around him, she sat down to feed him.

Mu Chen felt as though his heart was melting when he saw this. Although Song Ning did not spend much time with the baby, she was already very familiar with the baby. It was as though she had always been by the baby's side. He could not help but feel a little sad over the time they had lost.

Meanwhile, the baby seemed to like the egg tofu soup very much. He babbled happily as Song Ning fed him.

Mu Chen removed the bone from the braised pork and brought it to Song Ning's lips.

Song Ning looked at him, stunned.

"You feed him, and I'll feed you," Mu Chen explained.

Song Ning smiled and ate the piece of braised pork.

At this moment, the baby giggled. Then, he seemed to struggle for a moment, opening and closing his mouth before he said with great difficulty, "M... Ma... Ma!"

Mu Chen smiled. "I don't know if he knows what he's saying. Sometimes, when he's in a good mood, he'd call out 'Papa'."

Song Ning thought that it makes sense. It was still a little too early for the baby to talk.

However, the baby called out again, "Ma... ma..."

Song Ning was overjoyed. "He's really calling me!"

Mu Chen teased the baby. "Say, Papa... Papa..."

The baby chewed on the teething stick before he said, "Pa... pa..."

Mu Chen took the teething stick away and said, "Again, say, Papa..."

The baby gurgled before looking away, ignoring Mu Chen. He looked at Song Ning and giggled happily.

Mu Chen poked the baby gently. "Hey, this isn't fair. I play with you every day, but you still chose your mother over me. However, it's okay.. I have to say you have really good taste!"

Chapter 443: Explanation

As soon as Gao Wen opened her eyes, she saw Jiang Jin's smiling face. She sat up in a panic, pulling on the wound at the back of her neck. She hissed in pain immediately.

Upon seeing this, Jiang Jin hurriedly said, "Quickly lie down! Where do you feel pain? Yu, hurry up and call the doctor here to take a look at Madam Ye."

Sister Yu nodded and left.

At this moment, Gao Wen finally realized she was in the hospital.

"Ye Xin..." Gao Wen forcefully bit her tongue to stop herself before she asked, "H-how's the Young Madam?"

Jiang Jin's expression turned frosty immediately. "Madam Ye, was it Song Ning who hurt you?"

Gao Wen hurriedly shook her head and vehemently denied it. "No, no, no..."

This caused Gao Wen to pull on her wound again so she quickly stopped. She grabbed Jiang Jin's hand and said, "Old Madam, it's not like that. I-I accidentally fell down. It has nothing to do with the Young Madam. D-did she save me?"

Jiang Jin looked at Gao Wen with a complicated expression. It was a mixture of disbelief, disappointment, and sadness.

Upon seeing this, Gao Wen instinctively looked down.

Jiang Jin slowly said, "No matter what, you were injured in my house so I must take responsibility..."

Gao Wen hastily waved her hand. "Old Madam, you're too kind. This has nothing to do with you at all. It's all my fault. My blood sugar level is low so I must have fainted. I'm sorry to have caused you trouble."

Jiang Jin smiled faintly as she said, "I'll be honest with you. Our Song Ning's temperament has changed drastically after childbirth. She's irrational, and her temper has worsened. She almost hurt the baby when she quarreled with Mu Chen yesterday."

Gao Wen's eyes widened in shock upon hearing these words.

Jiang Jin sighed before she continued to say, "Originally, I thought her change had something to do with her hormone levels. However, it's like she's turned into a completely different person. Although Mu Chen used to love her dearly, after she gave birth, she refused to be with Mu Chen. Tell me, what's the use of having a wife like that? What's the point of being married? When the baby turns one, I plan to let Mu Chen divorce her. Our Mu family doesn't want such an unruly Young Madam."

Gao Wen paled immediately. "Old Madam, you can't do that. You... If you do that, what's going to happen to her? Where's she going to go?"

After saying these words, Gao Wen realized she had misspoken so she hastily said, "Old Madam, you're very kind. The Young Madam is still young and insensible. It's normal for young people to make mistakes. All you need to do is correct her when she makes mistakes. There's no need for a divorce. After all, what is she going to do if she's divorced? Her... Her m-mother is gone, and her father is unreliable. If she's divorced, how's she going to live? Old Madam, please reconsider."

Gao Wen held Jiang Jin's hand tightly as she spoke.

Jiang Jin looked at her hand that Gao Wen was holding before she said, "I didn't expect Madam Ye to speak for Song Ning. After all, if it weren't for Song Ning, Mu Chen would have married your daughter, Ye Xin. Moreover, you had such a huge conflict with her in the past. Shouldn't you be happy if Mu Chen divorces her?"

Gao Wen let go of Jiang Jin's hand immediately and panicked. "No, no, no, it's not like that..."

Then, Gao Wen forced a smile on her face and said, "In the past, I was in the wrong. I didn't educate Ye Xin properly. Please forgive me for that. P-please give the Young Madam a chance as well..."

Gao Wen felt as though her head was going to burst at this moment. No one could understand how panicked and uneasy she felt..

Chapter 444: Blackmail

Jiang Jin smiled wordlessly. However, there was a touch of frost to her smile. She patted Gao Wen's hand and said, "Let's not talk about this anymore. Each family has its own difficulties. The doctor said you should stay in the hospital for two days for observation. I've already asked someone to inform Master Ye and Young Master Ye. You should take care of yourself."

When Jiang Jin rose to her feet and was about to leave, Gao Wen hurriedly said, "Old Madam, I beg you not to make things difficult for the Young Madam. Don't let them get a divorce. S-she... She'll definitely change for the better."

Jiang Jin did not say anything and turned around to walk out.

Gao Wen called out anxiously, "Old Madam!"

When Gao Wen saw there was no response from Jiang Jin, she gritted her teeth and said, "Old Madam, as long as you don't make things difficult for the Young Madam, I won't tell anyone that you secretly imprisoned the Young Madam at home."

Jiang Jin stopped in her tracks but did not turn around.

Gao Wen's attitude grew firmer as she said, "Old Madam, out of everyone, you must care about the Mu family's reputation the most, right? Currently, Mu Chen is at the height of his power. I'm sure you don't want his reputation to have even the slightest flaw, right? Old Madam, I'm a very discreet person. I won't say anything as long as you promise to treat the Young Madam well..."

Nearing the end of her words, Gao Wen's grew softer.

Jiang Jin turned around and glanced at Gao Wen. Her expression was unreadable as she asked, "Is Madam Ye threatening me?"

Gao Wen hastily shook her head. "No, no, no, that's not what I mean."

Jiang Jin's smile turned cold. "It doesn't matter what you mean. There's something I'm curious about. I locked Song Ning in the room so how did Madam Ye get in? That's my home, after all."

With that, Jiang Jin left the room.

Gao Wen was stunned. When she recovered her senses, she fell limply against the bed.

'What do I do? What about Xinxin?'

The Mu family was a place that devoured people whole without even leaving bones behind. Now that Jiang Jin said she wanted Mu Chen and Ye Xin to get a divorce, it meant that they planned to abandon Ye Xin. They could not tolerate the change in 'Song Ning'. She did not know what she should do now.

'Xinxin is right. Where's she going to go if she leaves the Mu family? How's she going to live?'

Gao Wen felt as though all her internal organs were burning as all these thoughts appeared in her mind.

...

Ye Xin sat in Ning Zhe's study, crying. Tissue littered the floor. She kept saying through her tears, "Dad, I really didn't mean to do that, but Grandma locked me up!"

Ning Zhe's heart ached. He spent a lot of time comforting her before he said, "Don't cry. It'll be fine. The Old Madam was just momentarily angry. As long as you sincerely repent, she'll definitely forgive you."

Ning Zhe was very happy that his daughter had grown dependent on him during this period of time. After all, for more than ten years, he did not get to enjoy this kind of father-and-daughter relationship. Currently, his daughter no longer treated him as an outsider. She was no longer courteous with him in regard to money.

He was very happy. He did not expect that after scheming for so long to get Zhuang Ji, things would suddenly become so easy. His daughter easily agreed to let him send someone to help her. With this, it was only a matter of time before he achieved his goal.

After giving birth, Ning Xia was like a different person. She was no longer hostile like before. He was truly grateful to the baby. Hence, he asked, "What about the baby? How's he? Was he frightened?"

Ye Xin stopped sobbing and angrily said, "Why wouldn't he be okay? The entire family treats him like some precious and rare treasure!"

Ning Zhe could not help but frown. Although he was happy his daughter was acting spoiled with him and treated him like her father, her uncaring manner was not her at all.

Ning Xia had always been sensible since she was a child. The Zhuang family was a scholarly family, and Zhuang Ji had raised Ning Xia very meticulously. As a result, Ning Xia's temperament had been very outstanding since she was young. She was never as uncaring as she was now..

Chapter 445: Relieved

Ning Zhe had never seen Ning Xia acting like a child or spoiled before. He had been a little surprised before but attributed it to her instinctive response from being close to him.

Nevertheless, Ning Zhe did not dwell on the change too much. Instead, he patiently coaxed his daughter. "Xiaxia, you can't be like that. You're a mother now; the baby is your child. Although you didn't do it on purpose, you still frightened him. You didn't coax him, but you even got angry instead. How can the Old Madam not feel angry?"

Ye Xin naturally disliked hearing these words. She said petulantly, "Dad, are you blaming me like them? Everyone blames me!"

Ning Zhe sighed. He felt really helpless against his daughter. He said, "Alright, alright. Stop crying. Since you're back, why don't you stay here for two days? Since you've been married, you've not returned to this house. Why don't you stay here for now? I'll visit the Old Madam and explain this matter to her. Then, I'll get Mu Chen to bring you back. What do you think?"

Ye Xin's eyes lit up immediately. Her tears seemed to dried up in just an instant as she nodded. "Okay! Dad, you're the best!"

These words of praise made Ning Zhe very happy.

After a moment, he opened the door of his study and called out, "Xiao Qing."

A young helper immediately entered the room. "Master."

Ning Zhe said loudly, "The Young Miss is staying for a few days. Lead her back to her room and see if she needs anything."

Xiao Qing quickly said, "Yes, Master."

Then, Ning Zhe turned to look at Ye Xin and gently said, "Just let Xiao Qing know if there's anything you need. Have a good sleep. Everything will be better once you wake up."

Ye Xin nodded with an aggrieved expression before she followed the helper out.

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At the same time, Ning Dong and Su Tong who were downstairs exchanged a look. They could see the shock in each other's eyes.

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As Ye Xin studied her room, Xiao Qing said fawningly, "Young Miss, the room is kept the same way as before you left. Nothing has been moved. Master has instructed us to keep things the way they were. We cleaned the room carefully every day as well. Let me know if you need anything, and I'll get it for you immediately."

Ye Xin nodded and said, "Prepare a set of loungewear for me. Draw a hot bath for me as well."

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Ye Xin let out a long sigh of relief as she immersed herself in the warm water. She had rashly left the Mu family house without knowing where to go. She knew she had messed up big time and that Jiang Jin would never forgive her for trying to hurt the baby. She wondered what she could do to make Jiang Jin forgive her.

She thought about asking for Mu Qing's help, but Mu Qing was ignoring her now. She felt indignant and aggrieved when she thought about him. He was clearly in the wrong. He had another woman outside, but why was she at fault? Why was everyone right, but only she was wrong?

Earlier, after she had left the Mu family house, she had cried as she wandered aimlessly. It was at that time that she received a call from Ning Zhe asking to meet him. He had wanted her to meet the person he had selected to be her secretary.

At that time, as soon as she heard Ning Zhe's voice, she began to bawl. It was as though she was a child who had been bullied in kindergarten and was complaining to her parents.

Ning Zhe did not say much. He hurriedly came to pick her up and brought her back to the Ning family house.

It was Ye Xin's first time in the Ning family house. She had thought to herself that the house should be her home too. She felt jealous again as she studied the house. Why was Song Ning given everything while she was abandoned as though she was nothing?

At that time, it did not take long for her to calm down. So what? So what if Song Ning had everything? She was now Song Ning! All of Song Ning's things belonged to her now! Whether they were people or things, they all belonged to her..

Chapter 446: Crisis

Su Tong sat on the couch in Ning Dong's room. Her eyes were unfocused as she muttered, "She's back. She's finally back."

All of a sudden, she rose to her feet. "I'm going to speak to her! Didn't she say she'd never come back? She's so shameless! How could she go back on her words?"

Ning Dong pulled his mother back and hurriedly closed the door. Then, he said in a low voice, "Mom, what are you doing?"

Su Tong struggled. "I'm going to ask that shameless woman why she came back and why she went back on her promise!"

Ning Dong led his mother back to the couch as he said, "She's the dignified Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family so why can't she come back? You can't stop her from coming back. Moreover, if you show your dissatisfaction, it'll implicate me. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

Su Tong looked at her son in a daze. She understood what he meant. However, she did not understand how these words came from her son. She wondered when her son matured.

Ning Dong sighed. He walked to the table and poured himself a glass of water. After drinking the water, he sighed again. "Not only are we not allowed to show our dissatisfaction, but we must also lower our heads so everyone will think we're pitiful wretches who are begging for her approval."

Su Tong rose to her feet immediately upon hearing these words. "No! Son, I won't allow you to lower yourself like this! You're the legitimate Young Master of the Ning family! You're the only son! You're going to inherit the family business! No matter how capable she is, I won't allow her to take away a single cent from you! I won't allow it!"

Su Tong hugged her son tightly, sobbing.

Ning Dong gently patted Su Tong's hand as he said, "Alright, Mom. Don't worry. I know what to do. When I grow up and gain independence, everything will be fine."

Su Tong pulled away and looked at her son sadly. He was just a young boy. He was slender and tall. However, perhaps, it was due to his lack of confidence, he would instinctively hunch his back. He was handsome, but because his head was always lowered, he looked rather gloomy.

She reached out and stroked her son's cheek as she murmured, "Gain independence? With him around, when will you be able to be independent? Do you think he'll give you power in the company? He'd only give it to his daughter. He has never thought of you."

Ning Dong smiled faintly. His voice was as light as a feather as he said, "We'll make him give me power as soon as possible. I'll get rid of everyone and everything that stands in my way."

Su Tong trembled slightly. "You're right, son! You're right! We have to be quick!"

Su Tong's eyes brightened, and her gaze became even more determined.

As Su Tong strode toward the door, Ning Dong reached out and stopped her before he asked, "Mom, we have no other choice, do we?"

Su Tong smiled grimly at her son. "From the beginning until now, we've never had a choice. They cornered us..."

After Su Tong left, Ning Dong looked at the closed door and chuckled.

'Ning Xia, you shouldn't have come back. You should be punished for not keeping your promise. If the heavens don't punish you, then I will.'

...

In Ning Zhe's study.

Ning Chun had just reported the Mu family's situation to Ning Zhe.

Ning Zhe frowned as he asked, "Ning Chun, what do you think?"

Ning Chun hesitated. He did not dare to speak carelessly. After a moment, he tried to articulate his words before he said, "The Eldest Young Miss's change is a little too drastic.."

Chapter 447: Brother

Ning Zhe naturally knew what was in Ning Chun's mind. They were familiar with Ning Xia's personality. In the past, although they continued to try and win her over and make amends, they knew the possibility of her changing her mind was almost zero.

Hence, they were thoroughly shocked when Ning Xia first reached out.

Ning Zhe had been relieved and delighted when Ning Xia accepted his money. However, at the same time, he could not help but feel suspicious. After all, this was completely different from what he understood of Ning Xia.

In the past, no matter how difficult things were for Ning Xia, she never used a single cent of the Ning family's money. Whether it was cash or card, she would return them untouched.

After marrying into the Mu family, Ning Xia's situation had naturally improved. However, she suddenly accepted his money. Out of curiosity, he had asked Ning Chun to track her spending habits. Ning Chun had reported that she spent her money on beauty treatments, bags, and clothes. It seemed like she was very good at spending money; her spending habits were that of a Young Miss from a wealthy family.

Ning Xia had never been like this. No matter how much one changed, it would not be so drastic.

"There's nothing else you found out from the Mu family?" Ning Zhe asked, still unwilling to give up.

Ning Chun shook his head. "The Mu family's helpers are all very tightlipped. Those who can be bribed aren't important enough to know anything. However, what I know is everyone in the Mu family has some complaints about the Young Miss."

Ning Zhe's frown deepened. "Why is it like this?"

None of them had an answer.

After a moment, Ning Zhe sighed and said, "Help me prepare some gifts. I'll personally visit Old Madam Mu. No matter what, she has to return to the Mu family. Losing her identity as the Young Madam of the Mu family isn't beneficial to us and her."

Ning Chun nodded in agreement.

At this moment, a knock rang from the door.

When the door opened, Ning Dong walked in holding a tray. "Dad, I'm back."

Ning Dong placed the tray that held a cup of coffee and a plate of snacks on the table. He had been preparing tea-time snacks for his father every day. Even if he were not at home, the helpers would send it to Ning Zhe on his behalf.

Ning Zhe's expression softened. "You're back early today."

Ning Dong stood at the side and said, "There's no afternoon class today so I came back early to see if there's anything you need my help with."

Ning Zhe was very satisfied with Ning Dong's diligence. He was even more satisfied that Ning Dong was admitted to M University. For these reasons, he had brought Ning Dong to the company with him, showing him the ropes.

Ning Zhe looked at Ning Dong and said, "Your sister is back."

Ning Dong looked at Ning Zhe, confused, before a pleasantly surprised expression appeared on his face. "Really? Sister is finally willing to come back?"

After saying that, he seemed to realize he had misspoken. He hurriedly said, "Dad, I'll tell the cook to prepare something delicious for Sister. Is she alone? Are my brother-in-law and nephew here as well?"

Ning Zhe shifted his gaze away from his son. He was very satisfied with his son's reaction. He replied, "She'll only be here for two days. Your brother-in-law and your nephew aren't here."

Ning Dong was stunned. After a moment, he asked, "Was Sister bullied?"

Ning Zhe did not say anything so Ning Dong turned to look at Ning Chun, who lowered his head immediately. With that, he said indignantly, "I'm going to settle the score with Mu Chen! How dare he bully my sister!"

After saying that, Ning Dong turned around and strode to the door.

Ning Chun hurriedly pulled Ning Dong back. "Young Master, wait!"

Ning Dong shook Ning Chun off. "Why must I wait? My sister was bullied and even had to return to her maiden home. Can't I even stand up for her? They've gone too far! I must let them know that my sister has a brother who'll stand up for her!"

When Ning Chun finally managed to calm Ning Dong down, he said, "Young Master, please listen to what Master has to say first.."

Chapter 448: Making Arrangements

Ning Zhe was extremely pleased with Ning Dong's reactions. He gestured for Ning Dong to sit across from him as he said, "Alright. Don't be impulsive. You're right to treat your sister like this. In the future,

when your mother and I aren't around, your sister will be the closest person to you. Both of you have to watch for each other and help each other."

Ning Dong reluctantly sat down.

Ning Zhe took a sip of the coffee his son brought him and asked a few questions about business management. He nodded in satisfaction when he heard Ning Dong's answers. Finally, he said, "Don't worry. I'll take care of your sister's matters. You just have to do your own thing."

Ning Dong seemed a little unwilling. He said, "Dad, you have to stand up for Sister! You mustn't allow people to bully her."

Ning Zhe nodded, pleased.

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As soon as the door of the study closed behind him, Ning Dong's childlike expression vanished immediately and was replaced by a cold and gloomy one.

...

In Ji'an's gym.

Ning Dong stood with his arms crossed on the second floor as he watched two people spar in the ring downstairs.

Ji'an asked gently, "What's wrong? Why are you so unhappy?"

Ning Dong did not look away from the boxing ring as he replied, "Brother, I want to rob someone. I want to rob a woman of her money, and I want her life!"

Ji'an raised his eyebrows. "What did you say? Not only do you want to rob her, but you want her life as well?"

Ning Dong turned to look at Ji'an and asked with a gentle smile, "Do you know anyone who can do this for me?"

Ji'an replied, "Yes. What kind of person are you looking for?"

"Someone on the run. Someone who is willing to do anything for money," Ning Dong calmly replied.

Ji'an patted Ning Dong's arm and said, "Alright. Tell me about the time, place, and target. I'll make the arrangement."

Ning Dong nodded. "Brother, I have a house by the beach. When you're free, you can go and have a look. If you like it, I'll sign it over to you."

Ji'an was stunned. When he regained his senses, he nudged Ning Dong and asked, "Where did you get so much money?"

Ning Dong smiled faintly. "The old man is very willing to teach me about investment. I practiced in secret and earned quite a bit from it. It's useless for me to keep the house so I thought I'd give it to you."

Ji'an did not expect this from Ning Dong and felt slightly embarrassed. He said, "This isn't appropriate. It's better to sell it and keep the money for yourself. It's always good to have money."

Ning Dong said, "It doesn't matter. When I take over the Ning Corporation in the future, this little sum of money would be nothing. You've helped me so much and I can't repay you in full. There's no need for us to be so calculative with each other, especially over such a small sum of money. What's mine is yours."

Ji'an thought about it for a moment before he said with a smile, "Then, I won't be courteous. In the future, if you need my help, just let me know! I won't hesitate even if I have to risk my life!"

The two looked at each other and smiled, reaching a tacit agreement.

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Su Tong paced around in her room, feeling antsy. She gnashed her teeth in anger and hatred.

When she finally heard the sounds of Ning Zhe and Ning Chun leaving the house, she ran to Ning Xia's room immediately.

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After taking a comfortable bath, Ye Xin was looking through Song Ning's things. The hatred in her heart had grown so much that she wanted nothing more than to destroy everything in the room. However, when she thought about how everything in this room now belonged to her, she was not in a hurry to act.

At this moment, Su Tong charged into the room without even knocking on the door.

Ye Xin, who was pretending to be Song Ning, was shocked.

Su Tong asked bluntly, "Why did you come back?"

Ye Xin said angrily, "What does it have to do with you?"

Su Tong pointed at Ye Xin and furiously said, "Who swore to the heavens that she won't ever step foot into our Ning family house?"

Chapter 449: Exposed

Ye Xin looked at Su Tong and smiled sweetly. "Did I say that? I'm sorry, I don't remember."

'Did Ning Xia really make such a promise? What a fool!'

However, thinking of Ning Zhe's attitude toward her and looking at Su Tong's exasperation with the situation, Ye Xin immediately understood the situation.

"I'm the legitimate and dignified Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family so I can return whenever I want. My father didn't even say anything about my return so do you think you're qualified to have an opinion about it? Oh, I understand. I've threatened your interest by returning, right? You're afraid your son won't be able to inherit everything, right? I advise you to dismiss your bad intentions. Like I said, I'm the

legitimate Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family, and your son is just an illegitimate child. In fact, we should do a paternity test on your son.”

Su Tong was angry that her body began to tremble. “Do you think I’m afraid of that? No matter how the test is conducted, it won’t change the fact that Ning Dong is Ning Zhe’s biological son; Ning Dong is Ning Zhe’s only son!”

Ye Xin smiled. “Of course, I know he’s my father’s biological son. However, as long as a paternity test is conducted, there’ll inevitably be media reports about my father suspecting Ning Dong’s identity. I don’t care about the results. What I care about is humiliating both of you. What do you think?”

After saying that, Ye Xin laughed heartily.

Su Tong was so infuriated by Ye Xin’s unrestrained behavior that she felt her trembling body grow cold. She had never seen Ning Xia acting in such a manner before. Ning Xia was truly not human; Ning Xia was a devil!

Ye Xin stopped laughing and took a seat on the couch. She looked at Su Tong arrogantly as she said, “You’re just a mistress. You won’t be able to get rid of the label ‘home-wrecker’ for the rest of your life. In the past, I was too busy to bother with you. However, do you really think I’m easy to be bullied? I’m not leaving the Ning family no matter what. If you have a problem, you’re welcome to fight me. What do you think?”

Ye Xin felt her mood improve as she looked at Su Tong. Previously, when she was living in the Mu family house, even the Old Madam’s helpers had higher status than her in the house. She was at the bottom of the food chain and had to spend her days pleasing others. How could she not be happy now that she found someone she could bully? Su Tong was going to be her new target to vent her anger. She thought that having Su Tong in her life would make things a lot more fun for her.

Meanwhile, Su Tong was stunned by the woman in front of her. She thought it was impossible that the woman in front of her was Ning Xia. Who was this woman? She was very familiar with Ning Xia.

Su Tong knew the reason she could live such a peaceful life was due to Ning Xia’s pride and indifference. Even if the Ning family’s assets were ten times more than what it was now, Ning Xia would not be interested in them. In Ning Xia’s heart, love was more important than money. Ning Xia was unyielding in that regard.

For all these reasons, Su Tong asked, “Who are you?! You’re not Ning Xia!”

Ye Xin’s smug expression froze slightly. She did not expect the first person to question her identity to her face would be her nominal stepmother. Was it true that one’s enemy was the person who understood one the most?

After forcing herself to calm down, Ye Xin said, “What? Did you think I’m not me just because I changed my mind and returned to the Ning family? Stupid woman! You really make me laugh with your stupidity!”

Ye Xin looked at Su Tong mockingly as she laughed.

Su Tong looked at Ye Xin, terrified. After a moment, she rushed out of the door without looking back.

Ye Xin sneered. Su Tong was just an insignificant character; even if Su Tong suspected her, what could Su Tong do?

Ye Xin stretched her limbs. She planned to have a good sleep. Once she woke up, everything would be fine. It would definitely be fine. These were the words her mother had once comforted her with..

Chapter 450: Eavesdropping

Ye Xin felt annoyed again when she thought about Gao Wen. She thought Gao Wen was also a stupid woman. At such a time, Gao Wen still wanted to acknowledge her. If Gao Wen truly wanted the best for her, why would Gao Wen do such a thing?

After that, Ye Xin wondered about the situation in the Mu family before she drifted off to sleep with her head on the pillow. She was exhausted.

...

Su Tong looked for Ning Dong everywhere. When she managed to get in touch with him, she insisted on meeting him immediately, saying that she had a secret to tell him.

Ning Dong had frowned when he listened to his mother. In the end, he still told her to meet him at a restaurant.

Su Tong naturally rushed over without caring about anything else while Ning Dong asked for a private room and ordered the dishes while he waited for her.

Su Tong was naturally not in the mood to eat. She arrived before the food was served and instantly told Ning Dong about her suspicion.

After dismissing the waiter, Ning Dong frowned again. He thought he had just listened to a fantasy story. As he scooped a bowl of soup for Su Tong, he said, "Mom, drink some soup to calm your nerves."

Su Tong grew even more anxious upon seeing Ning Dong's carefree attitude. "Dongdong, what should we do? We have to expose that woman's true colors! We can't let her deceive your father. Otherwise, she'll deceive him out of your rightful assets. We have to get rid of her. Let alone a fake, even if she were the real Ning Xia, we'd still have to get rid of her!"

Ning Dong sighed inwardly. Outwardly, he patiently said, "Mom, if she's a fake, don't you think Father would've found out about it first?"

Su Tong was briefly stunned by Ning Dong's words. When she recovered, she said, "Your father won't look too much into this matter. He's been yearning for his daughter so much that as long as his daughter is willing to call him 'Dad' and come home, he'd be so happy that he'd forget about everything. At the very least, he won't find out for now. That woman's goal definitely isn't simple. I'm afraid that by the time your father finds out she's a fake, it'll be too late!"

Ning Dong had a hard time believing his mother's words because it was too far-fetched. He said, "If she's a fake, do you think the Mu family would be unaware? Mu Chen loves her so much so how could he not know if she's a fake? Mom, calm down. I have my plans. No one can take away my things."

Ning Dong knew his mother had always been anxious about this matter; she was worried her years of hard work would go to waste with Ning Xia's return.

Su Tong was rendered speechless. Indeed. If Ning Xia was a fake, how could the Mu family not know about it? Ning Xia had been the Young Madam of the Mu family for a while now so how could the Mu family not know if she was a fake? However, after thinking about it for a while, she said, "No, Dongdong. She's been kicked out of the Mu family house. Perhaps, the Mu family has already discovered she's a fake!"

Ning Dong felt a little helpless when faced with his mother's persistence.

Su Tong continued to say, "I must be right. She's been exposed in the Mu family so she returned to our house, hoping to get a cut of the inheritance! Dongdong, you have to trust me. Trust Mom's instincts. That woman is definitely not Ning Xia! She's a fake!"

Ning Dong surrendered. He said, "Alright, alright. Mom, since you said she's a fake, where's the evidence? How can we prove she's a fake? Even if we know she's a fake, if we can't prove it, there's nothing we can do. You want to tell Father? Will he believe you? Tell the Mu family? Will the Mu family believe you?"

Su Tong was stunned. She knew Ning Dong had a point. However, she was truly unwilling to let the matter go. She was certain that the woman at home was not Ning Xia. She would even swear on it!

Ning Dong continued to comfort her patiently.

...

Meanwhile, Ji An was stunned when he listened to the surveillance.

Ning Dong was in a hurry to leave so Ji An grew suspicious. Hence, he arranged for the private room to be bugged, but he really did not expect to come across such explosive news.

He thought this information was more than worthy to be rewarded by both parties he was working with.

If Su Tong's speculation was right, then it was only a matter of time before they would be able to bring Mu Chen down.. After all, how could Mu Chen remain unaffected with this matter that concerned his family?

Chapter 451: Meeting Again

When Ye Cheng read Ji An's message, he thought he was reading a fantasy story as well. He had grown up with Mu Chen; no one knew Mu Chen better than he did. If Mu Chen did not realize his wife was a fake, then Mu Chen must be a fake as well. Hence, he only replied with two words to Ji An: I understand.

Ye Cheng did not take the matter to heart. Moreover, he had met Su Tong before and thought she was a stupid woman as well. After so many years, he discovered that most Madams from wealthy families seemed to be lacking brains. Women like Jiang Jin were rare. Perhaps, that was the reason the Mu family was so prosperous. As for someone like Su Tong, she was just a brainless woman.

...

Mu Qing held his phone in a daze. His hands felt cold when he learned that Ye Xin had gone to the Ning family. He really did not expect that brainless Ye Xin would directly find Ning Zhe and found herself a backer.

Mu Qing was so frustrated that he felt as though he was going to throw up blood. It seemed like Ye Xin had spent all her intelligence on this matter and found herself a perfect escape route. With Ning Zhe, even if he abandoned her and Mu Qing divorced her, there was no need for her to be afraid. The Ning family was indeed a suitable escape route for her.

However, despite all Ye Xin's calculations, she had forgotten to consider a few things. The real Song Ning was adamant about not returning to the Ning family, and the Ning family was not a completely safe place.

The little brat from the Ning family was very ambitious. After all, that little brat even dared to make a move against his father; how could he let go of his sister who went back on her words?

Mu Qing let out a long sigh. Originally, he had thought Ye Xin would be a valuable chess piece. He did not expect her to turn out to become the biggest variable now. He had underestimated Ye Xin's IQ and EQ.

Alas, there was no turning back now.

Initially, he had planned to give her the cold shoulder and wait for her to come back to him and beg him. Now, it seemed like that would not work.

Mu Qing held his phone, but his fingertips felt cold.

Ye Xin actually went to the Ning family?

She really didn't expect that ye Xin, that brainless person, would actually think of such a method and directly find Ning Zhe to be her backer.

At this time, Ye Xin was not a chess piece he could give up on. In fact, he had to take very good care of this chess piece, and he could not afford to make any mistake.

In the end, Mu Qing had no choice but to send Ye Xin a message that said: I'll wait for you at the villa.

His phone remained silent for a long time. There was no reply.

Mu Qing's eyes darkened before anger burned in his eyes.

...

Ye Xin slept soundly until the sky brightened. She instinctively reached out for her phone to have a look. She immediately sat up in shock when she saw Mu Qing's message. Her heart was wild with joy.

She rushed out of bed and washed up before she hurried downstairs.

Su Tong, who was going down the stairs, was pushed to the side by Ye Xin from behind and almost fell down. She screamed in fright, "What are you doing?"

Ye Xin ran out without looking back at all.

Su Tong held her hand to her chest, trying to calm down her anger. She really could not endure this any longer.

...

After Ye Xin got into the cab, she threw a few bills at the driver and said, "Drive as fast as you can!"

When she finally arrived outside of the villa, she ran in immediately. She saw Mu Qing sitting on the couch with a chessboard in front of him. He was stroking his chin with one hand and holding a chess piece with his other hand, seemingly focused.

"Sir!" Ye Xin called out tenderly. Then, without waiting for a reply, she threw herself into Mu Qing's arms.

Crash!

The crystal chess piece fell to the ground and shattered.

Mu Qing let out an "Ouch!" when he caught Ye Xin in his arms.

That one word seemed to hold a trace of a smile, and when Ye Xin picked up on that, she felt her heart calm down immediately. She tightened her hold around him and murmured, "Sir, I miss you so much! I thought you didn't want me anymore!"

Mu Qing let Ye Xin hug him and patted her twice on the back. He said with a faint smile, "Alright, alright. Let go of me. Otherwise, I'm going to be strangled to death."

Ye Xin let go of him before she reached out to hold his face and kissed him deeply.

She immediately jumped out of bed, washed up and dressed up, and rushed downstairs..

Chapter 452: Sweet Talk

After their moment of intimacy, Ye Xin lay in Mu Qing's embrace, silently playing with the buttons of his pajamas.

Mu Qing patted Ye Xin's back gently as he softly asked, "You're not angry anymore?"

Ye Xin reached out and hugged Mu Qing tightly.

Mu Qing sighed softly. "I'm old, but you're still young. I shouldn't tie you down and should set you free to make your own choices. Alas, no one in this world has control over love. No matter how much I restrained myself, I still can't help loving you..."

Mu Qing trailed off, seemingly unable to continue his words.

Ye Xin immediately sat up. "Sir, you love me?"

Mu Qing looked at her as he reached out and tucked a strand of hair behind her ears before nodding slightly.

Ye Xin laid her head on his chest again and hugged him tightly. Tears flowed down her face as she said, "Sir, I love you too. I've fallen in love with you, and there's nothing else in my heart but you!"

After wiping her tears away, she sat on her knees and said, "Sir, can you only love me from now on? I don't want to share you with other women."

Mu Qing sat up and adjusted his posture before he pulled Ye Xin closer to him, letting her lie in his arms. "Ye Xin, you know there's a lot of things I must do. When a man does things, he can't afford to care about trivial matters. Sometimes, I have to use unconventional methods to achieve my goals."

Mu Qing continued to say, "Xiao You was a spy I arranged to work in a massage parlor. When you saw me with her the other day, she was reporting the things she had found out to me. We were only acting. Who knew you, silly girl, would take it seriously and throw such a huge tantrum?"

Then, he sighed before he said, "I was very angry at that time as well so I reacted harshly to you. No matter what, it's my fault. I shouldn't have laid my hands on you. I've been wracked with guilt because of that matter..."

Ye Xin's heart was brimming with happiness when she heard these words.

Mu Qing continued sighing. "I sent you a message, but you didn't reply to me the entire night. I couldn't sleep at all. I kept thinking about our time together and tried to comfort myself by thinking that it was best for you if our relationship ends. I thought to myself that I won't disturb you anymore. A good girl like you deserves the best in the world. You shouldn't have to waste your life on an old man like me."

"Sir!" Ye Xin cried out in protest.

Mu Qing did not let her speak. He sighed and said with a hint of embarrassment, "I'm already so old, but who knew I'd find a love that makes me feel young again? It's really unbelievable."

Ye Xin smiled widely. She tilted her head and asked, "So, this means Sir has also fallen in love with me?"

Mu Qing only smiled but did not reply to her question. Instead, he reached out and stroked Ye Xin's hair as he said, "Silly girl, why are you so happy? I'm just an old man."

Ye Xin reached out and covered his mouth. "Don't you dare say that you're old again! You're not old! In my heart, you're better than all those young men!"

Mu Qing held Ye Xin's hand and kissed it gently. "You're just a silly girl."

Ye Xin felt as though her heart had melted in a puddle of water at this moment. All the dark clouds hanging above her head all this time had dispersed. She did not want much; all she wanted was to be loved..

Chapter 453: Reconciliation

Just like that, Ye Xin and Mu Qing reconciled.

Ye Xin was extremely satisfied now that she had confirmed Mu Qing's feelings for her. Now, nothing was a problem to her. As long as she had love, nothing else mattered. As long as she had Mu Qing, everything was no longer a problem.

When both of them had calmed down physically and mentally, Mu Qing asked Ye Xin about the important things that had transpired over the past few days.

Ye Xin honestly recounted everything that happened over the past two days.

"I lost my temper and tried to hurt the baby. In the end, I failed. Oh, right! It was that Liang Zhou again who got in the way! She's always showing up around me. Anyway, she got injured trying to save the baby. Didn't she tell you about it?" Ye Xin said, annoyed.

Mu Qing shook his head slightly. "I've been very busy recently. She knows better than to call me. Moreover, there are a lot of helpers in the house. Why would she look for me?"

Ye Xin naturally did not doubt his words. She pouted as she said, "I really didn't mean to do that. However, Grandma is very angry. She even locked me up. Sir, what do you think we should do? This time, she's really angry. I haven't been home for two days now."

Mu Qing pretended to be surprised. "You haven't been home for two days? Then, where have you been?"

Ye Xin bit her lip and timidly replied, "I've been in the Ning family house."

Mu Qing's expression darkened.

Upon seeing this, Ye Xin hurriedly said, "I didn't have a choice! I had no idea... that you care about me. You were so fierce that day so I thought you didn't want me anymore. Moreover, my mother came looking for me, insisting on bringing me home. I didn't know what she was going to do at that time! I had no other choice and could only go to the Ning family house. After all, I'm still the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family even without the identity of the Young Madam of the Mu family. As Ning Zhe's daughter, isn't it normal for him to support me?"

Mu Qing suppressed the fury in his heart and nodded. "You're right. After all, you never considered me as someone you can rely on."

Ye Xin said tearfully, "Who told you to treat me in that manner?"

Mu Qing looked at her and softened his voice as he said, "Alright, it's my fault for forcing you into a corner."

Ye Xin nodded. "That's right. Make sure this doesn't happen again."

Mu Qing did not reply to those words. Instead, he asked, "What do you plan to do next?"

Ye Xin lowered her head. "I don't know either. At that time, I snuck out. Grandma likely hasn't calmed down yet. What should I do now? I lost my temper at the baby so I don't think anyone will forgive me."

Ye Xin bit her lip and looked at Mu Qing before she asked, "Why don't I just don't return to the Mu family house? I'll just stay here and live a happy life with you, okay?"

Mu Qing really wanted to reach out and strangle Ye Xin at this moment. He had to try really hard to control his expression before he said, "Do you think that's a feasible long-term plan? You're Song Ning now; you're Mu Chen's legal wife. How can you stay here? If Mu Chen finds you, how are you going to explain it?"

Ye Xin fell silent.

Mu Qing sighed before stroking her hair again. "You can't run away from your problems. You're my most capable helper so you have to be brave. Moreover, how can you be unable to solve such a small problem?"

Ye Xin said worriedly, "But I really don't know what to do..."

Mu Qing thought about it for a moment before he said, "All you need to do is admit your mistakes. Tell me, do you think you can do that?"

Ye Xin hastily nodded. "Yes! I can!"

Mu Qing nodded slightly. "Alright. Then, you better remember these words you said.."

Chapter 454: Atmosphere

When Mu Qing arrived at the Mu family house, the atmosphere was peaceful and happy. He could not help but feel slightly startled.

Mu Chen was carrying the baby in his arms as he walked according to where the baby was pointing.

The ten-month-old baby was very lively. When he grew excited, he babbled loudly, laughed, and writhed in Mu Chen's arms.

Upon seeing this, the adults all laughed.

To Mu Qing, the last time the atmosphere was so peaceful and happy was 30 years ago when Mu Chen was still in his arms.

Cheng Che waved his hand, trying to catch the baby's attention as he said, "Grandma, my brother used to be obsessed with having a daughter. I thought after he had a son, he would push his son to me. However, look at how Brother treats him so preciously."

Jiang Jin laughed loudly. "Do you think the baby is a toy that you can push aside just because you don't like it? It's only natural he loves the baby since the baby is his biological son."

Mu Chen scoffed. "That's right! Are you jealous? Get a baby of your own then."

Sister Yu laughed. "Young Master Cheng should hurry up. Otherwise, the age gap between the Little Masters will be too big, and they won't be able to play together."

Cheng Che scratched his head and said, "Sister Yu, I want a daughter too. I don't want a son."

Sister Yu patted Cheng Che's back and said, "Don't talk nonsense. If you really have a son, are you going to give him away?"

Cheng Che's expression was one of regret. It was as though he already had a son.

Mu Chen kicked Cheng Che's leg lightly. "Get it straight. Before having a baby, you have to get married first. Where's your wife?"

The baby looked as though he understood Mu Chen's words. He looked at Cheng Che and babbled again.

Mu Chen lowered his head to look at the baby as he said, "Look, even my son is smarter than you. He knows that you'll have to have a wife first before you can even have a baby. Isn't that right, son? You're really smart. Much smarter than Uncle Cheng Che."

Everyone laughed.

Cheng Che pretended to be angry and smacked the baby's bottom lightly.

The baby, seemingly amused, giggled. He hugged Mu Chen's neck, squirming in Mu Chen's arms.

Jiang Jin coughed lightly before she said, "That's right. Cheng Chen, Jiahui will return in two months, right? I'll give you six months to marry her so I can have a second granddaughter-in-law."

Cheng Che felt a little embarrassed. However, he still said, "Then, you'll have to help me, Grandma. I'm not as skilled as my brother when it comes to winning women's hearts. Moreover, Jiahui isn't as calm as sister-in-law. You helped Brother so much so you must help me as well!"

Cheng Che had been with Jiang Jin for a long time, and he knew how to cooperate with Mu Chen to make her happy.

Jiang Jin, who always had a soft spot for Cheng Che, said, "Of course. When Jiahui returns, I'll help you with your proposal. You can ask for your sister-in-law's help as well. We'll help you marry her."

Meanwhile, Mu Qing felt relieved when he heard their conversation. Based on their words, it seemed like they did not suspect anything was wrong with Ye Xin and that they still liked her very much. With this, another idea formed in his mind again. Then, he coughed lightly, drawing everyone's attention to him.

Ye Xin stood behind Mu Qing, supported by two helpers. She was drunk.

The smiles on everyone's faces vanished completely as soon as they saw Mu Qing and Ye Xin.

Mu Qing took the initiative to say, "Mother, the Young Madam was drinking at my friend's bar. She was so drunk that they almost had to call the police since they don't know where she lives. I happened to be there so I brought her back. She was laughing and crying in the car, and she kept apologizing to you. What happened? Why did a cheerful child like her go drinking to drown her sorrows? It's too dangerous."

Then, Mu Qing looked at the helpers behind him and said, "Help the Young Madam back to her room to rest.."

Chapter 455: Argument

The change in everyone's expressions was too drastic. All traces of smiles and happiness vanished without a trace immediately.

The baby silently looked to the left and right with his big eyes as though he could sense the shift in the atmosphere. He quietly lifted his hands and gnawed on them again.

Mu Chen gently pulled the baby's hands away and said, "Be good. You can gnaw on your hands."

The baby was clearly unwilling, whining to show his dissatisfaction.

Mu Chen gently patted the baby's bottom and said, "Be obedient."

The baby seemed to listen to Mu Chen this time around and no longer gnawed on his hands. His attention seemed to focus on the buttons on Mu Chen's shirt now.

Jiang Jin shifted her gaze away from the baby to Mu Qing who was sitting on her left. She asked, "How come you have time to visit? How's Liang Zhou?"

Mu Qing quickly said, "Liang Zhou is much better now. She urged to come over to accompany Mother and to visit the baby. She misses him very much."

Jiang Jin asked slowly, "Did she tell you how she got hurt?"

Mu Qing's hand that was holding the teacup froze briefly. He did not raise his head as he said, "She did. However, I think Song Ning didn't do that on purpose, right?"

Then, Mu Qing turned to Mu Chen and said pointedly, "It's just a young couple's quarrel. You're too impulsive. Fortunately, Liang Zhou was there at that time. Otherwise, who knows what the consequences would be?"

Mu Chen looked at Mu Qing silently, ignoring him. Then, with the baby in his arms, he turned to go upstairs.

Mu Qing stopped Mu Chen as he continued to say, "Mu Chen, I'm saying this for your good. Song Ning is your wife. You can't ignore her after she gives birth to your son. How can you break her heart when she's the mother of your son? Moreover, you're now the head of the Mu family. You have to think about the Mu family's reputation as well. How bad would it be if news of her getting drunk spread?"

Mu Chen sneered. "Are you lecturing me?"

Mu Qing only glared at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen handed the baby over to Sister Yu before he took a seat across from Mu Qing. Then, he said icily, "Hasn't the Mu family's reputation been tarnished a long time ago? What's a divorce compared to what happened in the past?"

Mu Qing was furious. "Mother, look at his attitude. I sent my daughter-in-law back and tried to advise him, but look at how he's acting. I just want them to live happily. He's a father now. How can he not understand me?"

Mu Chen raised his voice and said, "What do you want me to understand? Understand that you cheated after becoming a father?"

Mu Qing was rendered speechless by these words. After a long time, he finally said, "Didn't you do the same? Song Ning said you have another woman outside. That's why she quarreled with you two days ago and almost hurt the baby. You didn't even look after her after she left."

Mu Chen said at a neither slow nor fast pace, "She told you everything? Wasn't she drunk? Did she drink while she complained to you?"

Mu Chen's attitude made Mu Qing very uncomfortable. He really felt that his son was his enemy.

At this moment, Mr. Jiang came into the house and said, "Old Madam, Chairman Ning is here to visit you. He's waiting by the entrance."

Jiang Jin raised an eyebrow. "Ning Zhe?"

Everyone was also rather surprised.

Jiang Jin said, "Bring him in." Then, she turned to Mu Chen and Mu Qing before she said, "Enough. You dare to bring up such things? I feel ashamed and embarrassed listening to your conversation."

Ning Zhe brought Ning Dong and Su Tong with him.

Jiang Jin greeted them politely but was clearly reserved.

Ning Zhe did not seem to mind. He greeted Mu Chen and Mu Qing before he sat down..

Chapter 456: Condemnation

Ning Zhe could obviously sense that the atmosphere in the Mu family house was not quite right. In the end, he said, "It's really rude of me to visit with any notice in advance."

Jiang Jin smiled. She did not refute Ning Zhe's words.

Ning Zhe asked, "Why don't I see Song Ning?"

Jiang Jin's eyes flashed as she asked, "Chairman Ning, did you come to see Song Ning?"

Ning Zhe smiled and did not say anything.

At this time, Ning Dong stepped forward and said with a hint of indignance, "I heard that you hit my sister! Are you bullying my sister because you think she doesn't have her family's support? We came to see her today!"

"Ning Dong, don't talk nonsense. He's your brother-in-law. How can you be so rude?" Although Ning Zhe sounded like he was reprimanding Ning Dong, his voice was gentle.

Ning Dong reluctantly retreated behind Ning Zhe.

Everyone wore different expressions on their faces at this moment.

Mu Chen finally asked, "So did Chairman Ning come to interrogate us?"

Mu Chen's expression was so cold that Ning Dong instinctively averted his eyes. He did not understand why Mu Chen's gaze alone contained such an oppressive force. It was as though Mu Chen could see through all his thoughts.

Su Tong seemed afraid of angering Jiang Jin. She hastily said to smooth things over, "Chairman Mu, please don't misunderstand. Old Madam, it's like this. Our Eldest Young Miss originally swore that she'd never return to the Ning family. Our family was understandably saddened by that. However, after giving birth to the baby, she seemed to have understood how parents feel about their children. Hence, two days ago, she came to our house to mend her relationship with her father. My husband was naturally delighted. Since we're in-laws, he decided to come over for a visit today. After all, in the future, our families might have more interaction, don't you agree?"

Su Tong laughed awkwardly after she finished speaking.

These words made the atmosphere a little strange.

Jiang Jin looked as though she did not expect Su Tong to be so friendly. She asked, surprised, "Song Ning went to your house?"

Su Tong nodded, looking at Jiang Jin with eager eyes.

At this moment, Ning Zhe said, "The Old Madam doesn't know this, but Song Ning has always been stubborn since she was a child. She had always held a grudge against me. After giving birth, she had become more mature and sensible. It seems like she finally knows the feeling of being a parent. I heard she had some conflicts with Mu Chen so I came over to visit. It's important for young couples not to hold grudges. If there's any misunderstanding, it's fine to let it go." Then, he turned to Mu Qing who was sitting at the side and said, "Don't you agree, Brother Mu?"

Mu Qing did not expect to be dragged into the conversation. He was flustered as he hurriedly replied, "That's right. Brother Ning has a point. I was just advising Mu Chen earlier. Young people have a quick temper, after all. They get angry easily and won't give in."

Despite meeting coincidentally at the Mu family house, Ning Zhe and MU Qing cooperated rather beautifully.

Jiang Jin nodded as she said, "So you're both here for Song Ning."

The two men quickly straightened their backs and looked at Jiang Jin respectfully.

Jiang Jin said expressionlessly, "Song Ning and Mu Chen were in love; they even have a baby together. However, after giving birth, it's like she turned into a completely different person. Her behavior puzzles us."

Su Tong could not help but straighten her back and look at Jiang Jin with bright eyes.

Jiang Jin continued to say, "Take the recent incident as an example. She suspected Mu Chen was having an affair without good reasons. Not only that, she even kicked up a huge fuss. Mu Chen was stubborn as well. He did not give in and ignored her. As a result, she tried to hurt the baby. Fortunately, Liang Zhou was there at that time. If it weren't for Liang Zhou, the consequences would have been unimaginable. I don't think Mu Chen is being unfair to her even if he wants to divorce her."

Ning Zhe and Mu Qing's expressions were rather unsightly.

Jiang Jin swept her eyes across everyone as she said, "Ever since she gave birth, she had never even taken care of the baby once.. Have you ever seen a mother like that?"

Chapter 457: Humiliated

Su Tong said in shock, "This... This doesn't make sense. Is there a mother who's unwilling to take care of her child in this world?"

Jiang Jin looked at Su Tong and nodded lightly. "That's right. Is there a mother who's unwilling to take care of her child in this world? You tell me. Song Ning is like a completely different person."

Su Tong placed her hand on her chest as though she was trying to stop her heart from racing. She looked at Ning Dong meaningfully.

Mu Qing coughed lightly before he said, "Mother, young people are quick to anger. You just need to advise her. There's no one you can't help. With your guidance, I'm sure she'll become sensible."

Ning Zhe hurriedly added, "That's right, Old Madam. I heard Song Ning say that you're teaching her how to manage a business."

Jiang Jin sneered. "All of you really think too highly of me. Even if I want to teach her, she has to be willing to listen as well. She didn't want to be a doctor anymore and wanted to learn how to manage Zhuang Ji. That's fine with me. Moreover, the business is hers. However, what has she done until now or what has she learned? Up until now, she can't even understand financial reports. All she knows how to do is have tea and chat with the Madams. It's fine if she wants to get into public relations, but she insists on learning how to manage a business."

Jiang Jin let out a long sigh before she continued to say, "I'm really disappointed in her. She's not like the Song Ning from before."

Mu Qing's heart skipped a beat.

Ning Dong said frostily, "So you're dissatisfied with my sister? Divorce her then! It's not like we can't afford to support my sister!"

Ning Zhe and Su Tong reprimanded Ning Dong at the same time.

Then, Ning Zhe said, "He's just a child speaking nonsense."

Ning Dong shut his mouth, looking extremely reluctant as he glared at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen did not even pay attention to Ning Dong.

Su Tong clenched her hands into fists.

Ning Zhe cleared his throat before he said, "Old Madam, Song Ning isn't sensible. I'm sorry to trouble you. She did speak to me about Zhuang Ji. She's indeed inexperienced. Hence, I hired a secretary to help her. After all, Zhuang Ji was left to her by her mother. She's determined to make something out of it so

she won't let her mother down. I know she's stubborn, but I hope you can be more tolerant of her. It's not easy for two people to get together. It's better to let them mend their marriage than to get a divorce. They're still young so this is also an experience that will help shape them in the future."

Mu Qing hastily said, "That's right, Mother! Mu Chen needs to work on his temper as well. Moreover, I can see that Chairman Ning is very sincere. Mother, I think Song Ning will be better in the future. Why don't you speak to her when she sobers up? We can also quickly resolve this matter."

Jiang Jin glanced at Mu Qing. It was clear she had no intention of humoring him even if they had guests.

Finally, Su Tong looked around before she asked, "Is our Eldest Young Miss at home? Why doesn't she come down?"

Jiang Jin's expression that had just eased hardened again. "She's drunk. Mu Qing just sent her back earlier."

Su Tong only let out a soft 'Ah'.

Ning Zhe looked embarrassed.

Mu Chen, who was sitting by the side silently, finally said, "Song Ning and I will deal with our matter ourselves. There's no need for anyone to intervene. I'll inform everyone once we come to a decision. Please leave."

Mu Chen did not speak much, but as soon as he spoke, he sent everyone away.

Mu Qing's expression was very unsightly.

Mu Chen ignored the others as he rose to his feet and helped Jiang Jin up. "Grandma, it's time for you to rest."

Jiang Jin nodded. "Cheng Che, please take care of our guests."

With that, Jiang Jin left.

...

After leaving the Mu family house, Ning Zhe turned back to have a look. He sneered inwardly. 'Do you think you're very great? If it weren't for Zhuang Ji, I wouldn't have come to suffer this humiliation.'

Chapter 458: Visit

Su Tong had other plans in mind. When she returned home, she immediately called Liang Zhou.

Su Tong asked warmly, "I heard you were hospitalized?"

Liang Zhou seemed slightly surprised. "Yes. It's just for a minor injury."

"A minor injury? I heard from the Old Madam that you were injured because of her precious grandson. The entire family is extremely grateful to you."

Liang Zhou hesitated for a moment before she asked, "You met the Old Madam?"

Su Tong said enthusiastically, "That's right! Our entire family went to visit the Old Madam. That's when I heard you were injured. It's really..."

"Why did you suddenly visit the Old Madam? Did something happen?" Liang Zhou asked.

Su Tong sighed. "Isn't it because of our Eldest Young Miss? She quarreled with your Eldest Young Master and ran back to our house in a fit of anger. How could her father bear it? Even her brother couldn't bear it. He felt like his sister had been wronged and wanted to stand up for her."

Liang Zhou's heart skipped a beat. 'This Ye Xin's method is quite good. She actually went to the Ning family...'

Seeing that Liang Zhou did not speak, Su Tong thought that Liang Zhou definitely disliked Song Ning as well. Moreover, Song Ning had injured Liang Zhou. Hence, she said with a hint of eagerness, "Liang Zhou, I want to visit you. Is that okay?"

Liang Zhou, who had already regained her senses, said, "Sure. I wish someone would come over to accompany me. Mu Qing is busy all the time. Apart from the helper, no one visits me at the hospital."

Su Tong hurriedly said, "Alright, I'll come over to visit you now!"

After the call disconnected, a mocking smile appeared on Liang Zhou's face. No one would be nice for no reason. It seemed like everyone was scrambling around for their own interest now.

'Ye Xin, I want to see how many times you'll be to escape unscathed...'

...

Su Tong carried an exquisite fruit basket when she entered the ward. She sighed when she saw Liang Zhou's injury. "How could she do that? Doesn't she know the Old Madam would skin her alive if she had hurt the baby?"

Liang Zhou leaned against the pillow as she looked at Su Tong. She said with a smile, "Fear still lingers in my heart when I think about what happened. How can a mother do something like that to her child?"

Su Tong seemed to have taken these words as some sort of a cue. She stopped peeling the orange in her hand and looked around to confirm they had privacy. Then, she asked in a low voice, "Liang Zhou, I have something to ask you. Do you feel like something's wrong with your Young Madam?"

Liang Zhou nodded without any hesitation. "Yes!"

Su Tong was immediately invigorated. "Why do you say that? Tell me, tell me!"

Liang Zhou hesitated. She looked at Su Tong warily. Her expression clearly said, "Why should I tell you about our Young Madam?"

Su Tong understood Liang Zhou's meaning. Hence, she took the initiative to say, "Let me tell you. I feel like your Young Madam isn't your Young Madam."

Liang Zhou looked at Su Tong in shock. She was rendered momentarily speechless by Su Tong's accurate deduction.

Su Tong was not smart. Liang Zhou knew this very well. She really did not expect Su Tong would be able to tell that Song Ning was not truly Song Ning. She asked probingly, "What do you mean? Is this a riddle?"

Su Tong rolled her eyes and said, "You're really muddle-headed. I came to look for you to share my findings with you. I also wanted to confirm my suspicion with you. This is a huge matter. Liang Zhou, you can't be muddle-headed about this."

Liang Zhou was slightly taken aback by Su Tong's words..

Chapter 459: Ridiculous

Su Tong moved closer and lowered her voice as she said, "I feel that your Young Madam is a different person. She's not the same person as before."

Liang Zhou feigned a shocked expression.

Su Tong continued to say, "The Eldest Young Miss' temperament is very similar to her mother's. It's like pride and nobility were etched on their bones. It's not something ordinary people can hope to imitate. When she left home previously, she had sworn to sever ties with the Ning family. Over the past ten years, no matter how difficult things were for her, she never came to the Ning family to ask for help. Her father had tried different ways to win her back, but she had never been moved. I heard that when she saw people from our family, she would get overly emotional and nauseous. Tell me, how much hatred must one harbor to have such a reaction?"

"A while ago, I heard her father pleading with her to come home. I was nervous since it's not easy to be a stepmother. However, in the end, she said she wanted nothing to do with the Ning family. She even specifically told me she didn't want a single cent from the Ning family. She was very firm when she told us to stay away from her. Tell me, how can one's personality change so much just because one gave birth to a child? It's not possible for there to be such a big change. Hence, I'm certain she's not Song Ning. She must be another person."

Liang Zhou exclaimed in shock, "Su... Su Tong this is too unbelievable! She's clearly Song Ning! If she's not Song Ning, then who is she?"

Su Tong bit her lip before she said, "This is something I haven't figured out either. Did someone reanimate her corpse?"

Liang Zhou said angrily, "The more you say, the more ridiculous you sound!"

Su Tong said seriously, "Don't dismiss my words. There are all kinds of strange things in this world. Haven't you watched the TV or read the novels?"

Liang Zhou smiled as she asked, "You believe these things?"

Upon seeing Liang Zhou's smile, Su Tong relaxed. Then, she sighed softly before she said, "Is there a reason for me not to believe? Based on my instincts, I'm sure Song Ning isn't really Song Nin. Moreover, I feel that Old Madam Mu and Young Master Mu Chen have already noticed it."

These words made Liang Zhou's heart sink. She asked, "Why do you say that? The Old Madam and Young Master are famous for doting on the Young Madam."

Su Tong smiled before she said, "That's in the past. I heard with my own ears that the Old Madam wants Young Master Mu Chen to divorce Song Ning. The Old Madam listed all the ridiculous things Song Ning had done to my husband and yours. In fact, I could barely suppress my anger when I heard about the things she had done. How could the Old Madam tolerate her when she tried to hurt the baby? Moreover, for her to be able to act ruthlessly toward the baby only means that the baby isn't her biological child."

Liang Zhou glanced at the door before she solemnly said, "Su Tong, don't talk nonsense. These words can be said here, but you can't repeat them outside. What do you think will happen since you have no evidence?"

Su Tong did not think too much of Liang Zhou's words. She said indignantly, "It had nothing to do with me originally. However, since she's bullying my son, I naturally won't tolerate her!"

Liang Zhou was puzzled. "Why would she bully your son?"

Su Tong gritted her teeth and said, "My son respects her as his elder sister, but she doesn't care about the family at all. She said she's the legitimate daughter, and she called my son an illegitimate child. Is she trying to imply my son isn't qualified to inherit the family's assets? How can I not be angry? When I have the chance, I'll definitely expose that woman to the Old Madam so the Old Madam will make things difficult for her. Even if the Old Madam doesn't believe me, it's fine as long as I get to annoy that woman."

Liang Zhou asked hesitantly, "Su Tong, a-are you certain that Song Ning isn't Song Ning?"

Su Tong raised his head proudly and said, "Of course! With my keen senses, I'm sure I'm not mistaken!"

Chapter 460: Discussion

Liang Zhou tried her best to placate Su Tong, hoping that Su Tong would not simply talk. She persuaded Su Tong to look for evidence first before saying anything.

In the end, Su Tong reluctantly agreed with Liang Zhou. After she had vented enough, she left the hospital after promising to visit the next day.

After Su Tong left, Liang Zhou sighed in relief. She closed her eyes, pretending to sleep as she waited for another visitor.

As expected, not much time passed before Gao Wen entered the ward. She looked even more haggard even though just a few days had passed.

Although Liang Zhou and Gao Wen were both recuperating in the hospital, the treatment they both received was rather different. At the very least, Liang Zhou received Jiang Jin's care. She also had Mu Qing who had no choice but to put on a show and care for her. Moreover, Xiao Yu, her helper, was even more meticulous in her care.

On the contrary, Gao Wen was alone. Not even the helpers at home came to care for her. Fortunately, it did not seem like she cared. All her attention was focused on Ye Xin.

Gao Wen began to cry as soon as she took a seat next to Liang Zhou's bed.

Liang Zhou pretended to wake up and asked in surprise, "What happened? When did you come?"

Gao Wen sobbed as she said, "What's going to happen to my daughter if Old Madam Mu insists on Mu Chen divorcing her? She doesn't want a divorce!"

Liang Zhou exclaimed in surprise, "Y-you overheard us?"

Gao Wen nodded slightly. "I didn't want to meet Su Tong so I waited outside."

Liang Zhou asked, "So Ye Xin doesn't want to divorce Mu Chen?"

Gao Wen nodded again. "I think she has a point. She's now pretending to be Song Ning to stay in the Mu family. This is the best outcome for her. Moreover, marrying Mu Chen was her dream since she was young."

Liang Zhou sneered inwardly as she thought to herself, 'She's got a really big appetite. She wants both father and son. She's really too shameless!'

Outwardly, Liang Zhou furrowed her brows slightly as she said, "But I remember Master told you that the environment she's in isn't good for her. Master also said that there's someone manipulating her. Gao Wen, you can't be stupid. Ye Xin is your daughter. If even you don't care about her, who else can you expect to care about her?"

Liang Zhou wore an anxious and panicked expression on her face as she said, "She's young and insensible. She can only see the benefits in front of her. She can't see the damage this will do to her in the long run. You have to keep an eye on her. Think about the Old Madam and Mu Chen. Who are they? If they find out Ye Xin is an impostor, what do you think they'll do? Even thinking about it frightens me. Don't you agree?"

Unease rose in Gao Wen's heart immediately as soon as she heard Liang Zhou's words. However, she really did not know what to do. "Then, what do you think I should do?"

Gao Wen thought Ye Xin's words were very reasonable. Although Ye Xin's current identity was fake, it was true that being able to marry into the Mu family was Ye Xin's biggest wish. Since she was living her dreams now, it no longer mattered how she achieved her dreams.

Liang Zhou suggested, "Why don't you go look for Master again? Let's see what Master has to say. I feel that Master's judgment is quite accurate."

Gao Wen nodded. "You're right! After all, it's all thanks to Master that I was able to find Ye Xin!"

"Yes. You should speak to Master and see what you should do next," Liang Zhou said reassuringly.

Gao Wen nodded, looking sorrowful, "Alright. After I'm discharged from the hospital tomorrow, I'll look for Master."

“I’ll be discharged tomorrow as well. I’ll go to the Mu family and help you find out what the situation is like now. You have to do something soon. Su Tong hates Song Ning to the bones. Who knows when Su Tong will do something irreversible? At that time, it’d be even more difficult for you to act. Think about it again.. What’s Ye Xin going to do at that time?”