

Chapter 81: Exposed

Su Tong looked at Ning Xia as if he had seen a ghost. "Y-you... You... W-why are you here?"

Song Ning calmly replied, "Madam Ning, didn't you hear from the butler that President Mu and I are married? Why do you look so shocked? How strange."

Su Tong who had yet to recover from the shock said, "Old Madam Mu said her granddaughter-in-law's surname is Song."

Song Ning looked at Su Tong and tightened her grip on Mu Chen's arm.

Mu Chen patted Song Ning's back as he said indifferently, "My wife's name is Song Ning. Madam Ning, are you here to visit my grandmother or Song Ning?"

Su Tong tried her best to calm down. An idea appeared in her mind at this moment. She sat down again and said with a sweet smile, "Old Madam Mu, I was really shocked. It seems like you and President Mu are unaware that she's not called Song Ning. She's the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family."

Then, Su Tong looked at Song Ning arrogantly and said, "Ning Xia, I don't suppose you'd dare to admit this, right? You're really at fault. Since you've gotten married, you have to be honest with your husband. How can you hide such a huge thing from your husband and grandmother? It's really such an embarrassing behavior for the Eldest Young Lady of the Ning family. This behavior of yours really saddens me and your father..."

Su Tong was certain Song Ning did not disclose her real identity to the Mu family. Therefore, she knew she had to seize this chance to add fuel to fire. She looked at Song Ning with a smile that did not reach her eyes.

Song Ning's face was pale and her body was trembling. She tried hard to control her voice as she said, "There's nothing for me to admit. I'm Song Ning, not the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family"

Upon seeing this, Su Tong's expression grew smug. "Even if you change your name, shouldn't your name be Zhuang Ning? Why is your name Song Ning? Don't tell me your mother remarried after she left with you..."

Song Ning seemed to gain a burst of energy as she strode toward Su Tong. "Don't you dare talk about my mother!"

Mu Chen reacted quickly and pulled her into his embrace. "Ningning, calm down. Calm down, okay?"

Song Ning pointed at Su Tong with tears streaming down her face as she said, "You're not allowed to talk about my mother!"

Mu Chen hugged her tightly and continued to comfort her.

Seeing Song Ning break down and looking as though she was on the brink of collapsing filled Su Tong's heart with an indescribable joy.

Upon seeing the gleeful expression on Su Tong's face, Jiang Jin said pointedly, "As it turns out, Madam Ning's purpose for visiting is to expose Ning's identity..."

Su Tong's smile vanished from her face immediately and was replaced by an apologetic expression. "Old Madam Mu, I'm really sorry. I didn't know Ning Xia hid her identity from you. I'm her stepmother; she's the daughter of my husband and his ex-wife. I apologize on her behalf since she hid her identity and married President Mu. She..."

At this moment, Jiang Jin shed all pretense of courtesy and interjected, "There's nothing for you to apologize for. Song Ning has never hidden anything from us..."

Su Tong was stunned. It took her a while to process Jiang Jin's words.

Jiang Jin did not even spare a glance for Su Tong as she walked to Song Ning and gently hugged her. "Good child, can you listen to Grandma and stop crying?"

Song Ning bit her lip, feeling extremely aggrieved as she called out, "Grandma." Then, she threw herself in Jiang Jin's arms.

Jiang Jin hugged Song Ning and stroked her back. "Silly child, why are you crying? What's there to cry about? You're not Ning Xia, you're Song Ning. Your mother, Zhuang Yi, is watching you from the heavens. Don't make her worry."

These words worked wonders to calm Song Ning down. She stopped crying immediately.

Finally, Jiang Jin turned to look at Su Tong again and said, "Did Madam Ning think we were deceived by Song Ning? Did you think we would chase her out of the house? I didn't expect you to hate Song Ning so much when she's just a child. It seems like you're transferring your hatred for her mother, Zhuang Yi, to her. Back then, Zhuang Yi chose to leave the Ning family empty-handed with her daughter in tow. Is there anyone in M City who isn't aware of how Madam Ning obtained her current position? Madam Ning, you maintained such a low profile for so many years, wasn't it to wash away the shame from that year? Don't tell me you think that would be able to make everyone forget the past? If that's the case, then you're too naive. Zhuang Yi had already nailed you to the pillar of shame. You won't be able to wash yourself clean of this shame for the rest of your life."

Jiang Jin continued to say, "Apart from that, whether my granddaughter-in-law is Song Ning or Ning Xia, it doesn't matter at all. My grandson married her not for her parents or family. Madam Ning, you're vicious and so obvious about it. I'd watch out for karmic retribution if I were you..."

After that, Jiang Jin looked at Song Ning who was standing obediently in front of her and wiped the tears off of Song Ning's face before she said, "Song Ning, this is your home. Mu Chen and I will protect you. No one's allowed to bully you, understand? I might be old, but it's not difficult for me to protect my granddaughter."

Apart from feeling moved, Song Ning and Mu Chen were both amused by Jiang Jin's fierce and protective attitude.

Chapter 82: Selfishness

Jiang Jin held Song Ning's hand as she said, "Ah, that's right. Our Mu family's Young Madam is the treasure of the family. If anyone dares to bully you, Grandma will be the first to stand up for you. Come, let Grandma introduce you again."

Subsequently, Jiang Jin looked at Su Tong as she said to Song Ning, "This is Madam Ning. She lives in the same neighborhood as us. When you meet her in the future, you must be courteous to her. Don't let her say Grandma didn't teach the younger generation how to behave..." Then, she turned to Su Tong and said, "Madam Ning, this is Mu Chen's wife, the Young Madam of the Mu family. We didn't announce the marriage since she's still a student. After she graduates, we'll definitely organize a grand wedding for her. After all, I want everyone to see how happy Mu Chen is. When that time comes, Madam Ning and Mr. Ning have to join our celebration..."

At this moment, Jiang Jin's earlier fierce expression had disappeared; she looked like an amiable old lady again.. "Madam Ning, we have guests in our home today so we can't entertain you any longer. As an old lady, I'm happy as long as I have my granddaughter-in-law. I'm not very interested in socializing so it's better for us to have fewer interactions in the future. Moreover, it'll keep the peace as well, don't you agree? Ah Jiang, see the guest out..."

Without waiting for Su Tong's reply, Jiang Jin pulled Song Ning to the dining room after she said, "Let's go eat. I'm hungry again."

Su Tong's face turned red and green. It was a rather fascinating sight to watch. She tried to endure it since there were things she should not say at this time. However, she was afraid she would not have a chance to say them in the future. Therefore, she said, "Old Madam Mu, did you know Ning Xia acted in a movie when she was young? She even delayed her studies because of filming. Her mother brought her along and spent every day with those male directors and actors. Her reputation is in tatters. If it weren't for that, my husband wouldn't have divorced her mother."

Song Ning was infuriated upon hearing Su Tong's words. Her body trembled as she pointed at Su Tong. "You... How dare you slander me! Shameless! You..." She was so angry that she could complete her sentence.

At this moment, Jiang Jin patted Song Ning's hand before stepped forward and said with a smile, "Madam Ning, if I hear these slanderous words circulating outside, I'd know you're the one responsible for them. At that time, don't blame me for not being polite. Since you dare to slander Song Ning, maybe I should let you have a taste of your own medicine..."

Su Tong was not intimidated by Jiang Jin's thinly veiled threats. After so many years, she had successfully white-washed her past. Even if someone hired private detectives, they might not be able to find anything useful. She had learned from her mistakes and would not lose sight of the bigger picture like she did when Zhuang Yi schemed against her.

Su Tong maintained her respectful attitude, but her words were no longer polite as she said, "Old Madam Mu, I came with good intentions to expose this girl's true colors. Be careful that you don't lose everything because of her. Previously, her father had slapped her because of her indiscretions and chased her out of the house." Then, she turned to Song Ning and said, "Ning Xia, your father-and-daughter relationship had ended with that slap. Don't go back on the words you said at that time."

Song Ning's body trembled even more violently than before; her anger had reached an unprecedented height.

Upon seeing this, Mu Chen hurriedly called out to Jiahui for help. After that, he said to Mr. Jiang, "Send this crazy woman out!"

Jiang Jin looked at Su Tong who was struggling slightly as Mr. Jiang dragged her out and said, "So this is Madam Ning's true purpose. Are you afraid your son's inheritance will lessen if Song Ning returns? Speaking of which, your son is already 15 years old when Ning Zhe has only been divorced for 10 years. I wonder if you were having an affair with Ning Zhe at that time? Or... could it be that your son isn't Ning Zhe's flesh and blood? If he isn't Ning Zhe's son, what right does he have to inherit the Ning family? If he's truly Ning Zhe's son, it means that you're a homewrecker. In that case, we should raise this issue again and see what people think. I'd like to see how Ning Zhe is going to face his daughter at that time..."

Upon hearing these words, Su Tong who had already reached the entrance trembled. She did not even dare to look back as she hurriedly walked away.

At this moment, Song Ning suddenly covered her mouth as she rushed to the bathroom and began to throw up.

Jiang Jin paced back and forth in front of the bathroom, clearly worried. After a moment, she grabbed Mu Chen's arm and asked, "Is Song Ning pregnant?"

Mu Chen did not know whether to laugh or cry when he heard his grandmother's words. After a beat, he said, "Grandma, don't talk nonsense. It's a side effect of stress..."

"Side effect? Stress?" Jiang Jin was confused.

Jiahui who was standing at the side sighed before she began to rant, "What's wrong with that woman? Is there something wrong with her brain? She barged into someone else just to make a ruckus. She even managed to infuriate Song Ning to this extent! If Sister Ran didn't stop me, I would've rushed over and beaten her up until her parents can't recognize her!"

Chapter 83: torture

Cheng Che thought to himself, 'How fierce! But I like it!'

Cheng Che liked how Jiahui was very clear about what she loved and hated. He also liked how she was so domineering and unreasonable like Jiang Jin.

Cheng Che patted Jiahu's back and said, "It's not worth it for you to beat her up. After all, you still have to adhere to the law."

Jiahui glared at him and said indignantly, "Then am I supposed to let her do as she pleases? Am I supposed to watch as she bullies Song Ning to this extent?"

Cheng Che said confidently, "Of course not! No one can bully my sister-in-law. However, we can deal with it without using violence. Dealing with someone without using force is a skill..."

Jiahui looked at him curiously before she nudged him and said, "What do you mean? Speak English!"

Cheng Che smiled slyly as he said, "I'll let people expose a few negative news about the Ning family tomorrow so it'll cause the Ning Group's stocks to drop in price. We'll seize this opportunity to make them suffer..."

Upon hearing this, Mu Chen said icily, "There's no need to hold back.. If anything happens, I'll shoulder the responsibility."

After Mu Chen finished speaking, he knocked on the bathroom door before he entered. He did not allow the others to follow him in.

Jiang Jin said to Cheng Che, clearly worried about Song Ning, "Remember to do it well since your brother is willing to help your sister-in-law vent her anger. Investigate that woman and her son. I'll keep the information for future use."

Cheng Che did not hesitate and agreed immediately.

On the other hand, An Ran who was standing quietly at the side felt happy for Song Ning. She could see the Mu family sincerely treated Song Ning well and was worried about the matter with Su Tong. Although she was not sure of Cheng Che's capability, seeing his confidence and Mu Chen and Jiang Jin's trust in him, she was sure there would not be a problem.

Jiahui did not seem to be satisfied. She said unhappily, "Why don't I use a silver needle and make her uncomfortable for a few days?"

Jiang Jin smiled when she heard Jiahui's words. She patted Jiahui's hand and said, "You're really straightforward."

...

In the bathroom.

Song Ning stood under the shower in her clothes, letting the water wash over her to calm herself down.

"Song Ning!" Mu Chen was shocked when he saw this scene after entering the bathroom.

He hurriedly turned the shower off before he grabbed a towel and wrapped it around her. He said as he pulled her into his embrace, "Song Ning, don't torture yourself like this..."

Song Ning's tears fell like rain as she said, "Mu Chen, I don't want to be like this, but I can't control it."

Mu Chen patted her back and said reassuringly, "Don't be afraid. I'll take you to the psychiatrist I found for you tomorrow. She was abroad and just returned recently. I've made an appointment for her to see you and Grandma tomorrow afternoon."

Song Ning tightened her grip around Mu Chen's waist as though she was trying to draw warmth and strength from him.

...

Su Tong's heart brimmed with hatred and anger after she left the Mu family house. Even after she exposed Song Ning's past, she did not expect the Old Madam of the Mu family would be so protective of Song Ning to the point of being ruthless to her.

She felt like pride had been trampled on by those people. Nevertheless, she would do whatever it took to drive Song Ning out of Cloudy Peak Villa. She would not allow Song Ning to live well. She would not lose that pair of mother-and-daughter for the second time!

When she returned to the Ning family house, she discovered Ning Zhe had a guest over at the house.

The young man sitting on the sofa rose to his feet immediately when he saw her and greeted her with a smile, "You must be Madam Ning..."

Ning Zhe introduced the young man, "This is Ye Cheng, the Young Master of the Ye family."

Ye Cheng said with a smile, "Apart from visiting Mr. Ning, I came to invite Madam Ning to the charity banquet that my mother and sister are organizing."

Su Tong was pleasantly surprised by this. However, she looked at Ning Zhe surreptitiously, trying to gauge his reaction. Even if she wanted to attend the banquet, she would need Ning Zhe's approval.

Ning Zhe's expression was rather warm as he said, "Madam Ye and Miss Ye are really thoughtful..."

Upon hearing these words, Su Tong knew Ning Zhe approved of it. She tried her best to suppress her excitement before she said with a smile, "It'd be my honor..."

Ye Cheng said, "You're too polite. My mother was like you in her earlier years; she spent all her time taking care of her husband and children. She prefers a quiet life, but my sister insisted on joining the entertainment industry. My mother had no choice but to acquiesce to my sister's wishes. I'm sure Madam Ning will get along very well with my mother."

Su Tong asked curiously, "What's your sister's name?"

Ye Cheng smiled. "Her name is Ye Xin."

Su Tong was pleasantly surprised. "Heavens! As it turns out, Miss Ye Xin is Mr. Ye's sister!" Then, she turned to Ning Zhe and explained, "Ye Xin is the most popular female celebrity at the moment!"

Ning Zhe was not interested in celebrities so he only nodded slightly and did not add anything to the conversation.

Ye Cheng said modestly, "She's just playing around. My parents were against her joining the entertainment industry. After all, a family like ours doesn't need her to work so hard..."

Ning Zhe nodded in agreement.

Ye Cheng continued to say, "However, my sister really likes what she does. Alas, my parents are like putty in her hands. All she has to do is act spoiled with them, and they would agree to all her requests. They really didn't expect her to gain popularity. Now that she's famous, she's planning to set up a fund for sick children. I think this is a good cause so I decided to use the contacts I have to help her..."

Ning Zhe nodded. "It's really commendable..."

Chapter 84: Deception

Upon hearing Ye Cheng's words, Su Tong hurriedly said, "Then, I'll have to support Madam Ye and Miss Ye as well!"

Ning Zhe nodded slightly in agreement.

When Ye Cheng saw the duo's reaction, he said with a smile, "It seems like I've successfully completed today's task. I won't disturb you any longer. Mr. Ning, I'll send someone to your company on Monday to discuss the details."

Ning Zhe nodded. "Alright."

Ye Cheng smiled at Su Tong and said, "I'll tell my mother and sister to invite you over to our house one day."

Su Tong was flattered. "That'd be troublesome for them...."

"Of course not. It's nothing," Ye Cheng said politely before he took his leave.

Su Tong looked at Ye Cheng's retreating back and said with a sigh, "This young man is quite outstanding. It'd be great if our son is like him in the future."

Ning Zhe bluntly said, "He's cunning and has no sincerity..."

Su Tong did not dare to contradict Ning Zhen despite the indignation that welled up in her heart. In Ning Zhe's eyes, no one was perfect and everyone was flawed. He would never think much of at his side and looked down on those who took the initiative to approach him. In short, he was a miserable wretch.

After a beat, she changed the topic and asked, "Husband, is it okay for me to meet Mrs. Ye and Miss Ye? If it's going to cause trouble for your business, I'll directly refuse them."

Ning Zhe was silent for a moment before he replied, "There's no need for that. Just interact with them normally. After all, in two years, Ning Dong would be an adult..."

Su Tong knew Ning Zhe meant that she should spend more time with those families with daughters. She was aware that he was incredibly farsighted when it came to scheming against people.

Since Su Tong entered the Ning family through her identity as Ning Dong's mother, she would use the Ning family's status to marry her son to a young miss from a wealthy family.

At the same time, Ning Zhe could not help but frown when he saw Su Tong did not take the initiative to mention her visit to the Mu family house. He asked, "How was your visit to the Mu family house?"

Su Tong pretended to look as though she had just recalled the matter before she said in a casual tone, "Oh, that's right. The Young Madam of the Mu family isn't Ning Xia. She's still a student. Old Madam Mu seems to like her very much and is filled with praise for her. Unfortunately, she wasn't home so I didn't get to meet her."

Ning Zhe furrows his brows, perplexed. "What's going on then?"

Su Tong said tentatively, "Could Ah Chun be mistaken?"

Ning Zhe said coldly, "How could he not recognize the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family? Do you think he's old and muddle-headed to that extent?"

Su Tong hastily said, "What I mean is that Ning Xia and President Mu might not have such a relationship. They might be ordinary friends. In that situation, perhaps, President Mu was only trying to help a damsel in distress. After all, Ning Xia doesn't want to come back."

Ning Zhe's expression was frighteningly dark at this moment.

Su Tong inquired, "Husband, did you ask Ah Chun to investigate where Ning Xia is living now and what she's doing? She's 26 years old and should've graduated from university a long time ago. I wonder what she's doing now. I know she's not an actress anymore since I didn't hear anything about her."

Ning Zhe slowly shook his head. "I promised her mother that I would never take the initiative to find out things about them."

Su Tong sneered inwardly. "Isn't what you're doing now taking the initiative to find out things about them?"

Outwardly, Su Tong's expression remained the same. She said, "It's been ten years; I'm sure she's no longer angry about Sister Zhuang Yi's matter. She's all grown up now. If she's really able to marry President Mu, you should be happy for her..."

Ning Zhe scoffed. "I'm afraid she won't remember that I'm her father after she gets married!"

Su Tong smiled and tried to comfort him, "How's that possible? No matter what, you're Ning Xia's father. Even if she really hid her marriage from you, it must be because of her mother. Don't be angry at the child."

Ning Zhe's expression softened upon hearing Su Tong's words.

Su Tong continued to say, "Speaking of which, it was your fault back then. Your attitude toward her was really bad. You can't blame her if she holds a grudge against you. After all, it wasn't like she was behaving unreasonably. She was just standing firmly on her mother's side."

Ning Zhe's expression turned unsightly.

Upon seeing this, Su Tong was inwardly delighted. Outwardly, she said with a sigh, "If Ning Xia is still with us, I'm sure there would be many outstanding young men knocking on our door to ask for her hand in marriage. We can help her select a suitable candidate and ensure she has a happy life. Moreover, your business can benefit from her marriage as well. How great would that be?"

Ning Zhe did not say anything.

Su Tong felt that she had accurately exposed the thought in Ning Zhe's mind. She scoffed inwardly. 'Men are all selfish...'

Following that, Ning Zhe waved his hand, dismissing her before he summoned Ning Chun to his study.

After closing the door to the study, Ning Chun carefully reported to Ning Zhe, "Sir, Eldest Young Miss has indeed married President Mu."

Ning Zhe inhaled deeply. In fact, he knew everything about his daughter, but he had never let Su Tong know about it. This was his way of protecting his daughter.

Chapter 85: Worries

“Don’t tell Su Tong about this,” Ning Zhe warned Ning Chun.

“Understood,” Ning Chun replied.

Both of them fell silent.

After a long while, Ning Zhe suddenly asked, “Does Mu Chen treat her well?”

“It seems like it. Young Miss seems to rely on him a lot. He also denied that Young Miss is from the Ning family and repeatedly emphasized that her name is Song Ning,” Ning Chun replied honestly.

Ning Zhe closed his eyes. “Even if Su Tong met her at the Mu family house, it’s likely that both of them pretended not to know each other. Ning Xia definitely didn’t mention me to the Mu family since she refuses to admit she’s my daughter. On the other hand, Su Tong doesn’t want her to return to the Ning family..” After a brief pause, he said with a scoff, “All of them are so selfish; they don’t consider me at all!”

Ning Chun did not dare to speak and stood silently.

“Does the Mu Group have a clothing business?” Ning Zhe asked.

“No,” Ning Chun replied.

Ning Zhe nodded. “That’s good. At least her things won’t fall into the hands of outsiders. Get someone to keep an eye on her. If she’s short on money, think of a way to help her. Don’t let her sell her mother’s life work because of financial problems.”

Ning Chun hurriedly replied, “I don’t think she will, Master.”

Ning Zhe cocked an eyebrow and looked at Ning Chun.

Ning Chun quickly composed himself before he explained, “First, Young Miss had a very deep relationship with Madam. No matter what, it’s unlikely that she’ll easily reveal Madam’s legacy to others. Second, Young Miss’ financial situation isn’t bad. Although what Madam left her isn’t a lot, it should be enough to support Young Miss throughout her university days. Now that President Mu is by her side, I think her situation will be even better.”

Ning Zhe did not say anything. The pair of mother-and-daughter was just as stubborn as each other.

Ning Chun asked tentatively, “Master, is it really okay to let Madam meet Miss Ye?”

Ning Zhe nodded. “Let her go and make a scene...”

Ning Chun thought for a moment before he said, “That Miss Ye is known as Little Ning Xia...”

Ning Zhe was slightly surprised. “Does she look like Ning Xia?”

Ning Chun shook his head gently. "Her appearance is slightly similar, but their temperaments are completely different. Her agency probably wanted to use this as a gimmick." He paused for a moment and glanced at Ning Zhe before he continued to say, "Rumor has it that Miss Ye Xin was previously chosen to be the Young Madam of the Mu family..."

A slightly annoyed expression appeared on Ning Zhe's face as he said indignantly, "Can you just say everything in one breath? Tell me everything you know..."

Ning Chun hastily said, "Yes. It's said that Miss Ye is really fond of President Mu. Previously, there was a scandal about them. President Mu didn't deny it or make a public statement so the tabloids continued to make up headlines. On the contrary, Young Miss and President Mu's marriage should've been big news, but strangely, no one knows about it at all. I really don't know what President Mu is trying to do. Miss Ye's brother, Ye Cheng, grew up with Mu Chen, and both of them have many business dealings. However, the Ye family can't compare to the Mu family. I think Mr. Ye wants to compete with President Mu. It's probably why he wants to cooperate with you."

Ning Zhe scoffed coldly. "Ye Cheng won't do something that doesn't benefit him. His visit clearly isn't without ulterior motives. Let's just wait and see. Su Tong is a fool. Arrange for someone smart to stay by her side and keep an eye on her..."

"Yes." Ning Chu had long gotten used to such an order.

Ning Zhe no longer spoke, but he did not dismiss Ning Chun. Therefore, Ning Chun could only stand quietly and act like a piece of decoration.

After a period of silence, Ning Zhe asked in a low voice, "Ning Chun, what can I do to make Ning Xia give me her mother's book? How can I make her believe that everything I did was for her good? When she gets married in the future, I will definitely not mistreat her."

Ning Chun wished that he could disappear on the spot. How was he supposed to answer such a question? How could he ask Ning Zhe why he acted like he did before if he knew this was going to happen?

Ning Zhe did not seem to care that he did not get a reply from Ning Chun. He had long given up on the answers to these questions. After a moment, he patiently instructed Ning Chun, "Help me keep an eye on Mu Chen. He might not be willing if I ask to meet him so arrange for a chance encounter. I need to know if he has the intention of cooperating. At the same time, I can see if he takes the initiative to talk about Ning Xia. If a man truly loves a woman, he won't be able to stop himself from talking about her. What's most important to me is what Ning Xia wants. As for Ning Xia, don't appear in front of her during this time to avoid provoking her. She's just like her mother; she's the type that would rather die for a just cause than to lose her integrity."

Ning Chun nodded in agreement. Inwardly, he could not help but feel a little uneasy. He felt that M City was about to undergo a huge change.

Chapter 86: Entanglements

Song Ning's psychological consultation did not go smoothly due to her inability to relax.

The psychiatrist, Bai Yang, spoke to Mu Chen and told him this matter could not be rushed. It would not be an easy task to make Song Ning who had been troubled for ten years to let down her guard. As for her stress reaction, for now, it was best for her to avoid her stress trigger. After that, she would have to continue her psychological treatment to gradually resolve the issue.

Mu Chen knew the source of Song Ning's stress was the Ning family. He discussed this matter with Jiahui. To prevent Song Ning from meeting the Ning family, Jiahui would guard her at the hospital, and he would guard Song Ning when she was outside of the hospital.

When Song Ning heard about this from Mu Chen, she could not help but sigh. She felt like not only did she cause so much trouble for everyone, but she even caused them to worry about her.

After a moment, Song Ning hugged Jiahui and said, "If I have another episode, just put me in a room alone to calm down.. As long as I'm alone, I'll be able to calm down eventually."

Jiahui nodded solemnly. "Don't worry. If they dare to cause trouble, I'll beat them up so badly that their family won't even be able to recognize them!"

When Jiahui learned about Song Ning's background and circumstances, she was filled with sympathy for Song Ning. It aroused her desire to protect Song Ning even more.

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Meanwhile, Fu Le looked for Song Ning a few times, but Song Ning kept refusing to see him by giving him various excuses such as having to attend classes, having to make rounds and attend to patients, and writing reports. She did not want to see the Fu family again.

Needless to say, the Fu family was unwilling to give up. They used their connections to invite Professor Li Sen to the ward.

As usual, when making rounds and attending to patients, Li Sen brought four students with him, which included Song Ning and Jiahui.

Song Ning did not avoid going to Grandma Fu's ward. In her opinion, this was a practical class with her professor.

Li Sen asked Song Ning to take Grandma Fu's pulse and to tell him and her opinion.

Song Ning completed her task and honestly reported her findings. Her conclusion was that Grandma Fu could return to her home recuperate.

Upon hearing this, Fu Le asked anxiously, "Song Ning, are you sure you're not mistaken? Grandma often feels dizzy. How can we feel at ease if we discharge her and go home?"

Song Ning did not respond to Fu Le and obediently retreated to Professor Li Sen's side.

At this moment, Fu Guo smiled at Li Sen and asked, "Professor Li, can you have a look at my mother?"

Li Sen did not refuse. He reached out and took Grandma Fu's pulse. He even asked Jiahui and the others to take Grandma Fu's pulse. After everything, he finally said, "I agree with Song Ning's diagnosis. The Old Madam can recuperate at home. There's no need to worry."

Upon hearing these words, Grandma Fu and Fu Guo heaved a sigh of relief.

On the other hand, Fu Le's expression was a little unnatural as he said, "I'm sorry, Song Ning. I was just really worried about Grandma."

Song Ning, naturally, did not take the matter to heart. She replied perfunctorily, "It's okay. We understand the feelings of the patient's family members."

After Song Ning finished speaking, Grandma Fu said with a smile, "If only Ningning can visit me every day at the house to take my pulse. Our family will definitely feel at ease"

Fu Guo immediately chimed in, "That's right! This is a good idea!"

Song Ning was slightly taken aback.

Fu Guo smiled and said, "Professor Li, do you think we can arrange for Song Ning to make house visits to monitor my mother's health? After all, I can't help but worry about my mother. Don't worry, we will pay the fee for the house visits. Although Song Ning's still a student, we'll pay the fee according to the price of an attending doctor."

Song Ning was overwhelmed with the urge to smash the folder in her hands on Fu Guo's face. He was really going all out just to achieve his goal.

However, before she could speak up, Jiahui said, "Professor, Song Ning is already so busy that she doesn't even have time to sleep. If she takes on this task, she probably won't be able to pass her final exams..."

Jiahui sneered inwardly. 'This shameless family plans to tie Song Ning up with such a method? What kind of ulterior motives do they harbor?'

Although Jiahui was not aware of the Fu family's motive, it was difficult for her to stop them. She discreetly nudged the classmate next to her.

The classmate understood Jiahui's intention and hurriedly said, "That's right. We're still students after all so our knowledge is limited. It's too big of a responsibility for us to be solely in charge of patients."

Song Ning's classmates knew about Fu Le and the rumors that had been swirling in the hospital recently. Usually, they would not pay attention to such matters, but Song Ning was one of their own. Moreover, they had seen Mu Chen openly showing his care toward Song Ning while Fu Le was two-timing Song Ning all this time. Now that they saw Fu Le trying to win Song Ning back while he was entangled with another woman, they could not help but despise him even more.

Fu Guo hurriedly said, "It's alright. We trust Song Ning's ability. Moreover, she'll only be making sure all is right with my mother. With her around, we can rest assured."

Upon hearing these shameless words, Song Ning's classmates could not help but glare at him.

At this time, Professor Li calmly replied, "There's no need for you to be so worried. Frequent checkups will only make the patient more nervous. After being discharged, all you need to do is follow the doctor's orders. If you're really worried, you can come for outpatient consultations."

Chapter 87: To Tell It As It Is

Since Professor Li Sen had spoken, there was nothing Fu Guo could say.

Upon seeing this, Grandma Fu waved Song Ning over. "Song Ning, come here..."

Song Ning hesitated for a moment, but she still walked over in the end.

Grandma Fu held Song Ning's hand and said to Professor Li Sen with a smile, "Professor Li, to tell you the truth, Song Ning is Fu Le's girlfriend and my future granddaughter-in-law. Therefore, I don't think she needs the hospital approval to check on me, right?" Then, she looked at Song Ning for approval. "Right, Song Ning?"

Song Ning quietly withdrew her hand.

Professor Li Sen was shocked by the words. "Song Ning, what's going on?"

Song Ning did not hesitate as she replied, "Professor, it's not like that. I have nothing to do with Fu Le anymore.."

Upon hearing these words, Grandma Fu and Fu Guo's expressions turned unsightly.

Song Ning inhaled deeply and straightened her back before she said to the members of the Fu family, "I think we should stop this farce. All of you know that we've broken up, and you've even met his new girlfriend. As for why you're putting on such a big show in front of me... It should be for the patents under my name, right? I'm sorry, but I'm already married."

Grandma Fu and Fu Guo's expressions changed drastically.

Grandma Fu said sternly, "Song Ning, your marriage to Fu Le was arranged by your mother when she was alive. It isn't something you can break off just because you want to. Do you have any sense of propriety and filial piety? I'm going to show your true colors to everyone in the hospital and ruin your reputation!"

Then, Grandma Fu turned to look at Li Sen and continued to say, "Professor Li Sen, you should be the judge of this matter. How can such a treacherous and fickle woman be your student? With a personality like this, is she qualified to be a doctor?"

Before Li Sen could speak, Fu Guo came over to smooth things over. "Song Ning, although Grandma's words are a little harsh, they're not without reasons. For the sake of your mother and your young age, we won't argue with you as long as you get married to Fu Le. Our Fu family will let bygones be bygones, and Fu Le will also definitely treat you well in the future." Following that, he smiled at Li Sen and said, "I'm sorry we made a fool out of ourselves in front of you, Professor Li. It's just family matters..."

Song Ning looked at the faces of the members of the Fu family and could not help but feel sad. Ms. Yun Yao was such a good person so why was her family like this? However, she remembered that Ms. Yun Yao's family life was not a happy one either. It was also for this reason that Ms. Yun Yao empathized with her and her mother and took care of both of them as much as she could.

Jiahui felt as though she was going to explode if she continued listening to these shameless people talk. “Hey, what’s so good about your family? Does your family have a throne for Song Ning to inherit? Why are you talking in such a high-handed manner?”

Song Ning pulled Jiahui before she calmly said, “Indeed, I have an arranged marriage with Fu Le. In fact, I’ve made an appointment with Fu Le to register our marriage on the day that mother had chosen for us. However, Fu Le stood me up. To me, the marriage arrangement ended that day. Even if it’s arranged by my mother, I won’t force someone who doesn’t love me to marry me. Moreover, Fu Le has someone else in his heart as well. As for my marriage, that’s my personal matter and has nothing to do with you. Since I’m already married, I have to be responsible for my marriage now. If you want to cause trouble for me in the hospital and university and complain to my professors and colleagues, by all means, go ahead.”

Following that, she turned to Professor Li Sen and bowed before she said, “I’m sorry, Professor, for troubling you...”

Li Sen replied with a faint smile on his face, “You should return to the office first. Sort out the attendance for this morning. Moreover, the other students are still waiting for your notes...”

Song Ning could not help but feel moved. Her professor had made his stance incredibly clear.

At this moment, Jiahui nudged the male classmate next to her and said, “Hey, you can return to the office with Song Ning. I’ll stay with the professor.”

Li Sen could not help but laugh when he saw Jiahui looking as though she was going to enter a battle. He patted her back and said, “No, no, you go with Song Ning. The others can stay with me...”

Jiahui was about to refuse, but when she saw Professor Li shaking his head slightly at her, she no longer objected. She pulled Song Ning with her, and before she left, she did not forget to glare at Fu Le.

After they returned to the office, Song Ning seemed a little distracted, causing Jiahui to feel worried. She quietly sent a message to Mu Chen, recounting what had happened and cursing the Fu family while she was at it.

On the other hand, Song Ning closed her eyes to calm herself down. All of a sudden, her phone vibrated. She discovered it was a message from Mu Chen that read: “Song Ning, check your email.”

When Song Ning opened her email, she saw that Mu Chen had sent her over 10 pictures. After looking through the pictures, she covered her mouth in surprise and delight. She could not contain her excitement as she called out, “Jiahui, Jiahui, come and have a look at these!”

There were more than ten pictures inside. Song Ning opened them one by one and covered her mouth in joy. “Jiahui, Jiahui, come and take a look!”

Chapter 88: A Go-Between

Jiahui quickly moved her chair to Song Ning’s side. “Wow! Song Ning, this dress is too beautiful! The embroidery on it is too exquisite! Who made this?”

Song Ning looked at the computer screen and said softly, “My mother. These are all my mother’s works.”

“Really? It’s too amazing! Is this the first time you’ve seen these photos? Why do I feel like you’re also amazed by it as though you’re seeing them for the first time?” Jiahui reached out and patted Song Ning’s head.

Song Ning nodded. “Yes, this is the first time I’m seeing them. These three were my mother’s works from her previous international competition. They won a golden award so the organizers kept them for display purposes. They weren’t in China so I didn’t have the chance to see them. The other two were donated by my mother to a charity. I heard they were kept as collectibles.”

“I know, I know. There’s one in Grandma Mu’s study as well. Grandma Mu showed it to us. Your mother was really amazing!” Jiahui exclaimed.

“It’s said that only Grandma’s piece was auctioned off. The rest were all kept.”

Jiahui thought for a moment before she asked, “Song Ning, what does your mother’s studio do? Only embroidery?”

Song Ning shook her head. “Ms. Yun Yao does fashion design. My mother’s embroidery and her clothes complement each other. Both of them had won many awards.”

“I don’t think I’ve heard of them though.” Jiahui tilted her head slightly to the side in confusion.

“That’s because they only took custom orders. Almost all of them were handmade. Hence, it takes a long time and not many pieces are produced. Despite the small quantity, they’re all very high quality,” Song Ning explained.

“Wow, does this mean the current Zhuang Ji will follow this route as well? If that’s the case, I’ll place an order, but you’ll have to give me a discount, considering we’re friends,” Jiahui said as she wrapped her arms around Song Ning’s shoulders.

Song Ning smiled and replied, “If you’re going to ask for a discount, you’re better off asking for it from Sister An Ran. She will be the backbone of Zhuang Ji in the future.”

“However, you’re the boss. Cousin will definitely listen to you. Therefore, it’s more effective for me to ask you,” Jiahui said coyly. She looked up at this moment and saw someone standing silently at the entrance. She exclaimed in shock, “Who are you?”

Song Ning instinctively looked up.

The person standing at the door smiled warmly. He was rather handsome.

However, Song Ning and Jiahui who had been around Mu Chen and Cheng Che were already immune to handsomeness.

He placed one hand in the pocket of his suit before he walked in and greeted them with a smile, “Hello, beautiful ladies!”

Jiahui rose to her feet and asked warily, “Who are you looking for?”

Song Ning stood behind Jiahui, silently supporting her.

The man asked politely, "Is Miss Song Ning here?"

Jiahui turned to look at Song Ning with a face full of questions.

Song Ning was puzzled as well. "I'm Song Ning."

The man sized Song Ning up before he said, "Indeed, you're beautiful."

Jiahui asked indignantly, "Who are you? What do you want?"

The man ignored Jiahui and handed Song Ning a business card before he said, "Let me introduce myself. I'm Ye Cheng, Ye Xin's brother."

Song Ning did not accept the business card and looked at him silently.

Ye Cheng did not mind. He placed the business card on Song Ning's desk before he smiled and said, "I think you should've guessed the purpose of my visit by now. I hope you can leave Mu Chen. My sister and Mu Chen are childhood sweethearts and have been in love for a long time. Previously, they had a small misunderstanding. That's how Mu Chen ended up with you. I can tell from a glance that you're a good girl. You must've been deceived by Mu Chen. However, it doesn't matter. There's still time for you to put a stop to your mistake. I'll make sure my sister compensates you generously. In fact, you can name a price..."

Song Ning and Jiahui looked at Ye Cheng, dumbfounded.

Ye Cheng continued to say with a faint smile on his face, "If you break up with Mu Chen, I'll start pursuing you. I'm not inferior to Mu Chen at all. Miss Song Ning, you won't suffer a loss at all even if you leave Mu Chen. What do you think?"

Song Ning smiled. Then, she casually picked up her phone and dialed a string of numbers. It only rang once before the call connected.

"Song Ning?"

Song Ning turned on the speaker. "Mu Chen, someone called Ye Cheng is here."

Mu Chen's voice tense immediately. "Why is he looking for you?"

Song Ning looked at Ye Cheng whose expression had changed drastically. She replied indifferently, "He said you and his sister are childhood sweethearts and that both of you only have a small misunderstanding. He wants me to leave you, and stop my loss. He said that all I have to do is name a price, and his sister will compensate me. Apart from that, he said..."

"He said what?" Mu Chen's voice was filled with killing intent at this moment.

Chapter 89: Testing the Water

"He said after I leave you, he'll start pursuing me. He thinks he's not inferior to you. He said I definitely won't suffer a huge loss if I leave you. What do you think? Should I accept his proposal?" Song Ning asked with a hint of a smile in her voice.

“Song Ning, listen carefully! Chase him out! Where’s Jiahui? Is Jiahui around?” Mu Chen could hardly conceal the anger in his voice.

“Hey, I’m here, President Mu.” Jiahui hurriedly moved closer to Song Ning. She did not mind the trouble at all.

“200,000 yuan. Jiahui, chase that damn Ye Cheng out. I’ll be there shortly!” Mu Chen said through gritted teeth.

“Alright! Don’t worry!” Following that, Jiahui looked to the left and the right. After Jiahui said that, she looked left and right. Then, she picked up a sphygmomanometer that someone had left on the desk and repeatedly smacked it against her palm as she said, “Hey, that woman’s brother, someone said he’ll give me 200,000 yuan as long as I chase you out? What do you think?”

Although Ye Cheng was embarrassed when Song Ning called Mu Chen, he quickly regained his composure. As expected of the Young Master of the Ye family. Faced with Jiahui’s threatening words, he smiled and raised his hands to surrender. “Miss, we can negotiate. I’ll raise the price...”

Jiahui smiled sweetly as she said, “I’m sorry, sir. I only accept jobs from my employer.”

Ye Cheng’s smile stiffened.

At this moment, Song Ning said, “Sir, please leave. I’m not interested in your proposal. If there’s anything else, you can speak to Mu Chen directly or ask Miss Ye Xin to speak to Mu Chen. We’ve already been to the police station once; don’t tell me you want to go again?”

Ye Cheng sighed. “Miss Song Ning, listen to me. You really aren’t my sister’s match. Ever since we were young, there hasn’t been anything my sister wanted that she didn’t get. I really came to see you with a sincere heart. I don’t want you to be hurt because of their matters.”

Jiahui raised an eyebrow and said mockingly, “Oh, you’re really quite kind.”

Ye Cheng replied brazenly, “Of course.” Then, he continued to say to Song Ning, looking rather sincere, “Miss Song Ning, I’m speaking the truth. As an older brother, I’ve been cleaning up my sister’s mess since she was young. Even if I know my sister did something wrong, I still have to deal with her mess. I have no choice; she’s the treasure of our family after all. Regarding this matter, I really don’t want their matters to hurt the innocent. Why don’t you think about it? If you have any problems, you can call me. I’m available for you 24 hours a day.”

Then, without waiting for a reply, he bowed casually before he left.

Song Ning and Jiahui looked at each other.

Song Ning did not know whether to laugh or cry.

Jiahui shook her head and sighed. “Ever since I met Mu Chen, I feel like I’ve opened a door to a new world. All kinds of strange things happen one after another. There’s a show to watch every other day. This man... What did he come here for? Is he here to show off? Is he dumb? I think he’s dumb just like his arrogant and despotic sister. Their whole family must be dumb.”

Song Ning did not say anything. Unlike Jiahui, she did not think Ye Cheng was dumb. Instead, she felt that he was very cunning. He had probably come to test the water. If she was even a little uncertain about Mu Chen, she would likely be fooled by him. Moreover, how could he pursue his sister's love rival? Even if he really did, he would not be able to deal with his sister's wrath. This person's appearance was too deceiving.

...

When Ye Cheng entered the car, the harmless expression on his face had been replaced with a frosty expression.

Based on Ye Cheng's expression, the driver knew Ye Cheng was not in a good mood. He asked tentatively, "Young Master, where are we going?"

Ye Cheng exhaled lightly before he said, "Let's go home."

Just as the car was pulling out, Ye Cheng saw a familiar car speeding past. How could he not be familiar with Mu Chen's car? Mu Chen actually rushed over because of Song Ning's call? It seemed like Mu Chen was not lying to him. He was married, and he really fell in love with that person he married. Unfortunately, that person was not his sister, Ye Xin.

Chapter 90: Conditions

Ye Xin was defeated just like that.

Ye Cheng reached out and rubbed his temples. He could feel a headache coming on.

Ye Xin could not lose Mu Chen and neither could the Ye family. Therefore, he could only start on Song Ning.

Ye Cheng brought his phone out. When the call connected, he ordered, "Investigate Song Ning, the woman who went to the police station with Ye Xin that day. Make sure the investigation is thorough; don't leave out the slightest detail."

He leaned back on the seat, exhausted. The girl with the pure eyes and cold expression flashed in his mind. Indeed, she was rather attractive.. However, she was not as eye-catching as his sister.

Ye Xin's beauty was bright and flamboyant, somewhat fierce. Perhaps, this had something to do with her personality and the environment she grew up in.

Song Ning's beauty, however, was quiet and unassuming, but it made people unable to look away from her. She was like a lotus blooming in the lake, fresh, distant, and unobtainable, that could only be admired from afar.

Indeed, only such a woman was worthy of Mu Chen. Ye Xin, in the end, was inferior.

From a man's point of view, he understood Song Ning's appeal and could tell Mu Chen was sincere. In fact, he was slightly moved as well.

...

Mu Chen rushed to Song Ning's office just as Professor Li brought his other students back to the office.

Jia Hui did not have time to greet Mu Chen and asked Professor Li Sen, "Professor, how did it go? Did they make things difficult for you? Will they make things difficult for Song Ning?"

Song Ning had already risen to her feet and stood at the side quietly. It was as though she was waiting to be reprimanded.

Upon hearing these words, Mu Chen asked, "What happened?"

Li Sen frowned when he saw Mu Chen. "Why did you only come now? If you'd come earlier, you would've been able to save a damsel in distress."

Mu Chen thought that Professor Li Sen was talking about Ye Cheng. Before he walked out, he said, "I'm going to settle the scores with him."

Li Sen sighed before he motioned Jiahui to stop him.

Jiahui rolled her eyes. "President Mu, listen first. This is another matter. It has nothing to do with Ye Cheng!"

At this moment, Mu Chen finally remembered Jiahui had sent him a message on WeChat, telling him about the Fu family making things difficult for Song Ning. He looked at Li Sen. "Professor?"

Li Sen sighed. "I'm already an old man, but I still have to worry about your love life. My life is too busy"

Jiahui was very tactful. She hurriedly said, "Professor, let me massage your shoulders!"

Another classmate hurriedly pushed a chair over to Li Sen before inviting Li Sen to sit down and enjoy the massage.

Jiahui skillfully found the correct acupuncture point and pressed it.

The professor inhaled deeply, looking much more comfortable. Then, he finally looked at his beloved student and pointed at Mu Chen, "You've already decided on him?"

Song Ning looked at Mu Chen and lowered her head in embarrassment. She said softly, "Yes."

Mu Chen could not help but laugh.

Jiahui and the two male students joked around. Then, she said in a low voice, "This laugh can bring disaster to the country and the people. Who can resist it?"

The male student knocked her head lightly, "You're a girl. Watch your image!"

Li Sen said to Song Ning, "He definitely thinks he's able to protect you; shelter you from the rain and storm. However, I think half of the rain and storm will be caused by him!"

Mu Chen's expression turned grim.

Song Ning hurriedly said, "Professor, the matter with the Fu family has nothing to do with him."

Li Sen said, "Both of you are married so it has something to do with him." Since he was unaware that Jiahui had already spoken to Mu Chen, he recounted what happened to Mu Chen.

Nevertheless, Mu Chen listened patiently.

“After both of the girls left, Mr. Fu and Old Madam Fu promised me to donate a laboratory to the hospital as long as Song Ning agrees to marry Fu Le. I had no idea our Song Ning is so valuable. If I knew earlier, I would’ve asked President Mu for more betrothal gifts. You’re really lucky, kid.”

Jiahui asked anxiously, “Professor, you agreed to their request?”

Li Sen glared at her. “Am I the kind of person who would sell his students for money? Moreover, if I want a lab, I can ask President Mu. I’m sure he won’t refuse me. Right?”

Mu Chen said without hesitating, “Two labs and a staff dormitory!”

Li Sen stared at Mu Chen in shock before he turned to Song Ning and said, “You married the right person!”

Song Ning was rendered speechless.

As Li Sen enjoyed Jiahui’s massage, he said to Mu Chen, “I told the Fu family that it’s up to Song Ning who she marries. The hospital and the university have no right to dictate who she marries. Moreover, she’s such an excellent student that we won’t question her ability because of her personal matters. Moreover, I told them they won’t be able to slander her since Young Master Fu and the young nurse’s matters are known by everyone. There’s no problem with Song Ning’s character at all. It’s useless even if they look for the dean or the hospital’s director.”

Jiahui who was energetically massaging Li Sen scoffed and said, “The dean is my father! If he dares to give in to those people, I’ll run away from home and change my surname!”

Li Sen turned around and patted Jiahui. “Hey, don’t you trust your father at all? Be careful he doesn’t break your leg!”

Mu Chen bowed respectfully to Li Sen. “Thank you, Professor Li!”

Li Sen felt at ease when he saw Mu Chen’s sincerity.

“Can I have Song Ning for half a day?” Mu Chen held Song Ning’s hand.

Li Sen scratched his head. “The laboratories and dormitory...”

Mu Chen smiled. “It’s a done deal!”

Li Sen waved his hand. “Alright, bring my student out to have fun!”