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The old man let out a long sigh. "I'm sure that both of you understand the struggles of current traditional Chinese medicine doctors. Most people out there are even suspicious of the practitioners. They don't trust the practice, and we're seeing a great decline in interest toward the subject. I'm afraid our ancestors' rich and in-depth knowledge will no longer be passed on to the next generation."

"You're just trying to gain our sympathy here. The doctor could easily find himself another apprentice. Juniper isn't a healthy child, so we don't want her to go through such unnecessary struggles." Pierre waved him off. Both Pierre and Selena had the same mindset when it came to this matter—they simply wanted Juniper to grow up happily and healthily without struggling during her childhood.

The old man turned to look at Selena once he decided that he wouldn't be able to convince Pierre. "I really hope you can give this some thought, Madam. This is an amazing chance. Furthermore, the young girl will be surrounded by herbs if she stays here. The scent of the herbs and the doctor's treatment for her will definitely help with the improvement of her health."

Selena found herself rather intrigued by the last point that the man made. That's true. If Juniper practices as Doctor Werner's apprentice and stays around herbs all day, then Doctor Werner will surely offer to improve her health with his techniques. "You may leave now, mister. I'll give it some thought."

Only the five of them were left in the room after the man headed off. Joaquin was kept occupied by his laptop—he could now mess around with it openly since his identity as a hacker was no longer a secret. Jameson, on the other hand, was zoning out as he stared at the snow outside the window. Juniper tugged onto Selena's shirt then. "Does Doctor Werner want to take me as his apprentice, Mommy?"

"That's right." Selena sat on the bed and lifted Juniper to place the young girl on her thighs. "Doctor Werner would like for you to be his apprentice, Juniper. Would you want that?"

"I'd love that!" the young girl exclaimed.

"What did you just say?" Pierre barked. "I want you to stay at home. What is this talk about learning traditional Chinese medicine?! You should just stay home and play with toys!"

Juniper stuck her lips out into a pout.

"Listen, Juniper; traditional Chinese medicine is an extremely complicated and extensive subject. You'd have to sacrifice a lot of time and effort, and you'd have to struggle to master this practice properly. The herbs you saw yesterday might have only been 0.01% of all the other herbs out there. You would have to remember their names, their functions, and so on..." Selena described it as an especially challenging practice in hopes that it would scare Juniper away.

However, Juniper only hesitated for a moment before she spoke. "Mommy, if I succeed in learning it, will I be able to build a living area like this? Will I be able to stay in the mountains and wait for my patients to come to me? Will I be like Doctor Werner?"

"Erm..." A child's mind really functions differently from an adult's, huh. They sure have weird questions, Selena thought.

"Why are you asking that? Do you want to become some magical healer too?" Pierre lightly knocked his knuckles against Juniper's head. "If you simply want to stay in a place like this, I can just buy a mountain and build the exact same home for you!" I'd shoot myself out into space to bring you a star if that's what my daughter wanted!

"Can you stop disrupting her thoughts?" Selena couldn't stop herself from lecturing Pierre. She understood that they shared the same goal of wanting to protect Juniper from harm, but she believed that Juniper had the right to make her own choice.

"She's only five! What's there to think about? I've made the decision for her, and it's a big, fat no!" Pierre uttered with great finality. She's my daughter. Don't I have the right to choose for her? Of course I do!

"But I want to become Doctor Werner's apprentice!" Juniper's eyes lit up. "That way, I'd be able to save a lot of people, and I'd be able to help Mommy give birth to her baby. Hahahaha..."