

FMH Marriage 1021

Chapter 1021: They Would Have Weak Points

The next day, Ning Xi woke up bright and early and changed into casual clothes. She had made an appointment with Gong Shangze to visit the grandmaster of Chinese art, Elder Song Jin, in Taoyuan Village.

Because Taoyuan Village was quite far, it would take about three to four hours of travel time. Plus, the roads in the village were not great, so cars could not enter. That was why Ning Xi decided not to drive and had bought tickets for a long distance coach instead.

Before this, in the studio, Ning Xi and Gong Shangze had already researched in detail on their strategy with Song Jin. It included all of Elder Song's work and information throughout his life, especially his personality and preferences. Unfortunately, the results of their research were not too optimistic and revealed little.

As the coach gradually left the city, Ning Xi leaned back against the seat and looked at the densely packed information on her notebook with a headache. "Sigh, he's tough to work with...those who can get to Elder Song's level are all extraordinary at the least! It's rather hard to curry favor from him!"

Beside her, Gong Shangze was also using his iPad to browse through Song Jin's work. He mumbled, "Elder Song is now living alone, so it wouldn't be useful to enter through those close to him. The worst thing is, Elder Song especially hates people disrupting his peace and quiet. Those who want to use money or other things to brown nose him have minimal chance of succeeding..."

"Huh, he must have a weak point if he's human! There's no way that there aren't any loopholes at all! There's no use just talking, let's just discuss when we meet him in person!"

"Mmm, okay!"

On the car, Ning Xi tilted her head and fell asleep. When she woke up, they were about to arrive. Because Ning Xi and Gong Shangze were getting off at the last stop, there were only the two of them left on the bus and the place really looked like a ghost town.

Well, that was no wonder too, or else, the view would not be in such a natural form.

"Wow! The scenery here is so beautiful!" As she looked at the green forest outside her window, Ning Xi instantly regained her spirits and could not help but marvel at the beauty of nature.

Gong Shangze nodded. "Even the air is so refreshing!"

"Ahh! This is pure air with no haze! I must inhale more of it!" Ning Xi closed her eyes and took a few deep breaths.

“Wait till we enter the village. The scenery will be even more amazing!” Gong Shangze said with some yearning.

“Huh, Elder Song really knows how to enjoy life! He should have lots of creative inspiration in such a place, shouldn't he?”

...

As the two chatted, they reached the last stop. Ning Xi quickly got her bag and descended from the bus with Gong Shangze.

“Where do we go from here?” Ning Xi looked at the borderless paddy fields and forests before them, feeling carefree and relaxed. She thought in her heart that even if she could not get Elder Song to help them, treating this getaway as a vacation was pretty good too.

If there was a chance, she would bring Little Treasure here to play. The last time she had gone camping with Lu Tingxiao and did not bring Little Treasure along, Ning Xi felt guilty. She was ready to make it up to him with another trip.

Gong Shangze looked at the GPS on his phone. “We'll first follow this little road and walk straight ahead!”

“Okay, let's go!”

Ning Xi picked a peach blossom from the side of the road and walked ahead, full of vigor. Then, half an hour later, the two of them were stunned.

“Uhh, Gong Shangze...are we lost?”

Gong Shangze clicked on his phone anxiously. “But the GPS says that the path is here!”

“So, the GPS is telling us to swim across?” Ning Xi gaped in disbelief at the wide stream before them.

Gong Shangze sighed, “The terrain here is complex. I think the GPS isn't accurate. I was too careless reading it!”

They had no choice but to continue to take a longer route. It was evening by the time they finally found a small courtyard.

Chapter 1022: Meet His Idol Once

Every house in Taoyuan Village was a distance away from each other and Song Jin stayed especially far from everyone else. To come here looking for someone for the first time would indeed be a challenge.

Thankfully, they found his place and their search was fruitful.

They saw an old courtyard and a smoking chimney on the roof of a house not too far away. Behind the house was a dense forest with paddy fields as its backdrop and they could hear the contented hums of an old cow from inside the courtyard.

“Vast forests with wild borders, paddy fields by the home; a home within ten acres of a few houses around; willows shading the home with peaches before it; in a distant village sits one’s house, smoke billowing from its chimney... Huh, it looks like Elder Song is Tao Yuanming’s fan!” Ning Xi laughed.

After running around for the entire day, Gong Shangze was about to fall over from fatigue, yet he turned to see that Ning Xi was unexpectedly still energetic and had even recited such eloquent poetry, rendering him really speechless...

There was no door to the courtyard. It was a fence that had been set up with some wood and the two of them tidied themselves up before walking to the wooden door.

“Hello, is Elder Song at home?” Gong Shangze asked towards the direction of the courtyard.

There were no signs of movement from inside. However, from the looks of the active chimney, there should definitely be someone at home.

The two of them called out a few more times and a short while later, a shadow walked out from the inside. The person wore a rough-looking long robe. He had a white beard and a hearty spirit, almost appearing to be one of those immortal folks.

When she saw Song Jin himself, Ning Xi’s heart skipped a beat.

The elder obviously looked like someone with no worldly desire or intention to seek for anything; such people were the hardest to settle!

“Elder Song!” Gong Shangze was Song Jin’s ultimate fan. His fatigue instantly vanished at the sight of his idol as he said emotionally, “Elder Song, I’m really sorry to randomly disrupt your peace and quiet. My name is Gong Shangze and I’m a designer. I really love your work! You’re my favorite calligrapher and I’ve even collected your perfect work of ‘Ten Frogs’ before this...”

Gong Shangze truly qualified as a fan. He was very familiar with Song Jin’s work and the passion and emotion in his eyes were genuine and naive. From Ning Xi’s perspective, if such a cute and passionate fan had come all the way to meet her, she would at least invite them in for a cup of tea.

“There’s no calligrapher here, only an old man. Please leave.”

However, Song Jin’s expression had been very indifferent from the start to the end. Even his eyes did not seem like he was looking at two people, but merely two lifeless objects. At last, he only uttered this sentence before walking back to his house.

As he watched the door ruthlessly close, Gong Shangze looked disappointed. “Even though I already prepared ahead...”

Ning Xi patted him on the shoulders. "It's okay, at least you got to see your idol once!"

Gong Shangze regained his spirits and announced, "I want to wait for a while more."

Ning Xi had the same plan too. "Then, let's wait a while longer! Maybe Elder Song will be willing to meet us when he sees how sincere we are!"

They waited outside the door until the sun had gone down.

When she saw that the sky was getting darker, Ning Xi sighed, "Even the heavens are uncooperative now! There should be a downpour at this moment to offset the mood!"

However, the weather was not cooperative and not a drop of rain fell until the end of the night. Of course, they also did not wait for Song Jin to change his mind.

"Shangze, let's come again tomorrow! If we leave later, we won't be able to catch the last bus!"

Even though Gong Shangze was reluctant to leave, they had no other choice.

Chapter 1023: Bring The Little Bun Out For Fun

The next day, Ning Xi and Gong Shangze arrived at Taoyuan Village once again.

Because they had had experience this time around and knew the way, they reached the house by noon.

The two of them had bumped into Song Jin in between the paddy fields. Song Jin wore a straw hat and was transplanting rice seedlings.

Song Jin's transplanting skill was obviously well-trained and his fingers worked deftly too. He looked just like a typical village farmer at one glance. Who would have thought that he was actually a famous and world-renowned Chinese calligrapher at first sight!?

Song Jin did not react much when he noticed the both of them from the corner of his eye. He continued to mind his own business without the least bit of concern.

Yesterday, their strategy had failed, so Ning Xi decided to change their approach and was straightforward. "Hello, Elder Song. I'm the person-in-charge of Spirit Studio, Ning Xi, and this is our designer, Gong Shangze.

"Spirit is a fashion design company that produces premium apparel inspired by Oriental styles. Our designer really loves your work, and at the same time, your work is very compatible with our style. Thus, we've come over this time to discuss a possible collaboration with you. I wonder if you'd consider."

A short moment of silence later, Song Jin straightened up and looked at Ning Xi sternly. "Young lady, I think you two should look for someone else. I already said that I'm just an old man, I can't help you."

Ning Xi speechlessly pulled at her hair.

Hey, what was with this sentence again!?

However, one could tell from this sentence that Song Jin had indeed discarded worldly matters and little could catch his interest...

“Elder Song, can’t you just consider it a little? Even if you don’t care about fame or fortune, don’t you wish your work can be passed on through generations and display a larger value?” Ning Xi tried to persuade him.

When he heard this, Song Jin seemed to hesitate.

Could something have moved him?

Ning Xi quickly looked over, but he had bent down and continued to work on his seedlings again.

Okay, we’ve failed again...

But that was expected. Song Jin had already made it to the top and was renowned in and out of the country, so why would he care about collaborating with a fashion company?

Ning Xi and Gong Shangze took turns in persuading the old man but at last, they still left unfruitful.

Before she left, Ning Xi put the studio’s information on the door of the house.

When she saw Gong Shangze in low spirits, Ning Xi patted his shoulders and encouraged him, “Don’t give up! When Liu Bei wanted to hire Zhu Geliang, he had to visit his thatched cottage three times! Let’s try again tomorrow! Maybe we’ll succeed tomorrow, who knows?”

...

The third day saw failure once more.

After returning from Taoyuan Village, Ning Xi went straight to Platinum Palace. The moment Ning Xi walked into her house, she threw herself on the sofa and moaned, “Arghh, it’s so hard to settle him...”

“What’s wrong?” Lu Tingxiao was sitting on the sofa, reading the papers. He ruffled the girl’s hair, observing that she had been upset the moment she had walked in.

“It’s that national calligrapher I told you about! He’s so hard to invite!” Ning Xi mumbled.

“Song Jin?”

“Yeah! No hard or soft method can get to him! The key is that he has no desire for anything and we have nowhere to enter!” Ning Xi could not help but whine.

“The possibility of inviting Elder Song is pretty small. I suggest you look for someone else,” said Lu Tingxiao.

Okay, if even Lu Tingxiao says so, there’s probably no hope...

Ning Xi sighed, "I think that there isn't much possibility too. We'll try one last time tomorrow! Gong Shangze, that unlucky child, is too weak from being indoors all the time. He's already sick from running around these few days! I've to go alone tomorrow...oh no! No, wait! Tomorrow is Saturday and I was just thinking about bringing the little bun on a nature trip! Perfect!"

Chapter 1024: My Hands Are Itchy! I Want To Beat Someone Up!

The moment Ning Xi said that, a soft little bun ran down from upstairs and jumped into her embrace, his face full of glowing expectations.

When she saw that Little Treasure was so excited at the sound of a trip, Ning Xi could not help but feel guilty. "Mmm, sorry, my little bun, Mommy hasn't brought you out for fun in a long time! We'll be going tomorrow! And it'll just be the two of us!"

With Mommy only? And not bringing Father?! The little bun's eyes instantly lit up even more when he heard this. The rays of light from him almost bedazzled Ning Xi's eyes till they turned glassy.

Ning Xi replied, "Yes! We're not bringing the huge lightbulb!"

Lu Tingxiao was speechless. Had karma had come too quickly?

"What's wrong? Do you have anything to say?" Ning Xi looked at Lu Tingxiao and raised her brows.

Lu Tingxiao was helpless. "No."

The girl actually knew that he was going to be outstation for work tomorrow and definitely would not be able to go.

"Good, then it's gladly decided!"

...

Because he had a date with Mommy for a trip, Little Treasure was so excited that he almost could not sleep for the entire night. This was his first time on an outing with Mommy.

The next morning, Little Treasure had woken up early to prepare for the outing. The family of three packed up before going separate ways.

At that moment, a person suddenly ran over from the opposite bungalow. "Wait! There's me too! Me too!"

"Lu Jingli? Why are you here?" Ning Xi was surprised to see him.

"My brother said that you guys are going for a spring outing! Spring outings are definitely going to involve barbeque! I want to go too!" Lu Jingli looked like he was about to salivate.

Ning Xi was taken aback. "Are you coming for the spring outing or for food?"

“Of course, for food! Sister-in-law, the grilled meat you made the last time was really yummy! I won’t eat for free. I’ll help you guys carry the bags and I’ll do the hard work, okay?” Lu Jingli tried to grovel.

“It’s the desolate countryside, after all. Let Jingli go with you two,” said Lu Tingxiao.

“Okay then!” Ning Xi thought that having someone carry their bags was a good idea since she did bring quite a lot today.

“Then...do you mind bringing one more person...?” Behind them was Jiang Muye’s voice.

When he saw that Jiang Muye had appeared from nowhere, Lu Jingli looked upset because it meant that there was someone else to fight for food with him. “Hey, Jiang Muye! Why are you everywhere?! It’s fine if you want to leech on supper, but you want to leech on the outing too!?”

“Didn’t you mention going to a desolate countryside? There’ll definitely be no one there. I’ve recently gotten crowd syndrome. I get a headache when I see too many people. Coincidentally, I need to go to such a place to relax!” Jiang Muye said in a weak and troubled tone.

Ning Xi’s mouth twitched. “What the hell is ‘crowd syndrome’?”

“This is a problem for those of us who are too popular. I won’t blame you for not understanding!” Jiang Muye sighed.

Ning Xi was speechless. Her hands were itchy and she really wanted to beat someone up!

At last, Ning Xi and Little Treasure’s duo had become a trio and now, a quadruplet.

Fine, one can help carry the bags and the other can carry Little Treasure when he gets tired from walking. This is the rhythm of Pigsy [1] and the white dragon!

Quite good!

After they had decided, Ning Xi walked to Lu Tingxiao to say goodbye. “My dear, we’re leaving now!”

When they heard Ning Xi use such a gentle and sweet tone to speak to Lu Tingxiao, Lu Jingli and Jiang Muye knew it was time for public display of affection, so they quickly ran off in tandem. What remains unseen is deemed to be clean!

Translator’s Thoughts

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[1] Pigsy – 猪八戒 (Zhu Bajie). A character in the Chinese folklore “Journey to the West” (西遊記 | 西游记) with pig-like characteristics and armed with a muck-rake; Pigsy in Arthur Waley’s translation

Chapter 1025: Little Treasure and Little Bunny

“Mmm, have more fun.” Lu Tingxiao tousled the girl’s hair.

Ning Xi suddenly felt sad that Lu Tingxiao had to work despite it being the weekend. “Sigh, I suddenly feel that it’s too mean to leave you alone. What can be done about it...?”

Even though she was going for work today as well, with the current mood, it seemed to have turned entirely into an outing.

Lu Tingxiao pinched the girl’s earlobe lightly and said softly, “Compensate me the next time.”

Ning Xi blinked. “How about I compensate you now?”

“Enough, you two! There’s still an underaged child here, hey!” Lu Jingli started to howl from afar.

Ning Xi tiptoed to kiss Lu Tingxiao’s cheeks, then waved goodbye to her child’s father.

...

The little bun was riding this kind of rickety bus for the first time and he was very excited all the way, especially after reaching Taoyuan Village. When he saw the scenery before him, the sea of flowers reflected in the little guy’s eyes and his gaze was full of curiosity and radiance.

Even though Ning Xi had seen the same view three times already and had become numb to it, because she was with the little bun this time, everything felt like a new experience all over again.

“Verdant hills and clear water. There’re no traces of being affected by humans at all! Most importantly, there isn’t a single person! This is heaven! Oh, oh, oh!” Jiang Muye looked at the green hills and crystalline water ahead and started getting very excited.

It looks he had really been restrained all along.

“Hey, did you tell Bro Ming that you’re out today?” Ning Xi casually asked.

Jiang Muye replied stubbornly, “Why do I have to tell him?”

Ning Xi was speechless. It was not sure what sin Lei Ming had committed in his past life for him to be Jiang Muye’s manager in this lifetime.

Ning Xi thought about it and at last, decided to still send Lei Ming a message to inform him of Jiang Muye’s whereabouts.

“Wow, yummy! So sweet...”

Lu Jingli was already climbing a tree when Ning Xi was not noticing. He had picked a few peach blossoms and he was eating the honey inside the stamen.

Definitely the true colors of a foodie.

Ning Xi walked over to pick some too, then gave some to the little bun. The little bun took a lick and his eyes shone.

“Let’s go! The scenery ahead is even more beautiful!”

From her previous three visits, Ning Xi already remembered the routes nearby by heart and knew the spots with the best views and the most fun; she had no issues being an excellent tour guide.

The four of them went on a scenic tour all the way. When noon arrived, Ning Xi found a spot in the forest with a gorgeous view and stopped to begin the barbeque.

Lu Jingli had waited for the much anticipated moment. Finally, he stacked the barbeque pit and then laid out all the food ingredients.

Ning Xi ordered Jiang Muye to lay out the picnic cloth and arrange the cutleries. When she was done, she brought the little bun to chase butterflies and rabbits.

“Blondie! Are you done!? Quickly come over, there’s a rabbit here, catch it! Then, we’ll have extra food today!”

Jiang Muye laid out the items and looked at the two of them jumping around when he suddenly realized...had he fallen into a trap?

He had practically come to be hard labor! No wonder when he said he wanted to come, Lu Tingxiao did not oppose it at all!

“Catch, your ass! I’m not a dog! How can I catch rabbits!?” Jiang Muye said sharply.

“You’re so useless! Help me take care of Little Treasure, I’ll go catch it!” Ning Xi said before she ran off and disappeared.

Moments later, Ning Xi returned and she had caught a furry, white rabbit.

Jiang Muye was speechless. “What the hell? Are you even a woman...?”

When the little bun saw the rabbit in Mommy’s hands, he immediately ran over in excitement. Ning Xi squatted down and said softly to the little bun, “Want to touch it? Its fur is really soft!”

Chapter 1026: It Should Belong To My Stomach

The little bun was seeing a real-life rabbit for the first time, so he hesitated before offering his small hand to touch its body.

When he was done, the little bun’s eyes widened.

Soft! Furry!

Ning Xi could not help but laugh at the little bun’s rare animated expression. “Haha! Fun, isn’t it?”

The little bun nodded and kept stroking it lovingly.

The rabbit was initially still wiggling around in Ning Xi's hand, but it quieted down after the little bun stroked it.

"Whoa! Such a fat rabbit! Quick, let's grill it!" Lu Jingli said excitedly.

When the little bun heard what his uncle said, he instantly gave a death stare to Lu Jingli and then hugged the rabbit tightly.

"Grill, your head! You only know how to eat!" Ning Xi said annoyedly.

"Hey, wasn't it you...who said to catch it as an addition to our meal?" Lu Jingli felt wronged to be scolded.

Ning Xi replied, "Little Treasure likes it, so we're not allowed to eat it now!"

Little Treasure nodded vigorously too. Not allowed to eat my bunny!

Lu Jingli was speechless. It should have belonged to my stomach!

"Did you bring the first aid kit?" Ning Xi asked.

Jiang Muye immediately frowned. "Are you hurt? I told you not to catch the rabbit!"

"It's the rabbit that's hurt, alright?"

Jiang Muye had no reply.

Ning Xi took out the first aid kit and started to bandage the rabbit.

Wild rabbits run as quick as lightning and they are highly alert too. How could she have caught it easily? She had only managed to catch it because one of the hind legs was hurt.

The little bun felt sorry for the rabbit and stroked its head lovingly, looking like he was the one in pain.

After bandaging it up, Ning Xi carefully put the rabbit back into the little bun's arms for him to hold. This rabbit was quite naive and it was very obedient in the little bun's arms.

"Why go through so much trouble? It would've been better if we just ate it.." Lu Jingli looked bitter and hateful.

Thankfully, he had forgotten about the rabbit very soon because Ning Xi started the grill. In the forest, the fragrance of peach blossoms and the tempting smell of food mixed together, whetting one's appetite!

As the four of them ate, there were sounds of footsteps behind them. Ning Xi turned around to look and saw Song Jin leading a cow with a basket in his hand, walking towards the forest.

Ah! She had too much fun and had almost forgotten about her official business!

The reason she had chosen this place for barbeque was because she noticed that Song Jin would usually come here to eat lunch after finishing work on the farm!

“Elder Song, are you done being busy? Want to come over and have some food?”
Ning Xi asked eagerly.

She had been rejected three times, so Ning Xi considered herself quite familiar with him now. Furthermore, this time she had not held too much hope, so her attitude was much more relaxed.

Elder Song Jin looked at them and when his gaze fell on Little Treasure, he paused for a moment, then said, “Thank you, but this old man has brought his lunch!”

He then sat at a spot ten steps away from them as he ate his lunch under a tree. In the basket were a simple loaf of bread and some salted vegetable.

“He’s Song Jin?” Jiang Muye asked.

Earlier on the way, Ning Xi had already chatted a little about Song Jin with Jiang Muye and Lu Jingli.

“Yeah! Doesn’t he seem so detached from worldly things!?” Ning Xi said.

On the side, Lu Jingli tried to speak with his mouth full, “No matter how detached a person is, they’ll have their weakness, I’m telling you! Such as how my brother’s weak point is you, and my weak point is food...”

“Haha, you can use your brother as an example, but you...forget it!”

“Whatever, that’s what I mean! There’s definitely something that he wants. You just haven’t found out what yet!”

Chapter 1027: Teach Little Treasure To Play Cards

“It’s as if you didn’t say anything!”

If he knew what Song Jin’s desire was, would she be running around like a headless chicken?

She watched the little bun eat with one hand and feed the rabbit grass with the other, his huge eyes filled with a liveliness that was not usually there.

Ning Xi tilted her head and wiped the little bun’s mouth, her mood suddenly better again.

This place was a little far and it was a desolate countryside, so she was initially worried that the little bun would not adapt well, but who knew that this guy would be having so much fun? In fact, he was not feeling tired. It looked like she could bring the little bun out for more fun outings in the future!

Nature is always the best medicine!

When he watched Ning Xi’s motherly expression, it was hard for Jiang Muye to describe his feelings...

Not too far away, Song Jin had finished his lunch very quickly and returned to work in the paddy fields.

Ning Xi and the rest lay down in the forest to take a short nap. When they woke up in the afternoon, Ning Xi continued to lead them to a few fun spots. The four of them enjoyed themselves until the evening, and as they were prepared to go home, it suddenly poured.

In fact, it started raining cats and dogs without any warning signs at all!

The little bun anxiously protected the rabbit in his arms while Ning Xi quickly carried the little bun. Lu Jingli took off his jacket to wrap the little bun in it before the four of them rushed out of the village.

However, it would take at least half an hour to get out of the village. With the torrential rain, the roads would only become increasingly difficult to walk through. It was quite a terrible situation.

Ning Xi was sputtering in the rain, “Hey! What the hell!?! This rain wouldn’t pour when it should, and it pours when it shouldn’t!”

“What’s the nearest place we can take shelter in?” Jiang Muye asked.

“There’s only Elder Song’s house around here but that’s impossible...Elder Song wouldn’t allow any strangers into his home! The last time, I wanted to go in for a drink but I was rejected!” Ning Xi said.

Just as the two spoke, they passed by Elder Song’s home.

The moment that they were hesitating about whether or not to ask for help, the courtyard’s door suddenly flew open. Song Jin stood at the door and peered at them. “Come on in!”

Eh? He had actually invited them in himself?

How did such an amazing thing happen?

“Thank you, Mr. Song!” Ning Xi did not have time to think. She quickly carried the little bun in.

“Thank you, Elder!” Jiang Muye and Lu Jingli chirped.

Song Jin’s attitude remained indifferent. “I’m just doing it for the child.”

Ning Xi put down the little bun. “Baby, quickly thank Grandfather Song!”

The little bun nodded as he put the rabbit in his mother’s hands, then he took out his writing board and wrote earnestly, “Thank you, Grandfather.”

When he saw that Little Treasure was interacting with him using a writing board, Song Jin was slightly astonished for a moment. Still, when he read Little Treasure’s words clearly, surprise flashed across his eyes.

This boy was so young, yet he had written so well!

The rain poured endlessly outside; it looked like it would not stop very soon.

Song Jin left them and entered his study room alone.

Lu Jingli could not sit still. He became bored very quickly and took out some cards from his bag. “It’s so boring, let’s play some cards!”

“Okay!” Jiang Muye seconded, “But how do we play with just three people?”

Lu Jingli laughed mischievously and looked at the little bun. “Let’s teach the little bun and let him play with us!”

Inside the room, Song Jin had meant to focus on drawing, inspired by the rain, but when he heard Lu Jingli’s intention, he opened his door and waved to Little Treasure. “Child, come to Grandfather!”

Chapter 1028: This Mother is Increasingly Professional

The little bun subconsciously looked at his mother.

Ning Xi smiled and kiss the little bun’s cheek. “Go! Go play with Grandfather for a while!”

She was really speechless at Lu Jingli and felt quite worried for his future children!

When he heard Mommy’s words, the little bun nodded, then clumsily walked over to the elder. He had noticed earlier that the grandfather’s study room had many drawings, and now he could not help but look up to admire them.

“You like them?” When he observed the way the little guy stared at them in awe, Song Jin asked with an unexpectedly gentle expression.

The little bun nodded, indicating his inclination for art.

“You know calligraphy? I mean...writing with the calligraphy brush, do you know how to?” Song Jin asked again.

The little bun continued to nod.

“Then...do you know how to draw?” Song Jin asked again. This time his tone had a discrete sense of nervousness.

The little bun nodded again.

When Song Jin saw this, he immediately pulled out up a blank drawing paper and gave the little bun some space. “Want to try?”

...

Outside, Ning Xi, Lu Jingli and Jiang Muye were playing ‘Fight the Landlord’.

Lu Jingli looked towards the study room and wondered, “What’s so fun for Little Treasure to be with that old man!? He should just play cards with us!”

“My little bun does like drawing. With Elder Song’s artistic achievements, he would have lucked out by getting any pointers from him. And what’s so good about playing cards with you?” Ning Xi scoffed.

Lu Jingli clicked his tongue, “Xiao Xi Xi....you’re becoming more and more professional at being a mother!”

It was not sure how much time had passed before the study room door suddenly opened. Song Jin and the little bun walked out.

Song Jin, who had always looked so out of this world and immortal, now looked obviously emotional and excited. His gaze skimmed past Lu Jingli and Jiang Muye and asked, “Which one of you is this child’s father?”

“Uhh...” Lu Jingli was taken aback by this sudden question and he replied reflexively, “I’m not!”

Song Jin immediately looked at Jiang Muye.

Jiang Muye cleared his throat and said, “I’m not either!”

Lu Jingli continued to say, “I’m the child’s uncle!”

Jiang Muye added on, “And I’m his...um...cousin!”

Ning Xi saw that Song Jin’s expression was weird, so she could not help but ask, “Elder Song...is there...is there something wrong?”

Song Jin instantly looked at Ning Xi, “You’re the child’s mother? Can you make decisions for this child?”

Huh? What decision?

Ning Xi thought about it, “Well...if it’s a huge matter, it’s best to hear what his father has to say first!”

Ning Xi then walked to inspect the little bun with suspicious eyes.

Baby, did something happen?

The little bun blinked. He was dumbfounded and was obviously not sure what was going on either.

Lu Jingli and Jiang Muye were confused too.

When Song Jin heard Ning Xi’s words, his expression seemed anxious. He asked again, “Then... where’s the child’s father right now? Can I meet him?”

Ning Xi thought it was even odder when she heard this. She was about to say something when someone knocked on the door, breaking the rhythmic patter of the heavy rain.

Song Jin gathered himself again and walked absent-mindedly to open the door.

Outside stood a tall and lean man in a black windbreaker, holding an umbrella in his hand quietly amidst the late night breeze.

Chapter 1029: As Husband and Wife

“You are...?” Song Jin asked as his gaze evaluated the person before him.

The man was drenched and there was a significant amount of mud on the leg of his pants, but even though he was travel-worn and was in a sorry situation, his charisma was just as tantalizing as he exuded the vibe of someone pure and honest.

Song Jin had met many people and he could almost infer that the person before him was a somebody. There were many people who had appeared on his doorstep to invite him for many reasons, yet none of them had the charisma of this guy.

But...this person...why did he look slightly familiar?

“I’m sorry to show up uninvited so late at night, but I’m here to look for someone,” said the man.

He deduced that he was here to look for the four that had entered earlier, so Song Jin just let him in. “Come in!”

When she saw who walked in, Ning Xi’s eyes immediately widened as she flew to him, “Lu Tingxiao! Why are you here?”

“I was worried about you and our child.” When he saw that they were both fine, Lu Tingxiao felt assured.

“Look at you, you’re soaked!” Ning Xi quickly took out some tissues and gave it to him so he could wipe himself dry.

“No worries.”

On the side, Lu Jingli, who was completely neglected, was instantly sulky. “Hey, hey, hey, you’re just worried about your wife and child? You still have your biological brother and distant nephew here!”

Jiang Muye brooded. Please do not include me, just continue to ignore me.

Wife and child? When Song Jin heard this, he was stunned. That was the child’s father?

No wonder he thought he looked familiar. Upon closer inspection, indeed they did look like father and son...

Lu Jingli looked to Song Jin and said, “Mr. Song! Didn’t you want to meet Little Treasure’s father? This is him!”

Ning Xi suddenly thought of explaining to Lu Tingxiao, “Elder Song seems to have some matters he needs to talk to you for. It seems to be related to Little Treasure!”

Since he had finally met the child’s father, Song Jin did not beat around the bush any further. “This young boy has an extraordinary talent in drawing. I want to take him in as a student.”

“Ah? Elder Song...you want to take Little Treasure as a student?” Ning Xi was shocked.

“Yes.” Song Jin looked serious as he nodded; his gaze on Little Treasure was filled with fire.

“Well...” Ning Xi did not think that Song Jin would make such a request today, so she could not react immediately.

Song Jin had been single for his whole life and did not have children. Neither did he accept students, so when Ning Xi first read about him, she thought that he had no intentions of taking in any students. Therefore, her shock was understandable.

Assessing the situation, it was not that he did not want any students; he had just never met anyone he wanted to take in.

Elder Song had probably tested Little Treasure’s skills in the study room earlier, thus sparking such a thought.

Ning Xi was full of pride at the fact that Elder Song, who was detached from worldly matters and had never accepted a single student, had taken an interest in Little Treasure. Her son was the best!

Actually, even Lu Tingxiao was a little surprised too. He did not expect that Ning Xi’s spring outing and their taking shelter from the rain would result in Song Jin’s request for an apprentice.

Based on Song Jin’s achievements, the fact that he would accept Little Treasure was no doubt a huge opportunity for him.

Thus, Lu Tingxiao exchanged looks with Ning Xi before saying, “Elder Song, your reputation has long been renowned, as husband and wife, we’ve admired your work for a long time. Naturally, this would be something we can’t refuse. However, we still want to get our son’s opinion.”

Jiang Muye was speechless.

As husband and wife...

The way he said it was a little too smooth on the tongue!

They were not even married yet!

Chapter 1030: Don’t Be Sad, I’ll Let You Stroke Me!

“Naturally.” Song Jin nodded.

Ning Xi squatted down to look at Little Treasure and asked, “Little Treasure, are you willing to learn how to draw from Grandfather Song?”

Little Treasure stroked the furry rabbit in his arms and blinked, looked at Father, Mommy, and then the grandfather...

At last, under Song Jin’s nervous gaze, Little Treasure finally nodded.

The instant that he nodded, Song Jin was so emotional he almost cried out, “Great! Great! Great... you will become Song Jin’s only apprentice! As your Master, I’ll definitely pass on all of my painting techniques from this lifetime of mine to you!”

Then, under Mommy’s directions, Little Treasure followed the steps of formally becoming the apprentice of an art grandmaster and obediently served Song Jin tea, making everything official.

After the ceremony was done, Lu Tingxiao thought about something before asking, “But there is one problem. Elder, you live a little too far...”

“That is not a problem, I can completely uproot my life for my obedient apprentice, I will just move close to wherever you live!” Song Jin said spontaneously. The more he looked at Little Treasure, the more he liked him.

His artistic techniques and skills required a lot of talent and intelligence. Although he had already stopped hoping to find a successor that could meet his requirements, God was so kind to him and led him on a path of fate to meet this boy.

Ning Xi did not know what to say to Song Jin. She had traveled over land and water to meet this grandmaster. On the contrary, it was the little bun who Elder Song was willing to go to the extent of visiting to teach.

My amazing baby!

Because it was already late and it was pouring outside, Song Jin let them stay for a night since he was in an incredibly good mood as well.

Lu Jingli and Jiang Muye stayed in one room, while Ning Xi, Lu Tingxiao, and the little bun stayed in another.

Earlier, Lu Tingxiao had seen the rabbit in his son’s embrace. Now, he turned to Ning Xi and asked, “Where did the rabbit come from?”

Ning Xi replied delightedly, “I caught it! I wanted to grill it to eat but Little Treasure likes it, so I let him play with it! Isn’t it cute? It’s furry! And soft!”

“Cute indeed.” Lu Tingxiao stretched out his wide palm and stroked the rabbit’s ears.

When Little Treasure saw that, he immediately carried the rabbit to Mommy’s side. Mine, no touching.

Lu Tingxiao was speechless.

Seeing Lu Tingxiao’s deflated expression, Ning Xi laughed and dipped her head towards him. “Don’t be sad, I’ll let you stroke me!”

The little bun was agitated by this. He quickly shoved the rabbit back to Lu Tingxiao. Father, you should just stroke the rabbit!

“Hahahaha...” Ning Xi held her stomach and laughed hard.

He looked at his own son and helplessly sighed. Even though both father and son were on the same page, they still fought to be doted upon.

“Ah, this is great! Apart from our baby having a martial arts teacher, he now has a drawing teacher. He is really the master of pen and sword!” Ning Xi said happily.

“Ning Xi.”

Lu Tingxiao suddenly called her seriously, causing Ning Xi confusion. “What?”

“Thank you.”

“Why are you suddenly thanking me for?”

“Thank you for being so good to Little Treasure.”

Ning Xi patted the little bun’s head with a loving gaze. “Shouldn’t it be a given that I’m good to my son? Right, little bun?”

Little Treasure nodded.

As the night fell, the rain continued to patter on the window and the air was filled with the smell of fresh soil. Little Treasure gradually fell into a slumber and slept soundly...