

Hidden 1671

Chapter 1671: Impressive Character?

In the courtyard outside, the socialites, who were having tea and chatting, had been assigned with number plates. They would enter when their number was called.

The butler had tactfully said that the plates were for everyone to hold on to and that they could play a little game such as a lucky draw or something later on, but everyone was well aware of what these number plates really did.

"Sigh, I'm so nervous! I wonder how the Lu family has prepared to test us!"

"My family has used all sorts of methods to help me find out. They tried to get the test questions or something, yet they did not find out anything. We only know that it's the little prince who came up with the questions, but we don't know what the actual questions are!"

"You don't say! This little prince is a genius. His thought process is unlike the average person too. The questions he has come up with must be especially hard! How tragic that my grades weren't good when I was still in school, but I've been making up for it recently."

"What's the use trying to make up for it? The little prince is well versed in piano, chess, painting and calligraphy, astronomy, geography, and pretty much everything! The scope of possibilities is too huge..."

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The education that this group of heiress socialities had received since they were young had mostly emphasized on building their character. Basically, they were flashy but hollow beings. If the little prince were to test them on topics like physics, maths, and science, there was nothing they could do about it. This knowledge could not be achieved in a short time either.

As she heard the discussions around her, Chi Yingying sneered and snorted at them, "To think of making a hasty last-minute effort only right now... Could you people be any later?"

Chi Yingying had always been arrogant. Everyone was a little fearful of her, so even though they despised her taunting them, they could only ridicule her silently. However, Chi Yingying was a Harvard graduate, and they had to acknowledge that she was publicly known to be a talented girl.

"What is she being so arrogant for? Even though her odds are better than us, don't forget that there's the Guan family too!"

"The Guans have a relationship with Lu Chongyuan, and they're on good terms with the Lu family too. I'm afraid that it's long been internally decided while we're just here to go through motions for formality!"

"Who said that we weren't?! Then again... even if there's one sliver of hope, I'd still want to try..."

After all, that was a position that all women had long dreamt of.

"Number 1, Miss Chi, please come in!" The butler had already started to call out numbers. Suddenly, everyone was so tensed that they kept quiet.

That was right. The first one was Chi Yingying.

Precisely because of that, everyone had become even more high-strung. If Chi Yingying performed well, then they would have no business lingering anymore, and all their preparation would have been for nothing...

In the room, Little Treasure sat on the sofa, while Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi sat opposite him.

Lu Jingli was afraid that if he stayed, Yan Ruyi would urge him to take a long, hard look at the young ladies, but he was just too curious about what the little bun would be testing those socialites on. Faced with a major dilemma, his curiosity won in the end and he had resolutely stayed!

In fact, it would be good for him to give his brother and Xiao Xi Xi a live broadcast too...

When he saw Chi Yingying, Lu Jingli was stunned for a moment. Oh dear, the first one was already an impressive character!

"Nice to meet you, Sis!" When he saw the person walk in, Little Treasure sweetly greeted her.

As Chi Yingying listened to the little guy's respectful greeting, her frazzled nerves instantly relaxed a lot. "Nice to meet you too, Little Treasure. My surname is Chi. We've met at the banquet previously!"

"Mmm, I remember. You're Chi Shuai's sister!"

"Yes!" Chi Yingying was instantly delighted. Initially, she was furious because her family's fatty had offended Little Treasure, but who would have thought that the two had become friends after the fight? They now got along pretty well.

"Sis Chi, I will start with the questions!"

"Okay," answered Chi Yingying as she reflexively straightened up.

Chapter 1672: Our Baby Is Beyond-This-World Cute

On the side, Lu Chongshan, Yan Ruyi, and Lu Jingli looked over nervously at Little Treasure.

Then, they saw that Little Treasure blink before asking, "Sister, do you know how to sing?"

Chi Yingying was stunned for a moment. "I do."

Little Treasure happily declared, "That's great! Then, Sister, can you sing 'Leap Frog' for me? I really like this song. Every night, I have to listen to it to sleep. Otherwise, I won't be able to fall asleep!"

Chi Yingying was dumbfounded. "Uhh..."

'Leap Frog'?

What was that?

No, wait... Was this little prince not a prodigy? Why was he asking her to sing him a children's song?

However, if you were to ask her to point out what was not right with the question, she would be tongue-tied as well. He was a child who had just entered kindergarten, so the fact that he wanted to listen to

children's songs before sleeping at night, hoping that his stepmother would sing it for him the next time was incredibly normal.

Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi were very surprised that Little Treasure would come up with such a question, but upon pondering, they just felt their hearts fill with an ache. Even if he was very sensible, he was still just a child!

Their Little Treasure had come up with an excellent topic!

"Sis Chi, don't you know how to?" Little Treasure revealed a disappointed expression.

Chi Yingying looked awkward. "I'm sorry, I really don't know this song..."

Little Treasure said again with anticipation, "Then, Sis Chi, do you know other children songs?"

The little guy looked like he quite liked her since he had actually given her a second chance.

Chi Yingying looked worse. "Well... I don't know either... I'm not good at this kind of songs..."

She had been receiving an elite education since she was young, so she would not know things like children songs. Even if she had heard one or two lines, she was afraid that stumbling while singing it would only make things worse.

She could not have predicted that the little prince would come up with such a topic. She was not prepared at all!

Thus, the most hopeful talented Harvard graduate, Chi Yingying, was stumped by this request for the "Leap Frog" song.

Lu Jingli recalled the first time he heard Ning Xi sing "Leap Frog" to Little Treasure back then and he felt incredibly rueful.

Back then he was despondent that his little bun would actually like listening to such childish songs, but later on, he was rueful that Xiao Xi Xi actually knew how to sing such songs.

Lu Jingli thought about it as he added his brother and Xiao Xi Xi into a group chat, then he sent out a message to the group: [The first one, Chi Yingying, has fallen! Little Treasure's task was to sing the song "Leap Frog"! Isn't he savage?]

Very soon, there were replies in the group chat.

[Lu Tingxiao: ...]

[Ning Xi: You're the fierce one! Our baby is beyond-this-world cute!]

As for Chi Yingying's elimination, the two elders did not have any objections. Instead, they started comforting the little bun endearingly.

"Little Treasure, don't be sad. There're still many sisters after this! There'll be someone that Little Treasure likes!"

"Yes, yes, yes, Little Treasure. Let's continue!"

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At this moment, when the heiresses outside saw Chi Yingying walk out looking miserable, all of them felt a chill in their hearts.

"Why does Chi Yingying look so terrible? Has she been eliminated?"

"Her face has already turned so dark. She must've been!"

"We're over! For even Chi Yingying to be eliminated, how hard were the questions?!"

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"Number two, Miss Song, please come in!"

After the second heiress entered, Little Treasure had obediently greeted her as usual, then came the question. "The time starts now. In ten minutes, as long as you can make me speak, you'll pass!"

Chapter 1673: Feel Sorry For Baby Little Treasure

When the Song heiress, Song Yuyan, heard this question, she did not immediately react.

Make the little prince speak within ten minutes?

It was just making him speak up. Even just a word would count, so would this not be too easy?

"Sister, it has begun," the little bun politely reminded, then he maintained his stiff posture and sat quietly on the sofa.

Just as Song Yuyan thought about the lack of challenge of this task, the instant that little guy on the sofa was heard, she had an entirely different feeling.

Earlier, he had clearly still been an active and cute little prince, yet now it was as if he had an invisible mask disconnecting him from the outside world. He seemed sealed within a completely different world from them.

When Song Yuyan saw this indifference of his, her heart jumped. All the things she had initially prepared to tease the little guy to speak had all been swallowed by the child's pitch-black, ice-cold eyes.

On the side, Lu Jingli squinted and sighed on the inside. The little bun had really given it a lot of thought...

Cold beads of sweat were about to slide down Song Yuyan's forehead as she struggled for the longest time before she finally tried to speak, "Little Treasure... My family has a chocolate factory with lots of yummy chocolate. Next time, I'll bring you there to play, okay?"

The little guy reacted as if he had not heard her speak at all. To be more precise, the little did not deliberately evade her. He was indeed looking at her, but this person before him clearly did not enter his line of sight as if she was not the same species as him and he did not understand her at all...

On the side, Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi, who had a heavy expression since they heard Little Treasure's question, now clearly looked even more solemn.

The existence of this version of Little Treasure was a nightmare to them.

Time passed by. Song Yuyan, who was probably not great at getting along with children, was even more nervous now in front of Little Treasure. Her clumsy conversational skills made the entire situation more and more awkward. Soon, her attempts also stagnated.

"Time's up," reminded Lu Jingli from the side.

Ten minutes had finally passed. Song Yuyan's first reaction was not disappointment or sadness. Instead, she let out a long sigh of relief. It had finally ended...

She finally understood why Chi Yingying had looked so miserable when she had walked out earlier.

"Sister, do I need to give you more time?" Little Treasure suddenly turned into the polite little prince that he was, and spoke very nicely again.

Previously, all the socialites, including Yan Ruyi and Lu Chongshan, had thought that Little Treasure might make things difficult for them, yet the reality was that the little guy had been unexpectedly gentle.

Before Song Yuyan could say anything, the two elders had already rushed to speak up about Little Treasure's tolerance and generosity.

"That won't do, Little Treasure. There're already set rules. If you change them, then they don't count!" Yan Ruyi looked anxious.

"Okay, that's it then!" Lu Chongshan rushed to finalize it too.

They really did not want to continue seeing Little Treasure act the way he had earlier. Despite just acting, it had caused them much anxiety as if Little Treasure's current cheerful manner was just an unrealistic rosy view, and if they were not careful, he would revert back to his previous ways.

That was something they definitely did not want to see.

They had only tested two girls, yet Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi could barely have the heart to continue on.

However, Little Treasure had already efficiently called in the third person.

This third girl had a different style from the previous two. The previous two had gone with a socialite style, but this one came in with short hair and even wore a gender-neutral dress. She looked neat and tidy, and carried herself tall, actually catching one's attention.

Chapter 1674: Second Uncle, Help Me

When Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi saw the girl who walked in, they reflexively sat up straight as ramrods. This girl was a collateral relative. Compared to other girls, her personality was vivacious and they heard that she was very talented too.

Perhaps, changing to an extroverted personality could coincidentally complement Little Treasure.

The girl started to explain as a matter of fact, "I'm Liang Yi and I'm 23 years old this year. Usually, I like to work out. I'm trained in judo, taekwondo..."

"Nice to meet you, Sis Liang. Please hold on a moment!" Little Treasure greeted the girl, then he turned towards Lu Jingli. "Second Uncle, I need your help with this question."

"OK, no problem. How do I help?" Lu Jingli answered evenly.

Little Treasure waved him over, then Lu Jingli immediately strolled over happily and squatted in front of him as directed by the little bun.

Then, Little Treasure turned to look at that girl. "Sis, my question is simple..."

Before he finished his sentence, there was a "swoosh" as he had efficiently extended his leg up and above towards Lu Jingli's temples, but his foot hovered an inch away from his uncle.

"My question is how can this move be unraveled?"

Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi looked at their dashing darling grandson and felt immense pride in their hearts.

Liang Yi did not expect Little Treasure to come up with such a question, but she had just declared that she was well-versed in this discipline, so it was rational for him to post a question related to the area she was an expert in.

Liang Yi chose her words carefully, "This move... If the force is strong enough, there's basically no way of disengaging. With a single kick to the right meridian points at the temples, a person can be knocked out..."

Liang Yi muttered to herself, "But I can try."

Little Treasure nodded. "Okay, I'll let my Second Uncle spar with you. Is that okay?"

"Of course, thanks!"

Next, Lu Jingli had practiced with that young lady over ten times, yet in the end, none of her methods worked. She failed to unravel the move.

At last, Liang Yi was eliminated.

"Jingli, isn't it unfair for you to test the young lady as a grown man yourself?" When she saw that they had eliminated three candidates with excellent qualities at a go, Yan Ruyi started to worry.

Lu Jingli said helplessly, "Mother, even if you don't understand all of this, you should be able to tell that I didn't use a single percent of force earlier. I'm worried about hurting someone's delicate girl. If she were really skilled in a particular area, I would have given in. Although literature isn't her expertise, at least she had martial arts, didn't she? Sadly, she clearly lacked substance! If she didn't have the capabilities, she shouldn't have sold herself so highly! Now that she's been exposed, is it truly my fault?"

Lu Chongshan consoled himself, "Forget it. Let's continue with the next one. It'd still be better if girls were more gentle and wifely."

After a short interval, the fourth girl walked in.

This time, the girl was completely in line with Lu Chongshan's demands. She was gentle and homely, plus she even had culinary expertise.

"I want to eat tanghulu personally made by you. Can I?" Little Treasure spelled out the test question.

When she heard the question, the girl was instantly dumbstruck. She had not lied about her culinary talent since she had indeed trained professionally. Chinese and Western desserts were nothing difficult, but... was tanghulu considered a dish as well?

The girl looked like she found the challenge difficult. Obviously, she did not know how to make it.

Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi were both completely on Little Treasure's side now. They did not find Little Treasure's test question inappropriate at all. Instead, disappointment filled their faces.

Chapter 1675: What's Wrong With Little Treasure

Did she not boast about her culinary prowess? How could she not know how to make tanghulu?

He remembered that Ning Xi seemed to have made it for Little Treasure before, and Little Treasure had even sent quite a fair bit to the old residence. Those tanghulu were made into all sorts of shapes, and had been pretty and yummy. It was much better than those bought from outside...

As they watched the fourth one about to be eliminated too, Little Treasure's expression suddenly changed.

The little guy reached out his small hands to hold onto his stomach, his face revealing a pained expression.

When Yan Ruyi saw that something was wrong with Little Treasure, she quickly rushed over. "Little Treasure, what's wrong?"

"Nothing..."

"How could it be nothing?! Your little face is all pale now!" Yan Ruyi was worried.

"It's okay, Grandmother. My stomach's just hurting a little..." Little Treasure consoled, yet in just a short amount of time, his fair forehead had broken out into a cold sweat.

"He was just fine earlier. Why is his stomach suddenly hurting? Xing Wu! Get the car ready! Quickly get ready to speed to the hospital!"

The butler hesitated. "Then, all the ladies outside..."

"Dismiss them!" When they saw Little Treasure suffering from the pain and had even started to vomit as his body jerked, the two elders began to panic and did not care about anything else.

Lu Jingli frowned. He quickly carried Little Treasure and took quick, long strides towards the door.

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At Imperial Hospital.

Little Treasure was sent to the emergency room. Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi were anxiously pacing around in circles outside while Lu Jingli had quickly informed his brother and Ning Xi.

"Father, Mother, don't be too worried. Based on Little Treasure's reaction, he's probably just having a bit of a stomachache," Lu Jingli was still consoling them when the doctor finally came out.

The two elders hurried to the doctor to ask, "Doctor, how's the child?"

"Please don't worry. He's okay now," answered the doctor.

When Yan Ruyi heard the report, she finally caught up with her breath. "What actually happened? Why did the child suddenly become like this?"

As they were questioning the doctor, the sound of urgent footsteps came from behind. Lu Tingxiao and Ning Xi had rushed over.

"Where's Little Treasure? How's Little Treasure?" In Ning Xi's eyes was only the little guy on the sickbed. She ran straight up to him and held onto Little Treasure's hand.

The little guy was ashen. His lips had cracked from dehydration, making Ning Xi's heart ache as if it had been pierced by a needle.

"What going on?" Lu Tingxiao asked in a low voice.

The doctor handed them a test report. "We've tested the child's vomit and we found a certain poison in his food, which causes symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, and so on."

Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi's expressions changed. Lu Jingli was a little shocked while Lu Tingxiao's emotions could not be read.

"What? Food poisoning? How could that be!? Little Treasure's diet has been...," Yan Ruyi spoke as her brows furrowed, "Apart from having dinner at home these past few days, Little Treasure has been having breakfast and lunch prepared by that girl. After Jingli brought Little Treasure back this afternoon, he didn't eat anything. He didn't even drink anything before we began..."

This meant that Little Treasure had only eaten food that Ning Xi had prepared that day.

Suddenly, Yan Ruyi and Lu Chongshan swiveled towards Ning Xi.

All of Ning Xi's attention was on the little bun. Her focus only shifted when she heard this.

What? Little Treasure had food poisoning? In fact, based on what Yan Ruyi said, Little Treasure had only eaten the food she had cooked that day...

Lu Chongshan was hyperventilating. "Tingxiao, you consider how to handle this by yourself!"

Lu Tingxiao said expressionlessly, "Handle what?"

Chapter 1676: Where's Mommy?

Lu Chongshan's temper shot up. "Shameful punk, Little Treasure is your son! Are you neglecting your son just for a woman? This woman didn't spare to striking Little Treasure down to stop you from marrying other women! Things have already turned out this way, yet you still want to shield her?"

On such an occasion, something like this had happened to Little Treasure, disrupting the "tea party". Combined with his fixated prejudice, Lu Chongshan obviously immediately thought that Ning Xi would be the one who benefitted the most out of the situation.

Yan Ruyi had obviously thought of that too. She looked coldly towards Ning Xi and stood beside Little Treasure in alarm. "Tingxiao, you've really overstepped it this time!"

Ning Xi frowned and was about to say something when Lu Tingxiao gave her a consoling glance. As he looked at his parents, his expression was stony. "Reason."

"Reason? Does this still need a reason? It's an open secret!"

"Based on what you both are saying, the reason Xiao Xi would do this is to stop the 'tea party', isn't it?" Lu Tingxiao asked.

Lu Chongshan snorted, "Is it not?"

Lu Tingxiao replied, "This reason doesn't hold water."

Lu Chongshan took a deep breath. "You should explain yourself. How does this reason not hold water?"

Lu Tingxiao answered, "The tea party was something that our family of three discussed to be the best way to delay time, so why would she want to stop it?"

Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi were speechless.

The two of them almost choked on Lu Tingxiao's words that held a great amount of nonchalance and confidence that justice was on their side.

On the side, Lu Jingli's mouth twitched. He quickly tried to smooth things out, "Father, Mother, can the both of you calm down? We haven't investigated this properly! Wouldn't it be inappropriate to convict her of the crime right now? Maybe Little Treasure ate something else in school?"

"Little Treasure would never simply eat food from outside!" Yan Ruyi said in a certain tone.

Lu Jingli could only turn things around and say, "Okay, okay, okay. Even if Little Treasure only ate the food that my sister-in-law prepared, how can you guarantee that someone didn't pull any tricks somewhere in between? Based on what you said, my sister-in-law did this to stop the occasion, but can I also point out that someone might have intentionally used this incident to frame and set her up?"

"You two have all been charmed silly by this woman..."

Lu Chongshan was still raving mad and was about to continue when suddenly came the sound of a weak voice.

"Mommy..."

"Mommy's here!" Ning Xi quickly held Little Treasure's small hand.

"Little Treasure! Little Treasure, you're awake!"

"Don't get up, lie down properly!"

Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi set aside their grievance that Ning Xi had called herself his mother. They all rushed to the bedside and watched the little guy's weak gestures, their hearts aching incredibly.

When Little Treasure saw his mother by his side, he softened into a relieved smile, his little cherub face clingily rubbing against his mother's hand.

Soon after, Little Treasure looked towards his grandfather and grandmother and apologized, "Grandfather... Grandmother... I'm very sorry. Little Treasure lied to you two."

Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi exchanged a look, then they quickly looked towards their grandson. "Baby, what are you saying? Lied to us?"

Little Treasure nodded as he said word for word seriously, "Previously, I said I would earnestly consider those sisters, but I lied to you two. My real aim was to delay time. There's only Mommy Xiao Xi in my heart. As intelligent, excellent, or pretty as they may be, they aren't my mother. Besides, my Mommy Xiao Xi is the best."

"Little Treasure..." Ning Xi was so moved that she did not know what to say.

Chapter 1677: I Will Settle Everything

As they heard the child's sincere words, even Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi were suddenly tongue-tied.

Lu Jingli was so touched that he was about to cry. He murmured, "Father, Mother, I didn't want to say anything, but sometimes your lines of thought are too stubborn, especially Father's. Why do you always have to view others with prejudiced lenses? Even though I can understand that once bitten, twice shy, but you can't paint everyone with the same brush, can you?"

"You punk, keep quiet. What do you know?!" Lu Chongshan scolded his son, then he looked at Lu Tingxiao. "Tingxiao, come out with me for a while!"

Lu Jingli immediately gave his brother a reassuring look.

Lu Tingxiao stroked Little Treasure's forehead, then he said to Ning Xi, "I'm going out for a moment."

"Mmm."

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In the empty corridor.

Lu Chongshan's face was covered with dark clouds. "Tingxiao, are you like Jingli? Do you think I'm stubborn and unreasonable?"

Lu Tingxiao grunted, "Mmm."

Lu Chongshan was speechless. He was so enraged that he almost could not catch his breath.

"Father, all your worries, prejudice, and dissatisfaction with Ning Xi is just because you are worried at such a critical period. If I make one wrong move, it'll cause the destruction of the entire Lu family," said Lu Tingxiao.

In reality, Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi had previously been much warmer towards Ning Xi, but because of this incident, their attitudes had returned to the previous nerve-racking times, thus, settling this matter was the root of the problem.

Lu Chongshan's expression softened. "At long last, you still have some rationality."

"Within seven days, I'll settle everything," promised Lu Tingxiao.

"Seven days?" Lu Chongshan almost laughed out of anger. Even if he had always been proud of this son, to handle that huge a monster with such a deep background was being a little overconfident.

"Put aside whether you'll be able to achieve your promise or not. Even if everything is settled, how are you going to explain today's incident? How are you going to prove that she didn't poison Little Treasure? I've just asked Xing Wu to check. There're surveillance cameras at home and in school. In this period of time, there were no suspicious persons who had been in contact with Little Treasure's meal. The only person who could have done anything was her!

"I don't need to go into how an environment affects a person. You understand that too, so I won't even mention how growing up in barren hills and wild rivers would've affected her. The Ning family was willing to keep the foster daughter rather than acknowledge her back then. They even sent her far away abroad. Aren't you a little suspicious at all? Apart from the fact that she wasn't presentable, was there possibly an even more unbearable truth behind?

"More and more of such things are emerging in the circle. How many hedonistic sons of rich parents were sent abroad just to conceal the embarrassment? How can I feel at ease in letting her be Little Treasure's mother or the future head lady of our Lu family when she comes from such a background? Just on the basis of that dispensable bloodline with the Zhuang family? Can you be sure of her moral character that she won't hurt Little Treasure?"

Lu Chongshan cared most about these things and today's incident had clearly triggered his initially weak nerves again, causing all of his repressed dissatisfaction and worries to burst out again.

Lu Tingxiao enunciated word for word, "Firstly, I'll fulfill my promise. Secondly, when that happens, I'll tell you the truth about everything too. Thirdly, as for your concern about Xiao Xi's character, time will tell and you've always rejected and repelled trying to get to know her. Simply based on your so-called 'speculation', how would you know how she's really like?"

Lu Chongshan pinched his brows and did not say anything. Moments later, he said, "Okay, since you say I'm prejudiced, then I'll give her a chance!"

Chapter 1678: You Have Me For Everything

In the ward, Yan Ruyi looked at the way Little Treasure relied so much on Ning Xi. She sighed softly, "Little Treasure, are you feeling ill anywhere else?"

The little bun was stuck in Ning Xi's embrace as he shook his head.

With Mommy around, he would be fine anywhere.

Ning Xi patted Little Treasure's back and coaxed the little guy to sleep, then she looked to Yan Ruyi and said, "Madam Lu, I will give you a proper explanation about Little Treasure getting food poisoning."

When Yan Ruyi heard her, she did not know what to say. She was a mother as well. Whether or not a woman was genuine towards a child, she could roughly tell, but there was no knowing what was in a man's heart. This affected Little Treasure's safety, so she dared not be careless at all.

"Mommy..."

"What's wrong, baby?"

"Sing me a song."

"Okay, I'll sing a song for you. What do you want to listen to?"

"Leap Frog."

"Okay."

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When Lu Tingxiao entered, he saw the girl hugging the child and humming a song softly. On the side, Yan Ruyi looked at the two of them with mixed expressions and dilemma clearly written on her face.

"Xiao Xi..."

"Shh, softer. Little Treasure's asleep." Ning Xi carefully put Little Treasure back onto the bed before getting up.

When she walked out of the ward, Ning Xi's expression suddenly turned cold. Based on how the Lu family valued Little Treasure, they must have investigated immediately. If the problem did not originate from the Lu residence or at school, then she was afraid that it had really originated from her end...

Lu Tingxiao took the girl into his arms and hugged her in his embrace. There was a turbulent darkness in his gentle eyes. "Don't blame yourself. It's not your fault. Rest well, work easy. You have me for everything."

Ning Xi seemed deep in thought as she looked a little absent-minded. Then, she nodded unhappily. "Mmm."

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In a blink of an eye, three days had passed.

In just three short days, too many things had happened. After Song Lin, the Lu Corporation had three large shareholders switched sides.

Yun Shen now held a terrifying number of 28 percent of shares. In fact, he made it no secret that he was joining the Lu Corporation's board of directors, roping in a group of shareholders and upper management who were unhappy with Lu Tingxiao's harsh ruling and had originally been dissatisfied with him.

He had only returned to China in just a few short months, yet he had used a huge sum of money to purchase the Lu Corporation's shares like mad. His actions were like a sharp blade stabbing into the Lu

Corporation's heart, causing the entire Lu family and even the whole of Imperial to be anxious, dissatisfied, and sorrowful.

When Lu Chongshan found out that even Chi Chengkai, who had been one of the earliest to fight with him, had also betrayed the Lu Corporation, he was so mad that he fell ill. In front of him, he had pledged his loyalty, but behind his back, he had sold the shares to Yun Shen.

As they observed the situation turn grim, Yan Ruyi was worried. "Why would Old Chi suddenly sell off his shares behind our backs? Could it be due to Yingying's elimination at the tea party? But... after that, because something happened to Little Treasure, we cancelled the tea party..."

Lu Chongshan gasped for breath, his fingers trembling as he said, "Ruyi, immediately pay a visit to the Guan family. Remember to visit them more often. Some things that should be put into order should be done so now. Go and pass the message to Guan Rui. Just say it's from me!"

Even though there were many candidates among the socialities, the suitable ones were only those few. The Guan family had strong forces within and outside of the company combined. Guan Ziyao was also someone they knew through and through. She had known Tingxiao since they were children, so there was a certain foundation of camaraderie. In addition to that, Lu Chongyuan had always been playing matchmaker from within, and Lu Chongshan had always been most inclined towards the Guan family.

Chapter 1679: Just At This Level

Previously at Mo Jianzhang's birthday banquet, when the Guan family had secretly set Ning Xi up, it had caused them to be estranged. Nevertheless, with all that was said and done, it did not actually affect anything. After all, this incident did not affect his interest. Besides, he was initially unhappy with Ning Xi, so with the current situation, he would naturally make the decision he felt was best.

He had already been wrong once. He could not, definitely could not watch the Lu family be destroyed in his hands...

"Chongshan, do we want to wait for a while more? Didn't Tingxiao already say that he has a plan to settle everything?" Yan Ruyi thought about it, then hesitated to say.

"Settle? It's already been three days. All I see is the Lu Corporation on the brink of crisis! I can't just gamble the Lu Corporation away based on his word! If it were before, I could still trust him, but now he's already been captivated by that woman's charm!" Lu Chongshan exclaimed as he trembled.

"Okay, okay, understood. I'll go then. Don't get all riled up! The doctor already said so many times that you shouldn't get angry!" Yan Ruyi advised helplessly.

"Also, the most important thing is... don't let that woman be alone with Little Treasure!"

"I'm well aware of the situation. Don't you worry!"

...

At the same time, in the suburbs of Beijing.

Qiao Yi was alone in the dimly lit house. On the table in the middle of the house, the joss stick was lit up and a woman's memorial tablet was placed there.

The man's eyes were burning as he stared at the picture on the table. There was a bitterness on his face. "Lan Er, don't you worry... I will avenge you very soon... I will make everyone pay the price..."

There were three raps on the door.

Qiao Yi instantly returned to his indifferent expression. "Come in."

Feng Jin took big strides as he pushed the door to enter and he quickly reported, "Uncle Qiao, the discussions are settled with the Liang family too!"

There was a shine in Qiao Yi's eyes when he heard that. He nodded with satisfaction. "Very good."

Money could resolve half of the world's problems. Things that could not be wavered by money would definitely have a gap too because as long as it came to people, there would definitely be information that could be used against them. Humans would no doubt have weaknesses.

The Lu Corporation seemed to be a huge monster that would be hard to waver, yet the larger the corporation was, the more hidden underground problems there were. When he uncovered them, it would all be rot and filth underneath!

Feng Jin finished reporting the latest progress, then hesitated to ask, "Uncle Qiao, all of this... would it be too quick... too smooth sailing?"

Qiao Yi looked at him levelly. "You've just overestimated the Lu Corporation! We've prepared for so many years. It's just at this level and you're already panicking?"

"Uncle Qiao, you're right!" Feng Jin nodded and agreed.

Besides, they had carefully considered every segment and there were definitely no slip-ups.

...

In the CEO office of the Lu Corporation.

Lu Tingxiao was discussing something with Lu Jingli when Cheng Feng looked solemn as he rushed in to report, "Boss, I just got news. The other party privately went to meet Director Liang last night. I'm afraid that Director Liang has also..."

Lu Tingxiao had 30 percent of shares in his hand while Yun Shen already had 28 percent. Once he managed to acquire Director Liang's shares, all of the shares he owned would surpass Lu Tingxiao's by leaps and bounds!

The will of the people were already unsteady at this point. If they continued to let them acquire the Lu Corporation's shares like mad, the consequences would be unthinkable.

On the side, Lu Jingli stayed silent, his expression unusually solemn.

Lu Tingxiao said, "Understood. Go on down."

"Okay," Cheng Feng responded before he left looking worried.

Chapter 1680: Reel The Fish In

The dreadful looking Lu Jingli pasted a grin on his face the moment Cheng Feng left. "Bro, we can finally reel the fish in!"

Lu Tingxiao's eyes stayed on the monitor, his finger tapping on the table. Bloodlust overtook his expression and the usual gentle expression reserved for Ning Xi was nowhere to be found.

Lu Jingli shivered when he took a glance at Lu Tingxiao's computer screen. "Bro, don't be angry anymore. They're just trying to mess with you when they keep sending you these pictures! But they don't know you. They're just too naive by thinking that just sending these can affect you!"

Not only was it useless... It made his brother become even more brutal!

He had witnessed it five years ago, and this time his brother had come back even stronger. Slowly but surely, his opponent was falling into his trap. Lu Jingli was shaken to his core as he was there to see the whole process!

"Xiao Xi Xi is all over you anyway. She couldn't be with anyone else!"

A slight sense of humanity returned to his expression when Lu Tingxiao heard that.

Lu Jingli also took the chance to ask, "So, can I do it now? I can, right?"

Lu Tingxiao glanced at him. "Wait until they sign the contract with Liang Deyun."

"Oh, okay!" Lu Jingli had sweat all over his forehead. That was a really bold move. His brother would rather risk having fewer shares than his opponent in order to make a lethal strike.

Soon, Lu Tingxiao's fidgeting finger stopped and he raised his head. "Time's up."

Lu Jingli looked at the time. It was as expected.

A short while later, in a well-hidden property belonging to the Lu Corporation, on a wide green plain field, Lu Jingli was holding a golf club in his hand. He swung it, then cheered, "Wow! My luck today is off the charts! A hole-in-one!"

Somewhere nearby, a tall and hefty middle-aged man in a casual outfit was walking towards their direction.

Despite his casual outfit, his back was straight and his steps powerful. He had a different vibe from regular people.

Zhuang Liaoyuan stopped before them. He went straight to the point and asked, "Where's the stuff?"

Lu Tingxiao passed a chip that was the size of a thumb. "It's all in there. Everything about their underground arms deal."

They were in a golf field, but there were only three of them, so they had no need to worry about being spied on.

"Are you sure it's reliable?" Zhuang Liaoyuan asked with a serious expression as he took the chip.

"Yes," Lu Tingxiao replied.

Zhuang Liaoyuan hesitated, but he still answered, "Okay, I'll pass it on for you, but I won't be able to control or interfere how the black cats will act, or if they'll believe this information is reliable or not."

"Thank you."

Actually, he was sort of being the guarantor by just handing the information over on behalf of him.

Zhuang Liaoyuan put the chip away and he looked at the man. He changed the topic. "I heard you've been set up for blind dates recently?"

"It's a method for delaying. I've told Xiao Xi about it already," Lu Tingxiao said boldly.

Zhuang Liaoyuan did not seem impressed. "Don't think we Zhuangs are dead. I didn't stop this because I don't want Xiao Xi to be with you!"