

**Chapter 1051: Who's This**

It couldn't have been his relatives, since they were all back in the village. Could it be that...? Cold sweat beaded on his forehead. Could it be that he dropped his hair into the food while he was cooking, and someone complained about it?

Not likely. If that had been the case, he would have gotten an upbraiding from his manager already. Instead, he had come and talked to him nicely.

As his troubled mind explored the possibilities, he reached the lobby.

From a distance, he saw a man seated with a pot of tea before him, sipping at it casually. He wore a sweater and suit pants, and his boots were polished to a sheen.

Liu Hao couldn't get a clear view of his looks, but he could tell the man had a refined air, like one of those CEOs in dramas. These were the type of people that he and the other cooks had to be very careful around.

Nervously, he walked forward and stood still before the man, not daring to move or talk. The man lifted his teacup. His movements, deft and decisive, betokened good breeding. There was an air of elegance around him.

The man suddenly turned around and sized him up coolly.

"You must be Liu Hao," he began.

Liu Hao nodded stiffly.

"Yes... Sir. Are you looking for me?"

"Mhm..." the man set down his cup. The cup had left an imprint in his palm, and he began tracing it with a finger. They were slightly hands. Large with slender fingers. Suddenly self-conscious, Liu Hao hid his own hands behind him.

His hands had been soaked in cold water all year round, since the very day he started as a chef. Cooking was a tough job, despite what most people might think about it. It wasn't about putting on a white chef hat and doing cool flips with the pan. To be a chef meant dealing with fire and water all day.

He had to put out a large number of dishes every day, working with a heavy wok. If he was weak in the arms, he wouldn't even be able to lift it.

Man made better chefs not because of technique, but simply because of strength.

"Are you from Chengjia Village? The one in South City," inquired the man.

"Yes, Sir," nodded Liu Hao. "That's my hometown. It's the only village in that city."

His village was situated in the middle of the mountain, an awfully inconvenient place. During winters, it was virtually impossible to descend the mountain. All in all, it was a hard place to live in. In a sense, they were self-sufficient.

He was one of the few youngsters from the village that left the village to work. While he was working part-time, he met a nice chef who taught him how to cook. He then became a kitchen assistant. From there, he worked his way up to become a chef. In a few years, he could even become the head chef. If that happens, he would see a significant increase to his salary.

Lu Yi studied him coolly. This must be his guy. He matched the descriptions. There wasn't much he could find out about Chenjia Village, except that it was a poor village situated in the middle of nowhere.

"Got your ID?" asked Lu Yi. This was always his way of doing things. He relied on facts, not his gut feelings.

Cold, hard facts.

"Yes, Sir," said Liu Hao. He handed over his ID meekly. Even he could not say why he did that. He felt as though he was under investigation. Perhaps it was the solemnity in Lu Yi's tone.

Lu Yi took it and glanced at it. The place, name, and appearance all matched.

This was the man he was looking for.

He took out a card and placed it before Liu Hao.

"Recognize her?"

Liu Hao picked up the card. Only then did he realize it wasn't a card. It was an ID.

When he saw the name and photo on the ID, his pupils shrunk.

"Sir... this..." he pointed to the ID, all spooked out. Didn't this ID belong to...

"You know her."

Lu Yi leaned back and took a sip of his tea. It was lukewarm, and a little bitter, but still drinkable.

He had learned to judge the quality of tea from Old Master Lu, a tea connoisseur who had loved tea and tea only for all his life.

"I... I do," Liu Hao raised a hand to wipe the cold sweat off his face. He was aghast.

"Sir, this is my sister Liu Hua. She passed away last year. Back in our village, we don't have the custom of cancelling passports, so her ID never got destroyed. I can assure you that she's dead, though."

His little sister was mentally disabled from birth, and they had long decided to take care of her for the rest of life. None of them had expected it when she suddenly passed away last winter.

And now, someone was looking for him with his little sister's ID.

What on earth is going on?

Lu Yi took out another card.

This time, it was a bank card.

“There’s one million yuan inside. It’s yours,” he said as he tossed it on the table. Liu Hao picked it up stiffly. A million yuan? For him?

For a long time, he couldn’t make sense of what was going on. This was all too odd.

“But, Sir... Why would you give this to me? We don’t know each other, do we?” The bank card made him uneasy. Why would someone give him a million yuan out of the blues? Was he plotting something? Was he going to make him do something illegal? But he was just a poor chef with nothing!

Lu Yi stood up and put on his coat. He handed his name card to Liu Hao.

“Call me if you run into any trouble. Take this card as a token of gratitude. Your parents have saved my wife,” he said. “A million yuan might be a lot to you, but to me, it’s worth less than a strand of my wife’s hair.”

And that was the truth. Even ten million was nothing in comparison to Yan Huan’s life. But he had his reasons for not giving him too much. Give a man too much money and you’ll be ruining him, not helping him.

#### **Chapter 1052: Back To The Village**

A million was enough for Liu Hao to buy a house. Although it was small and old, at least he had a place of his own to call home. If in any case where he wanted to leave Sea City, he could always take this money, return to the small county town and build a well-rounded eatery there to support his family.

He could even return to his village, use the money to build a big house, get a wife and retire happily ever after.

The decisions and outcomes would be all up to him.

Lu Yi turned and left, leaving Liu Hao with his head low and staring at the card in his hand. He was still dazed at what had just happened.

Have you ever been hit on the head by the treat that fell from the sky?

He, on the other hand, was struck hard.

By the time he returned, the manager informed him that he had been promoted to the head chef and his salary would also be doubled. Liu Hao swallowed his saliva while nearly choking himself.

He had been waiting to be head chef for so long, finally, it was his.

Was the deputy manager’s nephew not the one who got the offer? With such good connections, this position of the head chef was far from his grasp in the first place. It was fine however, he could just put in a few more years of hard work and maybe one day, he would finally have his chance.

Today, not only had he hit the jackpot, the position of head chef that he had been dreaming of for so long was finally his too.

Most importantly, the manager had also given him half a month off to compensate for his hard work. Besides, he was free to go home whenever he wished.

Now Liu Hao really needed a trip back home. He had that bank card in his pocket, his younger sister's identification card and a note with a phone number on it. He had already dialed the number.

No matter what he asked, the person on the other end only said one thing, telling him to return home for the answers.

Sometimes Liu Hao would wonder, was the opportunity for him to return home, be that man's doing too?

He took a long train journey back to his hometown. It might take him two days and two nights to reach though as compared to before, he was a lot more eager to return back home this time. He put his hands into his pocket and held the bank card tightly in his hands. It was also his first time being scared and nervous to return home.

Chengjia Village was still the same old Chengjia Village. Not much had changed, but then again there were still some changes from before, for example, Changsheng's house. Ever since Changsheng left, Changsheng's mother and Jin Gen's mother got along with each other. The two of them were always together and nobody knew what they had been talking about all day.

Even so, Jin Gen did return a little while before to build his own place, it was a double story building, the place was built to be grand. Even the amenities in the bathroom were brought in from outside. That flush toilet was something that outsiders would have in their homes, but that was not the case in this village. This was the very first one in this village, with a tug at the handle, everything would be clean and no smell would linger.

Whenever Jin Gen's mother was free, she would brag about it to everyone, how her sitting toilet was so good and superior, even the waste in it would smell pleasant.

However, the inside of Changsheng's house did not change much, perhaps the only change was the layer of dust thickening. Changsheng's mother did not want to clean, so the house became even messier and dirtier by the day. She had also used up a good portion of her savings. According to Jin Gen back then, Changsheng was doing well, but he was an outsider and lacked contacts. Jin Gen was different. He knew some people, but favors often came with a price. Changsheng's mother thought of the two large houses that belonged to Jin Gen's family, daydreaming of the day her Changsheng would come back and build her a house as nice as that. At least this way, the money would not have been for nothing.

Jin Gen's mother chimed in at every chance she could, telling how at the beginning Jin Gen would give them so much money to start up, and that was how he managed so well. Changsheng's mother bought the whole story as she thought that she had had such a long friendship with Jin Gen's mother and that they were from the same village, so she would never have cheated her for the money. Furthermore, Jin Gen was earning loads of money, his mother would never pay any mind to such a small amount.

Therefore, she took the money that Yan Huan got her and gave them all to Jin Gen's mother, not a penny more or less. Jin Gen's mother asked for a whole 500. If it was anything more than that, Changsheng's mother would not even have anymore to give.

The money had not even been in her hands for long and it was already given to someone else. Of course, Changsheng's mother was not willing to part with her funds, but no matter how dear it was to her, she no longer felt sad watching the money go at the thought of a better future life.

"That Yan Huan is such an ungrateful wretch," Jin Gen's mother said while pursing her lips and criticized Yan Huan again. "If it wasn't for you and your Changsheng, she would have died a long time ago. You've salvaged her life and look at her now. There's no telling which man that woman has run off to this time."

At the mention of this, Changsheng's mother's face darkened.

She had supported an ungrateful wretch, feeding her for all this time and yet she left just like that.

Among all that, they had almost forgotten whether she had left on her own accord that day or was chased out by Changsheng's mother herself. When she left, she did not even take along that worn sweater that Changsheng's mother made especially for her.

Now that she was no longer here, they were starting to talk smack behind her back again, not taking a moment to recall how they had treated her in the past.

Changsheng's mother continued to talk bad about her to relieve her frustrations. By the time she was home, the kitchen continued to be empty, not even a hot meal waiting on her table. She would still need to bend her old back to extract her own water. Her land had been barren for some time now, the chickens had not been fed too. Perhaps her hens were too old, they had stopped laying eggs. If she wanted an egg for her meal, she would have to wait at the coops herself.

Another layer of dust had gathered in her home. She was neither bothered to sweep it off nor was she still capable of doing so. Her bones creaked with every movement, the more she moved the less motivated she was to continue.

It's still better than when she was here.

Changsheng's mother mumbled to herself, then walked into the kitchen to make her meal. She still needed to eat, otherwise she would die of starvation.

As soon as she opened the water container, she found it dry. She had no choice but to carry a pail to fetch some water upstream. She was like an old widow, without anyone to look after her. If anything were to happen to her, she would still need to brave it out herself. Who else would look out for her if not herself? None of the villagers were related to each other, plus they had their own matters to deal with, so how would they spare time and energy to care for someone else other than themselves?

### **Chapter 1053: Kindness Always Pays Off**

When she reached the entrance of the village, a pail of water in hand, she overheard some villagers talking about Liu Hao's homecoming. The talk was, he had struck gold and was going to bring his parents to the city.

Changsheng's mother quickly set the pail down and bolted for Liu Hao's house. She wanted to ask Liu Hao if he knew whether her son would be coming back too. But when she arrived, the door was shut and bolted. She banged on the door for a while, and went back glumly when no one answered.

Meanwhile, inside Liu Hao's house, Liu Fang was staring outside through the creak of the door.

"She's gone, Mom."

"Good," said Liu Fang's mother. She crossed her legs and draped a blanket over herself.

"Was it Changsheng's mother?" asked Liu Hao. It sounded like her.

"Who else?" answered Liu Fang's mother unhappily. "She never realized how good Xiao Yan was to them. Xiao Yan left all the good stuff to them, even when she herself lived as frugally as possible. All they did was take her kindness for granted. She wasn't even her daughter, you know! It was better when Changsheng was around, but once he left, his mother began nitpicking on her endlessly. Treated her like a maid. In the end, she even stole her money and chased her out! They might have saved her life, but Xiao Yan had done more than enough to repay the favor. They really shouldn't have mistreated her like that."

Liu Fang's mother marveled at the amount of coincidences in this world. Back then, she only acted out of kindness. It wasn't safe for a girl to be outside alone at that time. Besides, she would no doubt freeze to death in that weather, lightly dressed as she was.

Never in her wildest dreams did she think that she would be rewarded for it!

"Is the man you mentioned really Xiao Yan's husband?" asked Liu Fang's mother. She had asked the same question numerous times, but she still had trouble believing it.

"I think so. He said it himself," recalled Liu Hao. He had called the man a few times afterwards, and his answers had always been the same—his family had helped his wife by giving her clothes, provisions, and a new identity. Without those, she would never have made it back to the Sea City so easily.

"He must be Sister Xiao Yan's husband," said Liu Fang without the slightest doubt, clenching her fists. "I'm sure of it."

"What makes you so sure?" asked Liu Hao, rubbing her head. She was his only sister now. He was the oldest child, about five years older than her. Despite being poor, he had always been caring and considerate towards his little sister. Now that she was his only sister, he naturally gave her all of his love.

"Because I said so," said Liu Fang, raising her chin with a tsundere look. "Sister Xiao Yan told me that she was from Sea City, and that she had a husband. She promised me that she will help me look for you if she makes it back. It's got to be her."

By now, Liu Fang's mother was convinced too. Who else will give Liu Fang money and arrange a better job for him?

Now that she knew she had helped the right person, she loathed Changsheng's mother even more. She was right about her being shortsighted. She had advised her countless times to stay away from Jin Gen's mother, yet she never listened. How could she trust Jin Gen? He was known for being a deadbeat and a liar. Jin Gen's family was rich now, and was even upgrading into a bigger house. Changsheng's house, on the other hand, had been doing worse and worse ever since Changsheng left. Their garden was rife with weeds, yet no one bothered to remove them.

“What kind of job do you think Jin Gen is doing? How did he manage to make so much money in such a short time? It hasn’t even been a year, and he’s already expanding his house. He even bought a golden necklace for his mother,” she asked Liu Hao.

Jin Gen’s mother wore it every day, showing off wherever she went. If she wasn’t in the village, someone would already have lifted it off her.

“No idea,” Liu Hao shook his head. “Something shady, I suppose.”

“What else could he be doing?” Liu Fang curled her lips. “Don’t forget that he’s illiterate! He always dresses himself to the nines in the village, but who knows what he’s doing behind everyone’s backs? What kind of a boss would be stupid enough to hire someone as lazy and greedy as Jin Gen?”

“Just so,” Liu Hao nodded profusely. He had struggled in Sea City for five years before making it. Though it was mainly thanks to Xiao Yan’s husband, he couldn’t have stayed in the Sea City for five years if he hadn’t put in hard work. In the Sea City, every plot of land was worth its weight in gold. The rich were staggeringly rich, and the poor stunningly poor. Making a living here hadn’t been easy at all for a country bumpkin like him.

In those five years, he had learned how hard it was to earn money. A person without any crafts could only make money through dishonest ways, and before long they would find themselves in prison.

He didn’t know what Jin Gen was doing, but he was very skeptical when he heard that Jin Gen claimed to have connections outside and asked for money from the villagers to share those connections.

Liu Hao’s house saw a large increase in visitors, and Liu Hao’s mother received all of them with cordial hospitality. Once the villagers entered the house, however, they realized at once that Liu Hao hadn’t brought back any items of interest.

When Jin Gen came back, he had brought back many city gadgets that were rarely seen in the village. Liu Hao’s house had nothing of the sort. Plus, on the day he came back, someone noticed that he was empty-handed. Had he come back to work in the fields because he couldn’t make a living in the city

When asked, Liu Hao’s mother would smile and say nothing. She would say “Home is the best place, no?”, before seeing her guests off.

“Do you really not want to go?” asked Liu Hao. He had been trying hard to convince his parents to go to the Sea City with him. All things considered, life there was much better. The toilet, which had been the talk of the village, was present in every city household.

“Yes,” Liu Hao’s mother waved a hand. “What for? Your Dad and I are old, and we have been living in this village for our entire lives. We are accustomed to things here. If we follow you there, we wouldn’t know a single person. Besides, what could we do there? Might as well stay home and tend to the fields. At the very least, we would have friends and neighbors to talk to. We have decided on not going.”

#### **Chapter 1054: Letting Go**

She stroked her daughter’s hair lovingly and said, “Take Fang Zi with you. She’s still young, she can’t stay cooped up in the village. Bring your sister along and let her see the world.”

Both of them would remain in the mountains, but she really wanted her son and daughter to leave this godforsaken piece of land and venture into the world. Surely, she did not want her children to work on the measly vegetables and live a hard life as farmers for the rest of their lives.

They could not help their children much in their future, but she was willing to let them free, instead of trapping them in this insignificant provincial village. If the village was developed and the standard of life improved in the future, they could always come back if they wanted.

“Mom, then I won’t go.” When Liu Fang heard that her parents would not be following them, she was upset that it would just be the two of them. Why won’t they come along too? It’ll be so much better if they come along, then we can stay together as a family and not be separated. Otherwise, if it’s only my brother and I, I would be really worried about leaving them here.

Liu Fang’s mother knew what she was about to say. As she fiddled with her daughter’s hair, she replied, “Don’t think that we’re like Changsheng’s mother. She has it coming for her all along. When he was around, Changsheng did everything for her. After Changsheng left, she piled all the work onto Xiao Yan. Now that Xiao Yan is leaving too, she simply can’t do anything no.”

No matter what, Liu Fang’s mother would never let herself repeat Changsheng’s family’s mistake.

No matter how reluctant Liu Fang and her brother was, they eventually left in the end. Liu Fang’s mother was right, nothing would come out of staying in the village. At most, she would be married and spend the rest of her days toiling in the farmlands. There was nothing for them in life like that. Their parents had already spent their lives in such a way, would they still wish for the next generation to continue the same path in life?

So, they willingly let their two children free. No matter how much they missed their children or how much their heart ached, they had to steel their hearts and inevitably let them go.

Liu Fang was wailing miserably before they left. She was only a very young lady, at 18 years old. In fact, she had only just entered adulthood. Ever since she was born, she had never left this little village before. Now that she was leaving for the first time, she would be going so far away. It was not only her, as even Liu Fang’s mother was hesitant to part. No matter how hesitant they were, Fang Fang still embarked on her journey toward Sea City.

After trekking for two days and two nights, Liu Hao and his sister finally reached Sea City. Liu Hao gritted his teeth and made the difficult decision to use the one million from Lu Yi to buy an old house, but one million yuan was still not enough. The property prices in the Sea City were too high, so even a million yuan was not enough for a decent home. He even had to fork out his savings from the past few years to cover the differences. Although he paid the sum grudgingly, his heart was relieved when they finally moved in.

That was because they finally had their own house, a place for them to call home.

“Mister Lu, are you for real?”

Liu Hao held on to his phone, it was another pleasant surprise. He was just thinking of a way to settle down with his sister when he received Lu Yi’s phone call to offer her a job babysitting children.



She would be babysitting three children that were about two years old. They were all very obedient, while her accommodation and meals would be provided. All in all, her monthly wages would be almost as high as his own.

Of course, Liu Hao would not suspect Lu Yi's intentions, as it was evident that he was trying to help them. He had already helped them so much and gave them a million yuan. Surely, he would not sell my sister off. Even if he did, the two of us would not be worth a million yuan, right?

Lu Yi hung up the call and looked back, seeing that Yan Huan was playing with Xunxun. What has this good-for-nothing mother up to again? She made Little Xunxun unhappy again. She was pouting so much that she could cork a bottle.

Xunxun saw that her father was done with his work, so she hurriedly ran over and hugged her father's legs.

"Darling, what is it?" Lu Yi carried his daughter up and pinched her pretty little cheeks.

"Mama, bad..." Xunxun bit onto her little finger as she complained to her father, babbling about how mama was bad – tricking her into eating meat even though the meat did not taste nice.

Lu Yi was hilariously speechless at this.

In the past, he also had to go to great lengths to trick Yan Huan into eating meat, and now Yan Huan was trying the same on her daughter. However, Xunxun did need a bit more persuasion. This little brat is such a picky eater, she won't eat this or that. If her meal has a tinge of meaty flavor to it, she will turn her face away and refuse to eat no matter what, unlike her two elder brothers who aren't fussy at all. This little brat is really too hard to raise.

The two sons were now very fair and plump, only she was as thin as a bone. People who knew them would know that she was a picky eater, but those who did not would assume that the parents preferred the boys and were abusing her. In reality, she was the most spoiled child in the entire household.

Yan Huan continued to flip through a pictorial magazine for toddlers, which had tips and tricks to get along with children. The article was very well written. She sat on the floor, and rested her chin gently on her hands, under the warm light streaming in. Her eyes crinkled with her smile, as a bright glimmer peered from her irises.

The youth that has left her, was replaced with warmth and gentleness.

She had let go of her hatred, and opened her heart for forgiveness.

The next day, the morning sun shone bright and the weather was unexpectedly pleasant. At the time of the year, the weather in Sea City would be perfect and sunny. The temperature was moderate and the weather was mild. After a rain, the air throughout Sea City seemed to clear up together with the sky.

Breathing in, the air was invigorating and pleasantly calming.

"Is this the place?" Liu Fang asked Liu Hao, who was behind her.

Liu Hao checked the door number and answered, "Yeah, this is it. Block One, Level 13 East. There is only one Block One here, and only two units each. If it isn't this one, then it's that other one. But, the East unit should be this, right?"

He pressed onto the doorbell. Not long later, muffled footsteps could be heard echoing from within the house.

Liu Hao sighed out of relief, at least there was someone home. Yes, it's great that someone is home. This proves that there are people living here.

The door opened with a click, revealing a middle-aged woman behind it.

"Who are you looking for?" The middle-aged woman eyed the Liu Hao siblings warily as she blocked the entrance, without letting them in.

"Hello," Liu Hao had ventured into the outside world for some time, so he was not terrified like Liu Fang. Even though he felt a little shy, he could still carry himself. "Mister Lu invited us over."

"Oh." The nanny immediately realized who they were and looked at the seemingly stunned Liu Fang. "You are Liu Fang, right?" she said to Liu Fang with a kind smile.

"Yes, I am." Liu Fang grabbed her clothes nervously, while her palms broke out into a cold sweat.

#### **Chapter 1055: She's Xiao Yan**

"You don't have to be so tense," smiled the middle-aged woman. "I'm the nanny here. Mister Lu had informed me that a new nanny would be joining me today. There are too many children for me to handle alone, so it's good that you are here. Oh, you can call me Aunt Gu by the way."

As she was speaking, three children came thumping into the room from different directions. Two of them wrapped themselves around the nanny's legs, while the one who didn't get a leg stood there pouting.

The nanny laughed. The kids clearly weren't believers of "sharing is caring". Being the youngest and the frailest, the little sister had the right to be a little selfish. But shouldn't the elder brother humor his little brother?

She reached out and lifted the forlorn child up.

"Nana..." his mellow, baby voice was heart-melting.

Liu Fang looked up and saw the three kids.

No wonder the nanny said there were too many children for her to handle. Three was a lot.

She pointed at the boy in the nanny's arms, then at the boy around her leg. They twins looked almost identical! What a sight! She had seen twins in her village, but they didn't look alike as much as these two. They both had bowl cuts, large pretty eyes, and moist red lips. Even their overalls were the same, including the socks on their little feet.

“Are they twins?” With the way they look, they had to be twins, right?

“Nah,” the nanny put down the child in her arms and made the children line up. “They are triplets. Elder brother, Lu Qi. Second brother, Lu Guang. And this is the third sister, Lu Wei. She’s the smallest here. We all call her Xunxun.”

Trip...triplets!

Liu Fang would have been amused if she could see her own expression right now. She was absolutely stunned! Giving birth to twins was impressive enough, but giving to triplets?! Incredible!

Not to mention the three kids were all very pretty. Especially the little girl who wore a dress and had a small strawberry hairclip in her hair. Her features were more beautiful and delicate than any child she had ever seen. And whiter too. She had to resist the temptation to pinch her cheeks. They looked so soft and squishy.

“Oh my. Where are my manners? Do come in,” said the nanny as she quickly stepped aside. The three children tailed her. They could be a handful for her and Miss Yan sometimes. Often, they would have to neglect one child to take care of the other two. It’s okay when Mister Lu is at home, but Mister Lu had to work during the day, and things often got chaotic during that time.

Liu Fang was very fond of kids. She had grown up in the mountains and had a pure and natural air, very much like the earth itself. She was patient and good-tempered. When she played with the children, she herself was like a big child. That made the children warm up to her quickly.

The door clicked open. Xunxun’s eyes immediately curved into little crescents. Delighted, she raced for the door. In her hurry, she lost her balance and began falling.

Liu Fang was aghast. She tried to help, but it was too late. Right as Xunxun was about to face-plant the carpet, a hand reached out and picked her up. Can’t let the little ball scrape her face.

It would be heartbreaking to see a scratch on such a pretty face.

“Mama, mama...” Xunxun hooped her arms around her mother’s neck happily. She wasn’t the type to learn from mistakes. Despite having fallen a lot of times already, she was just as naughty as before.

Yan Huan gave her squishy cheeks a pinch.

The little girl thought her mother was playing with her, and gave her a wet, sloppy kiss.

Yan Huan set her down and grasped her little hand.

Liu Fang quickly stood up, a little ill at ease. This must be the female owner of the house. Even though Aunt Gu said they were nice people that never hit or scold anyone, she felt tense. This was her first job, and she didn’t want to screw up. The salary was good too, and she wanted to save up some money for her brother’s bride price.

“Liu Fang...” For some reason, the gentle voice was imbued with a subtle pathos.

“Yes Ma’am,” said Liu Fang, looking up. When she matched eyes with Yan Huan, she quickly looked down again. She was a knockout. When she wasn’t smiling, she was a cool beauty, and when she were, she glowed with sunny radiance. Also, she reminded her of a celebrity she had seen on TV earlier.

“Liu Fang,” cooed Yan Huan. “Do you not recognize me?”

Liu Fang jerked her face up. Where had she heard this voice before? She had definitely heard the voice before, though she could not remember where. Was it when she was watching television? Did her female employer not only look like the celebrity, but also sound like her?

“It’s me, Liu Fang” she said, approaching. She rubbed Xunxun on the head.

“Go play with your brother, sweetie. I need to talk to the big sister here.”

Xunxun nodded and marched off to pester her brothers.

Liu Fang’s eyes widened, as though she had remembered something. Then her face fell. She couldn’t remember even if her life depended on it.

“I’m Xiao Yan,” said Yan Huan, lifting a hand to cover the left side of her face. Surely that would jog her memory.

Liu Fang paused at the mention of the time, then began studying Yan Huan’s face intently. Slowly, she began to see Xiao Yan in the woman before her. Her eyes, her nose, her pursed lips... There was no way she could forget her eyes. They were the prettiest she had ever seen.

“Sister... Xiao Yan?” asked Liu Fang in disbelief. “Are you really Sister Xiao Yan? For real?”

“It’s me alright,” smiled Yan Huan. Her smiles were partly warm, but mostly cold. Just like Xiao Yan. At this point, Liu Fang had no doubts remaining. This was Xiao Yan from the village.

“Your face,” Liu Fang pointed to her face. “You have recovered!”

“Yup,” said Yan Huan, running a hand across her face. Wherever she touched, it was smooth and silky, without the slightest signs of uneven scars.

“You have become so beautiful, Sister Xiao Yan,” said Liu Fang, lighting up. She was genuinely happy and relieved at learning that Yan Huan was Xiao Yan.

## **Chapter 1056: Back To The Village, Mending Roads**

“Thank you.” Yan Huan walked over and put her hand on Liu Fang’s shoulder.

“Just stay here peacefully for a few days. After that, we can return to Chengjia Village together.”

Liu Fang blinked confusingly, as she could not comprehend it. I’ve just arrived, why are we going back so soon?

Yan Huan grinned as she gently brushed the edge of her clothes. “We’ll be there to provide electricity and mend the roads.”

It was something that she always wanted to do, ever since she left that place.

Before she knew it, grateful tears started to fall from Liu Fang's eyes.

Half a month later, a team of constructors arrived at Chengjia Village. After endless measuring and studying the landscape, numerous bulldozers started work to push the boulders blocking the village's entrance. Electric poles were built, the wiring was connected to every house, and electric lights were swiftly installed in the entire village. Besides, they even built a huge reservoir, connected piping to every house, and fixed the pond. This would provide clean water to the villagers that were extracted from the underground. Even without treating it, the natural water was pristine and sweet.

However, all the wiring and piping were not installed in one house, and that was none other than Jin Gen's house.

Jin Gen's mother always thought that the others would install these for her, so she did not pay any mind. When she saw that everyone had access to piping to tap water and wiring, so they no longer needed to use candles. When she saw them lighting the lamps and watching television, she realized that everyone had forgotten about her.

Even her closest friend, Changsheng, had access to them in their residence. So, why do we not have any?

She confronted the constructors and the only answer that she received from them was to not install anything for her. They would not install piping or wiring for her, much less television.

"Why can't you install them?" Jin Gen's mother shrieked.

"This is sponsored by a private party." The constructor paid no mind to Jin Gen's mother pestering them. "If they say no, we won't do it. There's no point for you to confront anyone here."

Jin Gen's mother had no idea whom she had offended. Perhaps, is it because I'm too ugly? She could flaunt her necklaces and pieces of jewelry to the poor villagers before this, but she was nothing to the contractors, so nobody paid her any attention.

She rolled her eyes, thinking. If you won't install them for me, I won't let anyone else have it either. In the end, the village chief said the constructors had stated clearly that everyone could have access to the electricity, except Jin Gen's family. Anyone who let them use electricity would be banned as well. This was not a threat, but no one would want to meddle in their affairs. If they were too kind and helped them, they would pay the price for it and have their utilities snatched away as well.

The road leading to the village was mended very quickly, as rumors claimed that the person who sponsored the road reparation had splurged a huge fortune on it. The machinery used was all large and advanced, so the road was created and fixed without worrying about the expenditure. The road should be opened for public use in three months. Before this, the villagers had to travel for hours when they wanted to go down the mountain. Now, even on foot, it would only take them half an hour at most.

When the roadworks were done, another team came with Liu Hao, saying that they were agriculture experts who were helping turn the forest into farmlands. The entire village was located at the foot of a mountain, so the villagers would usually hike up the mountain to collect firewood. These experts were

stunned as they exclaimed that it was a lush and thriving plot of land for farming, which was left untouched by the villagers for so many years.

The expert directly discussed with the village chief to seek permission to open up the land for agriculture. In fact, all the villages were welcome to participate, except Jin Gen's family.

"Why am I the one that's left out again?" Jin Gen's mother came rushing over, she was already denied electricity, water, and even a television. Even the road to every other house had been repaired, except hers.

The experts merely gazed at her coldly.

"You are Ma Xiutian, and your son is Jin Gen?"

"Yes, I am Ma Xiutian." Jin Gen's mother lifted her chin haughtily, as though she was superior and above the other villagers. "Let me tell you, my son, Jin Gen..."

The experts simply rolled their eyes at her and left. They even warned the village chief to be careful of Ma Xiutian, as she was an evil woman and might poison their chickens.

As for why Jin Gen's mother was barred from the agricultural program, the answer remained the same. The experts were hired by someone, and the only request they had was to exclude her.

Until one day, an extremely luxurious car came to Chenjia Village. This was one of the few private vehicles that came to the village, as it directly headed to Liu Fang's house.

A woman in a mask walked out of the car. However, the sharp-eyed neighbors saw that the masked woman was none other than the Xiao Yan who lived in Changsheng's house.

"Changsheng's mother, Changsheng's mother..." Someone hurried over to find her, who was sitting beside Jin Gen's mother. Jin Gen's mother was crying and sobbing sadly at how she had been bullied, that even Changsheng's mother's blood was starting to boil.

Everyone else in the village received it; is Jin Gen's mother not one of us too?

"What is it?" Changsheng's mother was consoling Jin Gen's mother when she heard someone shouting for her, her mood immediately turned sour.

"Changsheng's mother, your Xiao Yan is back. She's at Liu Hao's place..."

Jin Gen's mother abruptly stood up when she heard it and dragged Changsheng's mother along. "Let's go, old friend. Let's see that wretched creature. How dare she show her ugly face here! Let me tell you, even if she wants to come back, you cannot let her. Goodness knows how many people she has slept with, but she still wants to come back to your Changsheng. Doesn't she look in the mirror, what right does she have to be with your Changsheng? Your son is destined to be someone successful, and could have any woman he wants. He doesn't even need her! She sure is trying to punch over her weight, who does she think she is."

Changsheng's mother's heart felt uneasy when she heard about Xiao Yan, especially since her house was still so dilapidated and she had struggled in the past. Even though she had electricity and a television

now, her house was still unsightly. The frustration had her gritting her teeth every time Xiao Yan's name was mentioned.

Alright then, she's back now. How dare she return here, is she not ashamed? She actually has the audacity to show her face around here.

She hurriedly left with Jin Gen's mother and headed to Liu Fang's house. Before Liu Fang's mother could stop them, the duo impatiently rushed into the house.

"You little wretched..."

### **Chapter 1057: No Electricity For You**

Before she could finish her sentence, Yan Huan turned around casually. Jin Gen's mother's finger froze midair. Yan Huan wore a silver fox fur coat that accented her dainty features and a pair of sapphire earrings. Village folks like Jin Gen's mother had no idea what her earrings were made of, but the gleam from it dazzled her eyes. The finger-thick gold chain she wore paled in comparison. Not only that, she could tell at a glance that the fox fur Yan Huan wore was authentic.

The woman had a small face and white—almost pale—skin, as unblemished, smooth and fragile as white porcelain.

She regarded Jin Gen's mother coolly. Jin Gen's mother hovered her finger midair awkwardly, unsure if she should put it down. She did it in the end, and immediately hid her finger behind herself.

"Where's that little bitch Xiao Yan?" demanded Jin Gen's mother, rolling up her sleeves and putting her hands on her hips. "Hey! I'm asking you where's that little bitch?"

Liu Fang's mother had every urge of chasing the unwanted guest out. Her hands tightened around the broomstick in her hand, wishing she could give whoop that menacing, loathful face.

Yan Huan patted the soft fur at her arms. She had worn the silver fox fur coat since it was colder up in the mountains. The air in the room stilled. No one said a word.

"I'm asking..." said Jin Gen's mother, breaking the silence.

Before she could finish her sentence, a chilly voice cut in.

"Looking for me?"

"Not you, I'm looking for that..."

Her shrill voice suddenly died down, as though someone had put their hands around her neck and taken the air out of her.

Yan Huan turned around and leaned back against her chair. Her silky hands were the definition of perfection. On one of her fingers was a ring with a large gemstone embedded in it. Given her looks and refined air, Jin Gen's mother judged it was most likely real.

Of course, it was indeed real. All of them. Despite the sky-high value of her outfit and accessories, they weren't even a fraction of her net worth. She had not worn them to flaunt her wealth either; she simply picked the set at random.

The woman had sharp chins, and large, attractive bright eyes. Her beautiful face was a little aloof, but that wouldn't stop it from hooking any man's soul. To be exact, it was more than a little aloof. It was cold. Freezing even. She was an icy beauty that discouraged anyone from approaching her. A curious person would die to have a touch of her smooth, porcelain skin, just to see how it felt like.

Yan Huan raised her hand and covered half her face. With her current appearance, she looked worlds apart from Xiao Yan. No one would be able to link the two identities together.

However, the Xiao Yan in her became much more apparent once she split her face into half. She had been living in the village for nearly a year after all. Changsheng's mother had arrived as well. Neither of the two intruders recognized her, but they found familiarity in Yan Huan's figure. She hadn't put on much weight, despite Lu Yi's ardent efforts. Her metabolism was probably even better than Xunxun.

"It's you?!" screeched Jin Gen's mother.

Changsheng's mother made a face.

Yan Huan lifted the bowl of water and drank. In the village, people did not have cups, so they used bowls or gourd ladles.

Yan Huan had lived here, so she didn't mind such things. Even so, it was odd to see someone so well dressed drinking from a thick and coarse bowl.

"Sister Xiao Yan!" called Liu Fang as she ran into the room. That removed any doubts of Yan Huan being Xiao Yan. Liu Fang's mother shot her a warning look.

Liu Fang stuck her tongue out and quickly went to her mother's side, playing with her fingers quietly.

It's fine. Yan Huan exhaled softly and set down the bowl. She wouldn't be here if she had the intention to hide her identity. If that's what she wanted, she could very well have donated anonymously.

She wasn't the kind of person to admit to crimes she had never done.

The bowl touched the table with a soft bang. The sound was like a playful cat that scratched on the hearts of everyone present.

"I am Xiao Yan," said Yan Huan, facing the two interlopers. "I am the woman who winded up in your village a year ago. I remember very clearly who had treated me well and who had done me wrong."

Jin Gen's mother had the grace to look ashamed. To her, Yan Huan's words were a slap on the face. Back then, many of the villagers had been helpful towards Xiao Yan, while she was the only one who treated her like trash.

"I was the one who built the roads," said Yan Huan evenly. "and gave you all electricity. And I was the one who hired the experts, so," she glanced at Jin Gen's mother. "You won't be getting any of it."

"What right do you have to exclude me?" shouted Jin Gen's mother, bristling at being told she was excluded. Yan Huan picked up her bowl and drank measuredly.

"Well," she put down the bowl and traced its brim with a finger. "It's my money, and I don't like your face."



She clapped back at Jin Gen's mother without showing any respect. Yes, there was no reason. She simply disliked her. Was that good enough a reason?

Just as Jin Gen's mother was about to get nasty, Yan Huan flung the bowl at the ground. The bowl landed with a loud thud. Jin Gen's mother wilted.

In the village, she always had things her way since none of the villagers fought back. But now, when faced with someone fiercer, she turned into a coward. In other words, she was a typical bully.

And now, the tables have turned. Yan Huan wasn't the Xiao Yan she could freely bully anymore; she could crush her with a single finger.

### **Chapter 1058: She Was Repaying Their Kindness**

Others might be oblivious, but Jin Gen's mother sure knew about it. She dared not even step a foot outside the village, even though she continued to boast about how Jin Gen would bring her out to the city and so on.

In actuality, it was all her vanity talking. She desperately wanted to move to the city and live a luxurious life. However, Jin Gen refused to bring her over, no matter what she said. Even the allowance that he sent to her was pitifully little.

If she left the village, she would not be able to survive. The large sum of money that she swindled from Changsheng's mother and the villagers had all been taken away by Jin Gen, leaving only a few dozen yuans for her. Now that she had learned how to scam money from the other villagers, she would have about 600 yuans if each family gave her about 100 to 200 yuans. This amount would help her live comfortably in this village for some time.

The others would not realize her crime anyway. She knew that the villagers had some money with them. For example, Changsheng's mother had a few hundred, and her son had probably given her more as well. When Xiao Yan came to give her some money previously, she had gladly accepted it.

Jin Gen's mother became green with envy. When the village chief heard that she was up to no good, he rushed over even though he was busy. Xiao Yan had become the God of Prosperity of this village, as the entire community now depended on her generosity to survive. She even planned to build a Hope Primary School here. In the future, the children from the neighboring villages could attend school here. Every day, they would be able to drink milk and eat eggs, and all the school fees would be waived. Besides, even the village chief had seven to eight children, who were all very young. If they could go to school, and receive an education, they could leave the mountain in the future to seek a better life.

This Jin Gen family better keeps their trap shut. If they anger Xiao Yan and make her pull her funding, the children won't have a school to go to. If that happens, I will definitely kick her out of the mountain.

When Jin Gen's mother saw the village chief, she merely kept quiet meekly. Her eyes darted nervously left and right, without meeting anyone's eyes. No matter who she saw, their eyes were filled with a warning to her.

Yan Huan lifted her head and stared directly at Changsheng's mother, who had not said a single word since she entered.

"Changsheng's mother," she called. Everyone in the village called her that. Those who were close would call her auntie, while those who were not would call her as so.

That molten rage in her voice could no longer be found. It was bland and cold, as well as very calm.

"The 500 yuan that you took from me has nothing to do with your son. When I came last time, I sold a piece of my jewelry to obtain that amount of money."

Changsheng's mother's expression seemed uncomfortable, as she gripped her clothes tightly with her hand.

Even so, Yan Huan did not stop but continued speaking to her.

"I didn't ask the others to cut your utilities. If the other villagers can enjoy them, so could you. It's simply because Changsheng has saved my life before. Because of him, I will forget about the incident regarding the 500 yuan. You may use the utilities that I've provided for the village. I owe this to you, and I'm now repaying your kindness."

"Also..." She put her hands on the hair resting on her shoulder and said, "I've never thought of marrying your son." A smirk appeared on her red, luscious lips, but it was devoid of warmth and laced with sarcasm.

"I'm already married, with three children."

Changsheng's mother's face darkened instantly. She was so embarrassed as though someone had slapped her across the face. She turned away and faced the door, but noticed that everyone was staring at her with mocking eyes.

Throughout her whole life, Changsheng's mother had never been so humiliated and slandered like this before. Her old, wrinkled face seemed to burn with shame, as if she had been ruthlessly slapped.

Yan Huan talked to the rest of the villagers and answered everyone's questions patiently. After all, they had supported and taken care of her before. The villagers were kind and honest people, except for a few of them. However, they would still not be as unreasonable as Changsheng's mother and Jin Gen's mother. Hence, she could still tolerate them. After all, she could even tolerate Changsheng's mother, thus being patient with the others was a piece of cake. However, she could never tolerate anyone from Jin Gen's family.

Even though she was Yan Huan now, she was still the same Xiao Yan and got along amicably with the other villagers.

When they made dinner, they would invite her over too. She would graciously accept their offers and join everyone's place, at least this could keep everyone happy.

Besides bestowing them with a safe road to the village, she had also gifted every future generation the ability to escape the village and venture into the real world.

After staying for a few days, it was time for her to return. She had done what she came here for – she had returned the favors and repaid their kindness. As for revenge, she had no enemies in this village.

Jin Gen's mother and Changsheng's mother could not be considered as her enemies. If they were, then she would have a lot more enemies than she actually did. If she wanted to exact revenge on every one of them, she would have to live her entire life in revenge.

Her only nemesis is the Su family.

She went to her car, as her driver would send her to the train station directly. There were no direct roads to the airport yet, so she would still need to take a one-day train ride before taking a flight.

However, Yan Huan eventually decided to return by train. Although taking a flight was faster, she would have to travel very far from the airport. In comparison, the train service was a lot more convenient.

After Yan Huan had left, a group of contractors came to the village. They measured a piece of land in the village and started work to construct a large building.

The villagers came by every day to check on the progress, with a huge smile on their face.

"Chief, what are they building here? Why are there so many people here every day?" A villager hurriedly asked the chief when he saw the construction. "They are clearing the land to lay the foundation already, what are they even building? What's with all the fuss, could it be that someone in the village has struck gold and is building a house here?"

"That's our school," the chief said gleefully, feeling so proud as he held his back straight as a ramrod, "Xiao Yan built this for the village. Now, the children can go to school, and it's free. They will provide milk and eggs daily too."

"Linlang Hope Primary School."

The village chief stood straighter, feeling extremely pleased. As long as they were educated, then the village would be able to produce many graduates in the future. Ever since he became chief, this was the most touching and gratifying moment in his life.

"Then..." The villager quickly asked softly.

"Would Changsheng's family and Jin Gen's family members be accepted? Didn't Xiao Yan say that Jin Gen's family is forbidden to have electricity? Anyone who helped them would have their own supply cut off. Does that mean they can't go to school as well?" The villager's voice grew softer with every word.

Chapter 1059: Is that her?

"Well..." The chief didn't know either. Yan Huan had not mentioned anything on that before leaving. If it was up to him, however, he would not be admitting their kids. They have the freedom to attend school, but not the school in their village. Besides, Jin Gen was a rich man and Changsheng was a soon-to-be rich man, and they'll probably consider the village school beneath them. Let them be the rich city folks they want to be.

Jin Gen and Changsheng's mother had no clue that their progeny would be barred out from education. When the village thrives and becomes one of the most famous agricultural industries in the nation, they and their progeny wouldn't even be given a slice of the pie.

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But who was to be blamed for that?

In life, you should never push someone too far. When you screw someone up, it might come back to bite yourself one day.

Yan Huan returned two days later, when everything in the Chenjia Village had been seen to. She had done what everything she could to help the village. The rest was up to them. As long as they remained hardworking and held on to their kindness, they had a bright future to look forward to.

"Mama!" cried Xunxun when she saw Yan Huan. She hugged Yan Huan's leg tightly and grasped her clothes, looking the very embodiment of pathos.

Yan Huan hunkered down, then sat down on the floor. Xunxun climbed into her chest and hooped her hands around her neck, pressing her squishy face against hers.

"Pretty Mama," she said.

Yan Huan chuckled. Where did she learn to be this slick?

Xunxun was a sweet talker. It's unknown where she got that trait from. Everyone who met her fell in love with her. She was obedient, clean, and generous with her praises.

The house had become quieter ever since Liu Fang left. In the end, she decided that she liked her home best. Besides, with all the agricultural stuff going on back home, it would be better for her to go home rather than work for someone else. Most importantly, like every child in this world, she missed her mother. Yan Huan could understand her; her Little Xunxun didn't like being apart from her either.

Yan Huan lifted her up and went to get some snacks for her.

Xunxun took the snacks and began watching cartoons docilely.

Then the doorbell rang.

Yan Huan had not even combed her hair after coming home, but she went to get the door anyway, thinking that it was Aunt Gu back from grocery shopping.

When the door opened, two little boys came rolling in.

"Mama, mama!"

They each seized one of Yan Huan's legs.

"Huanhuan?" said a quavery voice that was startled and delighted at the same time. Yan Huan let out a soft sigh. She never planned to keep it as a secret for too long. The Su Family was coming back, and she had simply stayed low to not alarm them.

Yan Huan looked up and smiled. The person at the door stood stock-still, wide-eyed and open-mouthed. Tears rolled off her face.

“Long time no see, Yiyi.”

Yi Ling brought a hand to her mouth, sobbing uncontrollably.

She had her suspicions; lately, Xunxun always talked about her mother whenever she visited. The boys were the same. They mentioned her less often, but nonetheless it was their favorite topic. Were they hiding something from her? Could it be that they have a new stepmother? Then again, Lu Yi didn't seem the type to do such a thing. He wasn't that casual when it came to relationships. Otherwise, he would have married Fang Zhu and not Yan Huan.

It wouldn't have been strange even if Lu Yi remained single for the rest of his life. That sounded like something he would do.

But something was definitely off.

These days, Lu Yi often brought the three kids to his own place. He only had one nanny there, and how could she deal with three kids at once? The kids were a handful even by themselves, let alone all three.

But Lu Yi persisted. At first, Yi Ling was a little worried and paid them daily visits, only to find the children neatly dressed and well-fed. They even became livelier. The one who changed the most was Xunxun; she had become a lot more talkative, and often blabbered to her grandmother. It made her love her even more, and a little sad that she didn't have a cute little daughter herself.

She even wondered if Yan Huan was back.

But she soon brushed those thoughts off as impossible. If she really was back, why would she not tell her? She had grown up with Huanhuan! In this world, who was closer to Huanhuan than her?

She couldn't get rid of the thought once it took root in her head. Today, she finally could not sit still anymore, and decided to bring the kids home herself. Ye Shuyun had an odd expression when she made the request, but in the end she obliged. Now that she thought about it, Ye Shuyun must have known about it.

Still, she couldn't believe what she saw when the door opened.

Within the door was a secret, a huge secret that stupefied her. They found her. She's home.

“Is that really you, Huanhuan? Am I seeing things?”

Yi Ling hurried to Yan Huan and touched her face. It was her face alright. Her voice and temperature seemed normal too.

It was Yan Huan! It was her, her Huanhuan! The younger sister that Madam Yan had entrusted to her!

“It's me, Yiyi,” said Yan Huan, clasping Yi Ling's hands. “I'm back.”

She smiled, but felt a tingle in her nose. In this world, there were many others who cared and worried about her, but she couldn't tell them yet. Still, there was no one she felt more guilty towards than Yi Ling.

“You scared the heck out of me, Huanhuan,” said Yi Ling, snuffling. She wiped her tears away with the back of her hand. “Tell me, where have you been? And why are you so skinny?”

Yan Huan was very skinny—the skinniest she had ever been, in fact—from a year of malnutrition.

Yan Huan gestured at Yi Ling to sit down and poured her a cup of calming tea, lest she explode with anger later on.

She didn’t reveal much, apart from her days of being stranded in a small mountain village. She couldn’t come home because the snow made it impossible to descend the mountains, and when she tried calling home, she couldn’t contact anyone. She had thought that everyone had changed their numbers, but as it turned out, it was the payphone that was spoiled. She only found out that they had not changed their numbers after coming home.

### **Chapter 1060: Such A Sweet Talker**

Since she had also just returned recently, she did not say much about anything else. Some things were better off kept to herself, and some things that Lu Yi experienced did not need to be shared, as it was unnecessary for anyone else to be concerned with her.

“So, that’s why.” When Yi Ling heard that Yan Huan could not return because she was trapped, she was deeply relieved. At least she did not suffer, otherwise, she would feel guilty as she failed Yan Huan’s mother.

As for how she was lost, Yan Huan only smiled without replying. She gazed at the azure sky outside the window with an ambiguous smile, as if she was hiding something.

How did I go missing? I fell into a canal and drifted along the currents. Then, I reached Chengjia Village. After endless suffering and searching around, I finally found my way home.

Perhaps, Yi Ling realized that Yan Huan did not want to answer the question, so she stopped asking about it. As long as she was safe at home now, it was fine. He did not really need to know the rest.

At this precise moment, Xunxu turned her little head over as she had finished her snacks. Then, she stuffed the plastic package into her brother’s hands. When Lu Qi saw the snack packaging in his hand, he let out an adult-like sigh and climbed down the sofa. He was not much taller than his younger siblings, but he was already their little babysitter.

He walked over to the trash can and threw the rubbish in. He then picked up a toy car from the floor, walked toward the sofa, and climbed onto it.

Xiao Guang peered through one eye while biting his little fingers, and saw the toy car in his brother’s grasp.

Lu Qi gave the remote control toy car to his brother and then sat on the sofa quietly to watch television.

Poor little Lu Qi, he’s just a bit over two years old. He’s only two minutes older than his brother and five minutes older than his sister. Yet, he has to take care of these two little children since he was young.

Xunxun made her way over and stared at her mother and her aunt. Then, she ran toward Yi Ling and tugged at her sleeves.

“Pretty Auntie.”

When she heard it, Yi Ling smiled blissfully and carried Xunxun up.

“My dear Xunxun’s words are so nice. Come, let auntie give you a smooch.”

After that, she planted a firm kiss onto Xunxun’s little cheeks. Xunxun’s laugh was like a pure little flower bud, emitting the sweet scent of babies from her entire body.

Yan Huan placed her palm on her forehead, wondering where Xunxun had learned it from. She would not talk before, but now that she could, her words were as sweet as honey. Almost nobody could resist the charm of her words.

Another person now knew about the fact that Yan Huan was back. However, Yi Ling did not plan to tell anyone. However, she felt as if a weight had finally been lifted from her chest. Now that she felt very relieved, even her steps felt light, as though the wind was carrying her. Of course, she was more energized at work now.

When afternoon came, Ye Shuyun came to take the three children back home.

The moment Xunxun saw Ye Shuyun, she held onto her hand and sweetly muttered to her grandmother.

“Pretty Granny.”

In actuality, she did not even know what pretty meant yet. All she knew was that when she said those words, the adults would be very overjoyed.

Ye Shuyun was stunned and carried the little girl up, not wanting to let her go.

“You seem to be in a good mood lately?”

Lu Jin looked up from his newspaper, he had been observing Ye Shuyun for some time already and his theory was confirmed. Ye Shuyun was not merely in a great mood, she was also on cloud nine at this point.

What is it? Ever since Qin Xiaoyue caused a ruckus, this was the first time she smiled so happily. Why? Something good must have happened.

“Something good, there is good news.” Ye Shuyun shouted while walking into the living room.

“Xunxun, come to granny,”

Xunxun put down the doll in her hands, scrambled up from the floors, and ran up to Ye Shuyun. Then, she grabbed Ye Shuyun’s sleeve and lifted her cute little face up with an adorable smile.

“Be good, call granny.”

Ye Shuyun stroked her granddaughter’s face, coaxing her to talk.

“Pretty granny.”

Xunxun's words were as sweet as ever, so much so that she made Ye Shuyun extremely ecstatic and lifted her mood. After all, all women loved being complimented for their beauty. Even if she was almost 60 years old, she would react similarly as well.

Lu Jin heard it and hurriedly discarded his paper aside. Then, he picked Xunxun up and let her stand on his lap.

Now how can I make her call me grandpa? No matter what, I must make her call me a handsome grandpa. Lu Jin had dyed his hair black, and his body had not changed much too. He had been serving in the army for a long time and had been training with the infantry too, so his body was still quite in shape. His back was straight and his belly was flat, so he still stood proud and tall. At first glance, he looked like a handsome middle-aged man in his forties.

Since she had been calling her grandmother pretty granny, she should be calling him handsome grandpa too.

Xunxun tilted her tiny head to one side, as if she was thinking really hard. Then, she nibbled on her little fingers and blurted...

"Pretty grandpa."

Ye Shuyun laughed so hard that she fell rolling on the sofa, whereas Lu Jin was speechless and amused at the same time. He coughed awkwardly to cover up his embarrassment. "This child might not have a large vocabulary yet, but I know that she's praising me."

Ye Shuyun knew that he was just being stubborn, so she stopped herself from arguing with him.

At this moment, a loud sound suddenly rumbled from outside. When Xunxun saw the person that was coming in, she hastily climbed down her grandfather's lap. Her short plump limbs were fast as she had grown up a little and become healthier. Although she had a waddle in her steps, her gait was still quite stable. Ye Shuyun and Lu Jin seemed to feel proud and blessed that their precious granddaughter had finally grown up. In just half a year's time, she would be able to attend kindergarten. However, they would miss them very much. After all, they had been spending every day together with the three little children and had never been separated from one another. When the thought of sending them to kindergarten entered their minds, they could not help but feel a little dejected.

"Daddy..." Xunxun was still running. With a swift swoop, she was carried up into her father's arms. She happily headbutted her dad and rubbed her face into his neck.

She loved her mom, and of course, she loved her dad too.

Lu Yi petted his daughter's tiny head, as he carried her to his parents. When he sat down, he let Xunxun sit on his lap. Xunxun was wearing tiny socks on her little feet, showing off her ten little plump toes. They looked just like her mother, elegant and poised, unlike Xiao Qi and Xia Guang.

Xunxun stood on tiptoes and grabbed a handful of her father's hair. Then, she beamed with happiness, as her eyes were smiling with pure joy.

"Handsome daddy."

With a puff, Lu Jin spat out the mouthful of tea that he just drank.



Ye Shuyun tried her very best to stifle her laughter beside him, but it was indeed an impossible task.