Farmhouse 261

Chapter 261: Made a Swing

Gu Youyou showed a look of astonishment—was Jin Zijin really making a swing?

So he’s been busy building a swing all this time?

Who is it for? Do Jin Zijin and Yue Rujing, two grown men, seem like the type to enjoy swings?

A shiver ran down her spine!

"Youyou, come and give it a try!"

It wasn’t until Jin Zijin’s voice rang out in the courtyard.

Gu Youyou firmly denied that she was a little girl who liked swings.

After circling the swing, she crossed her arms over her chest and said indifferently, "So you’ve spent all this effort to make this good-looking but impractical thing? If it were ten years ago, I might have liked it."

Jin Zijin raised an eyebrow. Was she saying he was childish? That he had made something a child would like.

A sharp-tongued, critical little cat who pretends otherwise, she clearly liked it.

He touched his nose and then beckoned to Abao, who was playing in the courtyard, saying, "I thought both you and Abao would like it."

Gu Youyou was slightly taken aback.

What does that mean? If you're talking about Abao, just mention Abao, why bring me into it?

Oh no, that's wrong, if you're talking about me, just say me, why involve Abao?

Wait, why would both Abao and I like it?

At Jin Zijin's gesture, Abao trotted over cheerfully, and aside from its motionless tail, it was all about pleasing its master like a starry-eyed Vengo.

"Abao, come up and try it!"

When Jin Zijin pointed at the swing, Abao understood and with a light jump, landed on the wicker chair.

Gu Youyou's eyes widened in fury.

This is my exclusive ride; get off.

You traitor!

Jin Zijin was inwardly amused—he hadn't built the swing in vain.

Because of Gu Youyou's genuine display of feelings, because of the little girl's posture that Gu Youyou had shown.

He didn't want to tease her any longer. With a pat on Abao's back, it hopped down again.

A common white butterfly fluttered into the yard, and Abao, oblivious to the rivalry between its two masters, joyfully chased after the butterfly.

"You did that on purpose!" You jerk.

Gu Youyou accused him huffily.

Jin Zijin just smiled lightly and leaned over, saying, "Do you want me to lift you up to try it?"

"No way!" Gu Youyou pushed Jin Zijin away from the swing, clearly irritated.

You rotter!

Sitting down, Gu Youyou relaxed and gently started swinging.

It felt so comfortable; she had already forgotten what she was thinking just a moment ago. What happened to her adamant denial of being a girl who liked swings?

"You're being good now," Jin Zijin murmured, as if he were just talking to himself.

But Gu Youyou heard him clearly.

Uh oh, she had forgotten to ask about the important matter.

Oh well, she could find time to ask Qin Changlin later. Men tend to communicate better with each other, or she could just go check it out herself.

...

The Huang Family matriarch hadn't managed to get the doctor from Jisheng Hall as she'd said before to check Lei Qianqian's pulse, but this didn't affect the mood of the Gu Family at all.

It's common for a woman to be pregnant; it doesn't really matter if it's confirmed or not.

Having it checked would just be icing on the cake! And there’s no harm in not checking.

Of course, this happy mood didn’t include the Huang Family matriarch.

She had been acting strangely in the last few days. Huang Xiangwen, who always followed her like a lapdog and liked to watch her face for cues, noticed it, and so did Gu Feng.

The others assumed she was angry because of Gu Youyou.

Because she didn’t manage to bring a doctor from Jisheng Hall, it’s likely that she got a tongue-lashing from that clever-tongued girl.

This was something Gu Youyou was capable of.

In the Gu Family, aside from Gu Feng, she respected no one else’s opinion.

At night, Huang Xiangwen whispered her suspicions to Gu Xiaoxiao.

Chapter 262: The Abnormality of the Elder Huang Family

"I feel like mom has been off these past few days. That look in her eyes is always so gloomy; it’s quite frightening. Go and find out what’s really going on, will you?"

Gu Lao’er was deep in sleep, lost in a foggy dream. Hearing Huang Xiangwen’s mumbling, he waved his hand as if shooing away a fly and mumbled, "Only your head is full of troubles. Go figure it out yourself."

"Hey, I’m talking serious here. Something’s off with mom." Huang Xiangwen raised her voice and yelled into Gu Lao’er’s ear. Startled by her yell, Gu Lao’er jolted awake instantly and sat up straight, all traces of sleepiness gone.

With his beautiful dream interrupted, Gu Lao’er’s face showed anger as he shouted at Huang Xiangwen, "What’s with you, woman, making noise in the middle of the night? Do you have to wake up the whole family to be satisfied?"

Huang Xiangwen glanced outside and quickly shrank her neck, not wanting to stir up everyone in the house. Mom was already not herself; she didn’t want to add fuel to the fire now.

Yet, she retorted without admitting defeat, "And what’s with you yelling so loudly?"

"Talk if there’s something to talk about; then sleep." Recently, it was the busy harvest season, and Gu Lao’er really had no energy to argue. He still had to go to the fields the next day.

He lay down again.

Huang Xiangwen steadied her voice and whispered lowly, "I’m saying mom has been weird these past two days, her eyes look sinister and scary."

Thinking it was some trivial issue, Gu Lao’er said irritably, "Didn’t you know mom went to Jisheng Hall a few days ago? It must be that damned girl who upset her."

Huang Xiangwen, who always understood the Huang family situations well, felt that wasn’t the whole story. She shook her head and said, "No, if it was just being upset by that girl, she would come back, rant about it, and let off some steam. But she’s been quiet, just having that gloomy look; definitely something’s not right."

With Huang Xiangwen’s reminder, it seemed like something was indeed amiss.

Gu Lao’er sat up again.

"So what do you think is wrong with mom?"

Huang Xiangwen said, "How would I know? I’ve been staying at home lately, taking care of Qianqian, not stepping foot outside. You’re often out and about; take some time to keep an eye on mom."

Gu Lao’er found it strange and said in shock, "Isn’t mom with you guys at home every day?"

Hearing Gu Lao’er say this, Huang Xiangwen was even more surprised.

"When is mom ever at home? Doesn’t she go to the fields with you every day?"

"No... No, she doesn’t!"

Both of them finally realized that something was definitely wrong.

If Mrs. Huang wasn’t at home and wasn’t in the fields, then where had she gone?

Where had Mrs. Huang gone? Naturally, she had gone to confirm Gu Youyou’s words.

Just as Gu Youyou had said, pregnant women shouldn’t have such severe vomiting reactions so early on. If Lei Qianqian was indeed pregnant, it most certainly wasn’t with a child from the Gu family.

Seeing that the household’s workers had all gone to toil in the fields, Mrs. Huang, who had been unnervingly silent for days, finally spoke up.

"Qianqian, you’ve been vomiting so badly, how will this do? You’re throwing up everything you eat; you’ll starve my great-grandson. Here’s what we’ll do, after you’ve eaten and are full, come with me. We’ll have the doctor take a look and figure out what can be done to stop the vomiting," she said.

She took note of Lei Qianqian’s face turning noticeably pale.

Humph, something was definitely fishy.

Yet, Huang Xiangwen looked at Mrs. Huang with a peculiar expression on her face.

She was usually so stingy, and now she was taking the initiative to suggest Qianqian see a doctor?

"Grandma, it’s not necessary, right? The vomiting will pass in a few days." Qianqian said, always understanding.

Huang Xiangwen also smiled and said, "There’s no medicine that can stop pregnancy-related vomiting, ah. The doctor can’t help with that either, mom!"

Chapter 263: It’s Really Happening

But the elder Huang Family departed from her usual insistence.

"No, we must go and see. Even if it’s not to stop the vomiting, we must have the doctor take her pulse to see if my great-grandson is all right."

The house was left with just these few women, with Gu Xiaoqing off embroidering her dowry, each of them preoccupied with their thoughts.

In the end, under the elder Huang’s insistence, Lei Qianqian still went to find the doctor from the neighboring village, Doctor Sun.

They chose him because he was nearby, because he charged less, and his medical skills were mediocre at best, which made him least likely to diagnose the pregnancy correctly.

Identifying a pregnancy pulse was a minor task for a doctor, something even an apprentice could do; she only needed Doctor Sun to confirm whether Lei Qianqian was pregnant.

Although visiting Gu Youyou would have been free, she did not want to take this matter to Gu Youyou. Gu Youyou was a daughter married out from the Gu Family; the fewer people who knew of this family disgrace, the less shame would be cast. The most important thing was to not give Gu Youyou cause for ridicule. She had made it very clear, if Qianqian was pregnant, it definitely would not be a child of the Gu Family.

Of course, it would be best if Lei Qianqian were merely suffering from a bout of indigestion and not pregnant at all.

It didn’t take long to reach Doctor Sun’s home. Upon seeing Lei Qianqian, his eyes went wide with interest; she had never done farm work, and her hands and skin were different from the village women’s—much whiter and tender.

"Oh, elder madame from the Gu Family, so this is your granddaughter-in-law? I’ve heard she’s from the town, and she really does look different from the village folk," he said.

His blatantly lecherous gaze roamed over Lei Qianqian, making her quite uncomfortable, and she instinctively hid behind the elder Huang.

The elder Huang was not in the mood to deal with this lecher eyeing Lei Qianqian with lust and urged him, "We’re busy at home, so quickly check whether she is pregnant or not."

With that, a string of coins was thrown onto the table.

Doctor Sun was both lecherous and greedy for money.

With a formidable old woman present, he could not do much to the young bride, so he happily pocketed the Copper Coin.

"Yes, yes, it’s harvest season, everyone is busy," Doctor Sun hurriedly assented.

"Young lady, give me your hand," he said, seizing any opportunity he could take advantage of.

An eighteen-year-old woman like that had never encountered such forward and unabashed stares, her hesitance stemming from fear.

The elder Huang said irritably, "Hurry up. With me here, what can he do? Eat you up?"

The elder Huang’s powerful voice made Lei Qianqian shiver, and she finally extended her arm.

Oh, how long he took to feel the pulse; the elder Huang's face turned green with anger.

"Can you even identify a pregnancy pulse or not? If not, give me back my money, and I'll go to another doctor," she said.

The examination indeed took an unusually long time, which forced Doctor Sun to eventually withdraw his hand.

"Yes, yes, elder madame from the Gu Family. If I couldn't even detect a pregnancy pulse, it would ruin my reputation," he claimed.

"So is she pregnant or not?" the elder Huang asked impatiently.

Doctor Sun reluctantly retracted his hand, stroking his inch-long beard and shaking his head with airs, "Fluent and smooth, as if beads were rolling on a tray, congratulations to you, elder madame Gu, this young lady indeed has a pregnancy pulse!"

With a loud bang, it was as if thunder had exploded in the elder Huang's mind.

A pregnancy pulse? Truly a pregnancy pulse?

The words of Gu Youyou echoed in her ears, along with those she had inquired from other doctors, buzzing around her like annoying flies.

Symptoms of morning sickness should only appear after forty days into pregnancy.

But she had witnessed Lei Qianqian vomiting for the first time more than ten days ago, and that was just what she had seen; in reality, it could have been even earlier.

And it had been just over a month since Dabao and Lei Qianqian had been wed.

Hearing Doctor Sun's words, the elder Huang turned deathly pale, without a trace of joy.

Chapter 264: The Old Lady Loses Her Temper

The doctor Sun only felt it strange, but his mind was so occupied with the delicate and tender young mistress that he didn't ponder too deeply about the old woman's odd expression.

And Lei Qianqian was already too shocked to speak.

No, this was all wrong. The elder Madame Huang shouldn't have that expression, and moreover, she had clearly asked the doctor to look at her morning sickness but didn't mention it at all, only asking the doctor to check whether she was pregnant.

She knew very clearly, of course she was pregnant, she had been for a while now; otherwise, why would she have married in such a hurry?

But how could the old lady know? No, it was impossible; the old lady couldn't possibly know about her own affairs.

Yet how could she explain the old lady's strange reactions?

She followed the old lady unaware of how they left the doctor Sun's house.

Though it was said to be the neighboring village, the winding path took nearly half an hour to travel.

All the way, Madame Huang's mind was in a daze, but once she came back to her senses, she was seething with rage.

Well then, they had schemed their way to the Gu Family!

When they reached a place where few people tread, she finally reached her limit.

Madame Huang suddenly stopped walking. Lei Qianqian turned her head only to be frightened by the older woman’s fierce gaze, feeling her heart thumping wildly.

Here it came, she knew, it was about to begin.

But she wasn’t ready yet, how should she explain this situation?

"Grandmother, why have you stopped walking?" Lei Qianqian asked cautiously.

After all, she was just an eighteen-year-old girl with a guilty conscience, and she was extremely nervous.

Madame Huang clearly saw her wringing white hands due to the nervousness and the nearly bitten-through lips.

This bitch!

Is there a need to ask? Her reaction said it all.

Madame Huang’s eyes were filled with murderous intent; she wished she could immediately scratch the face of this shameless little wretch.

Well, they dare to target the Gu Family as their big fools.

She clenched her teeth tightly, her words seeming to burst forth from between them with vehemence.

"Lei Qianqian, in what ways has our Gu Family wronged you that you’ve sought to trap us like this?"

Indeed, the Gu Family matriarch knew.

Lei Qianqian was drenched in sweat from nervousness and fear, subconsciously covering her stomach, she took a few steps back and forced an uglier smile than crying, "Grandmother, you... what are you talking about? I don't understand."

Even now she dared to play dumb, this little wretch!

Although Madame Huang was aged, her body was stronger than that of the young, and she could easily handle three of Lei Qianqian, frail as the girl was.

She took large strides forward and grabbed hold of Lei Qianqian's front. If it weren't for the height difference, she would have lifted Lei Qianqian by the collar into the air.

Under the old dame's intense scrutiny from such close proximity, Lei Qianqian was petrified. She waved her arms trying to pry off Madame Huang's grip but to no avail; the old woman's grip was like an iron vice, and Lei Qianqian was utterly powerless before her.

"You are pregnant!" Madame Huang said through gritted teeth.

Lei Qianqian tried her best to remain calm amidst her fear.

Don't panic, don't be afraid, she has no evidence; so what if she knows?

"Yes, Grandmother, didn't you always know?" she said with a nervous laugh.

"Ha-ha-ha... Of course, I've always known!" But what she did not know was that Lei Qianqian had been pregnant before she even entered our doors.

Madame Huang laughed menacingly, her laughter echoing like that of a demon from hell, chilling to the bone.

Could the Gu Family really have such a terrifying old dame?

"Then tell me, when did you get pregnant?" What kind of Scholar's Family daughter, learned and courteous, pretending to be like those rich town folks' daughters? Could those rich folks' daughters commit such pickled affairs?

Chapter 265: Honestly Confess

"I..." Lei Qianqian was terrified, trembling all over.

"Who is the adulterer?" The rage grew stronger as the voice came nearer, old Huang Family's spit even spraying onto Lei Qianqian's face.

Under normal circumstances, Lei Qianqian would have certainly found it disgusting, this disgusting old woman. But now, she had no time to be disgusted—only fear remained in her heart.

What did this old woman want to do?

No, she couldn't admit it. How could she admit to such a thing? Did she no longer want to live, or care about her face?

And the child, the patriarch of the Gu Family had said, if it was a son, he would be the Gu Family's eldest great-grandson, and he was to be raised to become a magistrate someday, while she would be the magistrate's mother. She could rely on her son to live a good life for the rest of her days.

The Gu Family, what were the people of the Gu Family? Weren't they all her servants, to attend to her and her son for a lifetime?

These days, she had grown accustomed to being treated like the Empress Dowager by the people of the Gu Family.

But all this was because she might be carrying the eldest great-grandson of the Gu Family in her belly. If it weren't for this child, if they knew the truth... Lei Qianqian dared not imagine the consequences.

So, she couldn't admit it.

"Grandma, what are you saying? Don’t talk nonsense and ruin the reputation of your granddaughter-in-law and the Gu Family’s reputation."

Old Huang Family was slightly taken aback.

The reputation of the Gu Family, yes, the Gu Family’s reputation.

Wasn’t it precisely because she was considering the reputation of the Gu Family that she hadn’t told anyone, but was investigating this matter secretly behind their backs?

The Gu Family was well-respected for miles around. Although there were occasional conflicts in the family, luckily, the daughters and daughters-in-law were all diligent, good at fieldwork, which made them the richest in the village.

But now, why did such a woman come along and shatter it all?

This wretch, even using reputation to threaten her.

No, she couldn’t let the eldest great-grandson of the Gu Family be someone else’s seed, nor could she let the Gu Family’s reputation be ruined.

"You little wretch, confess to me now! Keep playing the fool, and I swear on the Gu Family’s reputation, I will drag you and your Lei Family to face the magistrate."

When the mention of dragging the Lei Family to the magistrate was made, Lei Qianqian finally realized this matter was harder to deal with than she had imagined.

Was her denial useful? Once they saw the magistrate, the Governor’s Office would surely summon a doctor to examine her, and any discerning doctor could see at a glance she was more than three months pregnant from her slightly bulging belly.

With the old woman’s fierce look not appearing to be a joke, Lei Qianqian, frightened and scared, finally had no choice but to admit and desperately plead.

"Grandma, don’t drag me to see the magistrate; I’ll speak, I’ll speak..."

"Confess to me!" old Huang Family said fiercely. As for how she would be dealt with, that would depend on her explanation.

Lei Qianqian pleaded with a crying voice, "Grandma, I... I was forced too!"

Lei Qianqian’s account was that she had lost her father and, with her somewhat good looks, hadn’t married despite her age, caught the attention of the local ruffians, and was violated by them. Upon realizing her loss of virtue, she initially wanted to end her life, but her mother’s desperate pleading, along with her young brother, made her unable to go through with it with a peaceful mind, which is why she survived.

She had thought she could just cover up the incident, and her mother was also seeking a matchmaker to find her a husband, not hoping to marry into a high-ranked household in town, but simply an affluent family where she wouldn’t have to worry about food and clothing. That’s how she ended up with the Gu Family.

But the nightmare didn’t end. While they were setting up talks with the matchmaker and the Gu Family, she discovered she was pregnant, and she herself didn’t know who the father of the child was.

Chapter 266: What if She Died?

At first, she was also resistant to continuing her engagement with the Gu Family, feeling it was unfair to them. But she couldn’t withstand her mother’s pleading, her mother saying that breaking off an engagement halfway would also damage the Gu Family’s reputation. It would be better to marry into the family first and then find an opportunity to get rid of the child—no one would know she had ever carried a bastard.

She couldn’t bear to see her life ruined like this and, moved by selfish desires, she agreed to continue the marriage negotiations.

Indeed, the Lei Family was eager to marry her off because she was pregnant, fearing her belly would become too obvious to hide.

After speaking, Lei Qianqian looked at Old Madame Huang with tears streaming down her face, waiting for her decision.

"Grandmother, I never intended to trick the Gu Family. If I had known I was pregnant before the marriage negotiations, I would have never agreed to engage with the Gu Family!"

As she spoke, she started sobbing.

"But what difference does that make? You slut still came to the Gu Family carrying that bastard," Old Madame Huang fumed.

Who else could she blame? The Gu Family was simply unlucky to have stumbled upon such a mess.

"I...," Lei Qianqian frantically said, "I won't let the Gu Family raise a bastard. I'll get rid of the child, as long as Grandmother keeps my secret and doesn't report me. I am willing to work like an ox or horse for the Gu Family for the rest of my life!"

She already dared not dream of good days ahead; she first needed to stabilize the old lady's temper, and once she genuinely bore the Gu Family's Magistrate, and once the old lady was gone, who would know about her past?

Old Madame Huang slapped her across the face, cursing, "Shameless creature, do you still dare talk about staying with the Gu Family? What face do you have to remain in the Gu Family with your sullied, battered body? Me, keep your secret? Do you really think this old woman is easy to bully, or do you think my Gu Family deserves to be the easy target for collecting trash?"

This slut!

"I—I... Grandmother, I beg you, if this gets out, I won't be able to live, and the Gu Family will lose face too!" Right, the Gu Family would lose face as well...

Lei Qianqian, mustering strength from who knows where, broke free from Old Madame Huang and began desperately kowtowing on the ground.

"Slut, how dare you mention the Gu Family!" Old Madame Huang was furious. With this scandal, could the Gu Family still hold up its head? And was she the type to suffocate herself for the sake of reputation?

"Come with me, and wait for the pig cage punishment!"

She shouted loudly, grabbing Lei Qianqian’s arm and dragging her toward Lotus Village.

Lei Qianqian was not as strong as her, and violent morning sickness had left her weak, allowing Old Madame Huang to drag her away.

If she were truly dragged back like this, she would have no face to continue living.

From behind, the sound of a carriage and frantic shouting appeared.

"Clear the way, clear the way ahead!"

A middle-aged man, driving a flatbed horse cart laden with goods, was hurtling down the mountainous road. A scrawny horse seemed spooked and, out of control, galloped wildly.

Goods from the flatbed horse cart occasionally fell off; some landed right on the road, while others tumbled down into the cliffs on the side of the mountain.

This scene was extremely dangerous and frightening.

Old Madame Huang, dragging Lei Qianqian, stayed as close to the mountain side as possible to give way to the runaway carriage.

Luckily the road was not too narrow, allowing them to safely keep to the inside edge.

Old Madame Huang was so focused on the approaching runaway cart that she failed to notice the increasingly desperate look in Lei Qianqian's eyes next to her.

The child she was carrying did not belong to the Gu Family; only this old woman knew that, and that was the reason for Old Madame Huang's odd behavior these last few days.

What if she died? What if she died?

Chapter 267: Dead or Not?

This mad idea, once born, grew crazily in her heart like bamboo shoots after a spring rain.

As long as she died, nobody would know, the child in her belly would still be the Gu Family's precious great-grandson, and she would continue to live as the Empress Dowager.

Yes, that's right, it must be so.

The startled carriage, the sparsely populated mountain road, she had both time and place in her favor, all that was lacking was for her to give her a push, it was the will of heaven.

Heaven could not bear to see her meet her demise; the child she carried was not ordinary, this was the opportunity heaven had bestowed upon her.

She should comply with the will of heaven.

"Hahaha..." Lei Qianqian let out a piercing, crazed laugh, as though she had lost her mind.

Old Madam Huang was taken aback, full of anger and about to turn around and slap her, but unexpectedly, the moment she turned her face, she saw Lei Qianqian's ghastly face like that of a soul-stealing ghost.

With all her strength, Lei Qianqian pushed Old Madam Huang unexpectedly and with full force.

Old Madam Huang's face suddenly changed, her body involuntarily staggering towards the middle of the road.

The runaway carriage was already upon her, her face filled with terror as she looked at Lei Qianqian.

She never would have imagined that this seemingly fragile wretch, rotten to the core, would actually make a deadly move against her. She regretted, because just moments ago she had even considered sparing her life.

For the sake of the Gu Family's honor, perhaps they could keep the illegitimate child a secret, think of another way to make her miscarry, and ideally make it so she could never bear children again.

In time, if she failed to produce a child in three years, she could use this as an excuse to drive her out of the Gu Family.

Being divorced for failing to bear an heir within three years certainly sounded much better than being divorced for deceiving into marriage with another's child, at least she wouldn't have to be drowned in the pig cage.

And during those three years, she was to serve the Gu Family like an ox or a horse to compensate for their loss.

But heaven didn't give her time to be angry or to regret; the speeding carriage had already reached her, and before she could steady herself, she let out a scream and was sent flying by the carriage.

The middle-aged man on the carriage saw everything clearly, an old woman and a young woman, the younger pushed the elder out, he pulled at the reins with all his might, but to no avail.

A series of sharp neighs from the old horse, mixed with the screams of the old woman and the middle-aged man, a horse and two people, all fell into the depths of the ravine together.

Lei Qianqian's heart violently heaved, as if it would burst out of her chest.

She had never done such a thing before, taking a life.

But she couldn't be blamed, she couldn't be blamed, it was her, it was this old monster who had forced her, she didn't want to, she didn't intend to kill.

She shook her head like a madwoman, sweat and tears streaming down her face.

Due to intense fear, she collapsed on the ground, scrabbling around for a long while without being able to stand up.

Is she dead? The old hag, is she dead? Her mind echoed with the thought.

It was already done, she had no way back now, the old hag had to die.

A malevolent glint like that of a vicious ghost reappeared in Lei Qianqian's eyes.

Struggling to her feet, she stumbled over to the edge of the cliff.

Below the cliff was a wrecked carriage and scattered goods, along with a horse and two people.

The gully wasn't very deep, and she could see everything clearly from above.

Is she dead? Her heart questioned again.

She wanted to go down to check but found no foothold.

It was just then, the person below, struggling to get up, made her eyes widen in sudden fear.

It was that old monster, such a large life force; she actually wasn't dead?

Fear spread over her, contorting her face hideously, her eyes filled with madness.

"Not dead? I'll crush you to death," she muttered fiercely.

Chapter 268: Dying with Eyes Open.

Lei Qianqian's entire face became crazed and twisted, like a hideous evil spirit, a death-seeking King of Hell, as she desperately tried to move a boulder by the road. With great effort, she lifted the large rock and smashed it down fiercely.

Old Madam Huang's body pain was so intense that it almost spasmed. She didn't know how many bones she had broken, but her consciousness remained clear.

Damn little wench, daring to do such a life-threatening thing, just wait until she goes back to see how she'll deal with her. Not a single person from the Lei Family will be spared.

But before she could even attempt to get up, she saw a large rock falling from the road above, landing right beside her.

Startled, she quickly looked up, only to see that damned wench desperately moving another rock.

Her eyes bulged in disbelief, and at the same time, she was filled with both fear and anger as she stared straight at the person above.

Did she not die from the fall, and now she's still trying to kill her with rocks? Wench!

Before she had time to think further, another rock came crashing down.

Old Madam Huang wanted to dodge, but realized her legs were in such excruciating pain that she couldn’t move at all.

Her legs were most likely broken, so she could only try to dodge by twisting her upper body.

The range of movement she had in her upper body was really limited, how could it ever stand against the madness of the little wench dropping down large rocks?

A boulder hit her shoulder, causing her to cry out in agony.

The old lady’s voice was still loud and clear, piercing into Lei Qianqian’s mind like a needle and driving her even more insane.

Ha ha, smash her to death, smash her to death! If she dies, you will have good days ahead, and your secret will never be known to the Gu Family, the only thought remaining in her mind.

"You vile-hearted wench, you will not die a good death," the old lady cursed loudly.

As she yelled in anger, pain spasmed in her chest. She quickly pressed her hand over her heart.

Hearing these words, Lei Qianqian was further provoked and continued moving rocks, throwing them down as if her life depended on it.

She must smash the old hag to death.

She laughed maniacally.

On this road, there were many loose rocks on the sides. The carriage had already taken many down when it fell, but there were even more left on the roadside.

Lei Qianqian seemed to find a surge of strength from nowhere, heaving rock after rock, not knowing how many she had thrown down until the person in the ditch below stopped making any sound. She looked down, gazing into the deep toward the person there.

The old wretch finally stopped moving, nearly half-buried by the rocks; Lei Qianqian at last could stop her frenzied actions.

She had killed. She had really killed someone. Lei Qianqian shuddered, staring blankly at her hands.

One delicate, fair hand was covered in bloodstains from scraping whilst moving rocks.

Dead? Is she really dead now?

The old wretch couldn't be left alive, she had to be dead, Lei Qianqian had to see her dead body to be at peace.

Restless, she rolled and tumbled down the hillside. She had to see for herself in the ravine—if the old hag was truly dead, only then could she be at ease.

Lei Qianqian climbed in a disheveled state, finally seeing Old Madam Huang whose head was smashed open by the rocks.

Her protruding eyes were wide open, a look of death without closure.

Yet she was still not reassured, so she shakily reached out to check Old Madam Huang's breath.

There was not the slightest breath. She was truly dead.

"Ah..." Lei Qianqian screamed. She had seen dead people before, but never such a horrifying corpse.

The open eyes appeared as though they would seek vengeance from her, like a vengeful ghost.

What does it matter if she died with eyes open? She’s still dead, and her secret is kept. Lei Qianqian was consumed by fear and madness, and could no longer hold on, fainting beside the body.

Chapter 269 Mom~~

The mountain fog curled between the hills, and even the birds in the woods, oblivious to human sorrows, couldn’t mask the thick scent of blood in the ravine!

It was evening when they were discovered.

Old Mrs. Huang had taken Lei Qianqian to seek medical help, and hadn’t returned all day; the Gu Family decided to look for them at the doctor’s house. On their way, the sight of those unusual wagon tracks and scattered goods on the road set their hearts pounding.

When they reached the edge and looked over, they immediately saw that disordered scene amidst the swirling fog.

During the day, when the sun was strong and the fog less dense, the scene below was clearly visible. But in the morning and evening, when the mountain fog thickened, it was hard to see clearly from a distance; everything looked blurred and especially frightening.

Gu Dabao and his father, Gu Er, had gone out to look for his newlywed wife and grandmother. When they saw the chaotic scene by the roadside, and the dried bloodstains, their faces were already as pale as death.

Could it be them? Could something have happened to them?

"Dad!" Gu Dabao called out with a trembling voice, his body shaking slightly.

Gu Er was equally frightened.

He stood there with a dumbstruck face, coming back to his senses only when his eldest son called out to him.

"No, you can be sure, it’s not your grandmother and Qianqian. It’s not far, how could they take a carriage? And you know how frugal your grandmother is. She would rather carry Qianqian on her back all the way home than spend the money to take a carriage."

No one knows a son better than his mother, and by the same token, no one knows a mother better than her son.

If it weren’t for the fact that Lei Qianqian was pregnant with another man’s child, she indeed would have acted that way.

Despite saying it was impossible, Gu Er sprang into action.

Throwing caution to the wind, he scrambled down into the ravine.

When they clearly saw the people, it just had to be them.

There was a dead old horse, and next to it, an unrecognizable middle-aged man, who also seemed to be dead, with flies swarming all around him.

On the other side was old Mrs. Huang, half her head smashed, her eyes wide open as if she were telling her son and grandson how unjust her death was.

Beside her lay Lei Qianqian, unconscious.

"Mother..." A heart-wrenching cry echoed through the valley, reaching for the heavens.

In the end, it was his own mother; even if Gu Er had behaved callously at times, his weeping over his mother’s death was genuine.

"How could you die so tragically..."

Drenched in blood, her head bashed in by a rock, this was an extreme brutality for a rural family.

Gu Dabao was in shock, one side was his grandmother who had died a miserable death, the other his wife, whose fate was unknown.

After a moment of indecision, he knelt on the ground with a thud and wept for his grandmother alongside his father.

Just then, the cries of the Gu father and son finally woke the unconscious Lei Qianqian.

She stirred, let out a groan, drawing the attention of the grieving Gu family members.

"Dabao, Qianqian is still alive!" Gu Er shouted loudly.

At least they hadn't both died; they quickly helped Lei Qianqian, who was half-dead.

"Qianqian, Qianqian, where did you get hurt?" Gu Dabao held Lei Qianqian, shaking her.

"Are you all right? How could this have happened to you and grandma?" Gu Dabao asked anxiously.

Lei Qianqian finally opened her eyes, recalling what had happened just before she had lost consciousness, and seeing old Mrs. Huang's eyes wide open, she chose to faint again.

She had been too hasty before, and she was afraid; she hadn't thought about how to cope at all.

Chapter 270 The Child Wishes to Provide Support, but the Parents Are No Longer Present

The Gu Family had a tragedy, the old lady of the Gu Family was bringing her daughter-in-law to see the doctor when they were hit by a startled old horse. Several people, along with the carriage, all tumbled into a ravine.

The old horse, the middle-aged man driving the carriage, and the old lady of the Gu Family all died. The sole surviving daughter-in-law of the Gu Family was so shocked and traumatized that she became somewhat delirious, continuously muttering, "It's my fault that Grandma died, Grandma died so horribly trying to protect me," and insisting on being buried with the old lady.

This was ridiculous, only members of the Imperial Family had to be buried with the deceased, and besides, she was pregnant with a child.

The Gu Family thought she had been scared out of her wits, and that she had only survived because the old lady had protected her. The shock was too much, causing her temporary irrational thoughts.

The Gu Family made arrangements for the funeral, and the delirious Lei Qianqian was sent back to the Lei Family. They feared she might cause trouble at the funeral because she was so traumatized. Everyone was too busy to look after her. Secondly, she was carrying the eldest great-grandson of the Gu Family in her womb. It was not appropriate for an unborn child to be present at the funeral, as it could attract evil spirits.

The sudden tragic death of the matriarch of the Huang Family had plunged the entire Gu Family into mourning.

Gu Youyou learned the news and rushed over the next day.

Just a few days ago, the grandmother who had been causing trouble at Jisheng Hall suddenly died, leaving Gu Youyou feeling incredibly surreal.

Dead, just like that? She shook her head.

When you have a terrible relative living in your home, you resent them so much that you curse the heavens for being blind, wishing a thunderbolt would take them away. But when they are actually taken by the heavens, your heart dwells on different thoughts.

Gu Youyou found it strange that she felt inexplicably sad.

The domineering and troublesome old lady had died just like that, without any warning.

In fact, aside from being stingy, liking to take advantage of minor benefits, and inexplicably detesting her, her granddaughter, she hadn’t done anything that violated the natural order. She didn’t deserve to die. Had the heavens taken the wrong person?

If only she had known that her grandmother would leave so soon, could she have tolerated her irrational behavior and treated her a bit better?

It’s just a shame that you can wish for peace, but the winds do not stop, and that children intend to take care of their parents, but they don’t have the chance to wait.

There was no longer an opportunity to see that unreasonable old lady again.

Jin Zijin patted her shoulder and said, "Don’t be sad, I heard it was an accident, a startled horse ran into her and they both fell into the ravine where falling rocks killed her."

"Sad? What do I have to be sad about?" That inexplicably troublesome old lady, she hated me.

"Denial is not just a river in Egypt!" Jin Zijin simply stated.

His words made Gu Youyou feel even more upset.

Isn’t it just the death of a relative? In two lifetimes, all four of her parents had died. What was the big deal about a grandmother, who hated her, dying?

Gu Feng, supported by his uncle, seemed unsteady on his feet. The room was filled with relatives in mourning clothes, kneeling in front of the table where the chants were being performed, periodically kowtowing. This was a local custom.

Upon seeing Gu Youyou arrive, she instantly sensed the unfriendly looks from everyone. She found it somewhat inexplicable.

After all, she was a daughter married out from the Gu Family. They had informed her of Grandma's death, and she had come. She was merely following local customs to see her grandmother off on her final journey. Was there really a need to look at her as if she were an enemy?

She wasn't there to freeload.

As it was a ceremonial service, nobody could talk casually, so people just gave her unfriendly stares without saying anything.