

Folly 24

Chapter 24: The Young Man Who Escorts Si Niang Home

Mu Xiaozhi's words drew everyone's attention to Old Mrs. Mu.

Was it Old Mrs. Mu who poisoned?

It must be. Who in the family most wants Mu Shuangshuang dead? Isn't it Old Mrs. Mu?

So at this moment, everyone's gaze towards Old Mrs. Mu was filled with doubt, agreement, and even heartbreak. Of course, most were in agreement; Old Mrs. Mu finally did something good for them, one less mouth to feed in the house.

"Why are you all staring at me? What is it? You think I did it? That I used poison?"

With so many eyes on her, Old Mrs. Mu was unhappy. She hadn't killed anyone. If it were her, she would've bought a few fireworks to set off for the New Year. How could she stay silent now, without a peep?

"Mother, isn't it just you who hates Shuang the most in this house? Admit it, so we don't waste money hiring a doctor. Let Shuang die, as you wish."

Mu Danian jumped out. No matter how he looked at it, he felt it was his mother. Besides Mrs. Lin, his mother was the harshest on Shuang. If it wasn't really her, wouldn't she break her thighs laughing if the girl just died like that?

"You ungrateful brat, spouting nonsense! If it were me, I'd admit it. Don't think you can shove this pile of crap on my head; be careful, or I'll skin you!"

Old Mrs. Mu put her hands on her hips and stomped the mud on the roof hard, sending dust flying and choking Mu Danian with a noseful of it.

"Ahem, ahem," Mu Danian coughed lightly twice, then muttered, "Always threatening to skin this person or that person, never really skinned anyone. If you've got the guts, kill a chicken and skin it, stew it for us. Satisfy our cravings!"

"Eat, eat, eat, all you know is to eat! How did I give birth to such a useless thing like you? Really lost my old woman's face."

"Gurgle!" Mu Dazhong's stomach growled in hunger. This good meal had not even started and was ruined by this damned girl, just like dog crap, really a downer.

"It's all Shuangshuang's fault, dead is dead, why dirty our food, really aligned with the saying, 'drag someone down even in death.'"

"Alright, what are you all howling about here? Not getting a doctor to see Shuang? If she really dies, will you be happy?"

Mr. Mu roared, and this farce seemed to come to an end.

Mu Dashan kept shaking Mu Shuangshuang's small body, "Shuangshuang, wake up, don't scare your dad, please wake up..."

"Sis... sis, what's wrong? Get up and talk to Little Zhi, Little Zhi doesn't mind, please get up..." Mu Xiaozhi held Mu Shuangshuang's face, crying like a tearful person.

When Yu Si Niang came back, she saw this scene: her eldest daughter lay unconscious on the ground, her husband pushing her daughter's small frame, and her little girl crying as she held the elder one.

Seeing Yu Si Niang, Old Mrs. Mu suddenly came to life, as if long-repressed emotions finally found an outlet.

"Hey, you worthless woman, you still know to come back? Your daughter is about to die, and you dare run off. Where did you go fooling around?" As she spoke, Old Mrs. Mu walked over to Yu Si Niang, and upon seeing her drenched clothes, shouted angrily.

"You wastrel of a woman, you dare wet your clothes, just you wait, today I won't thrash you, the squanderer, to death!"

Saying that, Old Mrs. Mu picked up a bamboo stick that was kept in the door bend, usually used to beat disobedient grandchildren. Eating, after all, always had some naughty ones deserving a thrashing, then pouring some salt water, or chili water to ensure obedience.

"Stop!"

Just as the bamboo stick was about to hit Yu Si Niang, a sudden angry shout came from the door. A young man wearing a gray cotton shirt stood at the entrance of the Mu Family's main room.

He was tall, with clear features, a face full of anger, but soon those eyes brimming with rage were collected. He gave a polite smile to the Mu Family and said,

"Grandma Mu, I brought my brother Yuanbao to thank Aunt Si. Earlier this evening, my brother was playing near the ditch by the cotton field, catching loaches, and accidentally fell in. Luckily, Aunt Si was there and pulled him out, saving him.

I already spoke to the village chief about this; he said he would commend Aunt Si in the village. My brother was worried that Aunt Si would come back late, and your family would worry, so he asked me to check in."

Behind Lu Yuanfeng, a head popped out, round as a melon, looking unusually cute.

Seeing Yu Si Niang, Little Yuanbao ran up, hugging her with gratitude. "Auntie, thank you, you are like a second mother to me. Without you, my little life would be gone, you're such a good person..."

With exaggerated words and expressions, Lu Yuanfeng looked at his brother acting playfully, and couldn't help but twitch his lips.

Lying on the ground, having been ignored for so long, Mu Shuangshuang felt a bit sad. Couldn't these people lend a hand and move her to a room? The dampness on the ground was so heavy, what if she got rheumatism or old-cold legs, what then?

"On the ground there is Shuang... Shuang?" Lu Yuanfeng was uncertain if the name was right. That afternoon, Mu Dazhong did call for Shuang, but he didn't know Shuang's full name.

"Big brother, please save my sister, she... she's poisoned!" Little Zhi, seeing that once Lu Yuanfeng arrived, everyone stopped talking and cursing at her mom and sister, thought maybe Lu Yuanfeng had some skills.

But Little Zhi didn't know the Mu Family was quiet not because of Lu Yuanfeng's skills, but because in his left hand, tied with straw, was a chunk of meat. Right now, everyone's eyes were on that meat; who had the time to care about Mu Shuangshuang and Yu Si Niang?

The meat looked as if freshly cleaned, with some blood froth on it, appearing to weigh about a pound. That fresh red chunk, even raw, could attract the eyes of the Mu Family, who hadn't seen such fresh meat in nearly half a year.

Seemingly unaware of the Mu Family's greedy stares, Lu Yuanfeng squatted down and checked Mu Shuangshuang's pulse. It was still chaotic, unstable inside, but better compared to before with no signs of poisoning.

"Shuangshuang..." Just as he spoke, someone pinched him, making Lu Yuanfeng quickly regain his calm.
"It's indeed poisoning, a kind of horse purslane poisonous herb, common in fields, often mixed with cabbage, the symptoms being vomiting and diarrhea."

"Is there hope for my daughter? Nephew from the Lu Family, please help me, save my daughter, I'm begging you..."

"Aunt Si, don't be like this. Shuangshuang... can be saved."