

Folly 26

Chapter 26 will return it to you.

Mu Shuangshuang was carried into the house by Mu the Third, and everyone breathed a sigh of relief. For the other branches of the Mu Family, the nuisance was finally out of sight. For those in Mu Dashan's house, it meant Mu Shuangshuang's life was saved.

Lu Yuanfeng followed Mu Dashan into Mu Dashan's house.

The lie had already been told, and he naturally had to maintain it. The best way to do so was to follow along and see if there's anything Mu Shuangshuang wants him to help with, as a way to repay Yu Si Niang for saving Yuanbao.

The small house was the same, but inside, there were slight changes. The cabinet on the north side was missing three legs, and the worn cotton quilts he'd carried out to air were gone, seemingly moved to the kang bed where Mu Shuangshuang might be sleeping by the Mu Family's Third Branch.

The subtle changes warmed Lu Yuanfeng's heart and increased his respect for the Mu Family's Third Branch and Yu Si Niang.

As soon as Yuanbao, who was following Lu Yuanfeng, entered the house, he was hit by a sour stench and quickly covered his nose. "Second Brother, this house stinks."

Mu Dashan's hands holding Mu Shuangshuang stiffened, and for a moment, he was frozen in place, unsure how to respond to Yuanbao.

The pretending-to-be-unconscious Mu Shuangshuang was similarly taken aback. She knew that Mu Dashan cared about what others said of her, but he wasn't skilled at arguing or being the villain.

From earlier, she could tell, when Yu Si Niang was scolded unjustly by Old Mrs. Mu, Mu Dashan merely looked at Old Mrs. Mu with pleading eyes, hoping she wouldn't scold his wife anymore.

Endurance, fear, and pinning hope on others—perhaps these were Mu Dashan's character flaws, and their existence partly led to the Mu Family's Third Branch's status, being bullied!

"You're the one who stinks, my house doesn't stink, my sister doesn't stink either." Little Zhi, biting her silver teeth, retorted Yuanbao.

She didn't like this person because he despised her house, despised her sister.

"How am I stinky? I bathed when I came, I smell good; you can smell for yourself." Yuanbao extended his sleeve towards Little Zhi to let her smell himself.

"Yuanbao, don't be rude, put your hand down!"

Lu Yuanfeng frowned, displeased with his younger brother's behavior. Today's confrontation with Mu Dazhong from Mu Family's Second Branch was clearly an act of courting disaster, and if it weren't for him, they might have suffered greatly. Now, Yuanbao was bullying someone else's little girl right in front of him.

Upon hearing his brother's reprimand, Yuanbao quickly lowered his hand without any hesitation.

Whatever Second Brother said was right, whatever Second Brother said must be listened to. To show his respect for Second Brother, he deliberately stood closer to Mu Shuangshuang, his dark eyes blinking, clearly seeking praise.

Lu Yuanfeng looked helpless and simply ignored him.

"Si Aunt, Shuangshuang should have taken her medicine, right? Is it time to decoct the medicine now?"

After meeting Mu Dazhong, Lu Yuanfeng visited the village doctor Zhang Huai Shu, casually inquiring about Mu Family matters. Zhang Huai Shu was a good acquaintance, always answering his questions without reservation. Lu Yuanfeng already understood the other branches of the Mu Family and held no expectations towards them.

"I'll go to the kitchen to prepare the medicine." Not waiting for Yu Si Niang to get up from the kang bed, Mu Dashan rushed to the door. He was uncomfortable inside, his wife bullied, his daughter insulted, yet he couldn't resist because among those people was his most respected mother.

"Nephew Lu from the Lu Family, you... you must be thirsty, I'll go get you some tea." Yu Si Niang stood up, her eyes fixated on her daughter on the kang bed, afraid that missing a glance would mean losing her. Her heart felt like it was struck with a whip, hurting terribly.

"Thank you, Si Aunt. Yuanbao, go with Si Aunt and protect her." Lu Yuanfeng left the rest unsaid, trusting his younger brother understood.

"Alright!" Yuanbao nodded vigorously towards Lu Yuanfeng and then followed Yu Si Niang out.

Once only Lu Yuanfeng and Little Zhi were left in the house, Mu Shuangshuang slowly opened her eyes.

Lu Yuanfeng didn't know how to describe his feelings at the moment—a girl, disheveled and dirty, yet possessing such beautiful eyes. Her eyes were bright, like stars in the night sky. Upon waking, those lively eyes made it clear she's not someone meant to appear so filthy.

What has she been through?

"Sis, you..." Little Zhi, not noticing Lu Yuanfeng's gaze, was surprised by her sister's sudden awakening, and cried out in joy. Mu Shuangshuang quickly extended her hand, signaling her to be quieter.

Little Zhi wiped the tears from her eyes. "I knew Sis would be alright. Sis, you scared Little Zhi to death. Next time, tell Little Zhi when you play dead, okay? If Little Zhi is prepared, she won't be scared."

The thin little girl was crying with tears and snot all over her face, her bright eyes filled with tears ready to fall.

Mu Shuangshuang nodded. "Guard... it!"

Still just two words, but Mu Shuangshuang's tone was gentle, her eyes full of concern for Little Zhi. Little Zhi looked towards the door and quickly dashed out, leaving Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng alone.

"Why pretend to be poisoned? And then ask for my help?"

Mu Shuangshuang rolled her eyes. Why pretend to be poisoned? Naturally, because it's the fastest way to ensure her safety. In this world, it's not only violence that can assure safety. Some small tricks can keep oneself safe while bewildering the Mu Family.

The mess she's created for the Mu Family now, let them deal with it!

Mu Shuangshuang pointed to her throat. "Herbs..."

"You mean your throat is damaged and you want me to find herbs for you?" Lu Yuanfeng asked tentatively.

Mu Shuangshuang nodded.

Indeed, Lu Yuanfeng seemed knowledgeable in medicine and appeared kind-hearted. To recover quickly, Mu Shuangshuang had to leverage external help. The original host hadn't spoken for eight years, and her throat was roughly ruined. Without herbal remedies, who knows what troubles might arise?

All discovered issues need quick resolution to prevent future suffering.

"Rest... assured... will... repay!"