

Folly 29

Chapter 29: Telling You to Complain

Mu the Third and Yu Si Niang entered their house, the first thing they did was to check on their daughter, seeing her lying in bed, her eyes already open.

Yu Si Niang immediately broke free from Mu Dashan's hand.

"Shuangshuang, you're awake, let your mother see if you're feeling better."

Seeing the person running over, Mu Shuangshuang felt warmth in her heart, and the lines on her face softened considerably. Mu Shuangshuang knew this was a form of acceptance—her body belonged to the original owner, but her heart had long accepted Yu Si Niang as her mother. At least to Mu Shuangshuang, this mother was very competent, as she had never disliked her from the moment Shuangshuang had consciousness.

Afraid she might feel uncomfortable, Yu Si Niang actually reached out her hand to carefully examine her body, first touching her forehead to confirm there were no signs of fever, then checking her own arms and legs meticulously. Only after finding no marks, did Yu Si Niang breathe a sigh of relief.

But she immediately grew nervous again. "Shuangshuang, does it hurt?"

Mu Shuangshuang saw that her eyes were full of concern and was momentarily stunned.

She had never known that the emotions revealed in one person's eyes when caring for another could be so beautiful, making it impossible to look away.

"What's the matter? Did someone bully you? Tell your mother, I'll beat them dead." Yu Si Niang moved, ready to stand up. She had already acted today anyway, and would be scolded and beaten by Old Mrs. Mu later; she might as well teach Mrs. Lin a good lesson now.

Hearing Yu Si Niang mentioning beating someone, Mu Shuangshuang laughed. Little Zhi had already told her that Yu Si Niang just had a fight with Mrs. Lin, thoroughly beating Lin. Mu Shuangshuang was delighted.

Knowing that Yu Si Niang was fierce when she was young, she didn't expect her to be so ruthless when fighting. It was a pity she wasn't there; if she had been, she would have applauded and said, "Well done!" But she still held onto Yu Si Niang's hand.

Mu Shuangshuang realized now was not the time to be happy. Given Lin's nature, she definitely went to file a complaint, possibly saying unpleasant things. What she had to do was help Yu Si Niang resolve this unnecessary crisis.

"Mother, you must listen to what I say... Now..." This time, Mu Shuangshuang spoke faster than ever, bearing the pain like fire in her throat. While talking, she began to mess up Yu Si Niang's hair. Not satisfied, she even asked Little Zhi to help. As for Mu Dashan, she sent him to find Mr. Mu; as Lin knew how to complain, Mu Family's third branch knew too.

Mu Shuangshuang's idea was to outdo in misery this time and then have Mu Dashan bring Mr. Mu to mediate. As long as they got through today, once she recovered, the third branch wouldn't need to fear the second branch. Mu Shuangshuang didn't even care about the first branch with the scholar.

As far as she knew, Mu Dade achieved the scholar status at seventeen, and now, more than a dozen years later, he was still just a scholar. People say that after eight years of the Imperial Exam, even a pig could get into university, not to mention Mu Dade, who should have more than twenty years of learning experience from enlightenment till now. It's only a basic book; even memorizing for ten years should be enough.

So, with Mu Dade's aptitude, even if the Old Mu Family's ancestral grave cracked open allowing him to become a scholar, he was merely a forever dismal stock.

In no time, Yu Si Niang was made into a madwoman by Shuangshuang and Little Zhi, yet it was far from enough.

"Red paper!" Shuangshuang wasn't sure if the house had this, but asking was always good.

"I have, I have!" Little Zhi raised his small hand and started looking in the broken cabinet at home. In a short while, he found a sheet of red paper, its color somewhat faded, evidently indicating it had been stored for some years. Shuangshuang dressed Yu Si Niang's face and hands with a makeup, adding a bit of the grime she had on her body. In no time, Yu Si Niang's face looked bruised in patches.

Only then did Shuangshuang breathe a sigh of relief, but soon, Mrs. Lin's swearing voice came from outside.

"Mother, you must stand up for me. I was helping Mrs. Liu cook in the kitchen, and Yu Si Niang suddenly came up and slapped me several times. Look at my now pig head-like face; how will I ever face people again?"

"Alright, alright, you know your face is ugly, then roll back into the house. Don't scare the men at home." Old Mrs. Mu was in a good mood today, rare to have walked a distance without swearing, but Lin wasn't pleased. No matter how miserable she was, Yu Si Niang had to suffer too.

"Mother, it's probably Yu Si Niang who stole the salt jar. You should get the salt jar back; it might allow us to marinate a pound of meat!"

"Humph, do you think she's capable of that? Why do you talk so much today, like a fly? Uncomfortable? Go squat in the toilet; where maggots abound, they won't mind listening to your rant." Old Mrs. Mu was annoyed with Lin, who kept talking about petty stuff, causing her to forget how many Copper Coins she had counted in her family's house.

Mrs. Lin immediately shut up but started swearing again once inside the third branch's house.

"Yu Si Niang, you shameless thing, dare to hit me! My mother is here; let's see if you dare bully me!"

Who would've thought Yu Si Niang would look like this? Her gray linen clothes were all dusty, her face swollen red from being beaten, her clothes torn in places, her hair resembling a chicken coop, with patches missing here and there.

Mu Xiaozhi rushed over upon seeing Mrs. Lin. "Second Aunt, why did you hit my mother? Mother won't tell anyone you said Grandma took the meat Brother Yuan Feng brought home. Why did you hit her?"

Little Zhi's question immediately turned all the words Mrs. Lin said to Old Mrs. Mu into falsehoods.

"Mrs. Lin, you ate dung, didn't you, your words stink. What did I take?" Old Mrs. Mu raised her eyebrows, and her wrinkled face suddenly exuded a murderous aura.

Before Mrs. Lin could react, Old Mrs. Mu gave her a slap, making Lin fall to the ground.

"Mother, no, I didn't say anything, Little Zhi... Little Zhi is lying; she's lying."

This time, Old Mrs. Mu was truly angry; this Mrs. Lin repeatedly deceived her, fearing she was going to rebel.

"Well, Mrs. Lin, if you don't explain clearly today, don't think about sleeping."

Old Mrs. Mu grabbed Lin's hair, dragging her out. Meanwhile, Mu Dashan who went to invite Mr. Mu returned empty-handed, with no Mr. Mu following.

Failing to invite Mr. Mu, Mu Dashan's face was reddened, like a child who did wrong, even afraid to enter the door. It was Yu Si Niang who pulled him inside, and he immediately apologized to Mu Shuangshuang on the bed.

"Shuangshuang, I'm sorry, it's because father is useless, father... couldn't invite your grandfather."

Mu Shuangshuang's eyes narrowed, but she still nodded.

Luckily, she devised two plans; otherwise, Yu Si Niang would suffer greatly today. On this long night, pig-headed Lin probably couldn't sleep!