

Folly 371

Chapter 371: Fengzi's Trust

Mu Shuangshuang really felt like stabbing the old hag in front of her.

Round and round, the shit pot was placed on her head again.

This back and forth, it seems like it will never end!

Does she think she's a sick cat because the tiger hasn't shown its power yet!

"Grandma, what are you talking about? Just because Wang Erma said it was me, does that make it me?"

"If it wasn't you, who else could be so bad?" Old Mrs. Mu retorted directly.

"Mother, Shuangshuang isn't this kind of person. Do you not believe your granddaughter and trust an outsider?" Yu Si Niang asked anxiously.

"Hmph, the third branch has long separated and is no longer part of the Old Mu Family. Besides, this stinky girl doesn't respect the elderly and has a bad character."

Old Mrs. Mu's words made everyone look at Mu Shuangshuang with eyes full of suspicion and distrust.

But Mu Shuangshuang wasn't one to be trifled with.

"Grandma, even if the third branch has separated, they're still part of the Old Mu Family. Saying such things will break my parents' hearts. My father has worked diligently for the Old Mu Family for so many years without taking a single day off.

He won't feel at ease even while recovering if he knows you accused his daughter over two piglets."

As soon as Mu Shuangshuang finished speaking, Old Mrs. Mu began to curse.

"How dare you bring up the third branch to me? The third branch was led astray by you, this stinky girl. Now he doesn't even work for our Old Mu Family. You deserve to die!"

After finishing her words, Old Mrs. Mu turned to the villagers and said, "Look at this, where did this vicious girl come from? Hurting her own family. Poor me..."

Old Mrs. Mu covered her eyes and started to fake cry.

The villagers were half-believing Old Mrs. Mu and Mu Shuangshuang at this moment.

Most of them actually sided with Mu Shuangshuang; no one was a fool. Old Mrs. Mu was known for being pushy, with her sons serving like dogs, catering to her and Mr. Mu.

There's no need to mention others, even Mu Dashan. He barely had a rest throughout the year. During busy farming seasons, he was occupied with farm work, and in the off-season, he had to load goods on the docks or pick up cow dung in the village.

If someone said others were lazy, they'd believe it, but not Mu Dashan.

Seeing Mu Shuangshuang still unwilling to admit, Old Mrs. Mu waved her claw-like hand to grab Mu Shuangshuang.

Her hands were filthy, barely cleaned, long, and hard, even Mrs. Lin was afraid.

Just as she rushed forward, Mu Shuangshuang felt a grip around her waist and was dragged away.

Lu Yuanfeng's wide hand supported Mu Shuangshuang's waist, wearing a worn-out shirt, sleeves rolled up.

He had been organizing the backyard behind his own house, getting ready to raise the grown chickens with Shuangshuang in the bamboo mountain, busy building a coop and laying oilcloth. When he heard about the Old Mu Family's trouble, he didn't even bother to change clothes before rushing over to check.

He was just worried Shuangshuang might be in trouble or bullied.

When he arrived, he happened to see Old Mrs. Mu about to strike, so without thinking, he pulled Mu Shuangshuang into his arms.

Fortunately, she wasn't hurt.

"Mu Family grandma, Shuangshuang didn't bribe Wang Erma. The day your family went to catch the piglets, I was with Shuangshuang. She didn't have time to see Wang Erma."

After Lu Yuanfeng spoke, he walked up to Wang Erma.

"Are you sure it was Shuangshuang who had you do it, not someone else?"

Lu Yuanfeng was implying that Wang Erma was framing Mu Shuangshuang.

"Lu Yuanfeng, this is Old Mu Family's business. Why are you sticking your nose in it as an outsider? What's the deal? Do you fancy this stinky girl and want to fake a testimony for her? Let me tell you, my family can testify. It was this stinky girl who sought me out, and this piece of silver was given to me by her."

The one tael of silver was indeed a substantial piece of evidence. The villagers' view of Mu Shuangshuang changed again.

"Wang Erma, I know you're still angry about the time I sold meat in the village, costing you half of your merchandise. But a person must maintain their conscience. Can you live with yourself after wronging Shuangshuang like this?"

"Whether I can live with myself or not is none of your business! It's this stinky girl with a bad character who bribed me to harm her family, is that my fault?"

"You could have refused!" Lu Yuanfeng replied.

"Do you think I'm stupid? If there's money to be made, why shouldn't I take it? Kid, let me tell you, don't think you can run wild in this village just because you killed a wild boar. I'm not afraid of you, it's just a wild boar; I can kill a whole herd in no time!"

As Wang Erma continued to throw dirt on Mu Shuangshuang, he boasted on the side.

"You..." Lu Yuanfeng was really infuriated, clenching his fists with cracking sounds.

"Wang Erma, are you certain that one tael of silver was given by me? You took six hundred cash for the purchase of the pig too?" Mu Shuangshuang stepped forward to ask Wang Erma.

Lu Yuanfeng looked at her worriedly but was calmed by a reassuring look from her.

Mu Shuangshuang looked at Lu Yuanfeng with unprecedented warmth, the gaze so tender it made Lu Yuanfeng's heart flutter.

"Yes, what, acting like you got amnesia?" Wang Erma asked arrogantly.

Just as he finished speaking, Mu Shuangshuang leaped onto his courtyard wall, flipping Wang Erma over her shoulder, snatching a tael of silver from his hand, and taking six strings of cash from his pork stall.

Using the same method, she jumped out of Wang's courtyard wall.

The entire action took her less than five seconds.

Before anyone could react, they saw Mu Shuangshuang walking over to Old Mrs. Mu.

"Grandma, here are your six hundred cash. Shuangshuang returns the original amount. As for Shuangshuang's 'one tael of silver,' Shuangshuang took it herself!"

Mu Shuangshuang deliberately emphasized the pronunciation of the tael of silver to show that taking the money was perfectly justified.

"Fengzi, mom, let's go!"

Old Mrs. Mu was stunned; she never anticipated things turning out this way.

But when she remembered she had gotten five cash earlier and still had a living piglet at home, she didn't feel that she had lost out.

Since she hadn't lost out, Old Mrs. Mu decided not to cause trouble for anyone.

"Old man, we got the money back, let's go home!"

After speaking, Old Mrs. Mu led the way forward.

Wang Erma, who had been thrown to the ground, realized that his money had been taken, along with the six hundred cash from his stall.

He quickly shouted, "Robbery, the stinky girl from the Third Branch of the Old Mu Family robbed money."

Unfortunately, he had spoken too much earlier, and everyone thought the money belonged to Mu Shuangshuang.

Since it was hers, even if taken back by force, so what?

"Everyone disperse, disperse, I guess Shuang girl was just joking. The Old Mu Family got their money back, and Shuang girl got her money back, so let's not get involved."

Not knowing who said it, everyone started to leave.

Wang Erma was in a panic.

His money, his one tael six hundred cash, how many pigs would it take to earn it back?

"Stop, all of you stop..." Wang Erma pushed open the courtyard gate, shouting at the Old Mu Family people.

Chapter 372: Furious to the Point of Jumping

Chasing all the way, Wang Erma chased to the Old Mu Family.

He shouted, "Stinking girl, give me back my silver."

Lu Yuanfeng and Yu Liulang stood guard at the side door of the Mu Family's Third Branch; whenever Wang Erma drew near, they would throw him out.

Meanwhile, Mu Shuangshuang held an ounce of silver in her hand and kept waving it in front of Wang Erma, making him grit his teeth in rage.

"Oh my, it's amazing to pick up an ounce of silver without working in the morning, tsk tsk tsk, what a life!"

"Wang Erma, if there's any more good fortune like this, be sure to let me know. Even if I didn't do it, I'd definitely admit to it."

Mu Shuangshuang never hesitated to infuriate people without taking responsibility.

Wang Erma, only separated by a door, could only watch helplessly as Mu Shuangshuang toyed with the silver he had worked hard for and insulted him with words.

"Stinking girl, just you wait, I'll go find Mu Dazhong and make him compensate me for the silver."

"Go ahead, if he can give you silver, consider it your capability," Mu Shuangshuang said with a smile.

Wang Erma was so angry his face turned green. He raged outside Shuangshuang's yard, yelling and shouting, bringing out Little Black and Lai Mi from the house.

Lai Mi was a little pup, but upon seeing Wang Erma, it even rushed out.

"Woof woof~" Lai Mi barked at Wang Erma.

Little Black followed beside it, hissing.

"Little beasts, do you think I'm afraid of you?" Wang Erma picked up a stone from the ground, ready to throw at Lai Mi and Little Black when Lu Yuanfeng rushed over and kicked Wang Erma away.

"Boom," Wang Erma fell to the ground, almost splitting his rear in half.

Unable to get the money and unable to get in, Wang Erma ran away angrily towards the Old Mu Family while clutching his butt...

Trying to steal a chicken but losing rice instead: this describes people like Wang Erma.

He thought he could slander her by producing an ounce of silver.

He didn't realize that Mu Shuangshuang had become thick-skinned; since Wang Erma claimed that the ounce of silver was given by her, she simply took it back.

After all, she's just a kid; even if she makes a mistake, no one would actually blame her.

What a pity, that blockhead Wang Erma couldn't figure it out.

"Fengzi, Uncle, you go in the house and rest; I'll make you some tea."

The dried gold and silver flower was placed in an earthenware bowl, doused with hot water just taken off the stove; after steeping, the fragrance of the gold and silver flower would fill the entire cup of tea.

While drinking tea, Yu Liulang became particularly interested in the earlier happenings.

"Shuangshuang, tell Uncle what happened this morning. You seem to be in a good mood."

Mu Shuangshuang explained everything straightforwardly to Yu Liulang and Feng Xiaohua beside him.

Upon listening, Yu Liulang's expression turned sour.

A real uncle scheming against his niece, is there no justice in this world?

"No way, I want to confront Mu Dazhong; how can you be wrongly accused like this!"

Yu Liulang clenched his fist, veins bulging on his forehead.

Mu Shuangshuang quickly supported Yu Liulang.

"Uncle, going to my second uncle now won't help. I've remembered this incident and will repay him in the future. Today, let Wang Erma annoy him and we won't get involved."

"But I can't swallow this anger."

His beloved niece was being bullied, which was simply intolerable.

"Uncle, going now will only give my second uncle an escape route. Wang Erma won't sit quietly, let him make noise."

You must admit, Mu Shuangshuang sees the situation clearly; Wang Erma went to the front gate of the Old Mu Family, picked up several stones, couldn't break open the gate, and recklessly hurled stones on the roof of the Old Mu Family's main house.

Several holes were smashed in the Old Mu Family's main house's roof.

Old Mrs. Mu was resting inside the main house, and was almost hit by falling stones, which made her rush outside furiously, only to see the red-eyed Wang Erma.

"Little beast, so it's you causing trouble; get out of here quickly, or I'll hoe you to death,"

Old Mrs. Mu stood with her hands on her hips, cursing with full vigor.

Wang Erma was already agitated; hearing Old Mrs. Mu's words only made his chest almost explode with anger.

"Old hag, quickly have Mu Dazhong hand over my ounce of silver and six hundred wen, or I'll reveal his ugly deeds."

Inside the main house, Mu Dazhong hid in the corner; today's events had exceeded his expectations.

Not to mention, the six hundred wen Wang Erma wanted had ended up with his mother, and it would never be returned.

Besides, Old Mu Family's Third Branch's stinking girl, who was willing to risk anything for money.

How could he have the money to give Wang Erma?

"Mu Dazhong, you turtle, I'll count to three; if you don't come out, I'll let the entire village know what you did."

Mu Dazhong leaned against the wall corner, clenching his teeth tightly, believing that if he didn't show up, Wang Erma wouldn't start spouting nonsense.

But unexpectedly, Wang Erma really started to reveal his deeds.

"Alright, you won't come out, huh! Dead old hag, let me tell you, your son Mu Dazhong..."

Mu Dazhong rushed out in a panic, along with Mrs. Lin.

"Erma, let's talk about this quietly; don't you want to reclaim the silver? We'll go to that stinking girl to ask for it. She took the silver."

Mu Dazhong wore a flattering smile on his face, his groveling in front of Wang Erma angered Old Mrs. Mu.

"Second son, quickly get back inside, those silvers are ours, don't waste words with this beast."

"Old hag, you're calling me a beast; don't you know your son is the true scumbag?"

Took two hundred wen from me, bought two dying pigs, got four hundred wen in profit, and told me to frame that stinking girl."

Wang Erma spilled the beans, originally hoping Old Mrs. Mu would help him; little did he know, not only did Old Mrs. Mu refuse to help, but she also raised the broom and pounced at him.

"Little beast, smashing my tiles, daring to ask me for money, I'll take your life today."

The broom's bamboo sticks struck Wang Erma's back, hurting him to the point of yelling.

Wang Erma hopped his way out as Old Mrs. Mu chased him. Once he was gone, she turned to Mu Dazhong, jumped up, and slapped him across the face.

"You traitor, you dare deceive even your mother; where did that four hundred wen go?"

"Mother, you believe Wang Erma over me? Clearly, he and that stinking girl teamed up to frame your son."

Mu Dazhong covered his reddened face from the slap, defiantly refuting.

Chapter 373: Mrs. Lin's First Signs of Labor

"Well, you dare to lie." Old Mrs. Mu picked up the broom that had just beaten Wang Erma, and fiercely attacked Mu Dazhong.

With a sharp pain in his body, Mu Dazhong started to dodge. Just then, Mrs. Lin was standing nearby. Without thinking, he hid behind her.

Old Mrs. Mu swung the broom over, hitting Mrs. Lin directly.

Mrs. Lin screamed, clutching her stomach, and fell to her knees.

"My stomach hurts..." Mrs. Lin cried out with a pale face.

"What's wrong, Gou Dan's mother?" Mu Dazhong pretended to cry while holding Mrs. Lin.

He thought Mrs. Lin was helping him out, so at this moment, he decided not to despise her, even if she usually doesn't like taking baths or washing her hair, always smelling foul.

Mrs. Lin clutched her belly, looking pained, "It really hurts."

"What are you standing there for, go call a doctor!"

Mr. Mu, who had come out of the house, shouted loudly, and the whole Old Mu Family was thrown into chaos.

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Mu Shuangshuang and Yu Liulang talked for quite some time and finally persuaded him. But before she even warmed her seat, Mrs. Liu rushed in and said to Mu Shuangshuang, "Shuangshuang, quickly ask Si Niang to go to your second aunt's place, your second aunt is bleeding."

Mrs. Liu hastily spoke and then left in a hurry.

Yu Si Niang paused her peeling of corn in the kitchen, loosened her apron, and stood up.

A woman miscarrying can be serious or minor, Yu Si Niang rushed out, which was only natural, but going like this she'd again be bossed around by Old Mrs. Mu as a maid.

"Shuangshuang, if mom's not back by the time for lunch, you'll have to make lunch today; mom's going to check things out."

Yu Si Niang was inherently kind-hearted. Knowing Mrs. Lin might miscarry, all past grudges suddenly felt insignificant.

She rushed towards the second branch's house in a hurry.

Mu Shuangshuang, fearing she'd be taken advantage of, followed her to the second branch's house. Lu Yuanfeng was already following her; seeing Shuangshuang get up, he followed closely.

Yu Liulang and Feng Xiaohua exchanged glances and immediately decided to check things out too.

Yu Liulang thought he'd inquire as to why they were bullying his sister and niece like this.

"Mom, what's wrong with second sister-in-law? Why is she bleeding?"

In the courtyard of the second branch, Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu stood in the center, glancing into the house from time to time. As soon as Yu Si Niang entered the yard, she asked with concern.

Unexpectedly, she was met with a flood of insults.

"You ask me, I ask who? I'm not a doctor. If you can't help, then get out of the way and stop getting underfoot," Old Mrs. Mu said irritably.

Mu Shuangshuang followed in and heard Old Mrs. Mu's words and got angry!

She rushed forward to argue with Old Mrs. Mu. "Granny, why do you speak to my mother like that? She's concerned for my second aunt, is there anything wrong with asking?"

"Mother-in-law, although my sister married into the Old Mu Family, we, the Old Yu Family, won't sit by and watch our kin being bullied," Yu Liulang said righteously.

At this moment, the courtyard had quite a few people standing, all supporting Yu Si Niang. She was deeply moved, but also worried her mother's temper was flaring.

As expected, Old Mrs. Mu, seeing several people standing against her, talked more recklessly.

"What's this, Yu Liulang wants to stand up for Yu Si Niang? Fine, take her back, never let her return to our Old Mu Family. We can't afford this shame, can't afford such lazy bums."

"You... you're simply unreasonable." Yu Liulang's face turned livid.

In front of him, Old Mrs. Mu bullied his sister this way; if he wasn't around, who knows what would happen.

"I'm an unreasonable old woman. You have eight hands daring to interfere in our Old Mu Family matters, you come into the house," she said.

Seeing the courtyard was about to turn into a shouting match, Mr. Mu finally spoke up.

"Quiet down for me! Now that the second daughter-in-law is inside, life and death unknown, if you keep shouting, all of you get out!"

Mr. Mu was indeed the head of the family; once he spoke, both Yu Liulang and Old Mrs. Mu shut their mouths. Mu Shuangshuang pulled Yu Si Niang under a tree shade to wait.

Inside Mu Dazhong's house, Mrs. Lin and Zhang Huai Shu were glaring at each other for eons.

"What did you say? I'm not pregnant?"

"Of course not, did you think getting pregnant is as easy as going to the bathroom?"

Zhang Huai Shu said irritably.

Originally, he had already said that besides the third branch of the Old Mu Family, he wouldn't treat any others unless something major happened.

He only came this time hearing Mrs. Liu might miscarry.

In the end, that wasn't the case at all.

This woman wasn't pregnant, even the blood she bled was menstrual blood.

Done...

Mrs. Lin and Mu Dazhong exchanged glances; if Old Mrs. Mu knew she wasn't pregnant, all domestic chores would fall solely on her.

Mu Dazhong also panicked. Earlier, it was Gou Dan's mother who mentioned miscarriage; his mom didn't bring up money because of it. If found out, the house would be in upheaval.

The two didn't know what to do as they looked at each other.

"Later, I won't talk to Old Mu or that damn old woman about your matters. You tell them yourself. If you need medicine, go get it from me; if not, I'm leaving."

Zhang Huai Shu didn't want to stay in such a place even a minute longer; he spoke while packing.

His words rekindled hope in Mrs. Lin and Mu Dazhong who were previously despaired.

While Zhang Huai Shu packed, they whispered, "Daddy Gou Dan, should we continue saying we're pregnant? I was hit by our mom, no matter what, she'll have to care for me for a while."

"This way, we can get more good food and do less work. What do you think?"

Mu Dazhong naturally agreed with Mrs. Lin, but the pregnancy takes ten months, there'd inevitably be a delivery. How then?

Knowing her man's concerns, Mrs. Lin thumped her chest and said, "Don't worry, I'll find some random excuse when the time comes and say the baby was lost; then we'll have even more fun."

Mrs. Lin had calculated it all; from now on, she wouldn't do any chores.

She wouldn't even wash a bowl.

"Okay!" Mu Dazhong nodded in approval.

Once Zhang Huai Shu left, Mrs. Lin lay on the bed feigning weakness.

"Old Two, how is Gou Dan's mother?" Mr. Mu was the first to ask.

"Dad, no miscarriage, but Uncle Zhang says the baby is dangerous, she needs medication, bed rest, and nutrition."

"Rest in bed? Nutrition? Then who'll do the chores at home? Who'll wash the clothes?" Old Mrs. Mu said disagreeably, glancing at the bed where Mrs. Lin was playing dead.

This woman hadn't done much work, yet there was a basket of issues, not even giving birth peacefully.

Clearly here to collect debts.

Chapter 374: This Man Is Too Handsome

"Grandma, my mom is like this, and you still want her to work?" Mu Qingqing raised her voice, trying to mimic Mu Shuangshuang's way of being arrogant.

But she hadn't figured out the difference between her and Mu Shuangshuang.

"If she doesn't work, then you do it! From now on, you'll wash all the clothes and bed sheets by yourself, and empty the chamber pot from my room every day."

Old Mrs. Mu snorted coldly and gave Mu Qingqing a sideways glance.

"Don't think that just because you've become some so-called weaver you can flaunt in front of an old woman like me. The Seventh Night festival is over, and no one will come to see your ugly face."

Old Mrs. Mu's few words made Mu Qingqing burst into tears.

Mu Qingqing rushed out of the room and ran into Mu Xiangxiang, who was in the yard looking for some food.

Enemies met, and their eyes were burning with hostility. Mu Xiangxiang took a kick at Mu Qingqing's feet, causing her to fall flat on her face, looking utterly miserable.

Mu Xiangxiang squatted down, touched Mu Qingqing's cheek. "Oh, this is still the face of a weaver, isn't it? Already knowing how to seduce people at this young age? Let me tell you, make sure to stay out of my way or I'll take your life!"

After speaking, she stepped heavily on Mu Qingqing's backside, only relenting when she heard Mu Qingqing's wail. But unexpectedly, she felt pain underfoot and toppled forward, falling flat on her face.

Mu Qingqing looked up to find Mu Shuangshuang standing not far away, holding a small stone. Without thinking, she pointed and shouted at Mu Shuangshuang.

"Auntie, that nasty girl threw a stone at your foot."

Mu Qingqing's shamelessness made Mu Shuangshuang lose the last bit of sympathy for her, telling herself that from now on, she would no longer actively help anyone from the Old Mu Family.

No matter if it was the pitiful fourth household or the slightly sympathetic Mu Qingqing she had just shown mercy to.

If the fourth household wanted to rise, they'd need to show sincerity. She wouldn't squander her sympathy any longer.

The result of helping the seedlings grow was not that the seedlings flourished, but rather that they were killed.

After figuring this out, Mu Shuangshuang suddenly felt at ease.

The lousy affairs of the Old Mu Family had nothing to do with her. With that extra time, it would be better to think about ways to make money, and earn some more.

"Fengzi, let's go, let's head to the mountain and see if there's anything good, we'll have a feast this noon."

Seeing the two get ready to leave, Mu Qingqing got anxious. She wanted to remind her aunt to punish the nasty girl quickly.

Mu Qingqing turned her head, only to find that Mu Xiangxiang now had white foam at the corners of her mouth, staring straight at Lu Yuanfeng beside Mu Shuangshuang.

Lu Yuanfeng was tall and well-built, unlike the fair and slender men Mu Xiangxiang had seen in the town for years. None of them were as robust as Lu Yuanfeng; his waist, his buttocks...

Every glance made Mu Xiangxiang blush a bit more. In the end, she stood up and walked to Lu Yuanfeng.

"Hey, what's your name? How come I'd never seen you before? Do you think I'm pretty?"

Mu Xiangxiang's face, still thickly plastered with powder, flaked off as she talked.

Lu Yuanfeng turned away in disgust, completely ignoring Mu Xiangxiang.

But Mu Shuangshuang reacted as if her tail had been stepped on.

"Auntie, what are you doing? If you lack a mirror, go pee and take a look. See if you're pretty."

"Nasty girl, ugly freak, how dare you meddle in my affairs, courting death!" Mu Xiangxiang glared at Mu Shuangshuang, spouting words that were exactly like Old Mrs. Mu's.

"Humph!" Mu Shuangshuang snorted coldly and dragged Lu Yuanfeng away!

Lu Yuanfeng lowered his head, looked at his hand being held by Shuangshuang's small hand, and couldn't bear to look away.

Even though he knew she was holding his hand out of necessity, he was still happy.

After reaching the corner, Mu Shuangshuang's anger hadn't dissipated.

The words Mu Xiangxiang said made her feel that Mu Xiangxiang had taken a liking to Lu Yuanfeng. Actually, it wouldn't matter if she did, but now she couldn't be perfectly sure of her feelings. If anyone dared to touch Lu Yuanfeng, she'd be furious with them!

"Fengzi, stay away from my aunt in the future; she's not a good person, her mind's very vicious."

After speaking, Mu Shuangshuang regretted it a bit. She usually didn't badmouth anyone to Lu Yuanfeng because she would just use her fists. But now she was like a complaining woman.

What on earth was wrong with her?

Mu Shuangshuang didn't know that Lu Yuanfeng liked her like this, liked her telling him to stay away from other girls, liked her domineering attitude in his presence.

Only then did he feel that she cared about him.

But some things, if you don't say them, others might not know.

"Fengzi, let's go to the mountains, wander around, bring Lai Mi and Little Black, see what today's harvest is like."

"Okay!"

Mu Shuangshuang went back to grab two dogs for her bamboo basket, while Lu Yuanfeng went back to get the bow and arrow. Together, they headed toward Niuwei Mountain.

Once on the mountain, Mu Shuangshuang released Little Black.

Things in the forest are more fond of the forest, Little Black and Lai Mi ran wildly on the mountain, and in no time, they'd vanished from sight.

Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng first checked the traps they had set earlier to see if there was any game.

But not a single one, not knowing why, there hadn't been any animals in the traps lately. Used to be some wild rabbits and such, but now there was nothing.

Just as she was about to speak, Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng heard a sparse set of footsteps approaching from that direction.

Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng exchanged a glance, then Mu Shuangshuang hid in the bushes.

Soon, two men walked up to the trap, took a look inside, and found nothing.

One of them spat into the trap, cursing under his breath.

"Brother, what do you think has been going on lately, that even the traps of this damned kid have no game. If this continues, we'll starve to death."

The speaker, Lu Yuanfeng recognized.

The Huang Brothers from Tie Dao Village, who like him were hunters.

But they always lingered near Tie Dao Village, never came to Er Gui Village, and certainly wouldn't go into Niuwei Mountain. So why this time?

"How would I know, you keep asking! That damned kid always carries so much game down. Could he eat it all alone? Just knows how to hog the food." Huang Da puffed a breath of thick air, impatiently questioning Huang Er.

"For sure he can eat it all, with that damned kid always having a girl with him. She opens her mouth too. Just don't know when that damned kid might change places. Always the same few pits and beast traps. Animals won't come here anymore."

Hearing this, Mu Shuangshuang understood, so they came to freeload and still complain.

She and Lu Yuanfeng exchanged a glance, signaling how to handle it, but Lu Yuanfeng just suggested waiting to see.

Unexpectedly, at that moment, Lai Mi came rushing over with his chubby body.

"Woof woof~"

Chapter 375: Groin Kick

"Big brother, there's a nice plump little dog here. Let's skin it and take it back to eat."

Huang Er stared at the fluffy Lai Mi, drooling.

In the bushes, realizing the Huang Brothers' intention, Mu Shuangshuang gripped her machete a bit tighter, while Lu Yuanfeng's bow and arrow were already quietly aimed at Huang Er's back.

The Huang Brothers were adults and seasoned hunters, known around these parts. Their skills weren't weak.

Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng dared not be careless, both seeking the perfect moment to deal with these thieving rogues.

But poor Lai Mi had been caught just like that!

Huang Er squatted down, flicking Lai Mi's neck with his hand, swinging it back and forth as if it were on a swing.

Lai Mi's "woof woof" sounded increasingly miserable.

Mu Shuangshuang's eyes turned red. She was always protective; touching her was unacceptable—touching her things, even more so.

Mu Shuangshuang glanced at Lu Yuanfeng to see his reaction, but unexpectedly, he stood up.

Lu Yuanfeng consciously shielded Shuangshuang in the bushes.

Seeing the sudden appearance of a person, the Huang Brothers' hearts sank. They knew this young brat probably heard what they had just said.

"Huang Da, Huang Er, put the dog down. It's my hunting dog."

Lu Yuanfeng had an irresistible dominance on his face. He stared at the Huang Brothers like a wolf eyeing prey, ready to snap their necks if they dared move.

The Huang Brothers exchanged a glance, and Huang Da grinned, revealing a set of large yellow teeth.

"Oh, I was wondering where this mutt came from in the mountains. Turns out it's Brother Lu's. A gentleman doesn't covet others' favorites. In that case, we'll return the dog to you!"

After speaking, Huang Da turned to Huang Er and said, "Elder brother, give the dog to Brother Lu."

"Got it, big brother!" Huang Er smiled, having grabbed Lai Mi by the neck before, now switching to grabbing its back.

Though Lai Mi was still somewhat injured, it was better comfortable.

Lu Yuanfeng frowned slightly, glancing at Huang Er to express his dissatisfaction.

Huang Er quickly got the hint and changed his posture, taking care not to let Lai Mi's mouth touch him.

Dogs, unless recognizing the person, can bite indiscriminately.

Seeing the Huang Brothers cooperating like this, Lu Yuanfeng instinctively restrained his cold demeanor.

"Brother Lu, this dog... take it... it's done." Huang Er suddenly slowed his speech, then tossed Lai Mi towards Lu Yuanfeng's right side.

In a rush to save Lai Mi, the Huang Brothers charged at Lu Yuanfeng and started attacking.

As Huang Da's wooden club was about to strike Lu Yuanfeng, Mu Shuangshuang leapt from the bushes, swiftly stepped forward, and swung the club aside.

Seeing the sudden appearance, Huang Da was startled, his expression becoming increasingly ferocious.

"Elder brother, get them for me, let's teach them a good lesson today!"

Lu Yuanfeng caught Lai Mi, set it on the ground, and immediately went to assist Mu Shuangshuang.

The four of them, Huang Da wielding a wooden club and Huang Er with a bow and arrow. Lu Yuanfeng initially rushed in to shield Mu Shuangshuang, but they would occasionally sneak attack, attacking simultaneously at times.

Mu Shuangshuang rejoined, her machete dancing to fend off Huang Da's wooden club attacks.

But her physical strength could not quite match the already adult Huang Da.

After several rounds, Mu Shuangshuang gradually fell behind, struggling with defense.

Realizing Shuangshuang was easier to deal with, Huang Da said to Huang Er: "Elder brother, hit that nasty woman, she's weaker."

With that, Huang Er left Lu Yuanfeng, and the two focused on Mu Shuangshuang.

Lu Yuanfeng was shocked, squeezing in to help Shuangshuang, but after a few hits, he was always pushed back, leaving Shuangshuang repeatedly at a disadvantage.

He nocked an arrow on his bow and shot at Huang Er.

The arrow hit Huang Er's leg, and after a sharp scream, Huang Er also grabbed his bow and shot haphazardly at Lu Yuanfeng.

The air was suddenly filled with flying arrows.

Mu Shuangshuang turned and leapt, kicking Huang Da in the abdomen, causing him to step back in pain.

Mu Shuangshuang seized the opportunity to back up against Lu Yuanfeng.

Being able to entrust your back to someone means they are the most trusted person.

"Shuangshuang, later I'll distract the Huang Brothers, you run." Lu Yuanfeng said without hesitation.

Mu Shuangshuang felt a sharp pain in her chest, gripping her machete tighter.

"You fool, we're teammates. How can you just run away?" Mu Shuangshuang said.

"Fengzi, do you remember the martial arts set I showed before? Let's try it. Later we'll disarm the Huang Brothers of their bow and arrows and wooden club."

Mu Shuangshuang might not gain much advantage in long-range attacks, but once disarmed, her agility can compensate for the lack of strength.

Lu Yuanfeng replayed in his mind the martial moves Shuangshuang had used, nodding in approval:
"Okay!"

This time, after a tacit glance at each other, Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng charged in.

Grappling and fighting naturally require close combat. When asked to disarm, Mu Shuangshuang kicked Huang Er's bow and arrows away after a few bouts.

After separating Huang Er and Huang Da, Mu Shuangshuang clearly found it less burdensome.

With Huang Er injured, she was best suited to handle him. In a moment of Huang Er's distraction, Mu Shuangshuang grabbed his legs, heavily kneeling at Huang Er's weakest part.

"Ah..." Huang Er let out a miserable scream, clutching his groin, wailing as if his tail were on fire.

With his brother's scream, Huang Da got distracted and was subdued by Lu Yuanfeng.

"Fengzi, let's tie these two thieves to the big tree!"

Mu Shuangshuang looked coldly at the Huang Brothers.

Lu Yuanfeng picked up the rope in the bushes, tying Huang Da and Huang Er to the tree, making them realize they had totally lost.

Huang Da wore a miserably pleading face, looking pitifully at Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng.

"Brother Lu, we were just playing with you just now, can't you... just let us go?"

Huang Er's groin still hurt badly, his face turning blue.

He grimaced at Mu Shuangshuang, "Nasty girl, I won't let you off."

"Who asked you to let off? You think you two can still return alive?" Mu Shuangshuang sneered at Huang Er.

Poor martial skills aren't scary. What's scary is being caught and still having a dull mind.

Considering the Huang Brothers' attempt on Lu Yuanfeng's life, she would certainly not let this pair off.

"You... you want to kill us?"

At that moment, Huang Da panicked, his gaze towards Mu Shuangshuang filled with fear.

Yet, he still didn't believe a girl before him dared to kill.

"No, you wouldn't, how could you dare?"

Chapter 376: My Fault

"I really don't dare, but the wolves in the mountains do! In the middle of summer, with two living people tied to a tree, the wolves' teeth are sharp. After a few rounds, they should be gnawed on until blood flows, leaving them unrecognizable!"

Mu Shuangshuang still maintained that smiling look.

When she chatted with Huang Da, she used such an ordinary tone that it sounded like casual small talk.

But the more she acted this way, the deeper Huang Da's fear grew. It felt like there was a sword hanging overhead, not knowing when the rope would drop and the blade would cut off his head.

Huang Da admitted that he was scared.

He felt that he and Huang Er had provoked someone they shouldn't have.

"Big brother, don't admit defeat, we're not afraid of them." Huang Er was still there showing off and playing tough.

But Huang Da stepped on his foot.

"Shut up for me!"

"Big brother, I..."

"What do you mean you, apologize to Brother Lu and this little sister."

Huang Da had seen the world, having hunted for so many years, he'd seen and experienced many people and things.

The reason he disliked Lu Yuanfeng was because he caught more prey by himself than the two brothers did together, making them lose face in the village.

"I won't apologize. If someone has to apologize, you apologize. Even if you beat me to death, I won't apologize."

Huang Er confronted Huang Da, refusing to apologize no matter what, staying stubborn despite Huang Da's kicking.

Mu Shuangshuang wasn't interested in watching the two brothers quarrel, she just said, "How much of our prey did you take? Tell me honestly."

As Mu Shuangshuang spoke, the hatchet in her hand was already pressed against Huang Da's neck.

Huang Da knew Mu Shuangshuang wouldn't kill, but with a hatchet against his neck, who wouldn't be afraid, especially when Lu Yuanfeng was standing beside Mu Shuangshuang at this time.

Lu Yuanfeng always carried an imposing aura, even though he didn't talk much, no one could ignore his presence.

Earlier, Huang Da had been so mad that he dared to take on Lu Yuanfeng.

Now Huang Da regretted it immensely.

"Brother Lu, we all make a living by hunting, could you talk to this little sister and let us go? We promise not to touch your things again."

"Not touch them, huh? So, our things don't need to be returned?" Lu Yuanfeng suddenly raised his voice, looking at Huang Da with a bit more coldness in his eyes.

He still remembered Huang Da saying that Shuangshuang was weak and needed dealing with.

Thinking of this, Lu Yuanfeng suddenly clenched his fists and, not giving Huang Da a chance to explain, started punching fiercely.

In the mountains, all that could be heard was Huang Da's screams, mingling with the howling wind, like the wailing of ghosts and wolves.

Lu Yuanfeng didn't show any particular expression from start to finish, but everyone could see he was very angry.

Huang Da lost a front tooth from the beating, and Huang Er was so terrified by the display that he forgot how to speak, even temporarily forgetting the pain below.

By the time Lu Yuanfeng stopped, Huang Da was only breathing out, not breathing in.

Lu Yuanfeng grabbed Huang Da by the neck, staring straight at him, and warned, "You can mess with me, but if you dare harm Shuangshuang again, I'll even desecrate your ancestral grave."

This was probably the harshest thing Lu Yuanfeng had ever said in his life.

Huang Da, beaten into a daze, found Lu Yuanfeng's words turning into a curse in his mind.

"No... dare not..." Huang Da mumbled this phrase and then passed out.

Huang Er panicked. "I'll give, I'll give you back your things, let me go... boo hoo..."

A grown man, crying like this in front of two kids, disgraceful.

Mu Shuangshuang carefully observed Huang Da and Huang Er's expressions, knowing that in the future, the two of them wouldn't dare touch their things anymore.

Following Huang Da and Huang Er back to Tie Dao Village, Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng retrieved all the prey the Huang Family had taken from their traps.

Five rabbits, a young muntjac with a broken leg, counted up, the prey these days made sense.

After leaving the Huang family's door, it was about time to go back and make lunch. Suddenly, Mu Shuangshuang felt a cramping pain in her abdomen.

At first, she didn't pay attention to it, but after a few steps, the cramping became more severe, and cold sweat started to pour down.

Lu Yuanfeng was walking ahead, carrying the prey, followed by Lai Mi and Little Black. At first, Mu Shuangshuang could keep up, but gradually, she fell behind.

Every step she took felt uncomfortable.

Lu Yuanfeng noticed the person trailing behind, he quickly turned around and saw Shuangshuang holding her belly, not even caring about the prey on her back, he rushed over.

"Shuangshuang, what's wrong, not feeling well?"

Mu Shuangshuang had so much sweat on her forehead that Lu Yuanfeng took his sleeve to wipe it, but the more he wiped, the more the sweat poured.

Mu Shuangshuang felt her vision darken, but she still forced a smile at Lu Yuanfeng. "It's nothing, just a bit dizzy, and my stomach... hurts a bit."

Seeing Lu Yuanfeng still standing there, Mu Shuangshuang couldn't help but continue, "Silly, let's hurry back, we can't waste time here."

But the next second, she was already in a broad embrace, Lu Yuanfeng held her tightly and rushed towards the village.

The person in his arms felt as light as a sheet of paper, frighteningly light.

Her small face, no bigger than a palm, was entirely pale, and looking at her sweat-drenched forehead and lifeless face, Lu Yuanfeng's heart ached terribly, so he couldn't help but hold Shuangshuang closer.

Entering the village, he rushed straight into Zhang Huai Shu's home, nearly causing Zhang Huai Shu to accidentally shear off a camellia he had nurtured for five years.

"Save Shuangshuang... save her..."

Lu Yuanfeng was completely panicked, his voice shaking.

Zhang Huai Shu, having known Lu Yuanfeng for quite a while, had never seen him this flustered.

"Quickly, put her on the examination couch, I'll check her pulse."

Not wasting any time, Zhang Huai Shu immediately began diagnosing Mu Shuangshuang's pulse, and after a while, the expression on his face suddenly became strange.

He looked at Lu Yuanfeng helplessly, with a sense of disappointment.

This foolish boy, taking the girl's menstruation as some serious illness.

Truly...

Zhang Huai Shu's sigh, to Lu Yuanfeng, seemed to indicate that Shuangshuang's condition was very serious. He thought it was because he took Shuangshuang into the mountains that she got sick, so he pounded his chest with his fist.

"It's my fault, I should be damned, if I hadn't taken her out, she wouldn't be in trouble..."

"Feng, boy!" Zhang Huai Shu shouted, inwardly thinking this kid too foolish, giving so much...

"Dear wife, come here, something happened." He shouted to his wife outside the house.

Zhang Huai Shu's wife walked in; upon entering, she saw her husband holding Fengzi's hand while Fengzi's face was filled with suppressed pain...

Chapter 377: Your Body Is Important

"What's going on?" Zhang Huai Shu's wife asked curiously.

"What else could it be? You tell this brat what's wrong with Shuang, I'm too old to say it."

Zhang Huai Shu blushed. Although he's a doctor, he's still a man. It's better to let his wife explain these things.

Zhang Huai Shu's wife looked at the person on the examination bed and then at her husband's expression, realizing it's that time of the month for women.

Seeing Shuangshuang like this, it must be her first time, which is why the reaction is so strong.

"Old man, you go out. I'll talk to Fengzi, and remember to boil some Angelica root with an egg, and use brown sugar."

Zhang Huai Shu happily went out, leaving behind a worried Lu Yuanfeng.

"Fengzi, Shuangshuang is fine, you don't need to blame yourself, it's not a matter of life and death."

"But Shuangshuang is sweating a lot, she's passed out." Lu Yuanfeng was skeptical.

"You silly child, Shuangshuang's condition can't be explained in detail, just remember she's fine. When she wakes up, give her a bowl of Angelica boiled egg."

Zhang Huai Shu's wife didn't directly explain to Lu Yuanfeng, though she knew Lu Yuanfeng liked Shuangshuang. But as for what Shuangshuang thinks, she didn't know.

Matters like menstruation can be big or small, mishandled, it could affect a girl's reputation.

Lu Yuanfeng insisted on knowing.

"Grandma, please tell me, I..."

Seeing Shuangshuang's weak appearance, Lu Yuanfeng was almost losing half his life. If he didn't figure it out, he wouldn't be at ease.

"You... what if Shuangshuang blames me after I tell you?" Zhang Huai Shu's wife asked.

"She won't, I won't tell her. If... she really wants to blame me, I'll take all the responsibility."

Lu Yuanfeng's face was full of determination. Zhang Huai Shu's wife never doubted his affection for Shuangshuang. This time, she really felt like matchmaking.

"Alright, alright, I'll tell you. Shuangshuang's menstruation has come. Her body will become more delicate in the future."

Lu Yuanfeng looked at Zhang Huai Shu's wife in astonishment, clearly he didn't understand what menstruation meant.

Of course he didn't understand, going to the military camp at a young age, his mother passed away early.

Zhang Huai Shu's wife could only explain to Lu Yuanfeng in detail, not expecting that after the explanation, Lu Yuanfeng's face turned from red at the neck to the ears.

He didn't dare to look at Shuangshuang and could only stare at his toes.

But he didn't regret it.

While Shuangshuang was unconscious, he asked a lot of precautions and kept them seriously in his heart.

When Mu Shuangshuang woke up, Lu Yuanfeng's concerned face appeared in front of her.

His face was slightly sweaty, perhaps from worrying about her, even his brows were furrowed tightly.

Mu Shuangshuang was stunned for a moment, then suddenly gave a fairly good smile.

"Were you scared? I'm... actually fine."

The moment Lu Yuanfeng lifted her, she felt that warm stream underneath and knew what was happening.

It was just that she wasn't clear-headed at the time and didn't inform Lu Yuanfeng in time.

"Shuangshuang, let's drink the medicine first." Lu Yuanfeng helped Mu Shuangshuang up, supporting her head with his hand, while the white porcelain bowl in his hand emitted a terrible smell.

Mu Shuangshuang frowned. "I don't want to drink Angelica."

In her past life, she had the nasty problem of menstrual cramps. Back then, to avoid affecting training, she drank big bowls of Angelica like tea. Now the smell makes her want to vomit.

"Be good, if you don't drink, you won't get better." Lu Yuanfeng rarely went against Mu Shuangshuang's wishes, his words carried a force that was hard for her to refuse.

"I'm not sick, I'm really not sick, I also have to go back and cook." As she said this, Mu Shuangshuang struggled to get up, but the warm flow underneath began again.

She probably hasn't put on anything like a menstrual pad yet. If this continues, her butt will be a mess.

Maybe knowing what Mu Shuangshuang was thinking, Lu Yuanfeng blushed and pointed to something on the table not far away.

"Aunt Cui left that for you. If you don't know how, I can call her over."

"Then I'll go to the toilet first." Without anything to use, it's really uncomfortable.

Mu Shuangshuang also feared dirtying the examination bed later.

"Let me help you!" Lu Yuanfeng extended his hand, holding Mu Shuangshuang's arm.

"But you have to drink the medicine first."

"Fengzi, first help me get there, and I'll drink it when I come back, otherwise it'll be really troublesome."

Lu Yuanfeng, seeing her pitiful, agreed and helped Shuangshuang to the toilet.

In the toilet, Mu Shuangshuang held an ancient menstrual belt and examined it carefully.

Poor, really poor.

The belt wraps just a bit of ashes, but thinking about how usually sticks and bamboo pieces are used to wipe the butt, Mu Shuangshuang just accepted it.

She's not someone who's overly picky. Since ancient women have survived, she can endure it too.

Paper was incredibly expensive in ancient times. Now she feels that the books Liu Zian sold her were a big bargain.

If not for Xiao Han reading, the books would definitely be used as toilet paper, because those bamboo pieces were really uncomfortable and could accidentally cut the skin.

After fastening the menstrual belt, Mu Shuangshuang walked out like a limp frog.

It's really uncomfortable, though she's trying to adapt.

As soon as she came out, Lu Yuanfeng asked, "Can you walk? Shall I carry you back?"

"No... no need." Mu Shuangshuang replied nervously.

Although it's not a big deal, thinking about Lu Yuanfeng waiting outside the toilet for so long made her feel embarrassed.

"Then let's continue with the medicine."

Lu Yuanfeng was determined to supervise Mu Shuangshuang taking the medicine.

Back at Zhang Huai Shu's house, the Angelica boiled egg on the table was still steaming. He picked up the bowl and handed it to Mu Shuangshuang.

"Wait a moment, I haven't washed my hands yet."

Mu Shuangshuang had thought of various ways in the toilet to avoid it at all costs.

But she underestimated Lu Yuanfeng's persistence and her importance in his heart.

"If you think your hands are dirty, I didn't go to the toilet, my hands aren't dirty, I... can feed you."

"Fengzi, I..." Mu Shuangshuang's mind spun quickly, suddenly remembering the prey Lu Yuanfeng left behind.

"Fengzi, is our stuff still at the village entrance? Go get it quickly, so nobody takes it. I'll drink this myself."

Lu Yuanfeng shook his head as if he knew her tricks.

"No, I can hunt again, your health is the most important."

His words moved and left Mu Shuangshuang helpless. She braced herself, picked up the Angelica bowl, and prepared to drink.

But the pungent smell made her retch violently.

No way, it's too disgusting...

Chapter 378: Confession

Mu Shuangshuang pinched her nose, preparing to force herself to swallow it.

It was the first time Lu Yuanfeng had seen someone drinking medicine so awkwardly; of course, he didn't find Shuangshuang pretentious, rather he thought she was like a child who hadn't grown up.

"If you don't want to drink it..." Lu Yuanfeng said with a smile.

"Can I not drink it?" Mu Shuangshuang released her grip on her nose, looking at Lu Yuanfeng with anticipation.

Perhaps it was her bright eyes, or perhaps Lu Yuanfeng's heart was in disarray, he stared at Mu Shuangshuang like that, motionless, not even blinking.

"Hey, don't look at me with those eyes, I'm flustered."

Mu Shuangshuang reached out and waved her hand in front of Lu Yuanfeng, her heart almost racing to her throat.

To her, Lu Yuanfeng's gaze was too intense, like erupting volcanic lava.

Realizing his loss of composure, Lu Yuanfeng quickly lowered his head and when he raised it again, his gaze was clear.

"Drink it, after that, have a good rest, I'll go help make lunch later."

When Yu Si Niang left the house, she had asked Shuangshuang to cook, but in her current state, she probably couldn't even get out of bed.

"You... can cook?" Mu Shuangshuang seriously doubted whether her pot would be punctured, though one of her pots was given by him, even if he destroyed it, it wouldn't be a big deal.

"I can handle simple dishes, and I usually cook at home." Lu Yuanfeng emphasized softly, then he stared at the hand Mu Shuangshuang used for drinking medicine.

Whether to bite the bullet or not, Mu Shuangshuang decided not to care about anything.

Pinching her nose, she drank the bowl of medicine. Lu Yuanfeng timely poured her a glass of water, and after downing the glass, Mu Shuangshuang finally felt a bit human again.

She deliberately put on a feeble appearance and said to Lu Yuanfeng, "Next time, don't make me drink this, it will kill me..."

"Don't say such things!" Before Mu Shuangshuang could finish her sentence, Lu Yuanfeng directly pressed her lips with his palm.

Mu Shuangshuang's lips were slightly cold, and her breathing on Lu Yuanfeng's palm made it a bit itchy, yet Lu Yuanfeng was unwilling to let go.

The instant their palm and lips touched, Mu Shuangshuang's eyes widened, staring straight at Lu Yuanfeng, with confusion, surprise, and just a hint of... shyness.

Compared to usual, Lu Yuanfeng now had a certain warmth on his face, his eyes were shining black, and Mu Shuangshuang blushed as she looked.

Right at this moment, the door opened.

Lu Yuanfeng withdrew his hand like he was shocked by electricity, and Mu Shuangshuang turned away, giving Lu Yuanfeng her back.

Zhang Huai Shu's wife, Cui, walked in carrying a basin of hot water; she didn't notice the subtle atmosphere in the room or the unnaturalness of the two people, instead she walked directly to Lu Yuanfeng.

"Fengzi, you go out first, Shuangshuang needs to wash her face."

Actually, Cui intended to play matchmaker for Shuangshuang and Fengzi, to connect them.

She could see how Fengzi felt about Shuangshuang, and now, as the girl grows older, it's likely that someone might propose, and if someone catches her eye, the two might miss their chance.

If that really happens, she fears she would never feel at ease for the rest of her life.

"Alright, I was just going to check if the things at the village entrance are still there."

Lu Yuanfeng didn't stay in the room any longer, he stepped out, heading straight towards the village entrance.

Cui stepped forward and grabbed Shuangshuang's hand.

These hands were whiter than many she had seen, but also weaker than many hands, without any extra flesh on her fingers, ten slender fingers.

Such a girl should have a sallow complexion, Cui had seen many girls starved to this extent, eyes dull, and the whole person like a skeleton.

But none were like the person in front of her, with clear eyes, a somewhat pale face, but faintly showing a bit of blush; although thin, she didn't invoke horror.

"Shuangshuang, I guess this is our first meeting!" Cui familiarly chattered with Mu Shuangshuang.

"Yes, but Fengzi has mentioned you, helped him many times." Mu Shuangshuang smiled.

"Indeed, you are different." Cui murmured.

"...Grandma Cui, what do you mean, Shuangshuang doesn't understand." Mu Shuangshuang furrowed her brow, not hiding her confusion at all.

"Fengzi is not a talkative person, whether it's with elders or peers, my husband and I may not have any blood relation to him, but we've watched him grow since he was little.

When his mother had headaches or fevers, he wouldn't ask Lu Xiao for help, he'd come to Grandpa Zhang, carry a sack of rice, so small a child, that Grandpa Zhang couldn't even carry."

Cui's tone was especially gentle, it was clear she had special feelings for Fengzi, just as she said, no blood ties, but surpassing blood ties.

Mu Shuangshuang held her stomach, tilted her head, listening to Cui talking about Lu Yuanfeng's past.

Mu Shuangshuang heard Lu Yuanfeng mention his difficult childhood, and when she first heard it, she even felt miserable enough to shed tears.

She could empathize with Lu Yuanfeng's plight.

But she didn't pity Lu Yuanfeng, because she knew, Lu Yuanfeng didn't need her pity.

Only the weak need sympathy, and Lu Yuanfeng was not weak.

Mu Shuangshuang's attitude, in Cui's view, was one of modesty and courtesy, she had said so much without seeing any impatience from Shuangshuang.

Instead, she would always ask with concern about certain things, which moved Cui incredibly.

After pondering for a long time, Cui finally decided to be straightforward; she was too old for beating around the bush.

"Girl, what do you think of Fengzi?"

It's not the first time Mu Shuangshuang was asked such a question, the last time her mother asked, she had said he was great, but now, she found it hard to say.

Not because he wasn't good, but because she felt that the meaning of these words was different from before.

"What's the matter? Do you think Fengzi's not good enough?" Suddenly, Cui felt a bit scared.

The matters of the heart are mutual, especially for the girl in front of her, who should have her own opinions and wouldn't easily change because of others.

Parental orders and matchmaker's words might not have much influence on her.

"No, he is very good, really very good!"

The more Mu Shuangshuang said this, the more nervous Cui became, she had lived a long life, normally when a matchmaker fails, they would use this excuse.

Your son or daughter is great, but ours can't match up.

Isn't that a disguised rejection?

"Girl, since you think Fengzi is good, why not consider him? He did so much for you, he thought you were sick when he took you out last time, his fists pounding on himself..."

Chapter 379: Go Back and Tell You

"Grandma Cui, did you say Fengzi hurt himself?" Mu Shuangshuang asked anxiously.

In her heart, she cursed that fool Lu Yuanfeng a thousand times. How could she not know her own body's condition? Although she's thin, she hasn't been sick.

This time, it was her period. Since she came to this world, she completely forgot about it; how could it be his fault!

"You silly girl, you're focusing on the wrong thing, I..." Grandma Cui looked at Mu Shuangshuang with an expression of disappointment, as if she was hopeless.

The more Mu Shuangshuang listened, the more confused she became, but gradually, she began to understand that Grandma Cui was trying to play matchmaker for her and Fengzi.

It seemed everyone thought she and Fengzi were a couple, but Fengzi had never said he liked her!

It's not that Mu Shuangshuang was stubborn; in her heart, liking someone is liking them, and not liking someone is not liking them.

But there was a faint sense of loss in her heart. Someone like Fengzi, if he doesn't say it, probably doesn't like her enough, or maybe it's something else...

Mu Shuangshuang's thoughts drifted away, so much so that she didn't notice Lu Yuanfeng returning from the village entrance, entering the house again.

Lu Yuanfeng was frightened by her silent demeanor. "Shuangshuang, what's wrong? Is your stomach... still hurting?"

Faced with Lu Yuanfeng's concerned gaze, ripples stirred in Mu Shuangshuang's heart. There were things she wanted to ask now, but feared it would be too abrupt.

Now, she was certain that she liked Lu Yuanfeng.

Even just now, when Grandma Cui was speaking, she recalled all her moments with Lu Yuanfeng.

Unconsciously, he had already occupied her life.

He's even the first person she wants to see upon opening her eyes.

"I... I'll go call Grandpa Zhang for you... you... just bear with it, I'll go right now!" Lu Yuanfeng, feeling uneasy, hurriedly went to call for help.

But Mu Shuangshuang grabbed his wrist.

"You... Lu Yuanfeng, tell me honestly, why are you so good to me?"

For fear that she wouldn't be able to sleep later and would keep brooding over this matter, feeling unhappy, Mu Shuangshuang boldly asked.

Lu Yuanfeng's body stiffened, his heart suddenly raced, as if words were on the tip of his tongue.

Seeing him silent, Mu Shuangshuang bit her lip.

"If I were to marry someone else, what would you do?"

A 'snap' sound echoed, and Lu Yuanfeng's heart felt shredded into countless pieces, reduced to fragments, barely able to stand.

His heart roared, angrily howling; he wanted to say no, but...

"If, in the future, we could never meet again, what would you do?" Mu Shuangshuang asked again, unwilling to give up after not getting a response.

The feeling of scratching an itch through a boot was unbearable; she wasn't someone who could suppress her feelings for long.

Although, given the current situation, it was rather early for the two of them to talk about feelings.

But how many times in life is there someone you want to fight tooth and nail to keep?

Mu Shuangshuang never expected Lu Yuanfeng to have such a wild side. After her last question, she was pulled into his embrace, his arms like chains, tightly locking her within.

She felt him trembling, sensed his fear...

"Shuangshuang, I want to be good to you for a lifetime, take care of you forever, be with you always, hold your hand for life, is that okay?"

Lu Yuanfeng's face was less than three centimeters from hers; she could see his long eyelashes, and he could see her blushing with nervousness.

They could smell each other's scents; she carried the medicinal smell of Angelica from just having drunk it, while Lu Yuanfeng, who had just been outside, carried a scent of sweat, though not unpleasant.

The two, drawn to each other, were anxious for one another...

The atmosphere became suddenly subtle.

"Do you like me?" Mu Shuangshuang opened her mouth, breaking the mood.

She lacked a sense of security; this insecurity was a leftover effect from her time-traveling experience, some matters she knew the answers to, yet she wanted more certainty.

She didn't force Fengzi to continue liking her in the future, but she wanted just a little security now.

"Yes, I like you, I like you very much, very much!"

Lu Yuanfeng cherished the warmth of Shuangshuang's face, rubbing his hand gently over her face, then said, "But I have nothing. I don't have a mother, and though I have a father, it's no different than not having one. I have no land, and my house is falling apart.

All I have are these hands, and I can spend a lifetime working hard for you, Shuangshuang, would you give me this chance?"

Lu Yuanfeng looked at Shuangshuang intently; he was reluctant to let go of her, reluctant even to look away, fearing the next second would bring a rejection.

"If you carry me back, I'll tell you the answer!" Mu Shuangshuang suddenly smiled, playfully winking at Lu Yuanfeng.

Lu Yuanfeng's heart raced a bit faster.

Vaguely, he sensed Shuangshuang's answer.

Eagerly, he offered his back to Shuangshuang, and once she climbed on, Lu Yuanfeng suddenly felt a never-before-felt sense of fulfillment.

It was as if his heart was being filled, happiness nearly overflowing.

Carrying Shuangshuang, Lu Yuanfeng once again forgot about his prey and about Little Black and Lai Mi, the diligent animals protecting his catch.

Lai Mi spent most of the time running around, from the house to the yard, leaving no place without its footprint.

Yet it also fiercely stared at the rabbits Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng had caught.

Zhang Huai Shu, carrying rabbits and a small muntjac, came rushing out, his face flushed with joy.

"You silly boy, carrying Shuangshuang, you won't want anything else, planning to give everything to this old man of mine?"

Lu Yuanfeng smiled, holding Shuangshuang even tighter.

"If Grandpa Zhang likes them, feel free to take them." Lu Yuanfeng said generously.

"Oh, I just like your generosity. I'll just take this muntjac with the broken leg."

Zhang Huai Shu wasn't taking it to eat, but to keep as the missus had been unable to stop smiling at Shuangshuang's dog and Black Mink, proving her fondness for such little creatures.

The Black Mink and dog were hard to handle, but that short-legged deer probably wouldn't sell for much, and keeping it would entertain his own lady.

"Okay! You can have it."

Carrying several rabbits, Lu Yuanfeng started heading in the direction of Shuangshuang's house.

Once home, Lu Yuanfeng was about to take Mu Shuangshuang to her room but was stopped by her.

"Fengzi, take me to the kitchen; I need to prepare lunch."

It wasn't that she didn't trust Lu Yuanfeng, but this time Yu Liulang and Feng Xiaohua were also there, and it wouldn't do to neglect the guests.

Feng Xiaohua watched as Lu Yuanfeng carried Shuangshuang back and immediately spoke up after hearing Shuangshuang needing to cook. "Shuangshuang, I'll cook lunch. You're sick, so rest well!"

Chapter 380: Teaching Wang Fugui a Lesson

"You don't have to treat me and your uncle as guests. Your uncle considers this place as home, and so do I! At home, cooking a meal is nothing!"

Feng Xiaohua didn't see herself as a guest.

In her heart, she and Yu Liulang were both part of this family, so cooking a meal was no big deal.

"But Aunt, you guys came from far away, I..."

Mu Shuangshuang hesitated a bit, as she had never done this before.

"Don't worry, Auntie is here for everything!" To ease Shuangshuang's worries, Feng Xiaohua started calling herself 'Auntie'.

At this point, if she said anything more, it would be too much.

Allowing Lu Yuanfeng to carry her into the room, her hands wrapped around his neck, he was careful not to press against her stomach to avoid discomfort for Shuangshuang.

Once Shuangshuang lay on the bed, he let out a long sigh of relief.

A moment later, his gaze fell back on Shuangshuang, still waiting for her answer...

Mu Shuangshuang naturally understood what Lu Yuanfeng was thinking deep down.

Having reached this point, she was done hiding her feelings; keeping them inside was too painful.

Mu Shuangshuang opened her mouth and said, "I like you! I enjoy being with you each day, just like you do."

Compared to Lu Yuanfeng's emotional turmoil, Mu Shuangshuang was still somewhat rational at this moment.

But the person she confessed to had completely lost his reason.

Lu Yuanfeng's shocked expression hadn't faded yet when his hand pinched his own elbow, seemingly with great force, causing Mu Shuangshuang to see him draw a sharp breath.

Suddenly, a soft hand covered his elbow.

"You fool, why do you always treat yourself poorly? If you're going to pinch someone, pinch someone else, not yourself."

Mu Shuangshuang glared at Lu Yuanfeng, her eyes filled with unspoken pain.

Lu Yuanfeng felt light-headed, barely able to stand.

"I... I won't do it again, I'll listen to you..."

Mu Shuangshuang found his foolishness exasperating, yet she loved this silliness in him.

Men like him are rare indeed.

"Alright, whatever I tell you to do, you do it, and no backing out in the future!" Mu Shuangshuang smiled.

Lu Yuanfeng nodded solemnly. "I'll never go back on my word, for a lifetime!"

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Yu Liulang had caught a rabbit, cleaned off the fur, and marinated the meat. At this moment, Feng Xiaohua suggested getting some wild vegetables.

Yu Liulang had visited Niuwei Mountain once before, he knew it was fine as long as he didn't go too deep into the mountains. Originally, he planned to go alone, but Feng Xiaohua insisted on going with him.

She wanted to see the mountains with Yu Liulang.

The two walked hand in hand toward the village to the north.

With Feng Xiaohua's good looks and curvy figure, she inevitably attracted the villagers' attention, giving Yu Liulang the opportunity to introduce her as his wife.

In short order, they received many blessings.

Feng Xiaohua blushed, being introduced by Yu Liulang like this for the first time, even if it wasn't her village, she still felt shy.

Of course, happiness prevailed, for if a man is willing to acknowledge your status in front of everyone, it means you're important to him.

As they approached Niuwei Mountain to the north, suddenly five or six men jumped out, the leader was fair-skinned and well-dressed in fine silk.

Yu Liulang silently reminded himself not to fuss with these people.

He held Feng Xiaohua's hand, intending to bypass these people, but was blocked.

"Hey, whose little sister is this? Why is she so pretty?"

Wang Fugui had never seen Yu Liulang, but Feng Xiaohua's looks were just his type, with her gentle and weak appearance.

"This is my wife, brother, could you let us pass?" Yu Liulang bowed and spoke politely.

Being outnumbered, he knew it was wise to adapt.

"I refuse, what can you do? Besides, she's still a girl, her hair's not in a bun yet, kid, you're lucky. How about lending her to me?"

Wang Fugui sneered lewdly.

Normally, he wouldn't dare act recklessly in the village, but today he brought people, so why waste the chance to take advantage?

Yu Liulang's face turned cold instantly. "You better show some respect. In broad daylight, how dare you misbehave?"

"Oh, acting tough? Beat him!"

At Wang Fugui's command, several thugs started attacking Yu Liulang fiercely. Though Yu Liulang was a farmer with strong hands and fists, he hadn't expected Wang Fugui to ambush him.

A rock the size of a palm hit Yu Liulang's back of the head, dizzying him and knocking him to the ground.

Those who had been slighted before, now ruthlessly stomped on Yu Liulang.

Feng Xiaohua panicked, "Let go of Sixth Brother, what are you doing... Sixth Brother..."

Feng Xiaohua cried, her man beaten like that, she rushed to pull people away but got kicked away.

Coming to his senses, Yu Liulang overturned a few people, got up, and hurriedly pulled Feng Xiaohua to escape.

After a few steps, he was out of energy.

He pushed Feng Xiaohua away forcefully: "Quick, go find Shuangshuang, hurry..."

Feng Xiaohua ran home crying, Mu Shuangshuang was about to rest when she heard crying, disregarding Lu Yuanfeng's objections, she got out of bed.

"Auntie, what's wrong?"

"Shuangshuang, save your uncle, he's being beaten..." Feng Xiaohua was crying almost to exhaustion, but she clearly explained what happened to her and Yu Liulang.

Mu Shuangshuang gave up comforting, grabbed a kitchen knife from the kitchen, and rushed out.

Her belly still churning, her eyes saw nothing but red.

Lu Yuanfeng followed beside her, wanting to tell her to rest but couldn't say it, he quickened his pace to get ahead of Shuangshuang.

By the time Mu Shuangshuang arrived, Lu Yuanfeng was already teaching Wang Fugui's men a lesson, with one kick he toppled several men.

Mu Shuangshuang brandished the kitchen knife, rushing forward.

"Wang Fugui, you filthy thing, how dare you touch my uncle, Mu Shuangshuang, you're sick of living."

Mu Shuangshuang stepped forward, grabbed Wang Fugui's hair crowned with Jade, and pulled, letting his hair loose.

The handle of the kitchen knife struck Wang Fugui's head hard.

Wang Fugui was stunned by fear and pain, clutching his head crying.

"Don't kill me, don't kill me..."

Arriving with such aggression, Mu Shuangshuang coupled with Lu Yuanfeng fighting several men, Wang Fugui realized his downfall once he was caught.

Mu Shuangshuang tossed the knife and began slapping Wang Fugui's face relentlessly.

The slaps had a rhythm sharper than chopping vegetables.

"Ow... it hurts..." Wang Fugui wailed like a pig being butchered!