

Folly 501

Chapter 501: Ashen Face

Just blowing his own horn, and it led to trouble.

Someone remembered what the Old Mu Family did at noon and started to mock them.

"I say, old man, since it was your granddaughter's cooking, why were your family members so agitated? Yours was the only table lacking etiquette; the dishes were wiped clean as soon as they were served."

Mr. Mu's face immediately turned ashen.

It was already a disgraceful affair, and he couldn't stand it being mentioned repeatedly.

"That just shows Shuangshuang's cooking is delicious, and that incident can't be blamed on my dad."

Mu Dajiang spoke up to defend Mr. Mu.

Only then did everyone notice the plainly dressed Mu Dajiang.

Mu Dajiang seemed quite honest, so folks didn't dwell on the subject and passed it off as a joke.

The meal was finally over.

Mu Danian and Mu Dazhong ate themselves sick, consuming almost six bowls, stuffed till they felt it in their throats.

Just moving made them want to throw up.

The banquet's meal could only be white rice, not sweet potato mixed grain rice, or else this family would become a laughingstock.

Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian came precisely for that reason.

After a short rest, it was the auspicious time.

Everyone waited for the wedding ceremony, leaving only a few helpers cleaning and eating.

Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng discussed briefly, deciding to watch the ceremony first, then eat.

As Mu Shuangshuang predicted, it was to pay respects to heaven and earth, then to the elders before heading to the bridal chamber.

This time, the ceremony was shorter than Mu Shuangshuang imagined.

After they were sent to the bridal chamber, most people went along to tease the newlyweds; Xiao Han, Little Zhi, and Yuanbao, who ran wild all day, were worn out and taken to rest by Yu Si Niang.

Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng went to eat.

When they got there, several helpers had finished eating and were busy packing up and tidying things.

Doing a job means seeing it through to the end. Since they took the money, they surely had to do these tasks well.

Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng found a clean table and placed three or four dishes to eat.

Suddenly, Mu Danian came over.

"Shuang girl, did you make all these things today? Got any left? Take some home for your Fifth Uncle to drink with."

Mu Shuangshuang was almost choked, struggling to swallow.

"Fifth Uncle, what did you say? Take some home for you to drink with?"

Mu Shuangshuang suspected her ears deceived her; Mu Danian actually made such a request.

"Yeah, since it's a banquet, there must be leftovers. Your uncle's family can't finish them all. At worst, I won't call you a stinky girl anymore. Whatever good food there is, I'll share with you."

Mu Danian sweet-talked Mu Shuangshuang.

The stir-fried snail earlier was too delicious. Although villagers stir-fry those snails, the earthy taste is overpowering, nowhere near as good as Shuang girl's cooking.

Thus, Mu Danian was willing to humble himself.

"Haha, no way! If you want to eat, make it yourself!" Mu Shuangshuang chuckled and mercilessly refused.

She hadn't forgotten the good deeds of this Fifth Uncle.

An entire basketful, it's shameful to even mention.

"You... Why are you so stingy? I'm your Fifth Uncle. Is it so bad for me to eat some of your food? I've never seen anyone as stingy as you." Mu Danian said.

"I'm stingy, and I'm not giving it to you! The food is mine, I have the right to dispose of it. Either pay up or get lost! Stop interrupting my meal!"

Mu Shuangshuang looked on with disdain.

Shameless people, there are more and more.

Mrs. Li finished her task and saw Mu Danian talking with Mu Shuangshuang.

Thinking they had a good relationship, Mrs. Li loudly shouted to Old Sun who was writing the gift registry.

"Old man, can I take a look at that registry?"

Old Mrs. Mu immediately felt a warning alarm in her heart.

She had only paid thirty coins earlier; was this wretched woman deliberately causing trouble?

Old Mrs. Mu guessed correctly. After Mrs. Li got the registry, she pretended to browse it and then loudly asked, "Mr. Sun, I don't recognize these characters, can you tell me how much the Old Mu Family contributed?"

Mrs. Li didn't mention names, but the Mu surname was rather rare.

"There are two Mus, one from Mu Dashan's family for two hundred coins."

As soon as Old Sun finished speaking, everyone gasped.

Two hundred coins aren't a small amount, typically fifty or eighty, even for relatives, would be considered particularly generous.

But this was two hundred coins.

Someone said, "That's Si Niang's husband, from Si Niang's family. Si Niang used to take care of Sixth Son everywhere they went, like half a mother; she's really showing respect to her brother with this amount."

Mrs. Li was consumed with jealousy.

Back when she got married, Yu Si Niang only contributed twenty coins.

She came after an argument; now, not long later, it's increased tenfold!

Since you won't let me off easy, I'll humiliate you!

"How much did the other Mu contribute?" Mrs. Li raised her voice even more.

Mr. Mu felt grateful; thankfully, fearing embarrassment, he had his wife contribute fifty coins earlier.

Although it couldn't compare to the third son's two hundred coins, it wouldn't be disgraceful.

Old Sun flipped through and replied, "Mu Dabiao, fifteen coins!"

As the words fell, two voices immediately contradicted:

"Impossible, it was clearly fifty coins!"

"Clearly thirty coins!"

Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu spoke almost simultaneously.

After speaking, Mr. Mu realized his wife secretly reduced the money, embarrassing him, making him furious.

Hearing the amount, people pointed fingers at Mr. Mu.

"You said Si Niang's husband, coming with such a large family, actually only contributed fifteen coins."

"I told you, whoever attends a wedding, usually comes alone, at most with one other person, but the Old Mu Family looks like there are over ten people."

"How audacious, next time we'll do like this, a big family directly enjoying the feast, taking everything good for ourselves."

The villagers wouldn't doubt Old Sun, because collecting the money wasn't solely Old Sun's task; there were three people total.

One counted money, one wrote it down, one handed out red eggs.

If they all made mistakes, then no one did.

"I... I... My son wrote it wrong, I was actually going to contribute fifty... no, one hundred coins."

In desperation, Mr. Mu was flustered, his speech clumsy.

But to others, this looked suspicious.

"Enough, old man, you don't need to explain. Everyone acts shamelessly at times, just own it, nothing disgraceful about it. We'll eat and drink, save money!"

Someone sarcastically quipped.

Mr. Mu felt dizzy, his head buzzing with noise.

Remembering he had never been so humiliated, he saw darkness before his eyes, fainting.

Fortunately, a nearby man caught him in time, avoiding a disaster.

Mu Shuangshuang rushed over, urgently pinching the acupoints, reviving Mr. Mu.

But his complexion looked as if he'd just been through a serious illness, incredibly frightening.

Chapter 502: Mr. Mu Borrowing Money from Shuangshuang

"Old woman, you're confused!"

Smart as Mr. Mu was, he had already figured out the whole story.

Mu Shuangshuang did too.

But what upset Old Mrs. Mu the most was Mu Dazhong daring to pull tricks right under her nose.

"Mu Dazhong, get over here!" Old Mrs. Mu shouted furiously, and the originally fleeing Mu Dazhong was scared out of his wits.

He thought that with so many people around, no one would notice how much gift money the Old Mu Family had actually given, which is why he dared to do that.

Even if the Old Yu Family found out later that they only wrote down fifteen wen, they wouldn't really bring just that much when the Fifth and Xiangxiang get married in the future.

Because her mother would definitely make a scene!

"Mom, I was just possessed for a moment, I didn't mean it." Mu Dazhong ran over to apologize.

Mr. Mu kicked him to the ground.

"Hurry and explain to everyone, this was all your doing." Old Mrs. Mu said.

But by this point, was there any use in saying this?

The guests wouldn't believe it, and neither would the people of the Old Yu Family.

"Grandpa, Fengzi and I will help you inside to rest, don't go back today!" Mu Shuangshuang said to Mr. Mu.

Mr. Mu nodded weakly.

With the help of two people, Mr. Mu finally left that troublesome place.

Once in the guest room of the Old Yu Family, Mr. Mu still hadn't recovered his senses, and Mu Shuangshuang poured him a cup of tea. She hadn't eaten yet either and was a bit hungry, so she wanted to eat first before anything else.

Unexpectedly, Mr. Mu stopped her.

"Shuang girl, stay and chat with your grandpa for a bit!"

Mr. Mu was very fragile at this moment and just wanted someone to comfort him.

Mu Shuangshuang thought for a while, and said to Lu Yuanfeng: "Fengzi, you go eat outside first, I'll chat with my grandpa for a while."

Lu Yuanfeng nodded and went out.

The room arranged for guests by the Old Yu Family was in the west wing, and the bridal chamber was in the east wing, not far apart, so the sound of music could still be heard.

"Grandpa, what do you want to say? Shuangshuang is listening!"

Mr. Mu sighed and said, "I know today was embarrassing too, but it really wasn't my idea. Your grandma made a decision on her own, changing fifty wen to thirty, and your second uncle halved it again..."

Talking about it, Mr. Mu felt ashamed.

Even ordinary people wouldn't put only fifteen wen, not to mention Mr. Mu and the Old Yu Family were in-laws.

This matter, anyone would think that the Old Mu Family was unfair, especially since the Old Mu Family brought a whole family and ate and drank without restraint. Most people would have been ashamed to death long ago!

But those culprits acted as if nothing happened.

"Grandpa, Shuangshuang knows about this. My dad, mom, and even my maternal family will understand!" Mu Shuangshuang nodded.

Mr. Mu's face relaxed a little.

"I hope so. I've lost all face this lifetime. I just want to make some amends. Shuangshuang, help me write another gift ledger, write down second and fourth uncle's names, each for twenty wen, and as for our Old Mu Family, add another thirty wen."

Mu Shuangshuang, thinking Mr. Mu would take out money for her when he spoke, saw that he didn't move at all.

Mr. Mu didn't have any money on him.

He said this intending to have his granddaughter lend it to him first, promising to repay it later.

"Shuangshuang, Grandpa didn't bring any money out..."

The plea was so obvious, Mu Shuangshuang sighed; this issue indeed needed fixing, otherwise, Yu Si Niang's reputation would be ruined.

"Grandpa, I'll write the gift ledger for you first. As for the money... you give it back to me later!"

Hearing Mu Shuangshuang's words, Mr. Mu felt inexplicably more distressed in his chest.

Regardless of what was being said behind her, Mu Shuangshuang left the guest room straight away.

As soon as she stepped out, she ran into a waiting Mu Dashan and Yu Si Niang.

Yu Si Niang rushed over anxiously and asked, "Shuangshuang, are you alright? I heard something went wrong at the front, is it solved now?"

Mu Shuangshuang explained everything to Mu Dashan and Yu Si Niang.

Yu Si Niang asked, "Shuangshuang, are you seriously planning to let Grandpa pay you back that money?"

Even though it's seventy-five wen, he's still the old man, Shuangshuang's grandpa.

"Of course, nobody's money comes easy, if Grandpa's borrowing from me, he has to pay it back, otherwise, don't borrow at all!" Mu Shuangshuang's attitude was firm, she didn't care what Mr. Mu thought.

When he wanted to sell her back then, did he ever consider her feelings?

"Si Niang, don't go soft-hearted. Today, we also got dragged into this matter. Second Brother, Fifth Brother, look at the words and actions of those people, even I feel uncomfortable seeing it, yet they act as if nothing's wrong."

"If we don't let them learn a lesson this time, our losses will be even greater in the future!"

The man earnestly persuaded Yu Si Niang, understanding the situation clearly.

He was very fortunate that they had divided the family.

Just having Second Brother and Fifth Brother's family troubles around, even if the oldest brother succeeded, there would be no good days ahead.

If things weren't handled right, the oldest brother's achievements could be ruined by them.

Thinking about it made everything suddenly clear, like enlightenment.

"Mom, Dad speaks sense. This issue, if not addressed, will only lead to greater losses in the future. Grandpa must be made to feel the pain to be determined to manage things."

If the child is not taught, it's the father's fault.

The sons and daughters of the Old Mu Family ended up this way, Mr. Mu's responsibility is significant.

And every time something happens, Mr. Mu just scolds a bit, and it's over.

No one feels the pain, so they don't remember.

It's one thing to harm the people of the Old Mu Family, but if the third branch is harmed, it will be extremely unworthy.

Mu Shuangshuang firmly wanted to prevent this kind of thing from cropping up.

"Okay! Let's handle it this way. Shuangshuang, first go and write the gift ledger for your grandpa. If he doesn't acknowledge it, your dad and you will go ask for the money together. Dad doesn't believe your grandpa won't give it!"

"Okay!"

At this moment, Mu Shuangshuang felt that her father was no longer a pushover.

He knew how to make important decisions when it mattered, not just relying on her, the daughter.

Yu Si Niang also felt happy that her man's strong character meant she could also stand firm at the in-laws'.

The third branch could live well without depending on anyone.

"Alright, dad, mom, you go rest. I guess the revelry in the eastern wing is over."

"Good, Shuangshuang and Fengzi, don't tire yourselves out. For the midnight snack, ask mom, I can make it just as well and won't embarrass you!" Yu Si Niang said confidently.

"Haha, then mom, don't oversleep, I'll come get you later!"

With that, Mu Shuangshuang headed to the front yard, found her Aunt-in-law, and together with Old Sun updated the gift ledger.

After all that, she was starving, so hungry that she felt light-headed while walking.

She originally thought Lu Yuanfeng had finished eating, but he was still waiting for her, and at that moment, a warm feeling slowly flowed through Mu Shuangshuang's heart.

Chapter 503: One of Our Own

In the night, it finally quieted down.

Yu Liulang closed the door, looking at Feng Xiaohua sitting upright on the kang, not knowing why, he felt a bit nervous.

The man just looked on, not taking a single step.

And Feng Xiaohua too, her fingers continuously fiddling with her clothes, her hands slightly trembling.

Tonight, many people came and went, but none had steps as steady as Yu Liulang's, making her feel at ease.

At last, she endured these ten years.

Became his wife!

Remembering what Shuangshuang said tonight, the originally very nervous Feng Xiaohua suddenly gathered courage and spoke softly.

"Aren't you coming over?"

Yu Liulang was stunned, never expecting Feng Xiaohua to call for him on her own.

For a moment, he was both surprised and excited. He rushed up, grabbing Feng Xiaohua's small hand. Perhaps it was a bit too rough, Feng Xiaohua yelped.

The man immediately became nervous.

"Xiaohua, what's wrong, did I hurt you?"

The man's nervousness made Feng Xiaohua feel cherished.

Her hand gently wrapped around Yu Liulang's, the red bridal veil was lifted at this moment, revealing a beautiful person as radiant as a peach blossom, stirring ripples in Yu Liulang's heart.

"Xiaohua, you look so beautiful!"

Feng Xiaohua blushed, lowering her head, not daring to look up again.

But the man wouldn't let her off that easily. He stepped forward, holding her chin, leaning in.

Although Feng Xiaohua had previously visited Yu Si Niang's house with Yu Liulang and often went out together, they had never done anything out of line. Not even a kiss, at most just holding hands.

Innocent indeed!

Now, having tasted the meat, Yu Liulang gradually couldn't control himself, becoming bolder.

Gradually... the two bared their hearts, but Feng Xiaohua became afraid.

Suddenly transitioning from someone else's daughter to Yu Liulang's wife, waking up every morning, no longer seeing her father, but this man called "husband."

Even though she loved him deeply, Feng Xiaohua was still scared.

"Sixth Brother, I'm scared..."

This admission of fear revealed all of Feng Xiaohua's fears and bewilderment about the unknown world.

Yu Liulang's heart softened upon hearing this. He gently stroked Feng Xiaohua's hair.

"Don't be afraid, now that we're married, you're mine. I'll protect you from now on."

"If you're worried about your father being lonely, we can visit him every day. You can choose any meal, morning, noon, or night. If you don't want to come back, we can stay at his place."

"I've got all his lands covered. As long as you're happy, everything will be fine."

Listening to Yu Liulang's words, Feng Xiaohua felt her heart melting.

On their wedding night, instead of rushing things, her husband was comforting her emotions.

This man was worth marrying!

"Sixth Brother, I'm not scared anymore..." Feng Xiaohua said, spreading her hands.

Under the red candlelight, the scene felt stunning to Yu Liulang.

Inside the room, Yu Liulang kept pressing forward.

Outside, Mu Danian, at this time, climbed over the wall, wanting to eavesdrop, when suddenly a short-statured woman appeared in front of him.

"Little sister-in-law, what are you up to?" Mu Danian grinned, his smile carrying an obnoxious hint of sleaze.

Li Juhua and Mu Danian had the same goal, both there to eavesdrop. Earlier that night, she saw Feng Xiaohua wearing a new bridal outfit, dolled up like a peacock, even her honest-to-goodness husband was stunned watching.

She wanted to see if this woman was like other women. Just as she stepped outside, she encountered Mu Danian.

"What's it to you? Get away!"

In the dark, Mrs. Li couldn't see Mu Danian's face and therefore had no interest in him.

"Little sister-in-law, don't be so heartless. We're family after all."

As he spoke, Mu Danian moved closer to Mrs. Li.

Mrs. Li couldn't dodge in time and was hugged by Mu Danian.

"Little sister-in-law, you have such a slim waist. Ever since I saw you during the day, I've been captivated by you. It's so late now, I just wanted to see you. Since fate brought us together, why not follow the will of heaven?"

It had been a long time since Mrs. Li was complimented on her looks.

The last time she was praised was when she was a girl, by a shepherd boy in the village.

Yu Erlang was like a log, never speaking sweet words, never caring for people, only resorting to actions when pushed.

Mrs. Li's heart gradually melted...

Just as Mrs. Li was about to speak to Mu Dalian, footsteps approached.

Chapter 504: One of Us_2

After finishing their midnight snack, Lu Yuanfeng and Mu Shuangshuang returned home and immediately saw Mrs. Li standing in the courtyard, with a shadow quickly darting past.

Mu Shuangshuang had sharp eyes, and even though that person ran quickly, she still saw who it was.

Mu Dalian.

Mu Shuangshuang was stunned, she even suspected she saw it wrong.

But then she thought of Mu Dalian's reputation in Er Gui Village as a female friend, always scheming to catch various women's attention, and she was relieved.

However, Mrs. Li was her second aunt, a relative from her mother's family. Mrs. Li could be vicious, could be evil, but she couldn't do something so disgraceful.

"Second Aunt, so late, what are you doing here? I just saw a shadow running away, do you recognize it?"

Mrs. Li's heart trembled, her heart jumped to her throat.

But she didn't believe Mu Shuangshuang saw anything, so she loudly refuted.

"Are you blind? How come I didn't see any shadow?"

"Second Aunt from the Yu Family, I also saw it just now," Lu Yuanfeng said.

"Oh, so you two are falsely accusing me of hiding a man, huh? Go on, call your second uncle and let him kill me!"

Mrs. Li inserted her hands at her waist, speaking fiercely to Mu Shuangshuang.

"Second Aunt, why are you so agitated? I just casually asked, it's for your safety, and I didn't say the shadow was a man. It might have been a dog or something."

—

"Stop pretending here, don't think I don't know. You and your mother are the same, only caring about the sixth branch, not at all concerned about the wellbeing of our second branch.

I, Li Juhua, never liked people like you who are biased to the bone, you better not provoke me."

Mrs. Li thought about the 200 silver coins for the gifts written by Yu Si Niang, and felt a surge of anger throughout her body, wishing she could tear Mu Shuangshuang apart.

No, she had to discuss this with her husband. Why should the sixth branch have better treatment, they are all people?

"Second Aunt, you're being unreasonable now. How are me and my mother biased? Didn't my mother send some things over to the second branch a few days ago?"

Mu Shuangshuang believed she had sent everything she should to each branch of the family.

As for the gift money, isn't it customary to exchange them?

Before when Yu Si Niang married, she only gave fifteen coins, and when Li Juhua went to her house, she wouldn't give much either!

Even though her family wrote 200 coins as gift money today, Yu Liulang would return it in the future.

If Mu Shuangshuang wanted to give someone a favor, she wouldn't do it this way.

The reason for writing 200 coins was because she was helping Yu Liulang, and Yu Liulang gave her a lot of money, which she definitely couldn't accept, so she put it all as the gift money.

"Hmph, can't be bothered to talk to you, I'm going to sleep!"

Mrs. Li coldly snorted, showing she didn't want to engage further with Mu Shuangshuang.

But her eyes were still lingering towards the direction Mu Danian left, unwilling to budge, saying she would go to sleep, yet her feet didn't move an inch.

Clearly, she was hoping Mu Danian would come back.

Mu Shuangshuang caught on to her intent, knowing deep down that tonight Mrs. Li must not meet Mu Danian, and Mu Danian would be leaving by tomorrow.

By then, when she couldn't see him, even if Li Juhua had vile thoughts, she wouldn't be able to act on them.

"Second Aunt, still not sleeping? Waiting for someone? Do you want Shuangshuang to wait with you? I have nothing to do anyway. If not, I could bring out Da Huang to accompany you. I guarantee no one could approach you!"

Mu Shuangshuang wore an expression of willingness to wait with her, while Mrs. Li was seething with anger, clenching her fists, just short of hitting someone.

"You wretched girl, just wait, you'll pay for this sooner or later!"

Mu Shuangshuang nodded with a smile. "Yes, I'm so nice, even if there's karma, it should be good karma for me, like earning a few hundred taels of silver?"

But people really can't make any mistake, if not caught it's fine, but if caught, they might end up beaten to death or crippled. If it's some scandalous affair, they might even be drowned in a pig cage."

Mu Shuangshuang was insinuating, and Mrs. Li felt that Shuangshuang's words were meant for her.

She was so angry her face turned green, but thinking of tonight, if anything really happened between her and that Mu Danian, she might really be drowned in a pig cage.

Thinking of this, Mrs. Li became a bit fearful and ran off, caring about nothing else.

Mu Shuangshuang chuckled softly, thinking that Mrs. Li wasn't so foolish after all, at least she understood the situation when facing those threatening words.

However, this matter couldn't end here.

Mu Danian showed complete disregard for the Old Yu Family, even daring to mess with the Yu Family's daughter-in-law.

Chapter 505: One of Us _3

"Fengzi, today let's take good care of my Fifth Uncle!"

Mu Shuangshuang emphasized the words "take care," and with her and Lu Yuanfeng's understanding, they instantly knew Shuangshuang's meaning.

Mu Shuangshuang took Lu Yuanfeng to the woodshed in the backyard, where there was a big yellow dog, the treasure for guarding the house of the Old Yu Family.

Since today was Yu Liulang's wedding day, there were many strangers, and Yu Liulang was afraid the dog would bite the guests, so he locked the dog up.

Mu Shuangshuang had followed Yu Liulang to feed it twice before, so the big yellow dog was familiar with her and should listen to her.

"Fengzi, later on, let's wait by the courtyard wall. My Fifth Uncle should still try to climb the wall and come in," said Mu Shuangshuang.

"Alright, I'll block him from outside the courtyard; we'll attack from inside and out."

Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng shared the same mindset; if they decided to act, it had to be foolproof.

Letting the dog take care of him in the courtyard wasn't enough; they also needed to scare him outside.

Upon hearing Lu Yuanfeng's suggestion, Mu Shuangshuang was invigorated, and her whole demeanor became lively.

Entering the woodshed, Mu Shuangshuang softly called the dog a few times, and the big yellow dog came over. She led the dog to the backyard.

Lu Yuanfeng, meanwhile, went out through the back door to the outside of the courtyard.

As soon as she entered the courtyard, Mu Shuangshuang lowered her voice and untied the dog's leash.

Freed, the big yellow dog stretched its legs, bouncing around happily around Mu Shuangshuang.

Mu Shuangshuang gently tapped the dog's head and said, "Later, a man will come in. When you see him, bite his butt, don't hold back. I'll get you delicious food tomorrow!"

The dog whimpered a bit, ran to a corner of the courtyard wall, and lay in ambush.

Mu Danian had previously climbed out of the courtyard and waited outside for a while. His anger hadn't subsided, and being that the Yu Family Village was far from Er Gui Village, he couldn't just go back.

So Yu Liulang decided to continue looking for Mrs. Li; regardless of her appearance, she was a woman.

Mu Danian listened closely outside the courtyard, and it was quiet and silent inside.

Feeling safe, Mu Danian climbed over the wall and entered.

As soon as his feet hit solid ground, before he could turn around, a sharp pain hit his butt, and Mu Danian let out a scream.

"Aow~"

The big yellow dog bit down hard on Mu Danian's butt and wouldn't let go.

Mu Danian screamed terribly.

The entire courtyard echoed with Mu Danian's screams mixed with countless curses.

Inside, the commotion soon woke everyone, and lights flickered on in all the rooms.

Realizing he'd been exposed, Mu Danian desperately tried to climb out.

The burden behind him, however, wouldn't let go.

"You damn thing, let go, let go..."

While hitting the big yellow dog, Mu Danian shouted, seeing people approaching his direction.

In desperation, Mu Danian sat down hard on the dog's head, knocking it out, and finally, it released its grip.

Mu Danian took the chance to climb back over the wall.

Once he landed on the other side, he felt safe, but his buttocks were burning. Ignoring his appearance, he took off his pants to check his injuries.

A burlap sack suddenly fell from the sky, covering Mu Danian.

Thinking he was caught by the Old Yu Family, Mu Danian quickly pleaded for mercy.

"It's me, I'm the fifth son of the Old Mu Family; my third sister-in-law is Yu Si Niang, we're family."

No sooner had he spoken, he was hoisted up and felt himself being carried somewhere.

He had no idea where he was going.

But Mu Danian didn't dare to struggle; whenever he did, he got hit.

And the person carrying him said nothing.

"Oh dear, sir, what did I do wrong? I'll change, can't I?"

With a plop, Mu Danian was thrown into the river...

Chapter 506: The Rise of the Fourth Household

The water had seeped in, and Mu Danian was scared half to death, flailing around with his hands and feet, but the water wasn't splashing because he was still tied up in the burlap sack.

He shouted, trembling like a frog.

"Mother, save me, your son is going to die..."

In fact, Mu Danian was just thrown into the ditch, where he couldn't possibly drown.

He was simply too guilty-minded, scaring himself half to death.

Lu Yuanfeng returned to the courtyard along the same path.

At this moment, Mu Shuangshuang had already brought Da Huang back.

After a day of hard work, Mu Shuangshuang prepared a basin of hot water for Lu Yuanfeng to soak his feet, which could alleviate the exhaustion.

As soon as the water was ready, Lu Yuanfeng came in and immediately talked about Mu Danian's situation.

After listening, Mu Shuangshuang showed him a thumbs up.

"Fengzi, that was brilliant, throwing my fifth uncle into the water. If it were me, at most, I'd give him a beating!"

Mu Danian is tough; you hit him and he'll hurt for a while, but soon he'll be bouncing around causing trouble again, not scared at all.

But this time, tying him up and throwing him into the river probably scared Mu Danian enough to wet his pants.

Lu Yuanfeng was exasperated at heart, but he had no other way to handle Mu Danian, that's why he chose the dumbest way.

But at least Shuangshuang was happy.

"Fengzi, it's getting late, hurry up and soak your feet then go to sleep! I'm going to rest too."

Seeing Shuangshuang had no intention to stay and continue talking with him, Lu Yuanfeng felt a bit disappointed.

At this moment, he couldn't sleep.

Yu Liulang was getting married, and he had a lot on his mind.

He wanted to talk with Shuangshuang.

Mu Shuangshuang closed the door for Lu Yuanfeng and then went out.

The next day, everyone got up early, had breakfast, and the relatives gradually started going home.

Mu Shuangshuang went to Feng Xiaohua's house to get some duck eggs, and also carried back two bags of corn, preparing to head back.

Unexpectedly, Mr. Mu, Old Mrs. Mu, and Mu Xiangxiang came over together, wanting to ride along.

Mu Shuangshuang naturally refused, there were already a lot of people on her ride, making it cramped, and adding three more people would wear the ox out.

"Grandpa, Grandma, you guys find another ox-cart, there's no room on ours with all the goods and people."

Mu Shuangshuang spoke politely, but some people just don't listen well.

Mu Xiangxiang shook her leg, pitifully looking at Old Mrs. Mu.

"Mom, I want to ride the ox-cart back, if I don't walk my legs hurt..."

"You stingy girl, how can you be so petty, your little aunt's legs hurt, let her have the ox-cart, what's wrong? We're all family, you can't stand to see us well, don't forget, your elder uncle is certain to pass the exam, if not for our family's sake, at least for your uncle's sake."

Old Mrs. Mu stomped her foot, angrily reprimanding Mu Shuangshuang.

Mu Shuangshuang rolled her eyes and shouted to Lu Yuanfeng who was driving the ox-cart, "Fengzi, let's go!"

Lu Yuanfeng whipped the ox, and it moved forward.

Before leaving, it deposited several piles of dung at the spot.

Old Mrs. Mu, her mouth twisted in anger, pointed in the direction where Mu Shuangshuang had left, cursing loudly.

She cursed until Mu Shuangshuang's figure was completely gone.

Looking at the piles of dung on the ground, Old Mrs. Mu swore she wouldn't spare that stingy girl.

Mu Shuangshuang was gone, and Mu Xiangxiang was making a fuss again, reluctantly forcing Old Mrs. Mu to rent an ox-cart.

Perhaps it was her newfound notoriety from last night, people wouldn't rent her an ox-cart no matter the price, not only that, they looked at Mr. Mu with disdain and said, "Old Fellow, you're already up there in years, it's not easy for Yu Si Niang to marry into your family, serving you like a maid. No matter what, you shouldn't skimp on her dowry money."

"No matter how poor, it's important to maintain outward appearances. We, Yu Family Village, may lack money and status, but we know that even if the bride isn't liked, she shouldn't be publicly disgraced."

Mr. Mu was so red-faced he wanted to argue, but the situation was so obvious that denying it would not only be unbelievable, it might make him seem a hypocrite.

Feeling bottled up with anger, Mr. Mu trudged back to Er Gui Village from Old Yu Family.

Once back at the village, Mr. Mu went straight to bed to rest.

Old Mrs. Mu, full of rage, went to settle scores with the third branch.

Swearing at the mountain gate for a long time without anyone responding, she eventually stormed back.

At lunchtime, Mu Shuangshuang personally went to Mr. Mu's to ask for money.

Mu Dashan and Yu Si Niang stood as her solid backing, waiting at home, ready to step in if Mr. Mu refused.

Mr. Mu was lying in bed, already dealing with pent-up frustration, now chased at home by people demanding payment.

He immediately felt like his old face was being slapped soundly.

Infuriated and unable to calm down.

"Grandpa, you wouldn't be thinking of defaulting, would you?" said Mu Shuangshuang frankly.

"You..." Mr. Mu felt like that bottleneck in his throat was getting bigger.

He opened his mouth to call Old Mrs. Mu.

Old Mrs. Mu, however, engrossed in watching the fourth branch work, couldn't be bothered.

She noticed a huge shift in the fourth branch after just one night.

There were unwashed clothes, uncleaned dishes, a cold stove, and even an empty water jar—all signs of a planned strike.

Except for Mr. Mu, Old Mrs. Mu, and Mu Xiangxiang, the other people had been sent back home by Mr. Mu overnight.

The fourth branch walked home, with Mu Xi Xia and Xiao Chu crying all the way, their throats hoarse from wailing.

Mu Dajiang and Mrs. Liu felt completely shattered.

Their cherished children treated this way, upon returning to the Old Mu Family, they sat despondently for the entire night, realizing they must change things.

So, they decided to stop doing all the work for the Old Mu Family, waiting for Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu to discuss the issue.

"Fourth Daughter-in-law, you think the world's turned upside down, refusing to do housework. How will the men of the house wear clothes? What will Xiangxiang wear?"

The last line revealed Old Mrs. Mu's true intention.

Most of those clothes were Mu Xiangxiang's.

Mu Xiangxiang changed clothes frequently, sometimes only wearing them once, not even dirty, since there was help washing them, she irresponsibly tossed them about.

If no one's washing, Old Mrs. Mu would have to find someone.

"Mother, Little Aunt should wash her own clothes. We... we in the fourth branch have too much work."

Mrs. Liu said this with a lump in her throat.

She feared Old Mrs. Mu like a mouse fears a cat.

But thinking about her daughter crying like that, she couldn't back down.

A mother's courage rises, If a mother doesn't stand up for her daughter, who will?

"Moreover, Little Aunt's undergarments have stains; during her menstruation, she should wash her own clothes."

Old Mrs. Mu blew up upon hearing that.

"Rebellious, rebellious, you insolent woman dare spit such shameless words. Have I deprived you of food and drink?"

You dare to slander my Xiangxiang, my wife today will beat you to death, and let the fourth find another woman, even a widow would be better than this wife of yours!"

Chapter 507: Dropping the Ball

Old Mrs. Mu rushed forward, trying to tear Mrs. Liu's face apart.

Mrs. Liu stepped back repeatedly, and Mu Dajiang, who had just returned from work, turned red-eyed at the sight of his mother hitting Mrs. Liu.

The man charged in, pushing Old Mrs. Mu aside.

"Mother, what are you doing?" Mu Dajiang questioned loudly.

"What am I doing? Why don't you ask what your good wife has done? Not washing clothes, not cooking, even not feeding the pigs. She thinks herself a young lady, so precious!

Let her look at her old bark-like face; what else can she do besides work?"

Old Mrs. Mu jumped and cursed.

Those words sounded extremely nasty.

Mu Dajiang stiffened his neck and responded, "Mother, why do you make us do all the work? Why don't you tell my second brother's family too? My second sister-in-law can cook and wash clothes."

"But don't give all the work to our family; we get tired too. Look at Xiaxia's mother, when does she ever rest?"

"During the Mid-Autumn Festival, she was busy alone, nobody helped, and it was clearly second sister-in-law who broke the mooncakes. Why pin it on us? Just because we're easy to bully?"

The man almost shouted as he said this.

At this moment, Mrs. Liu felt protected.

She finally understood why Si Niang always had that happy expression.

Having a man stand up to his parents for her was such a joyful thing.

But Mu Dajiang underestimated Old Mrs. Mu's level.

Old Mrs. Mu jumped up and spat at Mu Dajiang's face.

"Pah! You ungrateful thing, why make her work? Because I'm the mother-in-law, she's the daughter-in-law; it's only natural for a mother-in-law to instruct a daughter-in-law to work."

"If she won't do it, then divorce her and get a wife who will work and won't resist."

"These days, you can't find a four-legged toad, but two-legged women are everywhere!"

Old Mrs. Mu's words left Mu Dajiang somewhat desperate.

"Mother, are you actually telling me to divorce my wife?"

Mrs. Liu was also stunned, she only wanted to fight for their family's rights, not to be discarded. A discarded woman wasn't even human.

Her mother's family wouldn't accept her, her husband's family wouldn't let her return, even if her parents didn't speak ill, her sisters-in-law would scorn her to death.

"I'm not just telling you to divorce her; I'm telling you to kick that woman out immediately. Our Old Mu Family doesn't need such a troublemaking slut!"

"Mother, I won't divorce Xiaxia's mother. Our family needs her; without her, we can't do anything." Mu Dajiang shouted.

"Oh, you're killing me! You damn thing, yelling like that, do you wish this old woman to die!"

Divorcing your wife isn't up to you; it's by parental command and matchmaking words. Quickly deal with this woman so I don't have to see her!"

Old Mrs. Mu finished speaking and left, leaving the stunned Mrs. Liu and Mu Dajiang to cry together.

Mu Shuangshuang forcefully took seventy-five coins from Mr. Mu, and as she passed by the kitchen, she saw Mrs. Liu and Mu Dajiang crying intensely.

Old Mrs. Mu's voice was loud; Mu Shuangshuang pretty much heard what she said.

Usually, she would have confronted them, but last time Mu Xiaxia's matter was still stuck in her throat.

Not receiving what she deserves, Mu Shuangshuang decides not to wade into this mess again, lest she be seen as showing off.

Just as she took two steps, she was stopped by Mu Xiaxia coming out of the house.

Mu Xiaxia's eyes were swollen, it looked like she'd been crying all night.

She said, "Sister Shuangshuang, I misunderstood you before, please help my mother. I don't want my mother to be divorced!"

"Please, it was my fault before, I shouldn't have harmed you, shouldn't have been jealous of you!"

Mu Xiaxia cried incredibly sorrowfully, her tears and snot falling together.

At that moment, Mu Shuangshuang believed she was sincere and understood her mistake.

But she couldn't just help their family.

People need to grow!

"Why should I help you?" Mu Shuangshuang smirked with impatience.

Mu Xiaxia looked shocked and couldn't believe her eyes, as if she were seeing Mu Shuangshuang for the first time.

"What? Feeling I'm unfamiliar? Unfamiliar is right. Whether to help you is my right; you can't decide. Apologizing is your business; whether to accept it is up to me!"

"Moreover, shouldn't your family solve their problem? Why should I go?"

Every word Mu Shuangshuang spoke lacked emotion, yet it pierced Mu Xiaxia's heart like a dagger.

What she said, every word was true.

But if she didn't help, what would their family do?

A big question arose in Mu Xiaxia's mind.

Mu Shuangshuang knew her thoughts and spoke up.

"Instead of thinking about how others help your family, think about what you can do for them. Some things, even if my grandma says them, you don't have to do them. Don't let yourself suffocate to death!"

Mu Shuangshuang was also helpless. Old Mrs. Mu says divorce, so they divorce?

Mu Dajiang has the power to choose who is his wife, to decide whether to divorce or not.

No matter how formidable, she's just an old woman.

Furthermore, their family's role is too important.

If their family doesn't work, the Old Mu Family will collapse. After a few days, the old woman surely won't bring up the divorce.

But Mu Shuangshuang won't teach their family this.

The logic is still there, but it has to be understood by people themselves!

And she's given enough hints; saying it more directly would be like spoon-feeding them.

Time is closing in on September, if their family doesn't have enough courage now, when the main family returns, they'll surely be sucked dry.

Rather than ending with nothing left, it's better to teach them to grow now.

Mu Shuangshuang has been exhausted for their family's sake.

"I'm going back, you don't owe me, and I don't owe you!"

After finishing, Mu Shuangshuang walked away briskly.

But suddenly Mu Xiaxia felt she no longer hated Mu Shuangshuang.

Because though she said she wouldn't help, she had already given the solution.

Mu Xiaxia dried her tears and joyously rushed into the kitchen.

"Dad, Mom, stop crying, there's a way. Mom won't be divorced!"

Mu Dajiang and Mrs. Liu were stunned, wiping their tears, looking at Mu Xiaxia incredulously.

"Dad, Mom, listen to me; our family should unite, Dad won't divorce Mom, we'll ignore whatever Grandma says and won't do things we shouldn't!"

Mu Xiaxia's words left Mu Dajiang and Mrs. Liu puzzled.

They didn't understand what their daughter meant?

Mu Xiaxia continued explaining, "Mom, you're the one working here, without you, the house is wrecked. And Dad, without you going out, there's nobody working the fields. Who will carry back all that cotton?"

Mu Dajiang nodded.

He indeed did a lot of work, but before, his third brother did even more.

Since his third brother was gone, he felt it was much harder.

But if he were to also drop everything...

Chapter 508: Mu Danian's Impotence

Mu Dajiang thought carefully for a while and finally made a decision.

He walked up to Mrs. Liu and said to her, "Xiaxia's mother, I won't divorce you. Rest assured, our fourth branch as a family will stay together. If father and mother want me to divorce you, we'll break away from them."

The man's words were powerful and immediately put the worried Mrs. Liu at ease.

This man is her husband, the father of her child. She would believe him.

"Alright!" Mrs. Liu nodded heavily.

This time, the people of the fourth branch did not cry.

"So should I still do these chores?" Mrs. Liu pointed at the pile of dishes in the wooden basin.

"No, since mother wants me to divorce you, let her do these chores herself!"

With the fourth branch not working, the Old Mu Family had no one to do the chores.

"Today we'll go together to Lotus Pond River. I've fished there before. Today we'll handle our lunch and dinner there."

Mrs. Liu didn't know what would come from going out with Mu Dajiang, but she hadn't gone out happily with the whole family for a long time, and she was eagerly anticipating it.

"After a while, I'll make pancakes, and we'll bring water out too!"

The fourth branch left, and the entire Old Mu Family fell into paralysis as Mu Shuangshuang had predicted.

At lunchtime, Old Mrs. Mu came over to call Mrs. Liu to set the meal but still found the stove cold, her anger rising all the way from her feet to the top of her head, nearly making her hair stand on end.

She stood on tiptoe, angrily heading towards the fourth branch, reached it, and kicked the door of the fourth branch hard.

"Mrs. Liu, come out here!"

"Mrs. Liu, don't think that I don't know you're in there just because you're quiet. Hurry up and get out here!"

Old Mrs. Mu kept shouting, pounding on the door while calling.

The people of the second branch were already hungry and came over when they heard the noise, asking, "Mother, what's going on? Why isn't lunch being served today? I'm starving!"

Old Mrs. Mu was also furious.

She clamored loudly, "It's that lazy woman, Mrs. Liu. She isn't cooking, not washing clothes, and is trying to starve the whole family. Now she hides inside and won't come out. Today, I will skin her!"

Mrs. Lin heard these words, and her eyes rolled around.

She was very pleased to see the fourth branch having bad luck.

"Mother, I think the fourth daughter-in-law is about to rebel! Do you remember how the third branch split up? They first opposed your wishes. This fourth branch might learn from the third branch and kick us out!"

Upon hearing this, Old Mrs. Mu kicked the door even more furiously.

"Fourth, Mrs. Liu, get out here and explain clearly to me!"

Mrs. Lin chuckled secretly; she was waiting for the old lady to teach the fourth branch a lesson.

But after kicking for a long time, no one from the fourth branch came out.

Old Mrs. Mu said, "Not coming out? Do you have what it takes to never come out? If you're thinking of splitting up like the third branch, I tell you, you can split up, but you'll have to give me the house.

I won't give you a single piece of land. You can wait and starve!"

After the cursing, Old Mrs. Mu was still angry, and seeing Mrs. Lin gloating nearby made her face turn ugly.

"Mrs. Lin, what are you standing there for? Hurry up and cook! Is no one doing the housework? Why, do you want this old woman to serve you like some brood sow?"

Mrs. Lin was scolded until her face turned pale and unwillingly went to the kitchen to prepare lunch.

She was furious; these chores were obviously Mrs. Liu's tasks from the fourth branch, so why should she do it?

Thinking this, Mrs. Lin didn't even want to hold the dishes and cutlery in her hands. One slip, and the earthenware bowl fell to the ground, breaking into pieces.

Just then, Old Mrs. Mu came in to supervise Mrs. Lin's work.

"Well, well, you reckless woman, dare to break my bowl. Pay me back!"

Saying this, Old Mrs. Mu stepped up and gave Mrs. Lin a slap, swelling her face.

Mrs. Lin whimpered a few times, her hatred for Old Mrs. Mu already sky-high.

That old hag, once the fourth branch left, all she could do was stare at her.

If she really divorced that woman from the fourth branch, wouldn't all the housework be left to her alone?

Thinking of this mess, Mrs. Lin decided she must quickly find someone to take over.

"Mother, I really think we need to find a wife for the fifth. There's so much to do at home, and my belly grows bigger by the day, making work difficult. With Fifth's wife, there's someone to wash Xiangxiang's clothes, and we don't have to worry about the fourth branch pulling any tricks."

Old Mrs. Mu gave Mrs. Lin a blank look. "You sure have wild ideas. Marry a wife, where will we get the money?"

"Mother, think about it. We haven't held a banquet for so many years. Our gift money only goes out and doesn't come in. If we could host a banquet, the money for the marriage would come, wouldn't it?"

"Besides, having another person to work, what could be bad for us?"

Old Mrs. Mu thought about it and agreed; it was indeed sensible. Since she married off the second daughter, they hadn't held any banquets for years.

All these years, she had been giving, but it was unbalanced.

"Then what kind should I find for Fifth?" Curiously, Old Mrs. Mu consulted Mrs. Lin.

"Naturally, it's the last time's Bitu. Her family has three unmarried sons who will certainly help out with work when she comes, and since she's an outsider, nobody will know if we push her around."

"In any case, just a few slaps. Besides, once she arrives, maybe she'll give Fifth children, and our Old Mu Family will grow stronger."

Mrs. Lin reasoned convincingly, and Old Mrs. Mu nodded with satisfaction.

She decided to find Matchmaker Sun immediately.

Unexpectedly, Matchmaker Sun came voluntarily.

And she spoke precisely about Huang Bitā.

Mr. Mu got up from bed to personally receive Matchmaker Sun.

He also had a favorable impression of Huang Bitā.

"How do you find it? Did the Huang Family agree?" Mr. Mu asked.

Matchmaker Sun flicked her sleeves and said with a smile, "Agreed, agreed! But for the betrothal money, they're asking this amount."

Matchmaker Sun waved one hand in front of Mr. Mu.

Mr. Mu nodded.

Five taels of silver wasn't much; even the poorest peasant families had at least three taels.

Huang Bitā wasn't lacking anything and was quite good-looking. This bride price was reasonable.

But Old Mrs. Mu was unwilling.

"Five taels, why doesn't she just rob us? Our Danyan is one of the best young men in Er Gui Village, and women are fighting to marry him."

Matchmaker Sun was displeased.

"Old sister, that's not how it is. People in the village are saying your Danyan has hidden issues, like something's wrong!

A man like that is a living widow, isn't he? The fact that they aren't asking for fifty taels is already nice, and you're still complaining. Be grateful they're not bothered!"

"You... how dare you say our Danyan has hidden issues? He's perfectly fine! I warn you not to speak libel!"

Chapter 509: Kicked Out

"Hehe, elder sister, don't be angry, it's my fault, I shouldn't have said that.

Actually, whether Danyan has a hidden illness or not, it's none of our business or Miss Huang's.

This matter I mentioned initially has nothing to do with Danyan's hidden illness." Matchmaker Sun said with a chuckle.

Old Mrs. Mu and Mr. Mu exchanged glances, still puzzled.

Weren't they matchmaking for Danyan?

Why is it suddenly unrelated to Danyan?

Could it be that the Huang Family is opposed to this match?

No way, didn't they just say the Huang Family agreed, asking for five taels of silver?

"Matchmaker Sun, you're speaking in riddles, what do you mean exactly? We villagers are straightforward people, what's the point of all this mystery?"

Old Mrs. Mu rolled her eyes, looking at Matchmaker Sun with displeasure.

This old hag, always beating around the bush, took ten eggs from her, and still wants to slack off, no way!

"Okay, okay, then I'll speak plainly. Today I came to match Miss Huang with your Da Lang, I figured..."

Before Matchmaker Sun could finish her words, Old Mrs. Mu jumped up.

"What? For my grandson Da Lang? Wasn't it for my son Danyan?" Old Mrs. Mu exclaimed loudly.

"Yeah, Matchmaker Sun, we've set our hopes on Danyan. Besides, didn't you just say the Huang Family had no objections, how did it change to Da Lang?" Mr. Mu also chimed in.

"No, what I just said was, the Huang Family agreed to match with Da Lang, not your son Danyan!

Besides, wasn't it that day Miss Huang met Da Lang instead of Danyan? I thought those two kids were a good match, so why not..."

Old Mrs. Mu pointed at Matchmaker Sun's nose and cursed, "You old hag, introducing rotten goods to my son, and now to my grandson, you are trying to ruin the reputation of the Old Mu Family."

Matchmaker Sun, being scolded for no reason, turned pale with anger.

"How can you talk like that? What's a 'rotten good'? Miss Huang is pure and hasn't even been sold to your Mu Danyan. Your Mu Danyan isn't functioning, and we can't even speak about it?"

Besides, when I came as Matchmaker Sun, I only said to introduce, but didn't specify to whom I would introduce!

Your Danyan didn't appear that day, so naturally, I introduced Da Lang to Miss Huang."

Matchmaker Sun spoke with confidence.

But it infuriated Old Mrs. Mu, who picked up a broom from the door gap and threw it at Matchmaker Sun.

"Old hag, I'll beat you to death today!"

The broom landed on Matchmaker Sun, who howled in pain, retreating while shouting.

"Just wait, I, Matchmaker Sun, will make it clear today, I will never come to match for anyone in the Old Mu Family again!"

With that, Matchmaker Sun scrambled out of the Old Mu Family.

"I'm so mad, that old hag Matchmaker Sun dared to play such a trick!

And that Huang Bitao, she looks like a seductress, it's not enough to seduce my son, now she dares to seduce my grandson.

Slut, provocative woman, I will never let such a person enter our family's door!"

Old Mrs. Mu had never heard anything so absurd, clearly a daughter-in-law introduced for the son, now suddenly interested in the grandson.

This is simply outrageous.

"Alright, let's just leave it at that, Da Lang is still in town, let's not tell him about this, as for Danyan, we'll ask someone else to find him a wife."

Speaking of Mu Danyan, Mr. Mu suddenly realized he hadn't seen his son.

"By the way, old woman, have you seen our Danyan?"

Mr. Mu's house wasn't far from Mu Danyan's. Usually, when Old Mrs. Mu got up, she'd pass by to see what Mu Danyan was up to.

But today, she hadn't seen anyone at all.

By rights, he should have been back last night.

"I've not seen that rascal, he's probably hiding somewhere being lazy."

This matter originated with Mu Danyan, so Old Mrs. Mu spoke with a bit of displeasure.

"Oh, indeed, Danyan is becoming more outrageous, we can't let him do as he pleases, he'll get a proper beating when he shows up!"

Matchmaker Sun, after fleeing the Old Mu Family, immediately went to discuss the matter with Huang Bitao in Huang Family Village.

Unexpectedly, she ran into Mu Dalang returning from town at the village entrance.

Matchmaker Sun gathered her courage and stopped Mu Dalang.

"Da Lang, do you remember me, old woman? I'm Matchmaker Sun, the one who brought Miss Huang to your house last time."

Speaking of Miss Huang, Mu Dalang's heart skipped a beat, and his expression softened considerably.

"Yes, I remember, Matchmaker Sun, have you just come from my home?"

As he said this, Mu Dalang felt a bit upset for reasons he couldn't quite understand.

"Yes, I just came from your house, today I was there to discuss the match with Miss Huang."

"Oh!" Mu Dalang's emotions lowered unexpectedly.

"Ah, I have to tell you, your grandmother is so ruthless! She swelled my hand with her beatings.

You tell me, wasn't I just matchmaking you and Miss Huang, do I deserve such treatment?"

As she complained, Matchmaker Sun carefully observed Mu Dalang's expression.

If Mu Dalang agreed, then Old Mrs. Mu's words might not matter at all.

"What do you mean? Me and Miss Huang?" Mu Dalang was astonished.

Wasn't it his uncle and Miss Huang?

How did it become him and Miss Huang?

"Yes, that day I actually didn't bring Miss Huang to see your uncle, your grandparents asked me to find suitable candidates for you and your uncle, and then everyone would discuss it.

I hadn't decided yet whether to introduce you or your uncle, but when we went back that day, Miss Huang said she had a good impression of you.

So I took it upon myself to introduce you two, wasn't today the day to discuss this, who would have thought, your grandmother would actually throw me out."

As she spoke, Matchmaker Sun rolled up her sleeves, showing Mu Dalang the scars on her hands.

They were red and a bit horrifying.

Mu Dalang couldn't find the words to express his feelings at that moment.

He...

"Da Lang, tell Matchmaker Sun, what do you think of Miss Huang?"

Matchmaker Sun remembered how Mu Dalang gave Huang Bitao an umbrella and escorted her out that day. Plus, Huang Bitao was a top beauty in all of Er Gui Village.

No man wouldn't like her.

Mu Dalang lowered his head; he couldn't answer that question.

"Oh, just give Matchmaker Sun a definitive answer, if you're okay with it, I'll keep talking to your grandmother.

I don't believe, with my tongue, I can't handle one old woman!"

Mu Dalang wanted to nod, but there was a lingering bitterness in his heart.

He was all too aware of his grandmother's temper; Miss Huang was originally intended for his uncle, and she would never let her in the house.

Even if she married in, his grandmother would probably bully her like she did his fourth sister-in-law. Instead of that, it's better for her to find someone better.

Chapter 510: Want to Build a Career

"Matchmaker Sun... this matter, I can't decide, and I don't want to harm Miss Huang, I... I must go!"

Mu Dalang said, then hurriedly ran in the direction of the Old Mu Family.

Matchmaker Sun was not having it. This lad is so hesitant; clearly, he cares.

If he cares, then he must tell her, so she can find a way to deal with that old woman.

"Hey, say something, will you? Yes or no..."

Mu Dalang didn't turn back, heading directly towards

Every step felt incredibly heavy.

It felt like his feet were filled with lead.

He couldn't help but think of the scene when Huang Bitu came that day, and his mind grew even more chaotic.

Back at the Old Mu Family, Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu had already returned to normal, both tacitly not mentioning the matter, leaving Mu Dalang hopeful, yet ultimately only disappointed.

The lunch was prepared and served by Mrs. Lin. Mu Dalang noticed the fourth branch wasn't around, so he stood up, intending to call them for the meal.

"Where are you going?" Old Mrs. Mu stopped Mu Dalang.

"My fourth uncle and aunt aren't here; I'll call them to eat," Mu Dalang replied.

"Why go? Who knows where your fourth uncle and aunt have gone to. I made lunch myself; same with those bowls and chopsticks."

Mrs. Lin became more and more infuriated, her hair nearly standing on end.

But Mu Dalang ignored her and headed towards the fourth branch, knocking on the door for a while, but no one answered.

Mu Dalang thought something might be wrong inside and was about to force the door open, but reconsidered. It's unlikely all four of them would have trouble.

They must be out.

After lunch, Mu Dalang discussed what he wanted to do with Old Mrs. Mu and Mr. Mu.

These past few days, Mu Dalang often went to the town. Originally, he planned to start his career after marrying, but he changed his mind.

For now, he was no longer in a rush to marry.

"Grandpa, my idea is to bring two dairy sheep from the town, gradually expand the scale, and when the wool and milk from these two sheep are collected and make money, I'll buy one more. I believe in a few years, I'll have several dairy sheep."

What Mu Dalang learned was sheep raising, so he wanted to do business in this area.

When Mu Dalang returned, he brought two taels of silver. Even though he spent some on meat, he still had more than one tael left. This silver he didn't give to Old Mrs. Mu because he knew it was his capital to buy sheep in the future.

Originally, Mu Dalang thought of borrowing some from the family, but he completely dismissed this idea after returning.

The family only thought about themselves and wouldn't care about him.

"Buying sheep? Why sheep? Don't sheep cost money? I think working as an apprentice in town is pretty good; food and lodging are covered, and you can buy things from town when you return."

"If not, you can come back to farm. We have plenty of land at home, enough food and drink at least."

Old Mrs. Mu flatly rejected Mu Dalang's plan to build a fortune.

In her view, everything costs money, and if it costs, it's better to farm at home.

If there's spare money, it's better spent on buying more land.

Mu Dalang ignored Old Mrs. Mu and instead turned to Mr. Mu.

Making money was something for the men.

Mrs. Lin and Mu Dazhong, of course, hoped their son would do business; the farm work can be done by the fourth branch.

Their son couldn't study anymore and shouldn't be a farmer for life!

"Dad, I think Dalang's idea is pretty good; we should support it. What if he makes a name for himself? That would be the pride of our Old Mu Family," Mu Dazhong said.

"Yes, yes, our Dalang didn't study when he was young, but he can't be a farmer for life," Mrs. Lin echoed.

"You all talk so nicely. Do you have the money for business? Will you provide it? Without the skill, don't take on the task of porcelain work—what if there's no money, and our family has to sell everything to gather funds?"

"Moreover, Dalang still has to get married. Where would we find so much silver for him?"

Old Mrs. Mu kept mentioning money.

Mu Dalang looked hopefully at Mr. Mu, waiting for his words.

Mr. Mu was also financially strained.

"Dalang, it's not that Grandpa won't help you. Your grandma makes sense. Instead of spending money on sheep, it's better to honestly farm for food."

After Mr. Mu spoke, Yu Liulang stood up.

"Grandpa, Grandma, I'm full; take your time eating!"

"Dalang, how could you be full? You haven't even touched the food," Mrs. Lin said concernedly.

But Mu Dalang was determined to leave, so what use was her calling?

"Why are you hollering? Your good son spends time with the third branch and learns bad things, always thinking of leeching off family—not good!"

...

...

Mu Dalang was extremely hungry now. It had been morning when he went to town; he had left early without breakfast.

He hadn't eaten a single grain at lunch, so the hunger was natural.

After leaving the Old Mu Family, somehow, he ended up at the third branch.

Just as Mu Dalang wanted to turn and leave, Mu Shuangshuang came out to pour out some vegetable wash water and called him.

"Cousin Brother, where are you going?" Mu Shuangshuang asked.

"I'm heading back. I accidentally passed by," Mu Dalang's voice trembled slightly.

Mu Shuangshuang hadn't seen her cousin brother in days and missed him dearly. Even the Old Mu Family visited her grandmother's house for food and drinks, and even Mu Qingqing went, but he didn't.

"Since you're already passing by, have a meal with us then. We've prepared a nice lunch. Join us!"

Of course, Mu Dalang didn't want to. He wasn't there to freeload; he himself didn't know why he ended up there.

"Shuangshuang, I've eaten, so I won't eat anymore."

"Even after eating, you can have a snack. I don't believe a man can't eat three or four bowls after lunch. I always eat two more bowls after meals."

Almost forcefully dragged, Mu Dalang was brought into their home.

Mu Shuangshuang placed Mu Dalang on a chair, Xiao Han helped serve rice, Little Zhi helped pour water, and suddenly there was one more person at the table.

"Where's Fengzi?"

Once seated, Mu Dalang didn't want to be reserved anymore.

He looked around but didn't see Lu Yuanfeng.

"He's having lunch at his own home today," Mu Shuangshuang replied.

"Come, Dalang, eat more of these meatballs. They're all freshly brought from Shuangshuang's grandma's place. No one else has touched them," Yu Si Niang said as she put meatballs into Mu Dalang's bowl.

"Thank you, Aunt. I'm good; you all eat!" Mu Dalang felt a bit embarrassed. His third uncle's family was genuinely kind to him.

"Cousin Brother, just open up your stomach and eat. There's plenty at home!"

Mu Shuangshuang returned with quite a few goodies.

Most of the leftover ingredients she left at the Old Yu Family's house.

But things like meatballs, braised pork, and fried fish, she took some along; all of it can be stored for a while.