

Folly 60

Chapter 60: Truly Superficial

The egg strips are sliced, and Mu Shuangshuang boils a pot of water. Since the egg skin was fried with oil before, this time, making soup with boiling water doesn't need any oil.

She adds a handful of firewood to the stove, and the water in the pot finally starts to boil. After a while, it bubbles vigorously, pops, and the water finally rolls. Mu Shuangshuang sprinkles the egg skin strips into the pot one by one, covers the lid for a minute, and when the pot boils again, she quickly adds half a spoon of salt and a small handful of green onions.

At this moment, the aroma of the egg soup in the air covers the scent of the green vegetables, making people crave it.

Mu Shuangshuang takes a large bowl from Zhao Yun's cupboard, pours the soup from the pot into it, grabs four small bowls, bids farewell to Zhao Yun, and uses the bamboo basket she just took to carry the soup, vegetables, bowls, and chopsticks altogether.

Even though these items are borrowed by Mu Shuangshuang, she must ensure they aren't chipped or scratched.

Fortunately, when returning, the moon has reached the top, and the visibility around is much higher than when she came. Even so, Mu Shuangshuang walks towards the Old Mu Family step by step.

Just at the door, she meets Mrs. Lin coming out to relieve herself in the night. As soon as Mrs. Lin sees Mu Shuangshuang, she cries out, "Stinking girl, what are you holding? Show it to your second aunt."

Mu Shuangshuang smirks and replies, "Delicious food. You see, my dad is ill, and Aunt Xiao Yun was worried he wouldn't get enough nutrition, so she made some good dishes for him, and asked me to bring them over."

"Stinking girl, you have good food, and you don't offer it to me first. Are you tempting fate?" Mrs. Lin smacks her lips. She swears that there's definitely egg in the dish the stinking girl is holding; she can smell the aroma of eggs.

Even though Mrs. Lin has been fooled several times, deep down, Mu Shuangshuang is still that stinking girl who only hides in the corner to let Mrs. Lin scold her, so naturally, her words are not polite.

"Second Aunt, what are you talking about? What do you mean Shuangshuang is tempting fate? Don't you already know if I am?" Mu Shuangshuang rolls her eyes at Mrs. Lin, but her pace does not slow.

"You stinking girl, stop! If you dare go any further, I'll tell your grandma you're sneaking off to cook your own meals, and you'll not eat!"

"Then why don't you go, and remember to tell grandma about you secretly keeping ginger in the salt jar to make snacks for Gou Dan. I heard grandma just yesterday saying how quickly the ginger at home was used up, wanting to catch this thief!"

Mu Shuangshuang emphasizes the word thief, causing Mrs. Lin to shiver.

Mrs. Lin is fuming inside, all because of that word thief. Her five hundred coins, saved over three years, were forcibly taken by that wicked old woman, without leaving her a single penny.

"Bah, stinking girl, don't get too full of yourself, be careful not to choke on this egg soup and die!"

Mrs. Lin's rude curses stir up no waves in Mu Shuangshuang's heart, but she isn't dumb enough to just take it without responding.

"That's not your concern, Aunt. I heard this egg soup is good for well-being and makes one look younger. As for Aunt, eating bran and swallowing greens all day, your skin, tsk tsk tsk, is likely uglier than the toad crawling on the ground."

The toad has warty skin, yet Mu Shuangshuang says Aunt is uglier than that warty creature, infuriating Mrs. Lin to hop in place. She raises her hand, ready to slap Mu Shuangshuang.

"Second Aunt, try hitting me today. Don't accuse me when I tell grandma that Gou Dan said you have hidden money at home. You know grandma's temper, she'll peel your skin off, and you'll call me then."

Mu Shuangshuang doesn't want to waste any more words; if it weren't for the soup in her hands right now, she would tear Mrs. Lin's dog's face apart and let her feel what it's like to be beaten.

Mrs. Lin holds it in, not even going to relieve herself, and runs into her house, grabbing Gou Dan who's just gotten into bed, pulls down his pants, and beats him fiercely.

"That's for your loose tongue, your filthy mouth, and hiding food, you scoundrel..."

"Ah ah ah, mom..."

Poor Gou Dan, who's sleeping soundly, his butt suddenly aching terribly, making him howl miserably.

The noise naturally wakes up Old Mrs. Mu who just went to sleep; she immediately slaps Mrs. Lin, then goes to Gou Dan, shouting loudly. Gou Dan can only shrink into the corner, not daring even to sob.

Finally, peace returns to the Old Mu Family, and Mu Shuangshuang finds it a bit amusing.

She pushes open her home's door; Mu Dashan has already awakened on the bed, looking pale but with light in his eyes.

Mu Shuangshuang been gone long enough for Yu Si Niang to fetch water herself, wipe Mu Dashan, and clean the two children, so now Little Zhi and Xiao Han look clean again.

"Shuangshuang, you're back. I drew water for you, it's almost cool."

"Thank you, mom!" Mu Shuangshuang places the basket on the table, "Mom, Little Zhi, Xiao Han, hurry and eat, there's good stuff! Dad, I'll serve yours separately."

She uncovers the soup bowl, takes out the vegetables, and arranges five pieces of sugar candy cake and ten buns neatly on the table, instantly transforming the appearance.

"Shuangshuang can cook too." Yu Si Niang feels joy but also more confusion.

"Well, usually I watch when Aunt Four cooks, and gradually learned it myself."

Mu Shuangshuang calmly explains, knowing Yu Si Niang would find her increasingly mysterious, and one reason she promised Lu Yuanfeng was hoping he would help keep her secret, saying either he taught her or she learned secretly herself.

Even if Yu Si Niang doesn't believe, she has witnesses.

Mu Shuangshuang first pours the soup into four small bowls, leaving the rest in the large bowl all for Mu Dashan. He is the family's labor, now injured, so he deserves to eat more.

The large bowl mostly contains egg strips, Mu Shuangshuang uses chopsticks to transfer some to Yu Si Niang's, Little Zhi's, and Xiao Han's bowls, but doesn't put any in her own.

"Dad, do you want to drink the soup first and tear the buns and sugar cake into the soup, or eat them together directly?"

Mu Dashan opens his mouth, and Yu Si Niang hurries to support him.

"Shuangshuang's father, you're still weak, so don't talk. Let's drink some soup first, then I'll help tear the buns into the bowl."

Mu Dashan nods; he is indeed tired, even speaking is exhausting, but his stomach is empty and hungry.

"Dad, eat more, don't think about anything else, taking care of yourself is most important."

"Yes, Dad, you must get better soon, I still want to ride on Dad's shoulders, so I can see far!" Little Zhi says in a childish voice, agreeing.

And Xiao Han also nods.

The family truly needs Mu Dashan!