

Folly 721

Chapter 721: A Critical Issue

"If you ask me to leave, I just leave, wouldn't that make me look shameless?" Old Mrs. Mu rolled her eyes dramatically and retorted arrogantly.

"Do you want any dignity? This is Old Cao's house. If I won't let you stay, you can't stay."

Old Mrs. Cao had never met such a shameless relative in her life.

Just like Mu Xianxian, with a daughter who sticks to her mother's family, giving all the good things at home to her mother's family, and the mother persistently freeloading at her house.

"Old Cao's house also belongs half to my daughter. What I eat and use all come from my daughter, and have nothing to do with you, an old hag with one foot in the grave." Old Mrs. Mu said.

She wasn't afraid of Old Mrs. Cao at all. Her son was a scholar, and if he became a high official in the future, the people in Old Cao's house might even have to pay her respects.

"You... you..." Old Mrs. Cao was so angry that her mouth twisted, and she couldn't speak properly.

Unable to handle it, Old Mrs. Cao decided to let Mu Xianxian see how ugly her own mother was.

She shouted into the courtyard, "Mu Xianxian, get out here quickly, Mu Xianxian..."

Mu Xianxian was adjusting the style of her shoes in her room. Hearing Old Mrs. Cao's howling as if pigs were being slaughtered, she impatiently put down her work and went to Old Mrs. Cao's room with a face full of disdain.

Old Mrs. Mu was still arguing with Old Mrs. Cao, and the quarrel was getting more heated. Old Mrs. Cao accused Old Mrs. Mu's family of being opportunistic, while Old Mrs. Mu accused Old Mrs. Cao's son of being less capable than her own son.

The two women pulled out all stops, all to let the other know their own superiority.

Mr. Mu followed Mu Xianxian into Old Mrs. Cao's small courtyard. Normally, he shouldn't have entered a woman's courtyard.

He was also afraid that Old Mrs. Mu would lose control and cause an unmanageable scene. After all, Old Mrs. Cao was Mu Xianxian's mother-in-law, not an outsider.

If one offended an outsider, they were just offended, but someone like Old Mrs. Cao, it would be embarrassing if their child came to stay in the future.

"Mom, mother-in-law, what's going on? Can't we talk things over nicely?" Mu Xianxian stepped forward, pulling the two apart.

Mr. Mu took the opportunity to step forward and stop Old Mrs. Mu.

"Xiangxiang's mom, Xianxian makes sense. Why don't we sit down and have a good talk?"

Old Mrs. Mu snorted coldly and said, "What's there to talk about? The old hag said we're both beggars here just to get a meal."

Hearing this, Mu Xianxian and Mr. Mu's hearts both skipped a beat.

Especially Mu Xianxian, whose face turned even more unsightly. Others could say things about her family and she would just keep silent.

But when Old Mrs. Cao said it, it equated to looking down on herself. Everyone knows that although a married daughter is like water thrown out, her mother's family still matters to her.

Old Mrs. Cao didn't even realize she had said something wrong and deliberately continued Old Mrs. Mu's words.

"I said it, so what? Aren't the people from the Old Mu Family beggars? Coming to my house just for a bite to eat, our house isn't run by some great philanthropist. For a bowl of porridge, just come to our house.

If everyone did like you did, nobody would live their own lives. Everyone would just work for your Old Mu Family."

"Listen to what this old hag said, am I lying? Old Mrs. Cao, no matter what you say, I'm not leaving today. Not only am I not leaving, but I'm also staying here to feast and see what you can do to me."

This is how Old Mrs. Mu was in an argument, always more aggressive, more shameless than anyone else.

Old Mrs. Cao had never suffered such grievances. She picked up a chair from the ground and was ready to fight Old Mrs. Mu to the death. "Old hag, I'm going to teach you a lesson today and tear your foul mouth apart!"

Seeing this, Old Mrs. Mu casually picked up something to block with.

By sheer coincidence, she picked up a white vase that was placed in the corner of Old Mrs. Cao's house.

The chair and the white porcelain vase collided, as if an egg hit a rock.

"Crash," and the white porcelain vase shattered all over the ground, leaving Old Mrs. Cao completely dumbfounded.

The craftsmanship of that vase was exceptionally good, with a very fine workmanship and the natural orchid patterns on it...

"Oh dear... my heirloom vase..."

Looking at the shards all over the ground, Old Mrs. Cao wailed and cried, even Mu Xianxian was dumbfounded.

That vase was bought for two hundred taels of silver, and Old Mrs. Cao intended to keep it as the Old Cao's family heirloom.

It had always been locked in a box by Old Mrs. Cao, but yesterday a distant relative of the Cao Family came over to see the vase, so Old Mrs. Cao showed it and forgot to lock it back in the box.

She never imagined Old Mrs. Mu would enter her room, let alone break her vase during an argument.

Old Mrs. Cao sat down on the ground, slapping and shouting.

Anyone who didn't know better would think something big had happened at Old Cao's house.

"It's just a vase for flowers, what's so special about it? Look at your mother-in-law with her stingy appearance." Old Mrs. Mu said indifferently.

"Mom, don't talk anymore, that vase is worth two hundred taels." Mu Xianxian reminded Old Mrs. Mu.

Without mentioning the price it was fine, but when mentioned, Old Mrs. Cao became even more furious.

She pointed at Mu Xianxian's nose and said, "Mu Xianxian, if you don't get your mother out of here today, I'm going to report you to the government, sue your whole family for deliberately breaking my antique vase, and make you compensate."

"I spit on that broken vase. It isn't worth two hundred taels. You think it's a golden vase? I'm telling you, I'm not scared out of my wits, forget about making me pay!"

"Mu Xianxian..." Old Mrs. Cao called once more.

Mu Xianxian had no choice, if she didn't do as her mother-in-law said, things wouldn't end.

A vase worth two hundred taels could keep her mom in jail for half a lifetime.

"Mom, you and dad should go back first. That vase really is worth two hundred taels, your daughter won't lie to you."

Old Mrs. Mu still wanted to say something, but was interrupted by Mr. Mu.

"Old lady, let's go see Xiangxiang. It's so late, and she hasn't eaten yet. What if she starves?" Mr. Mu said.

Old Mrs. Mu still didn't want to leave.

"I'm not leaving. If I leave, this old woman might say I was scared of her or something. These words, I can't stand." Old Mrs. Mu said unhappily.

"Mom, do you really want to drive me to death? The vase got broken by you, my mother-in-law isn't holding you accountable already, just asking you to leave, what's so hard about that?" Mu Xianxian questioned.

"How was I supposed to know that vase was so expensive? If I'd known, I wouldn't have used it to block your mother-in-law. Besides, she was the one who moved first, hitting me with a chair. Even if it goes to the government, I'm not afraid."

Old Mrs. Mu shamelessly took it to the extreme.

No matter how much you said or persuaded, she just wouldn't leave.

She just stayed.

Old Mrs. Cao, holding the antique shards, cried until her eyes were swollen, and had to look at the shameless Old Mrs. Mu.

She delivered an ultimatum.

"Mu Xianxian, if your mother doesn't leave today, then you leave with her. I'll have my son divorce you, you better get out!"

Chapter 722: Liu Zian's Mother

The situation had reached this point, Mu Xianxian no longer held back with Old Mrs. Mu.

"Mother, if you don't leave, then return the fifty taels I lent to my eldest brother, along with the money he's taken from me over the years, the costs of Xiangxiang's stay and meals with me, including the money for the antique vase, all return them together."

Mu Xianxian, although stingy, did spend real money on the Old Mu Family over the years.

Especially for Mu Dade, she worked hard and diligently.

Back then, to raise money for Mu Dade, Old Mrs. Mu even forced Mu Xianxian to give out money.

Mu Xianxian felt she had been perfectly righteous and dutiful, but even after her elder brother became a scholar, she hadn't received any benefits from him.

If she ends up being abandoned now, Mu Xianxian would be at a loss.

After thinking it over, Mu Xianxian finally said those words.

But Old Mrs. Mu couldn't understand.

She was used to being a leech; if anyone stopped her, she'd be rude to them.

"Xianxian, I thought you had a conscience, but it turns out you don't have one, not only that, it got eaten by dogs.

Your Old Cao's house may be powerful now, but when our Old Mu Family becomes high officials, don't try to cozy up to us. I won't acknowledge you as my daughter."

After those harsh words, Old Mrs. Mu stormed out of Old Cao's house.

Mr. Mu blushed furiously.

Today's incident caused the Old Mu Family to cut ties with yet another relative.

It's fine if Dade becomes a high official in the Capital, but if not, the only relatives in the county were ruined by the old woman's decisions.

Compared with the worried Mr. Mu, Old Mrs. Mu was much more relaxed, because she believed Old Mrs. Cao would one day kneel and beg her for forgiveness.

Old Cao's house

Mu Xianxian apologized to Old Mrs. Cao, seeking forgiveness, and even promised to live frugally and gradually repay the two hundred taels of debt.

Unfortunately, Old Mrs. Cao found her completely worthless.

"Back then, seeing you help my son, I let you marry into Old Cao's house, and what happened? A mess of troubles, your family with one poor relative visiting today, another tomorrow.

Causing chaos in the house every day, who knows what sin my son committed, to be entangled with a bad luck star like you, shameless..."

Old Mrs. Cao scolded for a whole hour.

Even as her son Cao Jianmin returned from the shoe shop, she didn't stop.

Cao Jianmin usually listened to Mu Xianxian, and this time was no exception.

Seeing Mu Xianxian being scolded for a while, he said to Old Mrs. Cao, "Mother, it's just a vase, don't disrespect a scholar, even though our family is in business, we can't afford to offend high officials."

Mu Xiangxiang agreed, "Yes, mother, although my parents are ignorant, my brother is polite. Our family spent so much money for nothing, it's all for the chance to connect with my brother in the future."

"Business is becoming harder to do, with various taxes to pay, and so many shoe shops in Qingshan Town, if we don't have connections, it'll be increasingly difficult to sustain our livelihood, and my baby hasn't married yet. We really need my brother's support."

Old Mrs. Cao snorted disdainfully.

"I know what you mean, but I've found another connection, Qingshan Town's top scholar, Liu Zi'an! As long as he marries my granddaughter Miaomiao, we won't need to care about Xianxian's brother anymore.

I can tell you, whether it's Xianxian or anyone else, unless the Old Mu Family compensates me two hundred taels of silver, no one should engage with anyone from the Old Mu Family."

"What? Mother, you're not losing your mind, right? Didn't Liu Zi'an already refuse the marriage arrangement with Miaomiao and won't live with us, so why are you mentioning him now?" Cao Jianmin asked, filled with doubt.

"If you want him to live with us, of course they wouldn't agree, this time I personally went to find Liu Zi'an's parents.

No living together, Miaomiao to be their wife, not interfering in Liu Zi'an's choice of wife or concubines, nothing, as long as Liu Zi'an studies, our Old Cao's house will support him, and even provide a two-entry courtyard in the county for Liu Zi'an."

"Really?" Cao Jianmin asked excitedly.

"Of course it's true, why else would I dare say such words to Xianxian's mother?" Old Mrs. Cao said.

Mu Xianxian was excited too.

Her brother was always her brother, but her own daughter was indeed her real daughter.

Moreover, now that Liu Zi'an was a scholar, with a different status, she was willing for her daughter to be his wife or concubine.

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Far away in Liu Family Village, Liu Zi'an was also having a quarrel with his parents over the marriage issue.

This happened when Liu Zi'an wanted to help his mother with dinner preparations and overheard the conversation between his parents.

"Mother, how can you casually decide my marriage? Do you know who that Old Cao's Cao Miaomiao is?" Liu Zi'an asked.

"I don't care who she is, as long as it doesn't affect your future marriage plans, and as long as it's not that girl who came last time."

Liu Zi'an's mother from the Song Family said.

"Mother, why do you have such a strong opinion against Shuangshuang? What did she do wrong?" Liu Zi'an asked.

"Did wrong? Son, have you forgotten, when you returned a few days ago with a fever, how severe it was?"

Did you forget who popped the blisters on your feet? What was beneficial about being with that girl, other than getting hurt?"

You say you fancy someone, and of all people, you chose a rural girl. Has the education we've given you over the years gone to waste?"

The Song Family had been farming, borrowing, and saving for Liu Zi'an to have a future, to marry a city girl.

Yet their son fancied a rural girl, a girl who goes out at night with men, unable to be of good character.

So, the Song Family firmly disagreed.

"Mother, you keep calling her a rural girl, but who in our family isn't from the countryside? What's wrong with rural girls? Let me tell you, this decision isn't for you to make, she has no interest in your prized son.

She doesn't want it!"

Liu Zi'an said loudly.

This was Liu Zi'an's second time rebutting the Song Family, and both times because of Mu Shuangshuang.

"Mother, I'm telling you upfront, whether you've agreed with Old Cao's house or not.

I won't marry her, if you insist on bringing her in, then you marry her yourself; if you force me again, I won't go to the Capital for exams."

After speaking, Liu Zi'an rushed out of the house, heading into the pitch-black night.

The Song Family chased after him, but in the blink of an eye, Liu Zi'an disappeared.

She began to scream loudly.

"Zi'an..."

"Zi'an..."

Liu Zi'an's father followed out, helped the Song Family back into the house.

"Mrs. Zi'an, leave this matter, the child is grown, who he likes, who he doesn't, he understands clearly, the more you push him, the more he hurts."

"I don't care, he wasn't like this before, it's all because of that vile girl, I want to go find that vile girl!"

The Song Family was determined, when her son wasn't around in a few days, she definitely wanted to meet Mu Shuangshuang, to see what skills that rural girl had to enchant her son so deeply.

Chapter 723: Going to Town Together (Part 1)

Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu did not return for the entire night.

Early the next morning, Mu Dajiang went to find Mu Shuangshuang to ask when she was going to town and if she could stop by the town's clinic to inquire when Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu would return.

Unexpectedly, as soon as he arrived at the courtyard, he saw Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng already loading a bunch of things onto a cart, apparently preparing to go to town.

Accompanying them was Xue Zheng, carrying a small bamboo basket on his back filled with a variety of wild mountain goods such as mushrooms, black fungus, and greens.

Upon looking further, there was also a fluffy rabbit nibbling on the greens in the basket.

The group of two adults and one child, along with their belongings, presented quite an odd combination.

However, Mu Dajiang didn't have time to dwell on these things just then, as he hurried forward to block Mu Shuangshuang's path.

"Shuangshuang, are you going to town?" Mu Dajiang asked.

"Yes, Fourth Uncle!" Mu Shuangshuang nodded, while lifting Xue Zheng onto the ox cart.

On the oxcart, Mu Shuangshuang had laid some straw and covered it with a layer of worn-out quilt padding, making it quite comfortable to sit on.

Lu Yuanfeng tied the ox's rope to the cart and was ready to depart once Mu Dajiang finished speaking.

"Well... can you take a look at your grandpa and grandma in town? They haven't been home all night. I don't know if they've eaten or if they're hungry." After speaking, Mu Dajiang explained further.

"Shuangshuang, I don't mean to imply that I want to stay in the Old Mu Family. I just... I just want your grandpa and grandma to return quickly so we four families can discuss the matter of dividing the family."

Mu Shuangshuang waved her hand, showing no interest in when the division of the four families would occur.

Everyone is an adult, needing no reminders on what to do, as long as she does her part well.

Whether or not the four families split, it is up to the four families, not Mu Shuangshuang to decide.

Moreover, she didn't want anyone to mistakenly think that the division was her doing; she would not take the blame.

"It's alright, Fourth Uncle. You make the decision on this matter; others have no right to speak.

However, I may not have time to visit grandpa and grandma.

After delivering these things with Fengzi, we will return directly to Yu Family Village, as I have a pile of matters to handle at my grandmother's place."

Mu Dajiang panicked. "What to do now? Without your grandpa and grandma at home, Dazhong and Fifth are completely reckless, and the house... the house is a mess. If your grandpa and grandma don't come back soon, the place might as well be torn apart!"

Mu Dajiang's words were not exaggerated.

Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian were shouting last night about selling the valuable things in Old Mrs. Mu's room for some money to buy good food and drink.

Mu Dajiang had just scolded Mu Dazhong during the day, so it wasn't wise to say more.

"Fourth Uncle, if you're free, you can go find Grandpa and Grandma yourself. There's room for one more in Shuangshuang's ox cart, and you can join us."

Mu Dajiang blushed, hesitating for a long while before saying, "I haven't had breakfast yet, and I don't have travel expenses for the journey."

It was indeed a bit embarrassing for a man to say such a thing to a young girl.

"Fourth Uncle, please wait for a moment."

Mu Shuangshuang went into the house and after a while, came out with a golden-brown pancake and a large bowl of freshly made soy milk.

"Here, Fourth Uncle, take your time eating, and once you're done, we'll head to town together."

Mu Dajiang took the pancake handed to him by Mu Shuangshuang. It had a meaty aroma, and as he took a bite, his mouth was filled with meat. That's when he realized the pancake had meat filling.

Life was tough for rural households, and they usually only splurged a tiny bit on meat during festivals.

But the third branch seemed to eat meat often.

Mu Dajiang became more convinced that life would get progressively better after splitting the family.

After finishing the pancake and the bowl of soy milk, he was a bit full, but the taste lingered in his mouth.

"Fourth Uncle, shall we go?" Mu Shuangshuang said after allowing Mu Dajiang a little time to rest.

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Once the ox cart reached the county, Mu Dajiang got off and headed to the town clinic, while Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng took Xue Zheng to Xue Yi's restaurant.

On the way, Mu Shuangshuang had discussed with Xue Zheng that he would stay a night at the Xue Family, and the next morning, she and Lu Yuanfeng would come to town to pick him up.

At the entrance of the restaurant, Xue Yi, the owner, didn't know that Xue Zheng had arrived. It wasn't until Xue Zheng walked in that the store clerk informed Xue Yi, and he came out.

Missing for some time, Xue Yi immediately noticed the changes in his little nephew.

He leaned closer and asked Xue Zheng in a low voice, "Ah Zheng, did you have fun at Sister Shuangshuang's place?"

Xue Zheng nodded, initially reluctant to speak. Seeing Mu Shuangshuang beside him, he said, "Yes!"

Mu Shuangshuang smiled happily and said, "Xue Zheng, didn't you bring something for your second uncle and grandma? Quickly show your second uncle."

"Ah Zheng, what did you bring for your grandma?" Xue Yi asked cooperatively.

Xue Zheng took off the basket from his back and pointed to the items inside. "The rabbit is mine!"

Xue Yi laughed heartily.

"Great, your grandma will be thrilled to know you brought a rabbit."

The group went into the restaurant, and while the clerk was moving items, Mu Shuangshuang told Xue Yi about Xue Zheng spending a day at home.

Xue Yi was eager for it to happen.

The old lady was constantly worried about the child at home, fearing he would be silent if he returned and feeling immensely sad.

Now the opportunity arose, and with Xue Zheng willing to go back, why would Xue Yi object?

"Now that Xue Zheng's matter is settled, Fengzi and I will get on with our business," Mu Shuangshuang said.

"Alright!" Xue Yi nodded with satisfaction.

Watching Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng leave, Xue Yi felt he should do something in return.

After all, it was a way to thank Shuangshuang for taking such good care of his nephew.

Once Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng had finished all their errands in town, the two went to rent a horse from a livery stable, as Lu Yuanfeng had to rush to the county to call upon the Zhang Family.

Once all was settled that night, they would take Luo Xiu'er away.

The ox cart they used from the village was taken back by Mu Shuangshuang.

The two allocated their tasks and parted ways in town.

Mu Shuangshuang didn't hurry back but instead strolled around town, buying some meat, planning to make meatballs and dumplings in Yu Family Village that night.

While wandering around, she found herself in front of Xinglin Chun.

By that time, Mu Dajiang had already entered Xinglin Chun and found Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu, who had stayed up all night.

Last night, Mr. Mu, Old Mrs. Mu, and Mu Qingqing kept watch over Mu Xiangxiang, and Mu Qingqing hadn't slept all night.

She was now squatting in a corner, fast asleep.

Having slept the previous night, Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu were still quite energetic. Upon seeing Mu Dajiang, Old Mrs. Mu's first reaction was to approach and ask.

"Fourth, why are you here? Did you bring us meals?"

Chapter 724: Releasing Bad Energy (Part 2)

To save on medical expenses for Xiangxiang, Old Mrs. Mu and Mr. Mu haven't eaten a grain of rice from last night till this morning.

When hungry, they asked for some tea from the apprentices at the clinic, or watched others have breakfast.

In short, Old Mrs. Mu was faint from hunger now.

Mu Dajiang blushed when Old Mrs. Mu asked him for food.

"Mom, I... I was in a hurry to find you and Dad this morning, so I didn't bring breakfast."

Old Mrs. Mu's face immediately fell upon hearing this.

"Why come without bringing food? Why are you so lazy? There's rice and vegetables at home, why not make a bowl of food? Do you want to starve me and your Dad to death?"

Old Mrs. Mu started to make unreasonable demands again.

The person next to her who was also recovering along with Xiangxiang suddenly showed a face full of disdain.

It was the same last night, before sleeping, Old Mrs. Mu kept quarreling, not caring whether others could sleep.

When others reminded her to be quiet, she got upset and started arguing with them.

In short, Old Mrs. Mu had already offended everyone in the clinic just after one day.

And everyone disliked her thoroughly.

"Fourth Uncle, why are you here? How are my parents?" Mu Qingqing asked groggily, waking up and seeing Mu Dajiang.

Hearing Mu Qingqing mention Mrs. Lin, Old Mrs. Mu was filled with anger.

"You little brat, if you don't speak, no one will take you for a mute. When I go back, I'll make your dad divorce your mom. Your mom is a heartless old hag. Look how she cared for my daughter!"

Old Mrs. Mu cursed continuously.

Mu Qingqing didn't dare to retort and shrank into a corner, looking pitifully.

"Enough, Xiangxiang's mother, stop yelling. We are all hungry. How about taking out some money to buy a few buns? Qing stayed up all night and is tired."

Upon hearing the suggestion to spend money, Old Mrs. Mu got furious.

"You wish! Saying to spend money just like that. Once the money's gone, what about Xiangxiang's illness?" Old Mrs. Mu was bent on protecting Xiangxiang, disregarding everything else.

"Well, these copper coins aren't even enough for Xiangxiang's treatment," Mr. Mu chimed in.

"Precisely because it's not enough, we should save it. The eldest son hasn't returned yet, and the eldest daughter-in-law took off with our Mu Family's money and silver. If I don't save now, this household can't go on."

As the argument couldn't resolve any issues, Mu Dajiang suddenly said, "Dad, Mom, stop arguing. I'll go buy buns for you."

"Buy buns? Where did you get the money? You didn't take it from home, did you?" Old Mrs. Mu suddenly eyed Mu Dajiang suspiciously.

"Old Fourth, you wouldn't really have done that, right?" Old Mrs. Mu demanded.

"Scoundrel! Even stealing your mother's money. Watch out for lightning striking you."

Old Mrs. Mu was always quick to jump to conclusions.

There was no evidence, no counterarguments, only her mood. If she felt it was true, then it was true. If she felt it wasn't, then it wasn't.

Mu Dajiang blushed and rebutted Old Mrs. Mu, "Mom, touch your heart and tell me, am I the type to take your stuff? The house is indeed a bit chaotic without you, but I wouldn't act recklessly.

This money was borrowed from Shuangshuang this morning, ten copper coins in total. I'll go buy buns right now."

After a while, Mu Dajiang returned, carrying a bag of buns.

The three who had been watching over Xiangxiang lit up.

The aroma of the pork buns was really tempting.

Old Mrs. Mu rushed over and snatched the buns, opening the oiled paper.

Inside were four vegetable buns and two pork buns; vegetable buns are one coin for two, and pork buns are one coin each.

Obviously, the two pork buns were for Old Mrs. Mu and Mr. Mu.

Mu Dajiang imagined Old Mrs. Mu would give at least two vegetable buns to Mu Qingqing but, unexpectedly, Old Mrs. Mu took two vegetable buns and split them in half. She gave half of the skin to Mu Qingqing, while keeping the larger portion for herself.

Hence, all Mu Qingqing received were two halves of the skin.

Mu Qingqing looked at Old Mrs. Mu with a face about to cry.

"Grandma, I'm not full."

"If you're not full, buy it yourself. My son bought this for me. It's good enough I'm not letting you look at it." Old Mrs. Mu snorted coldly.

Mu Dajiang couldn't stand it. "Mom, Qingqing is still a child and growing. If she gets too hungry, what should we do?"

Old Mrs. Mu rolled her eyes at Mu Dajiang.

"Do you think she's a precious lady? Hungry? I was hungry for two days when I was her age, and I didn't die. Look at me now, still alive and with several worthless brats like you."

"My own sister is so seriously ill, and you don't even bring any soft porridge over. Just lazing at home during the day, you lazy bum."

One has to admit, Old Mrs. Mu's aggression was tremendous.

With a few sentences, she left Mu Dajiang speechless, unable to do anything while standing aside.

Quiet returned to the room shortly.

Old Mrs. Mu and Mr. Mu each bit into a pork bun; some of the soup spilled onto the ground.

Mu Qingqing looked at her bun with only dry skin, swallowing her saliva with hunger.

She recalled the clothes that Mrs. Liu had bought for her. If she pawned them, she could eat delicacies.

But she couldn't do it; she still hoped to rely on Mrs. Liu for good fortune.

But the buns were so fragrant, Mu Qingqing couldn't take her eyes off them.

Being stared at for too long, Mr. Mu's face couldn't hold up.

He looked at the half bun left in his hand and offered it to Mu Qingqing.

"Qing, grandpa gives you this half!"

Mu Qingqing extended her hand but was swatted away by Old Mrs. Mu.

Mu Qingqing's hand was swollen from the hit, and Mr. Mu's bun was knocked onto the ground.

Ignoring the pain in her hand, Mu Qingqing bowed her head to search for the half-bun, which was trampled to pieces by Old Mrs. Mu's foot. The smashed meat, mixed with mud, still exuded an enticing aroma beside her foot.

"Shameless thing, just like your mom Lin Xiaozao, lazy and greedy. Even saliva from others you'd eat. Why don't you just die? Standing here and embarrassing yourself!" Old Mrs. Mu roared at Mu Qingqing.

"Alright, have you cursed enough? If it weren't for Qing taking care of Xiangxiang last night, do you think we could have had a good night's sleep? Don't be thankless." Mr. Mu said displeased.

"Me, thankless? Who's really thankless? Mrs. Lin eats and wears what's mine, and see how she cared for Xiangxiang?

She's the real ingrate, traitor. Better not come back to the Mu Family, or I'll strip that bitch."

Having said her harsh words, Old Mrs. Mu continued:

"Now my daughter is lying unconscious, so I'll torture Lin Xiaozao's daughter, vent Xiangxiang's anger, why not? If you can't watch it, then don't."

Chapter 725: Solving Matters Early

"Are you even speaking like a human? Lin Xiaozao's daughter, is she not your granddaughter?" Mr. Mu was nearly infuriated to death.

At this moment, he really wanted to crack open his wife's head to see what on earth was inside, to say such foolish things.

"I don't care, right now the one suffering is our Xiangxiang, so why should Lin Xiaozao's daughter live comfortably? I'm going to torment Qing for that.

Whenever Xiangxiang wakes up, that's when I'll let the girl off, otherwise, I'll scold her every time I see her."

Enduring such humiliation from Old Mrs. Mu right in front of her, Mu Qingqing couldn't take it anymore. She covered her mouth and dashed out.

She happened to run into Mu Shuangshuang leaving the clinic.

Seeing Mu Shuangshuang about to leave, Mu Qingqing, inspired by an unknown courage, ran up and grabbed Mu Shuangshuang's sleeve.

Mu Shuangshuang frowned disdainfully.

"What are you doing?" she said.

"Why don't you go in and see Aunt? Why are you leaving? Are you guilty?"

Having been mistreated by Old Mrs. Mu, Mu Qingqing now wanted to find someone worse off than herself to make herself feel better.

And right now, that person was in front of her.

As long as Mu Shuangshuang went inside, her grandparents would definitely scold Mu Shuangshuang fiercely.

Unfortunately, Mu Qingqing underestimated Mu Shuangshuang; Mu Shuangshuang was never someone who offered herself up to be scolded.

"What I do is none of your business, isn't it? Whether I go to see Aunt is my freedom. Besides, Aunt ended up like this, it's not because of me; second aunt should be the first to care for Aunt." Mu Shuangshuang's lips curled slightly, sarcastically glancing at Mu Qingqing.

She looked at Mu Qingqing, sighing inwardly, unsure whether to say Mu Qingqing was not bright or just plain stupid.

Harboring such deep resentment in her eyes, she doesn't even know how to hide it.

This way, am I supposed to do as she says?

"You..." Mu Qingqing was at a loss, unable to find a reason to get Mu Shuangshuang inside to be scolded.

After a while, she said, "If you don't go inside, I'll immediately tell Grandma that you came to town and didn't go see Aunt. You're heartless; then let's see how you explain to Grandma."

Mu Qingqing spoke angrily to Mu Shuangshuang.

"You're right; I am heartless. Hurry up and tell Grandma, I'm still waiting to go home and cook. If it's late, it won't get done."

Mu Shuangshuang's words made Mu Qingqing roll her eyes furiously, and she almost passed out, unable to catch her breath.

By the time she caught her breath, Mu Shuangshuang was already far away.

Leaving her alone at the clinic entrance, starving until her chest touched her back.

Having not eaten all day, Mu Qingqing couldn't take it anymore, but she had no money.

Mu Qingqing stood at the clinic entrance, staring at the buns on the stall across the street, drooling.

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Mu Shuangshuang leisurely drove the ox cart toward Er Gui Village.

She wasn't staying in Er Gui Village tonight but had to take her siblings and Yuanbao to Yu Family Village.

Around midday meal time, Mu Shuangshuang arrived in Er Gui Village.

The three children hadn't gone to Zhao Yun's house to eat but gathered together, seemingly wanting to cook themselves without bothering Zhao Yun.

Mu Shuangshuang saw that they had even scooped out the rice. Little Zhi was washing the rice in the basin, carefully, afraid of spilling it.

Next to the wooden basin, there were three peeled sweet potatoes, though their shapes were rather amusing.

One large sweet potato had been peeled down to the size of a thumb, with sweet potato peel and flesh scattered all over the ground, evidently the little ones had put in effort.

Just a bit too wasteful.

"Ahem..." Standing at the kitchen door, Mu Shuangshuang coughed softly to remind the three little ones.

This time her voice startled the three little ones into holding on to each other tightly.

Yuanbao was the first to react.

"Sister Shuangshuang, you're here. Why didn't you make a sound? You scared us to death," Yuanbao said, patting his chest.

"Didn't I just cough?" Mu Shuangshuang smiled.

"You call that a sound?" Yuanbao pouted, looking displeased.

"Whoa, are you three planning to make lunch? Why didn't you go to Aunt Zhao Yun's house to eat?" Mu Shuangshuang asked curiously.

"We don't want to bother Aunt Zhao Yun. Besides, the three of us, one to tend the fire, one to wash the rice, one to stir-fry, are just right." Yuanbao said proudly.

Mu Shuangshuang knew it was Yuanbao's lousy idea.

This kid was crafty.

"Alright, let me do it; you three can do whatever you need to. Oh, and this is for you, whether before or after the meal, up to you."

Mu Shuangshuang handed the oil paper-wrapped candied haws to Yuanbao to distribute.

Yuanbao opened the oil paper and found four sticks of candied haws inside.

"Sister Shuangshuang, why are there four sticks? Brother Xiao Zheng isn't here." Yuanbao asked, puzzled.

"One is for Da Long; you can take it to him," Mu Shuangshuang said, squatting down.

The sweet potatoes, which had been peeled halfway, were still usable. Mu Shuangshuang peeled off their skin and washed them clean.

After handling the rice that Little Zhi washed halfway, Mu Shuangshuang glanced around the kitchen; these days, with Yu Si Niang and Mu Dashan not here, no one picked vegetables from the field.

The vegetables in the kitchen were also scarce, but luckily there were still two white radishes in the corner. So Mu Shuangshuang decided on an egg soup, stir-fried radish with meat, and fried cucumber skin from before for lunch.

Though it looked plain, it was nutritious enough for the children.

In a while, three steaming dishes were on the table.

Little Zhi, holding a bowl, ate and said, "Sister, Second Uncle came to our house this morning, wandering outside. Little Zhi didn't know what he wanted, so I locked Dad's room."

"Good job, Little Zhi. Did anyone else come over besides Second Uncle?" Mu Shuangshuang asked.

Little Zhi pouted, thinking for a long time, before speaking. "Fifth Uncle was hanging around over there too, just looking at Dad's room, but he didn't come over."

Mu Shuangshuang and Mu Dashan hadn't switched rooms yet.

Initially, they were going to have Lu Yuanfeng build a brick bed in Mu Shuangshuang's room and then switch rooms.

Unexpectedly, everyone got used to living as they were, and no one mentioned it.

However, Mu Dazhong's sudden visit likely wasn't for anything good.

Also, why was Mu Danian always wandering outside her dad's room? Wanting money?

It looked like tonight, she'd need to find someone to watch the house.

"Sis, I picked up our eggs and put them in the cupboard." Mu Xiaohan also said.

"I saw; one of the eggs in our soup today was one you picked."

Mu Xiaohan smiled.

Seeing Xiao Han and Yuanbao, Mu Shuangshuang thought about how she hadn't gotten the kids' schooling sorted out yet, and her uncle's situation wasn't resolved either. Suddenly, she felt dizzy.

Just hoping her uncle's issue could be resolved today.

Also hoping she could focus on helping Xiao Han and Yuanbao with their schooling.

Chapter 726: In Broad Daylight, Tired of Living?

After having lunch, it was already much later than usual.

However, Mu Shuangshuang still personally went to Tie Dao Village to ask the Huang Brothers to help her watch the house for a night.

Initially, Mu Shuangshuang was planning to ask Mu Dalang.

But ever since Mu Xiangxiang had an incident at the Old Mu Family two days ago, Mu Dalang hasn't returned.

Next month is the wedding day of Mu Dalang and Huang Bitu, Mu Shuangshuang figured he was making time for the wedding preparations.

Fortunately, the Huang Brothers are loyal friends.

When Mu Shuangshuang asked them to watch the house, they agreed without hesitation.

On the way to Er Gui Village together, Huang Da chuckled and asked Mu Shuangshuang, "Miss Shuangshuang, why haven't we seen Brother Fengzi going into the mountains to hunt these few days?"

"He's busy, why?" Mu Shuangshuang asked.

"Ahem, actually... it's like this, my younger brother and I have been wandering in the mountains these days, but we haven't caught anything decent, not even half a wild rabbit. We were thinking of inviting Brother Fengzi to go deep into the mountains to hunt big game."

The Huang Brothers make their living through hunting.

As the weather gets colder each day, it's also time for them to hustle for their livelihood.

"You'd have to wait for Fengzi to come back and ask him about it. I don't know much about the mountain matters, but recently, whenever Fengzi has free time, he roams the mountains.

I guess he's also preparing to go into the mountains to hunt. If you catch him on the way, you could indeed go together."

Mu Shuangshuang knew that usually hunting trips in the mountains take about three to five days.

During those days, they eat and sleep in the mountains, and when they come out, they can bring back lots of game.

This time, the game they bring out will be bought by many people to make cured meat.

They will serve it during the New Year to guests.

Mu Shuangshuang's meaning was already very clear. If Lu Yuanfeng goes, he would definitely take them along, so the Huang Brothers were very excited.

"Thank you, Miss Shuangshuang! Thank you!"

The three of them arrived at Er Gui Village, and the Huang Brothers asked about the situation again.

Mu Shuangshuang said, "We're all brothers here, so I won't hide it from you. The ones coming tonight should be my second uncle and fifth uncle. As for how to handle it, you decide, just don't let it turn deadly."

"Alright, my brother and I brought some Beast Traps with us. Tonight, we'll set some traps to snap their dog legs." Huang Er said with a laugh.

Unexpectedly, Huang Da punched him on the head.

"Are you stupid? I already told you, they are family. Punishment is fine, but let's not risk lives, and although I don't know about others, I do know Mu Danian from Er Gui Village.

He's an expert in shameless tactics. If you cripple his leg, he might even end up freeloading at Miss Shuangshuang's house.

In my opinion, it would be better to find two buckets, fill them with manure, and dunk them in there.

Once they're stink-dazed, throw them into the forest to freeze overnight. This way, it takes care of the problem without causing trouble for Miss Shuangshuang. What do you think?"

Huang Er nodded vigorously at Huang Da.

Mu Shuangshuang even gave Huang Da a thumbs up.

This Huang Da clearly has inherited her true cunning.

Not bad, not bad, this young fellow has potential and is quite clever.

"I'll leave these matters to you. I've left half a pound of meat and two eggs in the kitchen for you. As for vegetables, go see Aunt Zhao Yun for some — I've already spoken to her about it.

You can cook rice as you like. If you really don't feel like cooking, take these things to Aunt Xiao Yun's house to eat."

Mu Shuangshuang made sure to arrange everything before leaving.

The Huang Brothers grew even more impressed with her.

Mu Shuangshuang rode the ox cart out of Er Gui Village.

Just as she left, Mu Dazhong came running breathlessly towards the Old Mu Family's house from the village entrance.

Upon entering the courtyard of the Old Mu Family, Mu Dazhong started shouting.

"Fifth, Fifth, that wretched girl... that wretched girl is gone. I followed her all the way, and she left the village heading towards the Old Yu Family."

"Really? Are you sure you saw her leave? What about those little brats?" Mu Danian asked.

"They left together as well. Right now, no one's at the third branch. How about we go turn the third branch's house upside down now?"

Mu Dazhong was itching to search the third branch for valuable items.

In the morning, Mu Dazhong had gone to scope out the third branch but unfortunately got locked out by those little brats.

He couldn't even come up with an excuse about needing a drink of water to get inside.

"Are you crazy? In broad daylight, are you thinking of stealing from Third Brother's house? Do you have a death wish?" Mu Danian scolded.

"Then what do you suggest? With mom and dad not here, neither Old Three nor Yu Si Niang are here. We don't dare touch mom's things, so can't we touch the third branch's?"

In the morning, Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian were scouting.

It was all for what the third branch possessed.

The third branch is currently the richest among the branches after the first branch, which has Mu Dade.

Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian dared not mess with the first branch, but since the third branch had no one home, they set their sights on it.

"But not in broad daylight. If someone sees us, we won't be able to explain ourselves," Mu Danian said.

"But what if mom and dad come back tonight?"

With Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu not around, Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian became the local tyrants of the household.

On the first night, they ransacked Old Mrs. Mu's room, turning it upside down, and found some copper coins.

Judging by the condition of the coins, they guessed the old lady counted them daily, so Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian didn't dare take them.

Old Mrs. Mu's temper was something ordinary people couldn't handle.

"If mom and dad return, we'll still go for the third branch, and we can even have them testify for us, saying we did nothing."

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Mu Shuangshuang arrived at Yu Family Village half an hour before dinner.

Yu Si Niang and Mu Dashan both breathed a sigh of relief.

Yu Liulang also breathed a sigh of relief as he came up to her and said, "Shuangshuang, Sixth Uncle was worried you wouldn't make it, it's so late and you weren't seen."

"Haha, how is that possible? But Sixth Uncle, the dinner will indeed be delayed by about two or three sticks of incense time, I estimate that Fengzi's journey won't have him arriving so soon."

This time, Mu Shuangshuang calculated the travel time, including the time it would take for someone from the Zhang Family from the county to come over.

Since it has started, she intended to play along well with Luo Xiu'er.

Meanwhile,

Luo Xiu'er was busy setting things up at home, determined to ruin Feng Xiaohua's reputation tonight.

She arranged for Wang Dali to be in her room, and later, under the pretext of toasting Yu Liulang, she would spill wine on Feng Xiaohua's dress and take Feng Xiaohua to her room.

The rest she left to Wang Dali.

"Take this pill. Once Feng Xiaohua comes in, feed it to her, understand?" Luo Xiu'er instructed.

"Got it, Feng Xiaohua is mine then. Remember our agreement, the Old Yu Family's tea garden will be mine."

Chapter 727: Punching Bag

"That's only natural!" Luo Xiu'er glanced at Wang Dali.

Wang Dali looked dirtier today than he did a few days ago.

A worn and shabby outfit, emitting a pungent smell, accompanied by hair on his head that looked slick with grease.

Luo Xiu'er felt disgusted just looking at him.

However, the more disgusted she felt, the more pleased she became, because it was all prepared for Feng Xiaohua.

Wasn't Yu Liulang saying that Feng Xiaohua was pure? She wanted to turn Feng Xiaohua into a woman who everyone would scorn.

"I really like your straightforwardness, you're ruthless! Luo Xiu'er, you're definitely going to accomplish big things," Wang Dali said.

Luo Xiu'er lightly curled the corner of her lips, her eyes suddenly filled with a fierce look.

Wang Dali, feeling bored, had no idea when Feng Xiaohua would come into the room, so he simply didn't bother taking off his shoes and lay down on Luo Xiu'er's kang to sleep.

Luo Xiu'er glared fiercely at Wang Dali.

"What are you doing? This is my kang."

"What's yours or mine, aren't you going to have me and Feng Xiaohua do something later? You wouldn't let me do it on the floor, would you?"

You might want to, but I don't, Feng Xiaohua's skin is soft and tender, what if she gets bruised? This kang is so comfortable, let me and Feng Xiaohua use it, you won't lose anything.

Besides, if you have nothing to do, then get out; remember to bring me a big bowl of rice later, I need to eat to have strength, or else..."

Wang Dali was indirectly threatening Luo Xiu'er.

Luo Xiu'er squinted her eyes, thinking: Go ahead, be arrogant, be smug, after tonight, Wang Dali will have to die.

"Brother Wang, I'm just joking with you, why are you so agitated?" Luo Xiu'er lowered her voice, looking pitifully at Wang Dali.

"I have a bad temper, you'd better not joke with me, get out quickly if you have nothing to do! Stop being a nuisance here."

Wang Dali showed not the slightest hint of compassion.

But precisely because of this, Luo Xiu'er felt at ease.

This Wang Dali was not interested in her, so he certainly wouldn't be soft with Feng Xiaohua.

Everything was going according to Luo Xiu'er's plan.

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Feng Xiaohua had gone early to the Luo family's kitchen to help Luo Xiu'er with dinner.

She also wanted to see if Luo Xiu'er would tamper with the food, as Shuangshuang had said, Luo Xiu'er had a history of this, and the likelihood of her using drugs was very high.

Fortunately, Feng Xiaohua found no issues, so dinner could proceed as usual.

As dusk fell, dinner was ready!

From the Old Yu family, not as Luo Xiu'er said, the whole family didn't come; the second branch just sent Mrs. Li, along with Yu Liulang's family, Mu Dashan, Yu Si Niang, and Mu Shuangshuang.

The rest were having dinner at their own homes.

Yu Si Niang couldn't sit still; as soon as she arrived at the Old Luo family, she eagerly helped set the table and arrange the dishes.

As for Mrs. Li, since the dishes came out, her eyes had been glued to the food on the table.

If not for so many people being present, her mouth would have started watering.

Mu Shuangshuang, being the quietest person in the room, didn't say a word.

But even so, Luo Xiu'er still noticed the silent Mu Shuangshuang by the side.

At the moment she saw Mu Shuangshuang, Luo Xiu'er subtly frowned.

She really disliked Mu Shuangshuang; from the first time she met Mu Shuangshuang, she didn't like her.

Always felt that Mu Shuangshuang's presence would ruin her plans.

Mu Shuangshuang also knew that Luo Xiu'er wouldn't like her, but she wasn't anxious; she wasn't there to see Luo Xiu'er today, she was there to get back at her and seek revenge.

"Brother Liu Lang, why didn't the boy who came with Shuangshuang come?" Luo Xiu'er asked with a smile.

Yu Liulang was taken aback; he didn't expect Luo Xiu'er to ask about Lu Yuanfeng.

After pondering for a moment, Yu Liulang spoke, "Fengzi is at his own home, Shuangshuang came to pick up my brother-in-law and Fourth Sister; they'll be heading back to Er Gui Village tomorrow."

Luo Xiu'er nodded. "I saw that Shuangshuang seemed to have a good relationship with that boy; I thought he would come too."

"Not at all," Yu Liulang shook his head.

"Everyone, please take your seats; my parents should be coming out to eat soon," Luo Xiu'er said.

Mrs. Li, looking at Luo Xiu'er talking with Yu Liulang, remembered the bracelet Luo Xiu'er had given her; she had not helped Luo Xiu'er yet, so Mrs. Li decided she must help Luo Xiu'er tonight.

It's best to make Yu Liulang uncomfortable and make Feng Xiaohua heartache.

"Xiuxiu, why are you so dim-witted, wanting to go outside? Life outside isn't easy, I heard you plan to wash laundry for people; I'm telling you, it's not a good job.

Just look at your second sister-in-law's hands, how rough they are, all from washing clothes; look at your soft and tender hands, after a few days, they'll turn into old tree bark."

Mrs. Li held Luo Xiu'er's hand, stroking it back and forth.

While stroking, she praised Luo Xiu'er.

Beside her, Feng Xiaohua touched her own rough hands and felt defeated by Luo Xiu'er in this aspect alone.

Women are always like this, unable to resist comparing themselves to other women, even knowing this person has no relation with her man.

They just can't help it.

But Yu Liulang genuinely liked Feng Xiaohua, and these trivial matters were nothing to him.

He held Feng Xiaohua's hand and said softly, "Xiao Hua, we're doing just fine now, not worse than anyone."

Yu Liulang's words instantly calmed Feng Xiaohua's heart.

This, however, turned Luo Xiu'er's expression sour; yet, she had to force a smile and take care of everyone.

"Xiuxiu, don't listen to Lao Liu, that crude person's words; we women should be beautiful and clean, not dealing with those chickens and ducks all day; it's dirty and smelly, what a sight."

Mrs. Li said with a mocking expression.

Her target of mockery was Feng Xiaohua.

Feng Xiaohua's father was crippled, working the fields, farming, it wasn't as quick as a normal person's hands and feet.

The Feng family relied on Feng Xiaohua's chicken and duck rearing to make money.

The whole village, the best at raising chickens and ducks was Feng Xiaohua.

Even after Feng Xiaohua married into the Old Yu family, the family's chicken coop and duck pen were managed by Feng Xiaohua.

However, this also became a reason for Mrs. Li to attack Feng Xiaohua.

Feng Xiaohua, with a pale face, did not rebut Mrs. Li's words.

Standing by, Mu Shuangshuang sighed inwardly; her Sixth Aunt was just like her mother, bullied in her in-laws' house.

How can this be?

One has to be tougher than the wicked, clear on love and hate, to live a carefree life.

"Second Sister-in-law, what do you mean by this? What's wrong with raising chickens and ducks? Is it worse or more pitiful than anything else?"

Shuangshuang always says that no work is beneath anyone, as long as you can support yourself and don't trouble others, it's enough," Yu Liulang refuted.

Mu Shuangshuang nodded with satisfaction.

Her Sixth Uncle was still more straightforward than her father; whoever dared attack his wife would be put in her place in a moment.

"You..." Mrs. Li's face turned red.

She glared fiercely at Yu Liulang, then continued, "Who says work isn't beneath anyone? Are those beggars on the street noble? Are the 'courtesans' in the brothel noble?"

Chapter 728: Tracking

"You..."

Although Yu Liulang had known Mrs. Li's character ever since she married into the family, hearing these words he still felt a kind of helplessness.

"Second Aunt, aren't you interesting? What's wrong with beggars? They haven't eaten your food, nor received your favors.

Their profession is their own choice; they haven't stolen from you nor lied to you, so why keep holding onto them?"

Mu Shuangshuang confronted Mrs. Li directly.

She didn't care what Mrs. Li thought; she just felt annoyed hearing her words.

"There's no place for you to talk here, girl. Shut up," Mrs. Li said angrily.

"Second Aunt, your words are not right. You previously said raising chickens and ducks was dirty and smelly, not a good job.

Coincidentally, Shuangshuang also raises chickens and ducks, and she wants to clear her name. If this word gets out, no one would want to do business with her, wouldn't that be a huge loss?" Mu Shuangshuang smiled.

Mrs. Li's face turned blue and white.

Yu Si Niang tried to smooth things over. "Juhua, Shuangshuang is young and doesn't understand things. You, as her aunt, should not take it to heart.

Moreover, this is the Luo Family, and Old Sir Luo and Old Lady Luo haven't come out yet. If they see us, they'll think it's a joke.

It might even spread to the ears of the people in Yu Family Village, and then we'll all lose face."

Yu Si Niang's words were obviously protective, and though Mrs. Li was angry, she was helpless.

Fortunately, Old Sir Luo and Old Lady Luo came out.

They glanced at the large table full of dishes, with chicken, duck, fish, and meat, feeling a sting of pain in their hearts.

For the sake of a Feng Xiaohua, this would cost several hundred coins.

But thinking that the Old Yu Family's tea garden would soon be theirs, Old Sir Luo and Old Lady Luo recovered slightly.

"Don't just stand there, hurry up and eat, don't waste Ah Xiu's carefully prepared meal," Old Sir Luo ordered.

Everyone began to take their seats.

But Mrs. Li started her mischief again.

She pushed Feng Xiaohua aside and, in front of everyone, seated Luo Xiu'er next to Yu Liulang, deliberately saying, "Xiuxiu, today is your big day, you should sit in the best position, this spot is the most convenient for grabbing food."

Luo Xiu'er showed outward embarrassment, but inside she was delighted; Mrs. Li was indeed considerate.

"No, let Xiao Hua sit here, I don't mind where I sit.

Besides, today's dinner was prepared by Xiao Hua and me together; she deserves more credit," Luo Xiu'er explained.

"Oh wow, look how modest Xiuxiu is, but others may believe you, I, Li Juhua, do not.

Feng Xiaohua hasn't cooked a decent meal at home. Just recently, our genius was saying her stomach hurt after eating food cooked by Sixth Aunt."

Mrs. Li's slander left Feng Xiaohua flushed and her eyes red.

She was about to cry.

Yu Liulang wanted to argue with Mrs. Li.

But was stopped by Yu Si Niang. "Liulang, sit beside me. Xiao Hua, sit in my place."

"Sister..." Yu Liulang was displeased with Mrs. Li's false accusations and wanted to retort.

"Sixth Uncle, do as my mother says, Grandpa Luo and Grandma Luo are waiting to start the meal," Mu Shuangshuang also reminded Yu Liulang.

Previously, when Old Sir Luo and Old Lady Luo weren't present, it was okay; the bickering was just among family, plus Luo Xiu'er who was of the same generation.

But if Yu Liulang argued now, it would be disrespectful to Old Sir Luo and Old Lady Luo.

If the Luo Family spreads this, it could negatively affect Yu Liulang's reputation.

"Alright!" Yu Liulang lowered his head and sat next to Yu Si Niang, who adjusted her position, leaving Feng Xiaohua and Yu Liulang sitting together.

Seeing this, Mrs. Li pulled Luo Xiu'er to sit next to Yu Liulang.

She smugly said, "I said it, Xiuxiu and Liulang make a good match.

They even look like a couple. If Xiuxiu had been with Liulang back then, they'd probably have children by now."

Mrs. Li thought she was saying something good, but she didn't realize she had embarrassed the Luo Family.

Luo Xiu'er also looked a bit uncomfortable and suddenly remembered that Wang Dali was still waiting for her to bring him food in her room.

She stood up and said to everyone, "Father and Mother, everyone, it's my grandfather's death anniversary, and I have to prepare a meal for him every night, almost forgot tonight in the busyness. Can I take some food from the table for my grandfather?"

"Of course, Xiuxiu is so filial; she would make a good daughter-in-law. On behalf of the Old Yu Family, I approve," Mrs. Li said eagerly.

The two elders of the Luo Family had no idea what their daughter was plotting.

They only knew their daughter wanted to deal with Feng Xiaohua, and tonight's meal was a trap to ruin Feng Xiaohua.

As for how it was to be done, they had no idea, so they turned a blind eye to Luo Xiu'er taking food.

"Go ahead, your father and mother support you!" Old Sir Luo and Old Lady Luo said simultaneously.

"Alright, then I'm not going to be polite!" Luo Xiu'er said.

Luo Xiu'er finished, took a large sea bowl, and filled it with a huge serving of rice and many dishes.

Holding the large bowl, Luo Xiu'er hurried towards the backyard.

The two elders of the Luo Family instructed everyone to continue eating.

Mu Shuangshuang's eyes darted, sensing something was amiss.

Suddenly, she picked up her chopsticks and nudged them against Mrs. Li.

The chopsticks fell to the ground, picking up some mud.

"Oh no, my chopsticks fell!" Mu Shuangshuang exclaimed.

Next to her, Mrs. Li took the opportunity to scold Mu Shuangshuang. "What a clumsy thing, can't even hold onto a pair of chopsticks, go wash them!"

Old Lady Luo discreetly gave Mrs. Li a glance of disdain and helped to smooth things over. "It's alright, little girl is a guest, I'll get another pair from the backyard."

Old Lady Luo really didn't want to get up.

Forget about the Old Yu Family being surprised, even they themselves hadn't had such a feast in a long time.

Even when Luo Xiu'er came back, she didn't give her parents a penny to improve their life.

When there were outsiders, the Old Luo Family would bring out some meat for appearances, but without outsiders, they'd eat coarse grains.

Old Lady Luo was afraid that if she went away, there would only be leftovers when she returned.

"Grandma Luo, let Shuangshuang go, Second Aunt is right, Shuangshuang should wash them herself," Mu Shuangshuang said.

"Exactly, Aunt Luo, don't feel sorry for this girl. Her legs are not just for show, running errands won't kill her."

Only after Old Lady Luo was courteously persuaded did she allow Mu Shuangshuang to go to the backyard.

That night was moonless, and in the backyard, it was pitch black; Mu Shuangshuang almost got lost.

For a stranger, it would indeed be easy to stumble and bump into things in this small farmhouse courtyard.

Luckily, before coming, she asked Yu Liulang about the general layout of Luo Xiu'er's backyard, allowing her to avoid obstacles along the path with more certainty.

(Today's update ends here. Tomorrow at noon, there will be an explosive update. Also, highly recommend a farming novel by Ah Ru called "Abandoned Farmer's Wife: Farming and Raising a Bun" - very nice~ See you tomorrow noon!)

Chapter 729: Fell Into My Hands (Part 1)

Mu Shuangshuang found Luo Xiu'er's room, crouching under the window.

Listening closely to the sounds inside.

Hearing the voices of Luo Xiu'er and a man, Mu Shuangshuang became increasingly certain that Luo Xiu'er was using the same method this time as the last time to harm his Sixth Uncle.

Inside the room, Luo Xiu'er handed the prepared meal to Wang Dali.

Wang Dali took the food and started wolfing it down, while joking with Luo Xiu'er.

"You're at least a considerate woman, or else I'd starve to death. Hurry up with your part; once I finish eating, I want to enjoy that Feng Xiaohua.

If you make me wait too long, I'll just leave, and you'll handle it yourself."

Wang Dali, with his massive frame, sat on Luo Xiu'er's bed, his cheeks bulging with each word, rice grains spraying out.

Some rice even sprayed onto Luo Xiu'er's bed.

Luo Xiu'er felt nauseated but forced herself to suppress it and gave instructions to Wang Dali.

"Da Li, I'm going to say it again: later, I'll find a way to get Feng Xiaohua into the room. As soon as she comes in, cover her mouth and make her take the medicine you have in your hand.

Whatever happens afterward will naturally happen. Once the time is right, when you hear footsteps outside, make a noise, slander Feng Xiaohua however you want, understand?"

"Alright, alright, hurry up and get out, talking nonsense while I'm eating."

Luo Xiu'er reluctantly glanced at Wang Dali.

Only hoping Wang Dali wouldn't mess things up.

"Then I'll head out first!"

Outside, Mu Shuangshuang clearly heard this sentence and hurriedly walked away, almost tripping.

Luckily, she managed to reach the dining table before Luo Xiu'er.

Mrs. Li gave Mu Shuangshuang a disdainful look but didn't mention Mu Shuangshuang's presence in the backyard.

Others thought it was trivial, so they didn't bring it up.

At the dinner table, everyone started eating well at first.

Gradually, Mrs. Li said to create an atmosphere and urged everyone to drink.

Mu Shuangshuang even suspected that Mrs. Li was in cahoots with Luo Xiu'er.

Because everything she did seemed to align with Luo Xiu'er's intentions.

After three rounds of drinks, people were slightly tipsy, and at this moment, Mu Shuangshuang noticed Luo Xiu'er picking up a bowl of wine and walking to Feng Xiaohua.

Speaking to Feng Xiaohua: "Xiaohua, everything in the past was my fault, Luo Xiu'er. Please don't blame the Sixth Son. Nothing happened between me and Sixth Son. Let's put things behind us after drinking this bowl."

"Nonsense, how can you say nothing happened, they were completely undressed in the haystack, the whole village saw it," Mrs. Li said.

"Second Sister-in-law, you shut up. You're not in a position to speak here."

Yu Liulang, unable to bear it, yelled at Mrs. Li.

Mrs. Li decided Yu Liulang would only dare to scold her, not hit her, so she continued, "How dare you, Yu Liulang, do but not admit? Everyone in the village saw this, don't try to deny it, I'm telling you.

If it weren't for you and Feng Xiaohua being selfish, how would Xiuxiu act like this? Pity, such a pretty girl, having to go to the county to be a laundry worker."

Mrs. Li became increasingly unreasonable, her elbows turning outwards with each word.

Everyone from the Old Yu Family couldn't stand it any longer.

"Juhua, this is a private matter between Sixth Son and Miss Xiuxiu, you as his sister-in-law don't need to interfere, let them handle it themselves!" Yu Si Niang said.

"Juhua, this is the Luo Family, we are here representing my father-in-law and mother-in-law, let's just do it for them, you say fewer words,"

Mu Dashan, who hadn't spoken before, spoke up.

"You're Yu Liulang's sister, and he's your brother-in-law, naturally you'd protect him. I say, if Sixth Son is a man, he should marry Xiuxiu."

Mrs. Li said urgently.

Everyone's attention was attracted by her alone, and Luo Xiu'er took this opportunity, tilting her hand, pouring an entire bowl of wine on Feng Xiaohua's chest.

In farm households, people drink heartily, not like townspeople using a small wine cup.

Everyone uses bowls; a bowl holds much more than a wine glass.

And Luo Xiu'er, intending to frame Feng Xiaohua, poured the bowl full of wine.

Such a large quantity of wine poured down, soaking a large area on Feng Xiaohua's front, plus the cold of winter, made Feng Xiaohua shiver immediately.

Her upper and lower teeth clattering.

"Sorry, sorry, Xiaohua..." Luo Xiu'er, looking as if she were about to cry, said pitifully to Feng Xiaohua.

Yu Liulang stood up and used his sleeve to help Feng Xiaohua wipe it.

But no matter how he wiped, wet clothes remained wet.

"It's... it's fine." Feng Xiaohua shook her head and shivered.

"What to do, it's so cold, she needs to change her clothes," Yu Si Niang said anxiously.

"Go to my room, there are clothes in my room." Luo Xiu'er said.

Everyone thought this was the only way to solve the problem, so they agreed with Luo Xiu'er's suggestion.

Mu Shuangshuang stood up. "Aunt Xiao Hua, I'll go back and get you a change of clothes."

Luo Xiu'er was eager for Mu Shuangshuang to leave quickly.

She supported Feng Xiaohua to the backyard, and Yu Liulang wanted to follow them inside but was stopped by Feng Xiaohua.

"Brother Liu Lang, you shouldn't go in. The backyard is where Sister Xiuxiu lives."

Yu Liulang was extremely anxious; at this moment, Shuangshuang wasn't there, and he couldn't go to the backyard, wondering what to do.

Yu Liulang wasn't aware that Mu Shuangshuang temporarily changed her plan; she left the Old Luo Family's courtyard, quickly heading towards the backyard wall of the Old Luo Family, and using a large tree next to the wall, Mu Shuangshuang climbed over to Luo Xiu'er's backyard.

This time, she was experienced.

Luo Xiu'er reached the door of her room, said to Feng Xiaohua: "Little sister Xiaohua, you go inside first, I'll get some firewood from the kitchen to warm you up."

After speaking, Luo Xiu'er left, observing the situation in the dark, worried about being discovered, she walked a bit far and couldn't see clearly what was happening at her door.

The courtyard was very cold, after waiting for a while, Luo Xiu'er couldn't take it anymore.

Just then she heard the door to her room open.

Luo Xiu'er turned and went to the front yard.

She needed to time it right and bring the people from the front yard over.

The door opening sound was made by Mu Shuangshuang, though she didn't immediately enter but sent Feng Xiaohua to the kitchen, closed the kitchen door, got some coal to warm up.

As for Luo Xiu'er's room, it was left to her to handle.

Feng Xiaohua was a bit scared.

She softly said: "Shuangshuang, maybe we shouldn't mess with Luo Xiu'er, after all, she's leaving soon, could we pretend this never happened?"

"Don't worry, Aunt Xiao Hua, just ensure your safety, leave the room to me.

Listen to me, warm yourself up first, when Luo Xiu'er comes in, you go out and call people to come."

Chapter 730: Dare to Try Calling

This round, Luo Xiu'er wanted Wang Dali, that rough man, to tarnish Feng Xiaohua's reputation.

Make Yu Liulang despise Feng Xiaohua, make Feng Xiaohua lose face, be scorned by the villagers.

Feng Xiaohua was a married woman, and the crime of being involved with a man was no small matter; she would certainly be dragged out to be submerged in a pig cage by the villagers.

If her matter was confirmed, it would be even more severe than the last time Luo Xiu'er and Yu Liulang were found in the haystack.

However, Mu Shuangshuang wasn't someone to be trifled with; she planned to turn the situation to her advantage.

Just like last time when Xia Guagua wanted Wang Fugui to harm her, she replaced Xia Guagua with herself.

But this time, she intended to use violent means, making Luo Xiu'er suffer even more than Xia Guagua did last time.

Mu Shuangshuang pushed open the door with a creak, Wang Dali's throat tightened at the door's edge, his hand already raised, waiting for Mu Shuangshuang to close the door, then grab the incoming person's hands and feet and force the pill down.

After that, whoever came in could be at Wang Dali's mercy.

Mu Shuangshuang roughly gauged Wang Dali's location from the sound.

She slowly closed the door, almost at the same moment when Wang Dali rushed forward.

He reached out his hand, lunging towards Mu Shuangshuang's general direction.

However, he misjudged, and Mu Shuangshuang grabbed his wrist, flipping him over her shoulder, throwing him to the ground.

The thud was firm, Wang Dali's body slammed onto the ground, emitting a dull sound.

Mu Shuangshuang took the opportunity to kneel on Wang Dali's chest with her knee.

With a crack, as if the sound of breaking bones, Wang Dali opened his mouth, about to scream, but Mu Shuangshuang quickly shoved something into his mouth.

Before Wang Dali could taste it, the object was already down his throat into his stomach.

Mu Shuangshuang said, "Shout, go ahead and shout. The medicine you just swallowed is the most deadly poison in the world; after taking it, within forty-nine days, your whole body will ulcerate and you will die."

Wang Dali endured the pain, speaking in a hoarse, lowered voice, "Who the hell are you? Do you think this will scare me? I'm not easily scared; that's not even poison."

As soon as he finished speaking, Mu Shuangshuang slapped him, dazing Wang Dali to the point where he saw stars.

"Watch your mouth." After reprimanding Wang Dali, Mu Shuangshuang continued, "Is it poison or not? Can't you feel it yourself? Don't you think your stomach is hurting a little?"

When Mu Shuangshuang had kneed Wang Dali's chest, she'd also stepped on his abdomen, though Wang Dali hadn't paid attention.

So when she said this, Wang Dali felt a sharp pain in his abdomen.

Wang Dali's mouth twisted from the pain, becoming somewhat more subdued.

"Who the hell are you? What... did I do to offend you that you're poisoning me!"

Right now, Wang Dali was in Mu Shuangshuang's grasp, intimidated by her strength, so he dared not speak recklessly.

"You didn't offend me, but you tried to mess with the wrong person, and that's your outcome. But you won't last much longer now."

Right now you feel just a stomachache, but later you'll itch all over, more unbearable than mosquito bites. What it'll be like in forty-nine days, I probably don't need to remind you!"

Mu Shuangshuang's words were full of pressure, perhaps due to her profession in her past life.

Even a rough man like Wang Dali couldn't cause much trouble in front of her.

"Are you Feng Xiaohua's person? Are you helping her?" Wang Dali tentatively asked.

The moment he finished speaking, Mu Shuangshuang suddenly slapped him repeatedly on his face.

After a few slaps, feeling a bit tired, Mu Shuangshuang resorted to stomping.

Wang Dali cried out, but did not dare to make much noise.

Because Mu Shuangshuang had reminded him, if he dared to shout, it would cost him his life.

Although Wang Dali was a desperate outlaw and had spent ten years in prison, he cherished his life more than ordinary people.

He begged for mercy, "Spare me, female hero, if you keep hitting me, I'll die."

"It wasn't my idea to deal with Feng Xiaohua; it was that bitch Luo Xiu'er, that bitch Luo Xiu'er!

If you must find someone, find her. It was that bitch who gave me the pill, telling me to give it to Feng Xiaohua and then have me get involved with Feng Xiaohua."

"The pill? What kind of pill? Quickly hand it over to me." Mu Shuangshuang demanded.

"I don't know where the pill fell. The room is pitch black, don't you think we should light a lamp?"

Wang Dali also wanted to see who exactly dared to mess with him.

Throughout Yu Family Village, everyone fled upon seeing him.

"Why light a lamp? Wang Dali, let me tell you, don't try any tricks; your life is in my hands. Crushing you would be like crushing an ant!"

Seeing Mu Shuangshuang not falling for it, Wang Dali's eyelids twitched.

Mu Shuangshuang also didn't trust someone like Wang Dali to easily listen to her.

She had plenty of time to beat up Wang Dali.

But then things quickly took a turn, and Wang Dali suddenly felt itchy all over. He scratched once, and the itching intensified...

Gradually, he began to fear.

"Auntie, what did you give me to eat?"

"What you ate, I already told you, you probably haven't seen a person whose whole body has ulcerated. No skin left unmarred; even if dead, you'll be rotten, with no one daring to come near you, even to collect your corpse because it's too disgusting."

Mu Shuangshuang's words were like a lightning strike, leaving Wang Dali burnt out, inside and out.

He believed what Mu Shuangshuang said.

"Auntie, I know I was wrong. I will never dare to harm others again. I've already been imprisoned for ten years; I don't want to lose my life..."

After Wang Dali sobbed for a while, Mu Shuangshuang finally spoke. "I don't intend to take your life, but you have to promise me one thing. Once you've done it, meet me in the cotton field at the village entrance of Yu Family Village at midnight tonight, and I'll give you the antidote!"

In this matter, Mu Shuangshuang was really staying calm. Regarding Wang Dali, she had analyzed him ever since she understood his background.

Not easy to make him submit, but also easy to deceive.

"Remember what I said..."

...

...

In the front yard, Luo Xiu'er ate for a while longer, unaware of what had transpired inside.

She also didn't know whether she should call someone in to check at this moment.

If things were already underway, it would be ideal.

If nothing had happened, going in wouldn't make Feng Xiaohua suffer a loss, and she'd be rescued by Yu Liulang.

Luo Xiu'er decided to go check on the situation in the backyard.

"Everyone continue eating; I'll go see if Xiao Hua sister is alright."

Yu Liulang was already extremely anxious, frequently glancing towards Old Luo Family's backyard, but Feng Xiaohua hadn't appeared for quite some time.

He couldn't directly visit someone else's backyard.

Therefore, Yu Liulang could only urge Luo Xiu'er.

"Xiuxiu, please hurry to check; Xiao Hua hasn't come out for so long, could something have happened?"

Luo Xiu'er actually hoped for trouble, but she couldn't let Yu Liulang go in right now.

"Sixth Son, just wait a moment, what if Xiao Hua sister hasn't finished changing clothes?"