

Folly 781

Chapter 781: Start of Work

Mu Shuangshuang slept through the entire afternoon, and when she woke up, it was already dusk.

Just as she climbed out of bed, she saw Little Black lying at the foot of her bunk bed, with a black money pouch resting on its black and chubby belly. Mu Shuangshuang reached out her hand.

The money pouch landed in her hand.

Little Black turned over, burying its head directly into Mu Shuangshuang's blanket.

"Little one, you sure know how to enjoy life." Mu Shuangshuang mumbled to herself as she opened the money pouch.

This money pouch was a gift from her to Fengzi, so it should be the money Fengzi got from selling the jackal. Mu Shuangshuang poured out the coins and counted them, not a cent was missing, exactly twelve taels.

Adding this, Mu Shuangshuang now had eighty taels of silver in her hands.

In an ordinary farming family, this would be considered a huge sum, but for Mu Shuangshuang, it's far from enough to become wealthy.

She got up and put away the silver. These days, the money at home was no longer hidden by Little Black. The little thing eats too much and can no longer fit into the mouse hole.

Fortunately, she had Little Black retrieve all the silver from the mouse hole a few days ago.

After dinner, Mu Shuangshuang lit an oil lamp in her room. She counted the silver again and then used Xiao Han's paper and pen to write and draw on it. One sheet was about notes for building the school.

The other was about the operation of the restaurant and various situations.

It wasn't until dawn that she sorted everything out.

Time flew by, a few more days passed, and the weather warmed up, melting the heavy snow.

The village folks began moving around outside again.

The news that the Third Branch of the Old Mu Family was going to build an academy in the village quickly spread.

Everyone crowded into the third branch every day as if watching a circus, wanting to get a glimpse of what's going on.

Early one morning, Mu Dashan, along with a few familiar men, went to the abandoned house at the village entrance to demolish it and dig the foundation.

This project had already received permission from the village head, so everyone worked without hesitation.

There was no worry about being suddenly interrupted.

Mu Shuangshuang went to the abandoned house as well. Due to the incident with Wang Fugui, no one came here anymore.

The wild weeds grew waist-high, but by the time she arrived, more than half had already been cleared.

Seeing Mu Shuangshuang, Mu Dashan put down his work and approached her.

He said, "Shuangshuang, I sent a message to your sixth uncle; he estimates he will be here today or tomorrow.

Additionally, Da Lang told me that the three brothers of the Huang Family are willing to help us build the academy."

Mu Dashan had a smile on his face. He had never expected so many people to scramble to help with the Third Branch's project.

Some even offered their help without payment.

Of course, wages will be paid. Mu Dashan just wanted to find honest people who were willing to work.

"Dad, this time building the academy might turn out profitable for us. Also, about opening the restaurant, Fengzi and I discussed that it should be postponed until after the New Year.

It's the end of the year, the restaurant business is booming. If the restaurant in town is to be sold to us, they might raise the price."

She's not a rich person, and these few silver taels were saved by the family through hard work.

She also hasn't negotiated with Xue Yi yet.

Because Xue Zheng still wanted to stay a few more days with the Third Branch.

"Alright, I'll do what you say. Anyway, I listen to you," Mu Dashan said.

"In that case, I'll head back now. I'll prepare a hearty lunch for noon today, and at that time, please call those uncles and brothers over to eat, alright?" Mu Shuangshuang asked.

Mu Dashan naturally had no objections.

"By the way, Shuangshuang, why haven't I seen Fengzi?" Mu Dashan asked.

Under normal circumstances, Fengzi and his daughter were inseparable. But Mu Dashan only saw his daughter and not Lu Yuanfeng, so his curiosity was understandable.

"He said in two days, on the twelfth, he will hunt a wild boar and bring it as a token gift," Mu Shuangshuang explained.

December twelfth was Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng's betrothal day. At this time, Lu Yuanfeng didn't need to bring all the betrothal gifts because the wedding date was not set.

However, if Lu Yuanfeng really hunted a wild boar and brought it as a token, it would be the first of its kind in Er Gui Village, and the Third Branch would be the envy of others.

Mu Dashan laughed, his mouth couldn't hide his joy.

He almost forgot about Fengzi and his daughter's betrothal day.

"Betrothal is a wonderful thing. Once you two are betrothed, I can proudly introduce Fengzi as my prospective son-in-law."

Everything has a name, and although Mu Dashan considered Lu Yuanfeng his prospective son-in-law, there was nothing to prove it.

But once betrothed, it's different.

Even if Mu Dashan showed off, others couldn't criticize him for being shameless.

Mu Shuangshuang also blushed. She gave Mu Dashan a reproachful look and then said, "Dad, I'm heading back. By the way, Da Lang cousin is getting married six days after my betrothal, so we mustn't neglect the preparations we should make."

It seemed that during this time, the Old Mu Family truly had many joyous events.

Mu Dade passed the imperial exam, Mu Xiangxiang got engaged, although Mu Xiangxiang's engagement banquet was more like a joke, at least the villagers got a meal.

Not to mention Mu Shuangshuang's own engagement and Mu Dalang's marriage.

However, Mu Shuangshuang didn't plan to invite the villagers to a meal like Mu Xiangxiang's engagement.

She just wanted to invite a few close friends to have a meal and have the matchmaker say a few auspicious words.

Everything else should be kept simple.

"Regarding Da Lang's marriage, I've spoken to your mother. She's still sewing the wedding quilt for your cousin," Mu Dashan said.

Mu Dashan had a deep fondness for this nephew, and he certainly wouldn't forget the important occasion of his marriage.

"Isn't that supposed to be done by my second aunt? Why is my mother doing it?" Mu Shuangshuang asked.

"Oh, your second aunt doesn't like Miss Huang, says she's bad luck, and refuses to make her a wedding quilt.

But these things must be prepared. Otherwise, Miss Huang will be looked down upon, and even after marrying, she'd be pointed at and gossiped about."

"Your cousin was afraid that Miss Huang would be bullied, so he hired someone in the village to help sew it. When your mother found out, she took over the job, saying it's to save your cousin some money for the wedding," Mu Dashan explained.

Mu Shuangshuang understood. Her mother was being kind-hearted.

Thank goodness it was her cousin; if it were someone else, she'd definitely stop it.

"Alright, I won't say anything about it. I'll go back and see if I can help my mother. But I feel that even before Miss Huang marries in, she's already being bullied by Second Aunt. Her future won't be easy."

Mu Shuangshuang said frankly.

Chapter 782: Stop Glorifying Yourself

Mu Dashan sighed deeply and continued, "Da Lang and Bitu truly like each other, and that's enough. No matter how hard life gets, as long as the two children unite their efforts, they'll overcome any difficulty."

Mu Dalang and Huang Bitu's situation is somewhat similar to when Mu Dashan married Yu Si Niang back then. Old Mrs. Mu didn't like Yu Si Niang either and constantly gave Yu Si Niang a hard time.

Plus, Yu Si Niang, just arriving at the Old Mu Family, had quite a fiery temper and was a bit proud, so Old Mrs. Mu made Yu Si Niang do everything.

At that time, it was truly difficult!

Now, in the blink of an eye, more than ten years have passed, the third branch has split, and Si Niang and he have managed to pull through.

So Da Lang and Huang Bitu can also pull through.

Mu Shuangshuang nodded, "Let's hope so. But I believe in my eldest cousin. Since he's taken that step, he'll definitely protect Sister Huang."

"It's getting late, Shuangshuang, go home and cook."

After finishing, Mu Shuangshuang quickly ran towards the third branch of the Old Mu Family.

...

...

The news of the third branch wanting to build an academy in Er Gui Village reached the ears of other members of the Old Mu Family, and everyone gathered to discuss how to handle this matter.

"Dad, I feel that it's because Old Mu is following that stupid girl's lead, thinking that opening an academy is such a big deal that it can be opened just like that.

None of them in the third branch are educated, so who will be the teacher? Isn't it relying on eldest brother, the scholar, to support them?"

Mu Dazhong shouted the loudest, insisting that the third branch wanted to open an academy to benefit from Mu Dade's reputation.

This made Mr. Mu and Old Mrs. Mu feel uncomfortable.

Their son's fame being used by others for free, where does that logic come from?

"Eldest brother, say something yourself. The third branch opening an academy might still need you to be the teacher."

Mu Dade didn't say anything, which worried Mu Dazhong. He didn't care about the third branch's real intentions; anyway, while the second branch hadn't made its fortune yet, the third branch shouldn't have good days.

"Exactly, eldest brother, you remain silent, are you planning to help the third branch?" Mu Danian asked.

"No problem, when third brother separated from the family, he did so decisively. Now I'm a scholar and haven't given him any benefit. If using my reputation can help third brother's family open an academy, then it's me helping my brother."

Mu Dade appeared to be the embodiment of brotherly love and respect, giving the impression that Mu Dade was accommodating to his brothers while they were sharp and sour, eager to take advantage of him.

Hearing Mu Dade's words, Mr. Mu, who originally didn't want to get involved, was determined to go see what was really going on.

Thinking so, Mr. Mu stood up and said, "I'll go ask Old Mu about the reason. If they're indeed using eldest brother's reputation, I'll make Old Mu stop building the academy."

Also, Da Lang's wedding is impending, everyone should prepare the necessary things, and on Da Lang's wedding banquet, the Qin Family will bring Qin Shijie to apologize to Xiangxiang."

On Mu Dalang's wedding day, all friends and relatives will come to the Old Mu Family. At that banquet, the mistakes of the Qin Family will be clarified to restore the Old Mu Family's dignity and cause those who scolded the Old Mu Family to regret their words.

It's a win-win situation.

When it came to Mu Xiangxiang, Old Mrs. Mu's eyes darted around, promptly saying: "About the academy, I should talk to Old Mu. As for Da Lang's wedding, second son's wife, I've entrusted you to handle it. How's the preparation coming along?"

Mrs. Lin pursed her lips; she didn't like that Huang Bitu at all, so why would she prepare for Bitu's wedding?

But of course, Mrs. Lin couldn't say that outright, especially since that old lady cared so much about it.

"Mom, I'm preparing so that Da Lang can have a joyous wedding."

Old Mrs. Mu listened and nodded satisfactorily.

Everything can be forgotten, but this matter must not be forgotten. Huang Bitu belongs to Wang Laoda, and once she enters the family, things for the eldest branch will get better and better.

"Since tasks have been assigned, everyone should get on with their duties.

The whole family needs to partake in Da Lang's wedding preparations.

It's only a few days away; no matter how hard it is, everyone must persevere." Mr. Mu surveyed the room then addressed everyone.

Everyone nodded perfunctorily but didn't take it seriously.

...

...

After lunch, Old Mrs. Mu went to the third branch and happened to stop Mu Dashan, who was carrying a hoe, on his way to the village's abandoned house to do clearance work.

If you want to build an academy, you need to demolish the abandoned house and then dig the foundation on that plot of land. These tasks aren't particularly skillful but require oversight.

Today is just the first day of building the academy, those who have a good relationship with Mu Dashan have gone, and Mu Dashan himself doesn't want to slack off.

"Mom, you... What are you doing?" Mu Dashan asked somewhat nervously.

Old Mrs. Mu, hearing this, visibly frowned.

"Just coming to see you, isn't that allowed? You are my son; why look at me as if I'm an enemy? Do you dislike me that much?" Old Mrs. Mu said, her tone full of bitterness, not sounding pleasant.

Mu Dashan waved his hands repeatedly.

He was nervous mainly because the issue with Mu Xiangxiang hadn't been resolved yet, and now his mother came, he thought it was about Mu Xiangxiang.

"Mom, I still have to go ahead and dig the foundation. If you really have anything urgent, can it wait until I return?" Mu Dashan said.

"I'm here to ask about the academy thing. What exactly are you up to? No money, no teacher, are you really planning to use your eldest brother's reputation to make money in the village?" Old Mrs. Mu said.

Mu Dashan replied, "Mom, what are you saying, how am I leveraging eldest brother's name to make money? Xiao Han and Yuanbao have reached school age, and sending them to town to study is too far.

But without schooling, they'll spend their lives as farmers, so we, the third branch, discussed it and decided to build an academy."

Mu Dashan patiently explained to Old Mrs. Mu, seemingly seeking her approval.

To his surprise, Old Mrs. Mu was full of sarcasm.

"Old Mu, others may not know what you're capable of, but I, as your mother, do. Don't waste your energy on something that won't succeed." Old Mrs. Mu bluntly rejected Mu Dashan's efforts.

She didn't forget to warn Mu Dashan, "Old Mu, remember, the current glory of the Old Mu Family relies on your eldest brother's favor. Never do anything that would shame your eldest brother, understand?"

Old Mrs. Mu's words made Mu Dashan feel inexplicably cold.

The things he was doing were considered to bring shame to his brother.

And what about his brother pushing Xiangxiang into the fire pit, what kind of matter is that?

Chapter 783: Unless You Give Me a Kiss (Part 4)

"Mom, I have something to do, so I'll leave first."

Mu Dashan gripped the hoe tightly, wanting to leave.

Old Mrs. Mu was startled upon hearing this; she looked at Mu Dashan, noticing his strange expression, as if he was avoiding something, making Old Mrs. Mu more suspicious.

"Old third, don't think you can stay silent and let this matter pass. Anyway, if I find out that your third branch did something behind my back that wasn't loyal to your elder brother, I, as your mother, will not be polite."

Having warned Mu Dashan, Old Mrs. Mu continued with a snort, "Your sister has improved quite a bit these days, I've calculated the time, you will send Xiangxiang away on the day Da Lang gets married."

"Mom, I can't agree to this!" Mu Dashan shrank his head slightly and gathered the courage to speak.

Regarding Mu Xiangxiang, Mu Dashan initially decided to sacrifice himself to help Mu Xiangxiang, but his mother's attitude today chilled his heart, making him feel it wasn't worth it anymore.

"Hmph!" Old Mrs. Mu stomped fiercely, displaying an enraged expression, glaring at Mu Dashan while scolding, "Did your family's troublesome girl say something to you?"

"I knew it; in this lifetime, this old woman has been defeated by that little beast, raising sons who do not listen to themselves but are deceived by a little brat, utterly embarrassing our Old Mu Family."

Old Mrs. Mu, this person, can't keep a good appearance for a day.

Previously, she cried her heart out in front of Mu Dashan, hoping Mu Dashan would help her.

Now, with Mu Dashan showing slight defiance, Old Mrs. Mu was like a monkey whose tail had been cut, jumping around incessantly.

"Mom, if there's any issue, come at me; Shuangshuang hasn't said anything. If you really care for Xiangxiang, you shouldn't agree with dad and elder brother's intent.

Since you've agreed, you should act on your words; showing one thing publicly and doing another secretly, once discovered, you'll only be laughed at." Mu Dashan boldly said.

"You little bastard, lecturing your old mother now, watch if I, the old lady, don't beat you to death." Old Mrs. Mu shouted and then jumped, slapping Mu Dashan across the face. Mu Dashan didn't dodge the slap and took it directly.

Old Mrs. Mu wanted to further discipline Mu Dashan, but was stopped by Zhang Yutou who happened to come over.

Zhang Yutou pulled Mu Dashan away from Old Mrs. Mu's sight, comforting Mu Dashan along the way.

"Da Shan, although we are not blood brothers, there is no difference between us and real brothers. Honestly, as sons, we should be filial, but there should be limits; excessive pandering becomes foolish.

The actions of the old lady over these years, we all see it. Everyone knows how Da Shan has treated the old lady.

Now that the old lady doesn't cherish you as a son, why do you take everything upon yourself?"

Zhang Yutou, as an outsider, shouldn't have said these words having no standing.

But over the years, his brotherly bond with Mu Dashan wasn't false; even if criticized, he still wanted to remind his brother.

Mu Dashan said nothing, carrying the hoe as he continued walking towards the abandoned house in Er Gui Village, Zhang Yutou, not angry, followed cheerfully behind him.

When they arrived at the abandoned house, the Huang Brothers, Mu Dalang, Zhao Gouzi, along with Da Hu and Brother Da Niu from the same village invited by Lu Yuanfeng for work, had already started.

The tiles on the abandoned house were removed, the planks on the roof taken down, while hemp ropes were tied at various corners of the earthen walls.

The abandoned house was to be demolished and rebuilt, then a foundation laid and a house constructed.

After a whole day's hard work, they finally tore down the abandoned house, leaving Mu Dashan and the hired men exhausted yet gratified.

Everyone hoped that one day, their sons would be studying on this land.

That truly exemplifies the saying, planting trees for future generations to enjoy the shade!

...

...

In the blink of an eye, it was the twelfth day of the twelfth lunar month, the day Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng were engaged, and early in the morning, the courtyard of the third branch became particularly lively.

A black wild boar was placed inside Shuangshuang's house courtyard.

The entire Er Gui Village gathered to join the fun since no family brought a wild boar for a betrothal.

The wild boar was alive, tied on two long benches, letting out deafening roars.

Everyone believed it was a good omen, this third branch girl and Lu Family grandson were a perfect match!

Mu Shuangshuang was inside the house making breakfast, a few flips with the spatula in her hand were enough to finish a dish.

Lu Yuanfeng assisted Mu Shuangshuang by fueling the stove, the youthful boy's handsome features held traces of tenderness.

He always took the opportunity while tending the fire to marvel at the girl bustling around at the stove.

Such enthralled gazes were so intense, anyone seeing them would be astonished.

Lu Yuanfeng was straightforward and didn't know how to hide his thoughts, so each covert glance at Mu Shuangshuang was often caught. After several instances, Mu Shuangshuang herself felt embarrassed.

"Fengzi, stop staring at me, the food is going to burn," Mu Shuangshuang said, blushing.

"I want to keep looking; our Shuangshuang looks so nice, am I not allowed to look?" Lu Yuanfeng replied.

In all honesty, Lu Yuanfeng wasn't lying; just half a year ago, looking like nothing but skin and bones, she gradually filled out.

Her face gained flesh, not to mention her chest starting to show curves.

As her body recovered, her face turned rosier, Lu Yuanfeng had never seen a girl as fair as Shuangshuang.

Moreover, Mu Shuangshuang had always had delicate features, and as she filled out, her features became more prominent, truly making her the beauty of Er Gui Village.

A few days ago, someone came with a marriage proposal but was rejected by Mu Dashan.

Mu Dashan's daughter, could only marry Lu Yuanfeng.

"What makes you so glib?" Mu Shuangshuang playfully reprimanded Lu Yuanfeng, her eyes full of curiosity and puzzlement.

"I'm telling the truth, Shuangshuang... I like you!"

The young boy's confession happened occasionally, but each instance was with utmost sincerity, never as a joke, nor as lip service.

Throughout the whole day, Lu Yuanfeng felt he would smile from ear to ear.

"Alright, go help my mom with the guests, you're not needed here." Mu Shuangshuang put down the spatula and went to the stove mouth, urging Lu Yuanfeng.

Lu Yuanfeng stood still, blushing, and after a while, looked at Mu Shuangshuang before responding, "I'll go... but only if you give me a kiss!"

Mu Shuangshuang was stunned; she stared dumbfounded at Lu Yuanfeng, hardly believing he said those words.

She opened her mouth to say something, but Lu Yuanfeng lowered his head suddenly, drawing her into an embrace...

Chapter 784: One Family, Two Styles (Part 1)

Mu Shuangshuang increasingly felt that Lu Yuanfeng was quite shameless, becoming more brazen in his actions.

Even though he knew there were many villagers watching the wild boar in the yard, he still dared to kiss her openly.

At this moment, Mu Shuangshuang was quite distracted, and Lu Yuanfeng, holding her, seemed somewhat dissatisfied. Not satisfied with just kissing, he started nibbling directly.

Mu Shuangshuang: "..."

After the kiss ended, Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng were both breathless, especially Lu Yuanfeng, whose eyes seemed to contain a fiery flame that was so intense, it could be felt just by gazing into them.

Mu Shuangshuang was startled; she wasn't a child and understood what Lu Yuanfeng's gaze meant.

After all, he was full of youthful vigor, and Mu Shuangshuang wouldn't believe he didn't have any thoughts whatsoever.

But now, Mu Shuangshuang felt troubled.

This body is only fourteen years old, no matter how open-minded she was, she couldn't do such things.

Mu Shuangshuang blushed and reminded Lu Yuanfeng, "Fengzi, some things we have to let happen naturally, also... also, you..."

The remaining words, Mu Shuangshuang couldn't bring herself to say.

Lu Yuanfeng's hand naturally grasped her shoulder, saying softly, "Shuangshuang, I'll go out first!"

Lu Yuanfeng suppressed the emotions churning in his heart, took a deep breath, put on a smile, and went out to help Yu Si Niang greet the villagers.

Mu Shuangshuang picked up the spatula again and suddenly felt her lips hurting. After touching them, she realized the skin was broken.

She softly hissed in pain and couldn't help but complain internally, "This silly boy never knows his strength; next time I definitely won't let him touch me.

Even if it's pigskin, it can't withstand his careless nibbling; it hurts so much..."

In the courtyard of the third branch, the appearance of Lu Yuanfeng made everyone start teasing him.

Someone said, "Fengzi, you're always seen with Da Shan's eldest daughter; maybe you two are thinking about getting married. When will you invite us for some celebratory wine?"

Lu Yuanfeng replied politely, "Shuangshuang and I plan to be engaged first, so the village knows we're destined to be married.

As for the wedding date, it hasn't been set yet, but once I achieve success in my career, I'll bring the betrothal gifts to marry Shuangshuang."

Lu Yuanfeng spoke openly, and everyone felt comfortable hearing this.

It is rare to find a young man so willing to take responsibility; truly, they were getting old.

"But this Shuang girl is getting prettier and prettier; Fengzi, you've got a great deal!" someone else said.

"Yes, who would've thought, the village's ugliest brat has now become one of Er Gui Village's top beauties, even more beautiful than Old Mu Family's eldest daughter, raised as a rich lady."

Chatting and laughing, Yu Si Niang stuffed fruits and snacks into the villagers' hands.

Even the wild boar was offered at a discount to the villagers, ten coins per pound, with a bowl of pig's blood gifted to each household.

Once these words were spoken, the villagers were even happier, loudly blessing the engagement of Lu Yuanfeng and Mu Shuangshuang.

Of course, there were also people sighing and expressing mixed feelings.

"Everyone, tell me, they're from the same family, but what happened with Mu Xiangxiang's engagement banquet? The groom didn't show up, and Old Mu Family's explanation was lacking. I heard even Granny Chen, the cook, was punished by Old Mrs. Mu."

The villagers loved gossip; any past incident, if not overshadowed by another, would become the topic of their mealtime conversations.

"Isn't that right? Granny Chen vowed not to cater to Old Mu Family's red and white events, not only that, she rallied those nearby who do this kind of work to boycott Old Mu's family events."

"I heard Mu Dalang is getting married soon. Without cooks, let's see what cold dishes and leftovers Old Mu's family will serve us."

As they talked, the stories became more exaggerated, yet their smiles didn't diminish.

...

...

Far away in Liu Family Village, Liu Zian wasn't feeling well either. Three days before the engagement banquet, Mu Shuangshuang sent a message to Liu Family Village, informing Liu Zian of the events over this period.

Mu Shuangshuang had found another scholar to teach, this time a certified one, assuring him not to worry.

As for his classmate Chen Sheng, Mu Shuangshuang would no longer invite him to teach, hoping Liu Zian would truthfully inform Chen Sheng if asked about it.

Regarding the engagement banquet, Mu Shuangshuang indicated that if Liu Zian came, she would make delicious food for him, and if he didn't, she would still appreciate his blessings from afar.

On the night of hearing the message, Liu Zian fell ill.

Not just a minor illness, but one that left him bedridden, coughing non-stop, his face a sickly yellow.

Liu Zian's mother, Song Family, consulted a village doctor and sent someone to Mu Xianxian's house in town, requesting a town doctor, yet Liu Zian's condition didn't improve.

However, the doctor told Song Family that Liu Zian had a heartache, and only a remedy for the heart could cure it.

Song Family immediately thought her son was missing a little enchantress from Er Gui Village again.

Nowadays, the Liu Family's days were better; Liu Zian had become a scholar, and the neighbors had gifted many items. Additionally, their familial ties with Mu Xianxian's future in-laws, the Cao Family, had brought even more gifts from Old Cao's house.

Overall, Song Family was now singing songs of liberation, living well, and feeling as though floating.

Early this morning, after lying for several days, Liu Zian got out of bed.

Mu Shuangshuang's engagement, he had to go see, even if it would hurt him, he had to go.

Song Family prepared Liu Zian's morning medicine and upon entering saw him dressing, initially believing he planned to take a walk outside after being bedridden.

Unexpectedly, drawing closer, Liu Zian said, "Mother, I have to go to Er Gui Village and might not be back tonight."

Although Liu Family Village wasn't far from Er Gui Village, traveling back and forth would take some time.

Liu Zian intended to ask Shuangshuang some questions today.

"You can't go, being this ill, going out? Do you want to die?" Song Family forcefully grabbed Liu Zian's clothes, confronting him.

"Mother, please don't interfere with this, I know my own body." Liu Zian said and firmly broke away from her grasp.

Song Family's complexion changed.

Before, her son didn't follow her words slavishly, but neither would he brush off her hand like that.

But now, everything seemed different.

"Liu Zian, I don't care what business you have to see that little vixen today, bottom line, I disagree with you leaving!"

Song Family was strong-willed and disliked Liu Zian opposing her.

Her dominance became increasingly evident since Liu Zian passed the scholar exam.

She denounced Mu Shuangshuang as a little vixen, belittling her, but pressing Liu Zian like this naturally led to some backlash.

Chapter 785: Buying Meat

"Mom, can you stop calling her a vixen? I have nothing to do with Shuangshuang.

She didn't seduce your son, nor did she give your son any hope. She doesn't like your son at all!"

Liu Zian was extremely emotional, especially when Mrs. Song kept calling Mu Shuangshuang a vixen, as if she wanted to trample Mu Shuangshuang underfoot.

"You still say it's not for that wretched girl. Zian, you weren't like this before. Why did you change after meeting that wretched girl? You're not listening to your mother anymore, I'm really a failure..." Mrs. Song covered her face and started crying.

Liu Zian's father was naturally weak, and it was always Mrs. Song who made decisions.

Even when he knew Liu Zian liked Mu Shuangshuang, Liu Zian's father never uttered a word.

In Mrs. Song's view, it was Liu Zian's father not fulfilling his responsibilities, and now the couple has quite a few conflicts. But no matter how many conflicts, Mrs. Song always puts Liu Zian first.

"Mom, I've told you already, for some things, it's not that I'm being disobedient. It's that your son has grown up.

In the past, your son felt that he should be oblivious to outside matters and focus on studying the teachings of saints. But gradually, your son realized that sometimes those saintly teachings can't solve real problems.

Shuangshuang said something right, if a house can't be cleaned, how can you clean the world? If I want to stand taller, I must improve my capabilities!"

After saying this, Liu Zian walked out of the Liu Family's courtyard with a pale face.

But he ultimately didn't attend Mu Shuangshuang's engagement party. He had been lying on the bed without eating or drinking for days, and after getting up this time, he collapsed just after leaving the courtyard.

In the end, it was Mrs. Song who used her full strength to drag Liu Zian back to the bed.

This incident made Mrs. Song even more resentful towards Mu Shuangshuang. She made up her mind that once her son wakes up, she would go to Er Gui Village to teach that little vixen Mu Shuangshuang a lesson.

...

...

The engagement celebration of Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng became liveliest at noon. At that time, a wild boar weighing two to three hundred pounds would be slaughtered after lunch in the third branch, and villagers could buy pork here at ten coins per pound.

Most villagers had not yet bought pork for cured meat, and this time they could buy it from Lu Yuanfeng.

Each household had a limit of ten pounds, which is one hundred coins.

Even people from other villages who heard this news came over.

Just after lunch, Lu Yuanfeng brought out his slaughtering tools. It would take some time to carve up the two to three hundred pound wild boar.

By this time, many people were already standing in the yard of the third branch, all waiting for Lu Yuanfeng to finish slaughtering the pig so they could pick some good meat for cured meat.

Of course, the main reason was still the scarcity of meat.

So many people came, but the pork was limited.

Lu Yuanfeng was Mu Dashan's son-in-law, and this fat pig belonged to Mu Dashan. He wouldn't end up not saving some pork for Mu Dashan.

After Mu Dashan took a portion, the rest was for everyone else. If people weren't eager about this, then what else would be worth being eager for?

The Old Mu Family also heard the news. Ten coins per pound of meat is something everyone in the village desires, even the Old Mu Family.

Old Mrs. Mu took out three hundred coins from her pocket. This was the money to buy thirty pounds of meat. She put it on the table and asked Mr. Mu his opinion.

"Old man, do you think thirty pounds of meat will be enough for us to eat during the New Year?"

The Mu Family had a large number of people, and since Mu Dade passed the imperial examinations, Old Mrs. Mu wasn't stingy. This time she wanted to buy more meat.

It was actually quite worthwhile. If it were other families buying pork for cured meat during this season, the price would definitely start at eighteen coins.

By buying thirty pounds, the Old Mu Family would save two hundred forty coins, which would take several months of work at the docks to earn.

"Old woman, didn't you hear Fifth just say that every household is limited to ten pounds of meat? While you took out three hundred coins, people might not be willing to sell it to you." Mr. Mu puffed on his dry tobacco, feeling this matter was unreliable.

"Old man, are you crazy? This wild boar was caught by the Lu Family's boy as an engagement gift for Shuang as part of the third branch.

During the festival season, Old Three should show filial respect to us. This is the first year. If he doesn't show filial respect, I'll certainly speak about his lack of filial piety in the village."

Villagers treasure their reputation, and if word of Mu Dashan being unfilial spreads, he would find it hard to live in Er Gui Village.

Mr. Mu thought about it and agreed.

They're still paying money, and selling to outsiders is just selling anyways. Why not give a discount to family members?

"But you can't do this. Leave it to the second son's wife. Just say it's for Da Lang's wedding."

Mu Dalang's marriage was entirely entrusted to Mrs. Lin, and by the twelfth month, Mrs. Lin hadn't prepared the items needed for the wedding banquet. Giving it to Mrs. Lin was the best choice.

"Alright, I'll call that lazy second son's wife!"

After speaking, Old Mrs. Mu widened her eyes and searched around for Mrs. Lin before finally finding her in the kitchen, secretly eating sweet potatoes.

"Well, you lazy woman, not doing your work but knowing how to eat. I've been wondering why there are fewer sweet potatoes in the basket every day; turns out you've been eating them. Let me skin you!"

Old Mrs. Mu picked up a bundle of firewood from the adobe enclosure and whipped it onto Mrs. Lin.

Mrs. Lin was in so much pain that she rolled on the ground, pleading for mercy.

"Mom, I know I was wrong. I was just hungry and couldn't help it. I won't do it next time, I won't..."

"Will there be a next time?" Old Mrs. Mu snapped sternly.

Mrs. Lin immediately recoiled in fear, muttering, "No next time, absolutely no next time..."

"Hmph, I reckon you don't have such audacity. Over at the third branch, the Lu Family's boy caught a wild boar, and they are slaughtering it right now. Go over there and look, and buy thirty pounds.

Remember, it's ten coins per pound of pork. If you buy wrong, I'll beat you to death!"

Old Mrs. Mu threw three hundred coins onto Mrs. Lin's face, snorted with both arms akimbo, and walked out of the kitchen.

Mrs. Lin was hit hard. Covering her face, she groaned for a while. Then she picked up the coins tied with twine from the ground, counted them carefully to confirm it was indeed three hundred coins, and her mouth widened with a smile.

After being part of the Old Mu Family for more than a decade, this was the first time she received such a large amount of silver from the old woman. Mrs. Lin blinked, her mind contemplating whether to keep the money for herself.

After thinking for a long time, she decided to first go to the third branch and have a look.

When Mrs. Lin reached the third branch, Lu Yuanfeng was just bleeding the pig, collecting the wild boar's blood in a large wooden bucket.

Looking at the bucket of pig blood, Mrs. Lin felt her mouth watering.

The Old Mu Family hasn't had meat for a long time. If she were one of the third branch, she'd be able to eat this wild boar until next year.

"Fengzi, hurry up and deal with the wild boar, we're all anxious to buy some meat!"

Chapter 786: Competing for Business

As soon as the villagers saw Mrs. Lin, they urged Lu Yuanfeng to hurry up.

They seemed worried that Mrs. Lin might use some privilege.

Lu Yuanfeng didn't think much of it, he de-haired, skinned, and was busy as ever.

At this moment, Mu Shuangshuang finished her work in the kitchen and came out to help. Seeing the crowd of villagers, she smiled.

"If everyone wants to buy meat quickly, it's best to line up. That way, when Fengzi finishes cutting the meat, there won't be any chaos when everyone buys it."

Mu Shuangshuang quickly counted in her mind; about twenty people had come this time. Even if each person bought ten pounds, that totals over two hundred pounds.

The wild boar was said to be over two hundred pounds, but actually, it should be over three hundred pounds. Even if everyone in the yard buys ten pounds, there will still be about a hundred pounds left, so there's no worry about supply.

It's just that everyone wants to get the meat first, which is why they all crowd together.

Mrs. Lin saw Mu Shuangshuang and smiled flatteringly, "Shuang, sell me the meat first, will you? I need thirty pounds for your big cousin's wedding."

Mu Shuangshuang frowned and hadn't spoken yet when the villagers started jeering.

"Old Mu's second daughter-in-law, you were the last to come here, why should you stand before us? Besides, Fengzi said each household is limited to ten pounds. Isn't it breaking the rules for you to want thirty pounds?"

"Exactly, just because someone in your family passed the provincial exam, you think you can cut in line? Protocols are protocols, and they need to be followed."

Mrs. Lin listened, dug her ears in front of everyone. "What did you say? I couldn't hear you?"

Shuang is my niece, and I'm her second aunt here to buy meat, do I need your approval? Is this meat yours?

Why are you all spouting nonsense out here? If you're jealous of me being Shuang's second aunt, then just say so. Who set the rules anyway?"

Mrs. Lin spoke confidently, as if she was certain about the third branch's obedience.

"Second Aunt, you'd better go to the back and line up. Fengzi is a man of his word. If he says ten pounds, then it's ten pounds. The rule of first come, first served was set by those before us. We should respect it and not break it."

The villagers, hearing Mu Shuangshuang's words, spontaneously formed a long line.

Mrs. Lin was still indignant, "Shuang, I'm your second aunt. If I don't have this privilege, who does? Besides, your milk told me to buy the meat. Do you think I have money to buy meat?"

Mrs. Lin directly brought Old Mrs. Mu into it with her words.

At least in Mrs. Lin's eyes, Old Mrs. Mu had never been at a disadvantage with Mu Shuangshuang.

"Second Aunt, privilege is not something everyone has. You said my milk told you to buy the meat, but this meat isn't hers. Shuang is getting engaged today and doesn't want to quarrel with you. If you want to buy meat, line up. If not, you can leave!"

There was a hint of amusement in Mu Shuangshuang's eyes as she lowered her gaze, silently cursing Mrs. Lin as a sticking plaster that couldn't be shaken off nor scared away.

"Hmph, just you wait, I'll get your milk to beat you!" Mrs. Lin finished speaking and stormed off towards the direction of the Old Mu Family.

Lu Yuanfeng paused with the knife in his hand, just as he was about to say something, Mu Shuangshuang came over to him and picked up the scale nearby, "I'll weigh the meat for you, ladle the pig's blood, and collect the silver. Just cut the meat according to what the villagers need."

With Mu Shuangshuang's help, Lu Yuanfeng could naturally feel more relaxed and didn't need to worry about any mistake with the money.

"Alright!"

Everyone's eyes fell back on Lu Yuanfeng, who was holding a large knife and scraping the fur off the pig back and forth. In a short while, the black pig was mostly de-haired.

"After buying the meat, call me over to ladle the pig's blood, don't forget," Mu Shuangshuang reminded the villagers.

The villagers took Mu Shuangshuang's words to heart. At this time, it was tense, and everyone was focused on the meat, so there was less chatter.

In a moment, Lu Yuanfeng had almost finished processing the pork, and half of it was cut and placed on the door panel.

Lu Yuanfeng first set aside things like pig's feet and ribs and then placed the knife down, waiting for everyone to come up one by one for their meat.

Basically, everyone asked for ten pounds. By the time every household in the yard had bought their meat, only about thirty minutes had passed.

After a short rest, more people came to buy meat.

The third branch's courtyard was lively with meat selling, but the King Ermazi family, known as the pig slaughtering household, was exceptionally quiet.

They had just slaughtered a three-hundred-pound pig, but no one came to look. In the past, around this time, the gates of Old Wang's family would be trampled down.

King Ermazi was pacing anxiously, looked back at his sign that said eighteen coins per pound but still couldn't figure out what was going on.

"Could it be that I've set the price too high, and the villagers can't afford it?" King Ermazi muttered to himself.

"But that can't be right. It's always been sold for this price, and this year's harvest is much better than last year's. Logically speaking, those villagers should be able to afford it."

The sun shone on King Ermazi's heavily lined face, a supposedly warm feeling, but to him, it was terribly vexing.

He walked back and forth incessantly as if an abscess had formed on his foot.

After a while, his son Wang Gousheng came rushing in, out of breath.

"Dad... Dad... I know what's going on. The village girl is getting engaged to the Lu Family's boy today. This morning, he carried a live wild boar to her house as a token.

After lunch, that Lu Family boy slaughtered the pig in the third branch's courtyard, selling it at ten coins a pound. Naturally, others won't buy our pig meat."

Upon learning the reason, King Ermazi's face suddenly turned the color of liver.

"Good for you, Mu Shuangshuang, not only did you swindle me out of two ounces of silver beforehand, causing me to lose two pigs, but now you dare to disrupt my business too.

Son, quickly call your mom, gather our kin, grab our gear, and our whole family will head to the third branch. I need to see if this little demon is really set on fighting me, King Ermazi!"

King Ermazi was fuming. Since he understood things, he had been selling pork in Er Gui Village. There used to be many hunters coming to the village to sell meat, but their prices were much higher than his, so it never affected his business.

He would just turn a blind eye to it.

But now, someone dared to undercut his price. It was blatantly making things difficult for him, King Ermazi.

"Okay, Dad, I'll go gather people right now!"

Wang Gousheng was excited; he hadn't fought with anyone in a long time, and he was itching for it. Today, he had to teach that village girl a lesson to show his prowess!

Chapter 787: Clarifying Thoroughly

When Wang Erma's family of seven or eight arrived at the Third Branch of the Old Mu Family, they were armed with carrying poles and hoes.

The only ones at the Third Branch were Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng, while Mu Dashan was digging the foundation at the abandoned house, and Yu Si Niang was helping to clear out the wooden planks and tiles from the abandoned house.

Those that could be used were intended for the construction of the academy.

After all, this plot of land, along with its debris, was claimed by no one.

So, in terms of manpower, the Third Branch was at a significant disadvantage.

When Wang Erma's family reached the courtyard gate of Shuangshuang's house, they kicked it open; the old gate creaked and then broke into several pieces under Wang Erma's foot.

With a loud "clang," the villagers buying pork in the courtyard were startled and all turned their eyes toward the Third Branch's gate.

Once inside, Wang Erma began shouting loudly.

"Mu Shuangshuang, you shameless dog, get out here! Have you lost your mind? How dare you steal my business, Wang Erma! Don't you know who I am? Get out here..."

Seeing that it was Wang Erma, the villagers buying meat quickly stepped aside.

Seeing Wang Erma's aggressive approach, it was clear he was trouble. Lu Yuanfeng put down his cleaver and stepped forward.

"If you have something to say, just say it. What's the point of insulting people?"

"You little rascal are just a dog beside that stinky girl; you're involved in this too, don't think you can escape.

Since I was sensible, I've been slaughtering pigs in the village. But you, selling at ten coins per pound, you're just trying to take away my business, to ruin me."

Wang Erma glared at Mu Shuangshuang, his eyes filled with anger.

Mu Shuangshuang wasn't afraid and shot back at Wang Erma, "On what grounds do you say we're stealing your business? On what grounds do you say we're ruining you? Uncle Wang, speaking and acting can't just rely on a silver tongue; everything must be reasonable and justified!"

"You still want to deny it? Tell me, why are all the villagers buying pork from you? Why are so many people gathered in your courtyard?" Wang Erma angrily pointed at the villagers.

"Isn't it because you stinky girl deliberately set a disruptive price, selling pork at ten coins per pound when it should be eighteen? You dare say you're not doing it on purpose?"

Seeing Wang Erma acting like a cornered dog, Mu Shuangshuang chuckled to herself, "I have a clear conscience about today's business, and besides, similar things have happened in the village before. When Old Master Wang's family gave birth to Wang Fugui, they slaughtered pigs for the entire village.

The village chief also distributed pork to every household when he became village chief, and when the Zhang Family moved to the county, they invited everyone in the village for pork before they left.

Now I'm just engaged, sharing my joy with the villagers, is that not allowed? Moreover, I'm not giving it away for free, I did charge everyone money.

If they're buying meat to make cured meat, ten pounds is far from enough. As for why they're not buying from you, don't you know in your own heart?"

In this era, there was no concept of unfair competition. Although Mu Shuangshuang's method affected Wang Erma's business, it couldn't possibly stop him from selling a single pound of meat.

Er Gui Village wasn't small, with dozens of households up and down, and people outside the village were also Wang Erma's customers.

But Wang Erma was notorious for his stinginess, often selling the same prime meat for 16 or 17 coins, when it was only 15 coins in town. Besides, he often sold pork that had been sitting for days as fresh meat to the villagers.

The villagers suffered but sometimes, when guests arrived or during festivals and they couldn't make it to town, they were forced to buy from Wang Erma.

Mu Shuangshuang's business thrived today not only because of the low prices but mainly because her pork was fresh, and the weights were accurate.

When you walk the night path often, you'll eventually meet ghosts; likewise, Wang Erma often shortchanged people, and sooner or later, the villagers would retaliate.

"I don't care about what you said, I only know that you selling pork today affected my business with the big fat pig.

You'd better hand over all the silver you earned just now, or I'll have someone smash your Third Branch's shabby house."

Wang Erma's menacingly muscular build and fierce eyes caused the villagers to gradually move towards the Mu Family's courtyard.

Luckily, the courtyards were connected, and a few timid ones had already slipped through to inform Mr. Mu, hoping he'd come to help.

After all, the Third Branch was still part of the Old Mu Family; Mu Dashan bore the Mu surname.

"Mother, didn't I say that stinky girl would face retribution sooner or later? She wouldn't sell me pork, and now look what happened.

Wang Erma is here for sure to take away all the Third Branch's pork and even demand every penny they made from selling pork to calm his anger," commented a family member.

Old Mrs. Mu snorted coldly; she didn't care about this matter. She only thought it was time for the Third Branch to get a lesson.

Mr. Mu stood up, "Second, Fifth, Fourth, all of you go and take a look. If Wang Erma dares to fight, stop him. No one outside should bully our Old Mu Family!"

Everyone in the main hall was startled, and Mu Dazhong protested discontentedly, "Dad, are you crazy? That stinky girl didn't sell us a single pound of pork, and you still want us to stick our warm face to her cold a~~?"

"Exactly, Dad, don't waste your sympathy. In my opinion, the Third Branch deserves to have their house torn down and their things taken!" Mu Danian agreed.

Meanwhile, Mu Dalang and Mu Dajiang said nothing and directly left the main hall of the Old Mu Family, heading straight for the Third Branch's courtyard.

"All of you shut up and help now!" Mr. Mu shouted.

"Don't go, I say you're not going!" Old Mrs. Mu interjected.

"The Third Branch hasn't shown me, an old woman, any respect. I've already avoided cursing them, and now they want help from me? No way!"

Old Mrs. Mu's words kept Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian from acting.

But out of sheer curiosity, Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian still rushed towards the Third Branch.

At this moment, the Third Branch's courtyard was filled with tension, with everyone still arguing based on reason.

Wang Erma insisted on taking the silver that Mu Shuangshuang's family earned.

Previously, Mu Shuangshuang sold two hundred pounds of pork, which was about two taels of silver, a significant sum, which Wang Erma understandably coveted.

"Stinky girl, have you thought it through?" Wang Erma exclaimed.

"Yes, I have," Mu Shuangshuang grinned, adding, "and not a cent will I give you. If you don't step out of our Third Branch's courtyard, don't blame me, Mu Shuangshuang, for not being polite."

Chapter 788: Injured Someone with a Slash (Part 1)

Mu Shuangshuang's eyes were fixed on the big machete on the chopping board, and if Wang Erma dared to make a move, she would definitely let Wang Erma know what disgrace and suffering truly meant!

Yet, Wang Erma was an ignorant one. Backed by the fact that he had brought many people today and was the only butcher in the village, he started creating a ruckus recklessly.

"Gousheng, what are you waiting for, smash it for me, if you don't smash it to pieces, don't stop!"

As soon as he finished speaking, several people holding hoes and carrying poles rushed up.

Lu Yuanfeng blocked four by himself, while Mu Shuangshuang picked up the machete from the chopping board and started swinging it around.

Seeing Mu Shuangshuang pick up the knife, Wang Erma's emotions became unstable, "You shameless girl, born but not taught, see how I'll destroy you today!"

Wang Erma swung the hoe at Mu Shuangshuang with great force, and if it landed, it would surely make a huge hole in Mu Shuangshuang's head.

But Mu Shuangshuang dodged, and the hoe hit the big wooden tub in the yard used for slaughtering pigs, breaking it into several pieces, and Mu Shuangshuang immediately moved behind Wang Erma and kicked him in the back.

Wang Erma was kicked and flew, his body landing heavily on the broken pieces of the wooden tub.

Wang Erma howled in pain on the spot, and seeing Wang Erma target Mu Shuangshuang, Lu Yuanfeng's eyes turned red.

He clenched his fists, enduring a hit from Wang Gousheng's cousin's pole, and then grabbed the pole from him.

He then pressed it against his own knee, and with a crack, the pole broke in two.

Wang Gousheng's cousin was instantly terrified; the ease with which this boy broke a pole—how strong must he be?

If it landed on him, wouldn't it crush his bones?

Before he could react, Lu Yuanfeng's punch sent him sprawling to the ground.

Wang Erma had just gotten up from the ground when Lu Yuanfeng kicked him hard, and this time, Wang Erma was sent flying again.

The remaining people were not even a threat, and soon the yard echoed only with the painful howls of the Wang Family members.

"Get out of this yard!" Lu Yuanfeng shouted harshly.

The relatives the Wang Family brought quickly ran off, afraid of being hit by Lu Yuanfeng again.

For a moment, the yard was filled only with the groans of Wang Erma and his family.

Wang Erma lay on the ground sprawled out like a turtle, while Wang Gousheng couldn't get up after taking a punch from Lu Yuanfeng, leaving only Wang Erma's wife, trembling on the ground.

Lu Yuanfeng didn't touch her because he doesn't hit women.

"Are you still not leaving?" Lu Yuanfeng asked again.

At this moment, Mu Dalang and Mu Dajiang came by to help out, seeing the chaos in the third branch's yard and the Wang Family's three members lying on the ground groaning incessantly.

Both Mu Dalang and Mu Dajiang sighed in relief, glad that nothing too serious happened.

Mu Dalang approached, and his first reaction was to ask Mu Shuangshuang, "Shuangshuang, are you all right?"

Mu Shuangshuang shook her head, "I'm fine, but I don't know what got into Wang Erma to cause trouble today!"

On the day of her engagement, Mu Shuangshuang didn't want to be shouting or fighting; she just wished to walk around the village with Fengzi after dinner and have a chat.

"It's good that nothing happened, it's good nothing happened!!"

Mu Dalang was still somewhat fearful, but now he needed to reassure Mu Shuangshuang, "Shuangshuang, don't worry, we came because Grandpa asked us to assist, we the Old Mu Family will not let any Tom, Dick, or Harry bully us.

Wang Erma, you better remember, Shuangshuang is one of our Old Mu Family, just see if your own family has the ability to confront the only scholar's family in Er Gui Village!"

At this moment, Wang Erma was holding his stomach, groaning continuously, not caring about what Mu Dalang was saying.

When Wang Erma came, he was all proud and now he was equally miserable.

Mu Shuangshuang's rigid expression softened slightly, "Thank you, eldest cousin!"

"Why thank me, aren't we family, it's only right to help, isn't it, fifth brother?"

The onlookers of Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian stepped out from the crowd.

Shamelessly taking credit, Mu Dazhong stood by, yet didn't forget to curse Wang Erma:

"This Wang Erma is just no good, daring to even touch our Old Mu Family, in my opinion, just beating him is letting him off easy, he should be sent to the government, stand trial, and spend life in prison!"

"Exactly, even daring to touch our niece Shuangshuang, he must have eaten a bear's heart and leopard's guts, Shuang, don't be afraid, we've got your back," Mu Danian said, arms crossed in a defensive pose.

Mu Shuangshuang was bewildered, since when did Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian become so easy to get along with and have her back?

Mu Shuangshuang said nothing, and Mu Dazhong assumed she didn't believe him, so he walked over to Wang Erma and kicked him in the face twice.

"You filthy thing, what are you looking at? Get out of the third family's house, and if I see you again, I'll beat you again."

Wang Erma and Mu Dazhong had grievances too; using two sick pigs, dressed up as good ones and taken to the Old Mu Family, was Mu Dazhong's plan.

As a result, in the end, Wang Erma didn't end up making money; instead, he lost two taels of silver.

Wang Erma hated Mu Dazhong, just like he hated Mu Shuangshuang, and now Mu Dazhong's unscrupulous cursing only deepened that hatred.

Mu Dazhong was still cursing Wang Erma, not noticing when Wang Erma got up from the ground and grabbed the butcher's knife Lu Yuanfeng placed on the board, slashing towards Mu Dazhong's head...

"I'm going to kill you..." Wang Erma shouted fiercely as the butcher's knife was about to land on Mu Dazhong's head.

Mu Dazhong was petrified, his pants suddenly turning wet.

With a thud, Mu Dazhong was kicked aside by Mu Shuangshuang, but the knife's blade still lightly grazed Mu Dazhong's back.

"Ah..."

Someone screamed, causing everyone in the yard to start running in all directions, Mu Dazhong's back clothes were torn, exposing the skin beneath, and blood began oozing from the wound!

"Ah, second brother, your back is bleeding." Mu Danian shouted.

Mu Dazhong began to wail, "Oh my dear mother, it hurts... oh, it's killing me..."

The instigator Wang Erma, holding the butcher's knife, continued rushing towards Mu Dazhong.

At this point, Wang Erma had lost it; slashing at Mu Dazhong gave him the same feeling as when he normally slaughtered pigs in the pen, with a slice going in white and coming out red.

"I will kill you..."

Chapter 789: Randomly Claiming Relatives

Wang Erma was subdued by Lu Yuanfeng, his foot stepping on the hand Wang Erma used to commit the crime.

Mu Dalang and Mu Dajiang stepped forward, grabbing hands and feet, then used the rope they just tied a wild boar with to tie up Wang Erma like a zongzi.

"You dare to hurt my dad, I'll beat you to death!"

After making sure Wang Erma was securely tied, Mu Dalang started punching Wang Erma's face frantically.

In a flash, Wang Erma's face turned into a pig's head, everyone was focused on teaching Wang Erma a lesson, leaving Mu Dazhong crying on the ground with tears and snot, unattended.

It was Mu Shuangshuang who found it too noisy and reminded, "Big Cousin, you should go invite Grandpa Zhang, I'm afraid Second Uncle will bleed to death like this."

Only then did Mu Dalang stop, he ran out directly from the third branch, heading towards Zhang Huai Shu's house.

The words about bleeding to death reached Mu Dazhong's ears, and Mu Dazhong blacked out and fainted directly.

Mu Dajiang quickly said, "Fifth, let's carry Second Brother to the second branch, lying on the ground like this isn't a solution."

"I can't carry him, Second Brother's size, don't you know?" Mu Dalian said with some disdain.

Everyone knew that Mu Dazhong was the fattest in the whole family, with a belly bigger than a winter melon in the field.

If he had to carry his Second Brother to the Old Mu Family, he'd be exhausted to death, wouldn't he?

"No matter his size, he's our Second Brother, stop shirking responsibility!" urged Mu Dajiang.

Mu Dalian had no choice, he stepped forward, and the two men squatted down, using all their strength, barely moving Mu Dazhong an inch.

But that inch was enough to move Mu Dazhong's buttocks, revealing a yellow stain on the ground, anyone could tell what it was without thinking.

"Ugh~" Mu Dalian dropped Mu Dazhong and started dry heaving nearby.

"Oh my, Second Brother even wet his pants, I'm not carrying him, whoever wants to can do it!"

Saying that, Mu Dalian fled towards the Old Mu Family, leaving Mu Dajiang alone, still holding onto Mu Dazhong's stout body, at a loss.

"Uncle, let me help you!" Lu Yuanfeng stepped up, calling him Uncle left Mu Dajiang stunned.

Soon enough, Mu Dajiang remembered it was the day of Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng's engagement today, so calling him Uncle wasn't a problem.

With the help of the strong Lu Yuanfeng, they easily moved Mu Dazhong to the second branch.

Mu Shuangshuang followed behind, also wanting to see Zhang Huai Shu's diagnosis later.

After all, the injury happened at the third branch, so she, Mu Shuangshuang, couldn't let anyone die.

Mrs. Lin saw where Mu Dazhong lay, fresh red blood pooled on the ground, she screamed and threw herself at Mu Dazhong's bedside, "Oh dear, Daddy Gou Dan, what's wrong with you? Why are you bleeding? You were fine just now, which bastard did this...?"

Daddy Gou Dan, wake up, you can't leave us like this, how will we live as orphans and widows!"

Mrs. Lin made quite a commotion, startling Old Mrs. Mu and Mr. Mu, who were warming themselves by the stove, and they came over to the second branch.

"At broad daylight, what are you wailing about? Who died?" Old Mrs. Mu's curses came before she did.

After finishing cursing, Old Mrs. Mu entered the house, seeing Mu Dazhong lying on the kang, and the bloodstain on the floor.

"Oh my, this... this..." Old Mrs. Mu was taken aback.

Then, she snapped back and started cursing, "What's going on, what is this, why is my good son lying on the kang, who, who?"

Mu Shuangshuang didn't speak, it was Mu Dajiang who did, "Mom, there was a dispute in the yard, Wang Erma was subdued by Fengzi, but Second Brother went to provoke Wang Erma, insulting and hitting him.

Wang Erma couldn't hold back his anger, picked up the butcher knife from the table, and struck at Second Brother's head, it was Shuangshuang who pushed Second Brother away, he wasn't killed, Second Brother was harmed by Wang Erma..."

Mu Dajiang, usually a man of few words, spoke up once, extracting the third branch from any responsibility.

Mu Shuangshuang was surprised because these words didn't seem like something Mu Dajiang could say.

She thought Mu Dajiang would remain silent, but didn't expect...

"Alright, so it's Wang Erma, I'm going to the county to file a complaint, I want Wang Erma to pay with his life!"

Old Mrs. Mu was filled with thoughts of revenge, and after finishing her words, she rushed out of the Old Mu Family house, heading to find the village chief.

This incident affected the third branch too, after all, initially, Wang Erma came to the third branch to chop people.

Mu Shuangshuang thought she should also go to the village chief later and talk about this.

Wang Erma must be given a hard time, otherwise, anyone would dare to rush at the Old Mu Family with a kitchen knife.

"Did anyone call a doctor?" Mr. Mu asked.

Mu Dajiang nodded, "Dalang went to call Uncle Zhang, he should be back soon, Dad, today is the engagement day for Shuangshuang and Fengzi, let them go back, the yard is full of people."

Mr. Mu thought for a moment, then nodded, "Shuangshuang, since you and Fengzi got engaged today, Fengzi is now considered a member of the Old Mu Family, in the future, no matter what, you must not act on your own whim, consider the reputation of our Old Mu Family and your Uncle's honor, got it?"

Mr. Mu's words were both a reprimand and an acknowledgment of Lu Yuanfeng's status.

However, he overestimated the supposed fame and status of the Old Mu Family in Mu Shuangshuang's heart.

Mu Shuangshuang smiled and said, "Grandpa, I am a girl, if I marry Fengzi, naturally I would be a part of Fengzi's family, Fengzi's words and actions outside represent himself.

Shuangshuang's words and actions also represent Fengzi, why should I consider the reputation of the Old Mu Family or the honor of my Big Uncle?

"You..." Mr. Mu was infuriated, staring at Mu Shuangshuang repeatedly.

"Grandpa, if there's nothing else, Shuangshuang will go back first!"

Mu Shuangshuang tugged Lu Yuanfeng, leaving the second room with a smile on her lips.

That satisfying feeling of seeing Mr. Mu lose face was absolutely fantastic.

"Fengzi, are you curious about why I rebutted my Grandpa like that?" Mu Shuangshuang asked proactively when she saw Lu Yuanfeng remain silent.

"Yes!" Lu Yuanfeng nodded.

"My dad called my grandparents to the engagement banquet behind my back, but my grandma refused, my grandpa didn't say anything, which probably meant he refused as well.

At that time, they didn't consider me as a daughter of the Old Mu Family, now that there are some benefits, they want to acknowledge kinship, I find it annoying!"

Including Mu Dazhong and Mu Danian, the reason they later helped beat up Wang Erma was probably to get a little more meat.

People, when there's a benefit, they're family, without it, they're worse than dog poop.

Lu Yuanfeng's lips curled slightly.

This Shuangshuang, straightforward, simple, utterly unpretentious, and kind-hearted!

He, Lu Yuanfeng, must have done something extraordinarily good in his past life, otherwise, such a treasure wouldn't have been his.

Chapter 790: Trapping Oneself

Returning home, Mu Shuangshuang noticed that Wang Erma, who had been tied up, was gone, likely taken away by the Wang Family.

Mu Shuangshuang tidied up the yard briefly and continued selling meat; as for Wang Erma's affair, the accounting would be settled later!

Initially, the villagers were a bit afraid, after all, blood had been shed in the yard of the third branch, which was considered unlucky!

But upon reconsideration, they realized that pig slaughtering also involves bloodshed. If they continued to worry, they might not even be able to buy a piece of pork.

Today, Wang Erma dared to even slash a person, so they wouldn't dare to buy meat from the Wang Family. If anything went wrong, they might receive a few slashes from the Wang Family themselves, leading to a huge loss.

Moments later, the villagers reached a consensus, queuing up again to buy meat. Those who bought meat then hurried to the yard of the third branch, anticipating that there would surely be drama, given that Mu Dashan and Yu Si Niang hadn't yet appeared from their work on the construction site.

A while later, Mu Dashan, Yu Si Niang, and a few men from the construction site rushed back, each holding a wooden stick, looking like they intended to stand up for Mu Shuangshuang.

Especially Huang Da and Huang Er, who had a look that said they'd kill anyone who touched Mu Shuangshuang, scaring quite a few villagers along the way.

Yu Si Niang entered the house, frantically searching for Mu Shuangshuang, "Shuangshuang, Shuangshuang... Mother is late. Are you... are you alright?"

Being a woman, Yu Si Niang was terrified when she heard Wang Erma had attacked someone in her own house, injuring them and spilling blood. She rushed toward the third branch immediately, losing a shoe along the way.

A trailing woman caught up to her, returning the shoe, preventing Yu Si Niang from running barefoot.

Yu Si Niang's face was pale, her hair slightly disheveled, making Mu Shuangshuang feel strongly empathetic.

"No problem, no problem!" Mu Shuangshuang waved her hand and pushed Lu Yuanfeng out, "Yuanfeng saved me, Mother, Father, don't worry, Shuangshuang is unharmed."

Yu Si Niang looked at Lu Yuanfeng with gratitude on her face.

Her heart grew more satisfied with this son-in-law, "Yuanfeng, thank you today. If not for you, my Shuangshuang would have..."

Yu Si Niang clutched her chest, looking anxious.

"Mother, everything is over now!" Mu Shuangshuang replied.

"Indeed, Si Niang, the children have already said it's alright now." Mu Dashan patted his wife's shoulder, comforting her, then asked, "What exactly happened today? Tell me everything, I can't calm my racing heart."

Mu Shuangshuang recounted the incident to those present, especially Wang Erma's actions.

As she finished speaking, Mu Dashan threw the wooden stick in his hand to the ground.

"A brazen Wang Erma, daring to touch even my Mu Dashan's daughter, I'm going to confront him!" Mu Dashan, face flushed with anger, was about to rush outside.

"Father, don't go; Grandma has already gone to seek justice from my second uncle and find the village chief. We shouldn't confront this ourselves; let the village chief report to the authorities and have Wang Erma jailed. That's more effective than any argument."

Mu Shuangshuang always felt that simply beating someone only caused temporary pain and did not serve as a punishment.

Wang Erma, despite being taught a lesson repeatedly, would forget the pain after his wounds healed and continue causing trouble for the third branch.

Instead of constantly living in fear of him stirring up trouble, it would be better to send him to jail once, which would both deter the Wang Family and keep Wang Erma away for a while.

Mu Dashan thought about it and felt his daughter was right. "I'll go to the village chief to discuss this. You don't need to bother much today, take a rest early!"

After speaking, Mu Dashan left the yard.

Zhang Yutou and Zhao Yun also comforted Mu Shuangshuang, mostly agreeing with her decision to report to the authorities.

Only Huang Da and Huang Er were somewhat dissatisfied, pulling Mu Shuangshuang aside, saying, "Miss Shuangshuang, no matter what you think, we brothers still want to teach Wang Erma a lesson."

Huang Da and Huang Er had never been the type to tolerate wrongdoing, yet after becoming friends with Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng, their temperaments had improved significantly.

Now, seeing their good friend bullied, if they ignore it, they would be no different from scoundrels.

"What do you plan to do?" Mu Shuangshuang calmly asked.

Huang Da and Huang Er were surprised.

"Didn't you say not to intervene earlier? Why now?" Huang Da asked.

"I was just deceiving my father. My father is an honest man; if he were to confront Wang Erma now, he'd surely suffer losses. As his daughter, naturally, I can't harm him.

However, if today's grievances are left unsettled, I'd feel uncomfortable myself; I'm not someone who just hides my pain and pretends nothing happened, so we'll pull off a big move and let Wang Erma learn his lesson."

Mu Shuangshuang's vengeful nature decided that she wouldn't quietly suffer injustices.

It seemed that she wasn't injured today, but she was scared, lost a wooden basin, and two doors. Not to mention, recovering some mental damages, and the cost of the wooden basin from Wang Erma would only be fair, right?

...

...

At Old Wang's place, Wang Erma lay on the bed groaning, nearly kicked to death by Lu Yuanfeng's two kicks.

His whole body was now burning with painful sting.

At least in the end, he managed to slash Mu Dazhong once, partly restoring his dignity. Otherwise, he would have lost face completely.

Wang Erma was smug on his own, but Wang Gousheng and Gousheng's mother were anxiously pacing around.

Today, Wang Erma's slash at Mu Dazhong was genuine; if not for the brat kicking Mu Dazhong away, her man would have caused a major disaster.

Murder requires paying with one's life!

"Gousheng's father, maybe you should hide at my mother's place for a few days. You slashed someone from the Old Mu Family today, and Mu Dade has just passed the imperial exams; he'll probably want to deal with our family." Gousheng's mother looked worried.

"Why hide? Mu Dazhong isn't dead anyway! Besides, it was the little brat from the third branch deliberately trying to sell meat at low prices, cutting off my revenue. I merely gave a small punishment, didn't really do anything serious to them. I didn't trouble them; why should they trouble me?" Wang Erma shouted loudly.

"Gousheng's father, listen to me, just leave and talk later." Gousheng's mother said.

"Talking nonsense! You stupid woman, always whining. If you have the ability, sell the pork in the yard; buzzing like a fly next to me, what's the point?" Wang Erma scolded Gousheng's mother fiercely.

Gousheng's mother ran out crying.

"Hmph, useless woman, better off gone!"

Since childhood, Wang Erma was a tough cookie, always arguing back whenever someone spoke to him.

Moreover, none of the relatives in the Wang family ever attended school or pursued officialdom, so Wang Erma had no idea his actions were illegal.