

Folly 89

Chapter 89 Losing Money

"Something terrible has happened, Third Brother, something terrible! Your girl Shuang is going to kill someone!"

On the ridge, Zhao Gouzi, who had just taken a bundle of grass from the house, hurriedly shouted at Mu Dashan, who had just started working in the field.

Mu Dashan, who was cutting rice, almost sliced his own wrist. He didn't have time to fear and quickly threw down his sickle, running hastily to Zhao Gouzi.

"What are you saying? What's wrong with Shuang?"

The man was flustered, his face and forehead unknowingly covered in beads of sweat.

"That girl Shuang from your family took a cleaver to her auntie Mrs. Jin. I saw blood."

Mu Dashan hadn't fully recovered from his illness, and as he worked in the fields that afternoon, he felt an irregular thumping in his chest. Hearing Zhao Gouzi's words now, his heart felt like it would jump out of his chest.

"That's impossible. Our Shuang is so timid, she wouldn't do such a thing."

Mu Dashan didn't believe it, but his disbelief didn't mean others wouldn't believe it.

Mu Dazhong, who was cutting rice, heard the news and quickly shouted to Mr. Mu not far away. "Dad, it's terrible, that stinking girl Shuang killed Sister-in-law. She's bleeding all over the place!"

"Second Brother, how could you..." Mu Dashan didn't expect his second brother to say something completely different in front of him from what Gouzi said. Isn't he harming his own daughter?

"What's wrong with me? Third Brother, let me tell you, I heard what Gouzi said. That stinking girl of yours killed someone, and today, she'll definitely meet the officials."

The first and third branches started fighting, and Mu Dazhong was overjoyed, secretly thinking to himself.

There's going to be a good show.

Upon hearing Mu Dazhong's words, Mr. Mu stopped cutting rice and yelled at Mu Dazhong. "Second Brother, why are you still standing here? Go back and see what's really going on."

Mu Dazhong was delighted and quickly ran up the field slope.

Mu Dashan also wanted to go, but Mr. Mu stopped him. "Third Brother, finish the work in the field first. Our progress is already very slow."

Mu Dashan was anxious and paced in place, but he didn't dare to disobey Mr. Mu. It was Zhao Gouzi who couldn't stand it.

"Third Brother, why are you still fiddling with rice? Your daughter is gone; shouldn't you go back first?"

One word from Zhao Gouzi woke Mu Dashan up. He suddenly realized that nothing was more important than his daughter, so he threw down his sickle and ran.

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In Mrs. Jin's kitchen, Mu Shuangshuang was gripping Mrs. Jin's arm, and with two fists, she struck the numb nerves on either side of Mrs. Jin's arms, causing her to howl like a pig being slaughtered.

"Ouch, it hurts so much... I..."

"Ouch..."

Mrs. Jin had never suffered such grievance. She wanted to curse, but she wasn't like Mrs. Lin and couldn't say such filthy words, so she could only hold her arm and sob incessantly.

"Aunt, I can overlook your stealing my rabbit, but you must compensate me for a rabbit. I asked at the market, and rabbits are eighteen coins per jin. This rabbit weighs at least three jin, so you owe me fifty-four coins."

"Shuang, do you think I'm stupid? Your rabbit didn't even weigh three jin."

"Aunt, don't rush. I haven't finished speaking." Mu Shuang made a shushing gesture at Mrs. Jin and then continued.

"This rabbit belongs to Lu Yuanbao, who entrusted Little Zhi to take care of it, feeding it daily, and she became attached to it. Now that you've killed her rabbit, you've hurt her feelings, and you must compensate Little Zhi for emotional distress, totaling one tael of silver."

"What? One tael? Don't dream. Even if the rabbit weighed three jin, do you think anyone in the Old Mu Family will let you go after you hit me?"

Mrs. Jin had just calmed down, thinking she must have been too flustered. Shuang is from the third branch, not as precious as those from the first branch. She planned to complain to her husband later, so Shuang couldn't get away with it.

"Aunt, don't make things up. I haven't attended school, but I'm not stupid. I didn't touch you. You were greedy and fell yourself, so don't blame it on me."

Mu Shuangshuang gave Mrs. Jin a look of disdain.

She had completely calmed down now, and the anger on her face was gone.

Damn it, Mu Shuangshuang thought, she'd seen plenty of fights, she never involved personal emotions in handling matters. But today, she nearly lost her temper because of this woman.

Before the family split, Mu Shuangshuang knew if she acted rashly, not only would the Old Mu Family not spare her, but likely the entire Er Gui Village would band together to drive her away.

"You're lying! You clearly chopped me with a knife!" Mrs. Jin was furious, scrambling up and glaring fiercely at Mu Shuangshuang.

This time, even if Shuang held a knife to her neck, she wasn't afraid.

"Aunt, why do you keep spouting nonsense? The knife is at Sister Dan Dan's feet. If anyone's cutting, it's her doing it.

But Shuang is more curious if the scholar's wife stealing affects the scholar taking the imperial exams?

I think not. At most, the scholar would be deemed of poor character and disqualified even if he passed."
Mu Shuangshuang casually remarked.

Mrs. Jin shuddered, naturally thinking of her own husband.

To take the exams, one needed not only excellent results but also good character. Otherwise, Mr. Mu wouldn't constantly remind the family to be mindful of their words and deeds and never do things that discredit the Old Mu Family or Mu Dade's reputation.

"Don't try to scare me. I'm telling you, if your uncle's reputation is ruined, you won't have a good life either. By then, your grandmother will skin you alive."

"Aunt, that's not how you should phrase it. If Uncle's reputation is ruined, we aren't the ones who suffer most; it's you. If you can't become an official's wife, you'll end up farming here for life like a maid. Didn't you empty the chamber pot for grandmother yesterday?"

Mrs. Jin's face turned red at Mu Shuangshuang's words. At this point, she actually considered giving the money to Shuang, but she was just unwilling.

Why should an adult be led by the nose by a teenager?

"She's your grandmother. I'm happy and willing, say what you want."

"Tsk tsk tsk, Aunt, if that's the case, Shuang can only let the whole village know about your disgraceful deeds."

After speaking, Shuang stepped forward, grabbed the pot lid and wooden stick on the countertop, and dashed out, banging them in the courtyard, chanting aloud.

"Come and see, the scholar's wife is a thief, the scholar's wife is a thief~"

"The scholar's wife, the only scholar's wife in the village, is a thief, stealing a niece's rabbit..."

"The reasonable, generous scholar's wife secretly harbors bad intentions..."

Mu Shuangshuang's voice was so loud that many would soon come over, panic-stricken, Mrs. Jin pulled out a piece of broken silver from her pocket and threw it to the ground.

"Take it, take it all, just stop shouting."

"That's better." Shuang squatted down to pick up the broken silver, stuffing it into her pocket.

Things on the ground, it's a waste not to pick them up!