

## Folly 951

Chapter 951: The School Begins

Mr. Mu remained silent for a long time, and the village head knew what he meant.

He didn't agree with his way of handling things.

He turned to Mu Shuangshuang, "Shuang, do you have a better solution for this matter?"

Mu Shuangshuang shook her head, "Chief, I'm just a little girl, I don't understand anything, and really can't think of a good solution."

Mu Shuangshuang didn't want to get involved in this matter, seeing the village head's attitude, he seemed to be supporting her.

She had no reason to take responsibility upon herself.

"What about Da Shan and Si Niang?" the village head asked again.

Mu Dashan and Yu Si Niang also shook their heads, "We don't know either, whatever the chief says goes!"

Although they said that, the village head knew himself that the Zhao family had already paid the school fee and registered in the school logs. Letting them go would cause a significant loss of face.

"How about this, Mr. Mu, you bring out twenty taels of silver, I'll call Matchmaker Sun to go together to discuss with Zhuangzi's mother, the silver can be compensation. In the future, the Zhao family shouldn't appear in our Er Gui Village, okay?"

This was the village head's strategy. The Old Mu Family couldn't come up with twenty taels of silver. Even if they could, Mr. Mu wouldn't give it.

Upon hearing the village head's words, Mr. Mu hesitated.

Compensation was necessary to make the Zhao family leave, but... does it really have to be that much?

The Old Mu Family was no longer as it once was. Mr. Mu was reluctant to admit that since his son became a scholar, the family had only become poorer.

This would only make people look down on the Old Mu Family.

He thought and thought, again and again.

Finally, Mr. Mu gave up; the Zhao family was beyond his control.

But he couldn't just let it end like this.

"Since the village head wants to keep the Zhao family for schooling, I won't oppose it, but Zhuangzi's mother cannot enter the village in the future."

"Back then, she brought a group to the Old Mu Family, almost injuring our family members. Even our girl, Zhenzhen, left the Old Mu Family due to heartbreak after being divorced by Zhuangzi."

"Whether for the Old Mu Family's reputation or for Zhenzhen, I can't allow Zhuangzi's mother into the village."

After Mr. Mu spoke, he looked at the village head, wanting to hear his opinion.

The village head then turned to look at Mu Shuangshuang.

Surprisingly, Mu Shuangshuang nodded.

"I can discuss this with Zhuangzi's mother, but regardless of whether she agrees, these terms only apply to picking up and dropping off the kids for school."

"I remember Zhuangzi's mother has relatives in our village. If any of their relatives have something going on, we have no right to keep them from entering."

Mu Shuangshuang said.

After some thinking, Mr. Mu finally nodded.

A great drama of the year finally came to an end.

But the outcome didn't satisfy the Old Mu Family.

Mrs. Lin, upon hearing that her son was going to school and signing an IOU, started crying and yelling, cursing the third branch thoroughly, saying all kinds of things.

Old Mrs. Mu also complained that the village head was not helping the Old Mu Family but helping the third branch's brat.

These words reached the village head's ears without missing a single one.

The village head's impression of Old Mrs. Mu worsened further.

Mu Shuangshuang invited the village head to the third branch, brewed some good tea brought by Yu Liulang, and started a chat with him.

She wasn't a fool; today's words from the village head were clearly meant to help her.

"Chief, thank you for your intervention today; this cup of tea is my respect for you."

Mu Shuangshuang expressed her gratitude sincerely, and the village head was happy to accept the tea.

"Girl, there's no need for all this formality! But my visit today was worthwhile at least.

At least I saw how you handle things, brave yet protective, making me more comfortable leaving my grandson in your care!" said the village head.

The chief's family was not short of money, nor the few taels of silver as a gift.

However, what the young girl and his wife said was right.

The child was too young; leaving him in town was worrisome.

Only under their own care could they enjoy family bonding while allowing the child to learn more.

"Chief, thank you!" said Mu Shuangshuang.

Mu Dashan and Yu Si Niang also thanked the chief.

Everyone understood that if it weren't for the village head's intervention, Mu Shuangshuang confronting her elders was a matter that couldn't be resolved easily.

Perhaps it would have escalated into something bigger.

After seeing off the village head, Mu Dashan immediately called a doctor for Yu Si Niang, got some medicine, attended to the bruises, and let Yu Si Niang rest.

After doing all this, Mu Dashan called Mu Shuangshuang to the kitchen to discuss what happened today.

Mu Dashan felt bitter inside; in such a big event, it wasn't him standing in front as the father and husband.

But his yet unmarried daughter.

Mu Dashan felt guilty.

He shared his thoughts with Mu Shuangshuang, only to be comforted by her instead.

"Father, Grandpa and Grandma came to you because they saw you as honest and easy to talk to.

If you were the one to act today, they would definitely use it against you, forcing you to comply.

I know it's not that you don't want to help this family but that I got you flustered."

Old Mrs. Mu acted suddenly, and Mu Shuangshuang's retaliation was also unexpected.

"Of course, I still hope that as the backbone of the third branch, you'll always put mom and your siblings first."

In Mu Shuangshuang's eyes, Yu Si Niang was a weak person, as were her siblings.

She had endured many hardships and could find joy in struggles.

The ones who could bully her probably hadn't been born yet!

Mu Dashan's eyes instantly filled with a sour emotion...

"Girl... Father will definitely protect your mother, Xiao Han, Little Zhi, and you in the future!"

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The school started, and Mu Shuangshuang relayed the village head's and Mr. Mu's demands to Zhuangzi's mother.

Unexpectedly, Zhuangzi's mother agreed immediately.

Dahuo Village had a total of six children, and five families sent their kids over, so they discussed among themselves to hire a cart for the kids in the village.

It cost six coins a day to transport six children.

However, the children were still young, and Zhuangzi's mother suggested that it would be better if Mu Shuangshuang could have someone see them onto the cart.

Mu Shuangshuang agreed.

The matter between the Old Mu Family and the Zhao family temporarily came to a close.

The school headed in a good direction, Luo Bai's teaching was flawless, and Mu Shuangshuang started focusing on the tavern.

The tavern renovation proceeded day by day. Mu Shuangshuang had to oversee it during the day and check on Xiao Han and Yuanbao's studies at night.

Life suddenly became quite busy.

It wasn't until three days before the renovations completed that Sun Dawu arrived, bringing his entire family from the neighboring town. Mu Shuangshuang set a time to invite Sun Dawu to her home and discuss the menu.

Everyone felt that the tavern's opening was imminent.

Having come all the way from Shigou Town, Sun Dawu certainly looked travelworn.

This time, Sun Dawu brought all his family belongings. When Mu Shuangshuang suggested he should pass his skills on to others, set up a stall, and just count money from home, he didn't accept it because he felt he wouldn't settle in Shigou Town in the future.

He thought it better to cut off that hope rather than be caught up in it.

Chapter 952: Pulling Out All the Stops

On this trip, Brother Dahu couldn't find a place to stay.

Mu Shuangshuang temporarily let Brother Dahu's family stay in the small courtyard in town.

Once the restaurant starts operating, Brother Dahu will be paid, and if he wishes to move out, Mu Shuangshuang will find another place for him.

If he finds it troublesome, he can stay in the courtyard as well.

After all, the small courtyard was initially tidied up to facilitate the restaurant staff or Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng themselves.

When visiting Shuangshuang's house for the first time, Brother Dahu turned out to be a diligent person, taking the initiative to prepare the meals, which made Yu Si Niang, who usually cooks, feel awkward and keep urging Brother Dahu to rest.

Brother Dahu felt a bit embarrassed and said straight out, "Auntie, I'm hired by Shuangshuang and Fengzi as the chef, and I'll be in charge of the meals at Chengfeng Restaurant from now on."

"Today is a perfect opportunity to showcase my skills so everyone can feel reassured."

Brother Dahu was very polite, and Yu Si Niang couldn't insist.

Just as Mu Shuangshuang entered the house carrying firewood, Yu Si Niang said, "Shuangshuang, I'm not going to handle the kitchen temporarily. If you need anything, call me here. I'll go back and make school bags for Xiao Han and Yuanbao."

The schooling matter is rather rushed, plus Mu Dashan has become the steward of the school and needs to make rounds every day to see if there's anything that needs assistance.

Yu Si Niang, being his wife, inevitably has to follow along.

Due to this delay, the two kiddos' school bags haven't been made.

"Oh dear, Mom, if you hadn't mentioned it, I would have forgotten. Then I haven't bought them any nice fabric yet. How about you wait another day? I'll go to town tomorrow to buy fabric and then make school bags for Xiao Han and Yuanbao?"

"No need, the fabric you bought for the kids last time, after making clothes for them, there's still some left. It's just enough to make a school bag," said Yu Si Niang.

Mu Shuangshuang didn't insist further, though she indeed has been busy lately. It's indeed time to find an opportunity to inquire about how the two kiddos are doing in their studies.

After Yu Si Niang went into the house, Mu Shuangshuang had some free time to chat with Brother Dahu.

Since Mu Shuangshuang and Yu Si Niang talked about school, he also asked.

"Miss Shuangshuang, about what we discussed last time, sending my son Xiao Zhu to school..." Brother Dahu's face was a bit flushed, evidently feeling embarrassed.

Brother Dahu arrived when the school had already started, but fortunately, Mu Shuangshuang had already reserved a spot for Xiao Zhu.

She said, "I've already discussed Xiao Zhu's situation with Mr. Luo. Xiao Zhu can go anytime!"

The school originally had thirty students, and now there are an additional Gou Dan and Xiao Zhu, making a total of thirty-two students.

Unless there are special circumstances, Mu Shuangshuang won't be accepting any more students, and this point has also been agreed upon by Luo Bai.

"That's great... that's great!" Brother Dahu chuckled.

He decided to leave his hometown earlier just for his son Xiao Zhu to attend school, and now that the schooling matter is confirmed, Brother Dahu is fearless.

"By the way, Brother Wu, why don't you bring your wife, Daya, and Xiao Zhu over?" Mu Shuangshuang curiously asked.

Logically speaking, Brother Dahu's family came to town together, and in this Qingshan Town, Brother Dahu's wife isn't acquainted, so bringing them together would be best.

Brother Dahu was already preparing the ingredients for lunch. Upon hearing Mu Shuangshuang's question, he put down what he was doing: "I took Da Hai's words and thought I could return before noon, but I didn't expect that walking from town took so long, hence..."

After all, it's his first visit to Er Gui Village, and it's normal for Brother Dahu not to understand many things.

"Brother Wu, how about this, I'll call Fengzi, and he and I will go to town to bring your wife over. Xiao Zhu can visit the school in the afternoon, and if it looks good, he can start attending classes tomorrow.

Time waits for no one. Other students have already attended a few days of classes. If we delay further, I'm afraid he won't keep up with the progress."

Mu Shuangshuang knew that Mr. Luo was still telling stories these days.

Basically, it's about some historical figures, interesting stories, and anecdotes taught by the teachers.

There's also a bit of writing practice each day, as they're all just getting acquainted with calligraphy and writing, so there's no major difference yet.

Once everyone has learned to write, if Sun Xiaozhu joins later, there might indeed be problems, as Mu Shuangshuang said.

This is also why Mu Shuangshuang and Luo Bai agreed not to enroll more students later.

Brother Dahu kept nodding repeatedly but was worried about delaying Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng. He hesitated a bit before saying, "Miss Shuangshuang, why don't I go and bring them over myself?"

But upon reconsideration, he had just assumed responsibility for cooking, and leaving like this...

Mu Shuangshuang chuckled: "Alright, don't worry about it. Leave this to me and Fengzi. The materials in the kitchen are ones I bought in town yesterday; you can use whatever you need.

Showcase your best skills; let's treat this as a test. If the dishes are delicious, we'll continue. If not, we'll adjust the recipes, aiming to have everything ready by the grand opening."

After saying this, Mu Shuangshuang quickly went to Lu Yuanfeng's house.

These days, Lu Yuanfeng took on some odd jobs as he was making cabinets and furniture for people.

He was initially reluctant, but considering the high bids offered and being short on funds, he decided to take on the work.

Apart from accompanying Mu Shuangshuang to town, he spent most of his days at home crafting furniture.

When Mu Shuangshuang went to find him, Lu Yuanfeng was still planing wood, and the yard was filled with sawdust, even his head was covered in wood scraps.

Spotting Mu Shuangshuang, Lu Yuanfeng was surprised and shouted towards her, "Shuangshuang, the yard is a mess. Wait a moment, I'll finish planing this wood and come out to find you."

Upon hearing this, Mu Shuangshuang paused, gazing at Lu Yuanfeng.

When working, Lu Yuanfeng and Mu Shuangshuang shared similarities.

Both were extremely focused, without any ambiguity.

Even with Mu Shuangshuang just outside the yard, Lu Yuanfeng maintained his steady pace, though upon closer look, it was evident from the smile on his lips.

Mu Shuangshuang happened to catch that smile, turned away shyly, and happened to see the direction of the Old Lu Family.

Old Lady Lu was standing not far away, accompanied by a woman, the fourth daughter-in-law of the Old Lu Family, Mrs. Chen, who was urging Old Lady Lu to take a step closer.

Mu Shuangshuang could sense that Old Lady Lu seemed reluctant.

After watching for a while, Mu Shuangshuang met Old Lady Lu's eye.

Mu Shuangshuang clearly felt Old Lady Lu's evasiveness, she dared not meet Mu Shuangshuang's gaze and kept retreating.

Mrs. Chen was initially pushing Old Lady Lu from behind, and as Old Lady Lu retreated suddenly, she couldn't dodge in time and fell to the ground, which wouldn't have been much.

But Mu Shuangshuang hadn't expected Mrs. Chen to actually stick out her foot to trip Old Lady Lu, and as a result, Old Lady Lu fell onto the ground.

Chapter 953: Reasoning with Her

"What are you doing?" Mu Shuangshuang couldn't hold back and shouted.

She had long disliked Mrs. Chen, not just because she was from the Old Lu Family, but also because she was partly responsible for selling Lu Yuanfeng's mother back then.

After Mu Shuangshuang shouted, Mrs. Chen was momentarily flustered.

But she quickly stepped forward to support Old Lady Lu.

"Oh dear, my goodness! How could you be so careless, even falling while walking.

I've been saying you're too old to be out, see, now you've fallen,"

Mrs. Chen said feignedly.

Old Lady Lu waved her hand, pretending it wasn't a big deal.

Seeing Mu Shuangshuang still staring at them, Mrs. Chen lowered her voice and said to Old Lady Lu, "Mother, what are you waiting for? I heard the second son's son in the Old Mu Family, Mu Jingui, got into school without spending a penny.

Jinbao is your grandson, and that boy is close to this stinky girl; our Jinbao should also go to school for free."

Mrs. Chen thought her voice was low, but Mu Shuangshuang still heard it.

She furrowed her brows, deciding to ignore the people of the Old Lu Family.

Old Lady Lu shook her head, "Yueyue, why don't... why don't you and Zhang'er pay one or two silver as a gift, Fengzi has severed ties with our Old Lu Family, I'm afraid..."

Old Lady Lu's life now was far from as good as before.

Old Sir Lu was bedridden due to illness, and her frail bones couldn't endure much now.

Every time she passed by Lu Yuanfeng's courtyard, Old Lady Lu would remember Lu Yuanfeng's disappointed face upon learning the truth about his mother's disappearance.

"What are you afraid of? Don't forget, now that the old man is paralyzed, you're living off our fourth house.

That bitch Gu Jiulian only cares about her son now, and doesn't care about you." Mrs. Chen said irritably.

"I..." Old Lady Lu still hesitated.

"What 'I'? If you keep blabbering, I'll kick you out of the Old Lu Family, along with your paralyzed husband!" Mrs. Chen said viciously, her face twisted.

Old Lady Lu was startled and stumbled toward Mu Shuangshuang.

As for Mrs. Chen, she stayed put, watching the show.

Old Lady Lu approached Mu Shuangshuang as Lu Yuanfeng finished carving wood. He put his tools in the storage room and came out.

Without even washing his hands, he went up to Mu Shuangshuang.

Seeing Old Lady Lu, he was first stunned, then asked quietly, "Do you need something?"

Since the night Old Lady Lu left Lu Yuanfeng's house, she hadn't returned.

"No... nothing much, I heard Yuanbao started school, in the village.

I don't know how he's doing in school. I made him a bag, I'll go get it now."

Old Lady Lu didn't mention what Mrs. Chen had said, and Mu Shuangshuang didn't bring it up either.

Lu Yuanfeng shook his head, "There's no need, the school is close to home, Yuanbao doesn't need a bag."

Lu Yuanfeng's attitude was neither cold nor warm, just like talking to an average person.

Mu Shuangshuang stepped aside to give space for them to talk.

After a few words, Lu Yuanfeng told the old lady, "I have things to do with Shuangshuang, if you have nothing, then you should go back!"

Old Lady Lu was clearly reluctant, looked at Lu Yuanfeng several times, and the feeling of regret in her heart rose again.

She said, "Just go do what you need to do, and I... I'll stay here for a while."

Lu Yuanfeng listened, then took Mu Shuangshuang's hand and walked outside.

"Fengzi, we should wash up, tidy up our hair too.

Brother Dahu came alone, his wife and two kids are in the town.

We'll borrow a wagon from Old Master Wang and hurry to bring them back."

Only then did Lu Yuanfeng realize he was all dirty in his rush to leave.

"The dust in the yard hasn't settled, wait for me a moment."

After saying that, Lu Yuanfeng went into the yard, leaving Mu Shuangshuang with Old Lady Lu.

It was the first time Old Lady Lu interacted privately with Mu Shuangshuang.

She remembered the first time she saw Mu Shuangshuang, she believed Gu Jiulian's words that the little girl in front of her was deceiving her grandson for money.

Wasn't friendly to her.

A few months later, this girl grew into something more graceful.

Old Lady Lu often saw Mu Shuangshuang with her grandson, and whenever she was around, her grandson's face had a brighter smile than usual.

Moreover, this girl had a good reputation in the village and was only seen with her grandson, never speaking with other boys.

Usually she dressed plainly, and her character was flawless.

Old Lady Lu knew she had misunderstood the girl before.

Fiddling with her voice for a while, Old Lady Lu finally spoke, "Girl, when are you and my grandson going to marry? When that time comes... can I come and have some wedding wine?"

Mu Shuangshuang was stunned, this was a question she couldn't answer.

After all, it involved Lu Yuanfeng's personal matters.

Even if she marries Lu Yuanfeng, these private matters still have to be handled by him personally.

"Grandma Lu, I don't know either, but Fengzi and I are still young, we're not in a hurry to get married.

Besides, Yuanbao is still young, we also need to save enough for Yuanbao's schooling and future wife."

More than one person in the village had asked Mu Shuangshuang about marriage, and she had always answered like this.

In reality, the main reason was that she was only fifteen, and Lu Yuanfeng was eighteen.

In modern times, they were too young and not ready for marriage.

"Alright..." Old Lady Lu nodded.

She had a lot to ask Mu Shuangshuang but felt it was impolite and dropped it.

As for Mu Shuangshuang, she also had something to remind Old Lady Lu.

"Grandma Lu, earlier I saw Mrs. Chen trip you, you... should be more cautious."

Nothing else was said by Mu Shuangshuang.

Just as Lu Yuanfeng came out, he had already changed clothes.

His face was clean and tidy too.

The two left the Old Lu Family together and headed to the Wang Family.

Halfway there, Mu Shuangshuang told Lu Yuanfeng about what Mrs. Chen had done.

Lu Yuanfeng suddenly stopped.

This time his face darkened, and anger started to overflow.

"Fengzi..." Mu Shuangshuang called out.

Lu Yuanfeng said solemnly, "Shuangshuang, wait for me, I feel like I forgot something and need to go back to get it!"

Lu Yuanfeng spoke almost through gritted teeth.

Mu Shuangshuang realized he was going back to confront Old Lady Lu.

"Fengzi... how about I go, I'm just a girl, if people know I acted, it's no big deal.

If you're a man and it gets out that you hit a woman, it might not look good."

Most of the time, no matter what the reason, men hitting women is never considered good.

"It's alright, I won't hit her, I'll just reason with her!" Lu Yuanfeng said firmly.

After saying that, he headed back towards the Old Lu Family.

Mu Shuangshuang gritted her teeth, decided to listen to Lu Yuanfeng, and not interfere in this matter.

Chapter 954: Tearing Off the Roof

Lu Yuanfeng followed the path he had walked countless times and went straight to the Old Lu Family.

In the yard, Mrs. Chen was busy drying soybeans harvested before winter.

Drying these soybeans allows for longer storage and they can be made into tofu or soy milk, providing a good meal for her husband and son.

The beans had just been spread out when Old Lady Lu wobbled out of the house.

Mrs. Chen glared at Old Lady Lu, remembering how Old Lady Lu had talked to Mu Shuangshuang for so long and still hadn't managed to get her to do what she wanted.

She was furious and couldn't help but curse.

"All day long, doing nothing but eating! At such an old age, how can she have such thick skin, even the turtle in the pond would be ashamed!"

Old Lady Lu was holding a wooden basin filled with Old Sir Lu's clothes.

It was only the end of January, and the weather was not very warm, making washing clothes in such cold quite unfavorable.

Yet none of the daughters-in-law, except the second son's family, were willing to wash clothes for Old Lady Lu.

Just at this time, the second son's family had gone to the wife's parents' home, making Old Lady Lu's days even harder.

Being beaten and scolded were common occurrences!

"Yueyue, let's just drop that matter, I...I asked that girl from the Old Mu Family, and she refused," Old Lady Lu said.

Mrs. Chen rolled her eyes at Old Lady Lu and replied, "She refused because you didn't ask Feng.

That stubborn girl and crazy kid are tight as thieves; everything will eventually go to crazy kid upon marriage.

If you need to ask, of course, you should ask crazy kid, why look for that stubborn girl?"

Old Lady Lu tried hard to smile, but even then, Mrs. Chen remained unsatisfied.

Her ugly face was full of malice, and, taking advantage when Old Lady Lu wasn't looking, she quietly went forward and kicked Old Lady Lu in the behind.

"Bang!" Old Lady Lu fell, and the wooden basin in her hand dropped to the ground.

Old Lady Lu's eyes stung slightly, but recalling Mrs. Chen's past cruel methods, she hurriedly got up.

Her wrist ached, and her body too.

Getting up was difficult enough, bending down was even harder.

Old Lady Lu tried several times, failing each time.

Suddenly, a broad, strong hand moved ahead to pick up the basin and then the clothes belonging to Old Sir Lu scattered on the ground.

Old Lady Lu looked up to see Lu Yuanfeng with furrowed brows.

Excitedly, Old Lady Lu directly called out Lu Yuanfeng's name, "Fengfeng... Why... why are you here, weren't you supposed to handle something with Miss Shuangshuang?" Old Lady Lu asked.

Lu Yuanfeng shook his head, "I came to check in, Shuangshuang is waiting for me at the Wang Family, I'll head over there later."

After saying that, Lu Yuanfeng turned to face Mrs. Chen.

His face was cold like the winter frost, intimidating Mrs. Chen who was already slightly shocked.

Nevertheless, Mrs. Chen refused to admit defeat, sticking out her chest and saying, "What are you looking at? Didn't you cut ties with our Old Lu Family? What brings you here?"

"You just pushed my grandmother." Lu Yuanfeng stated firmly.

"Are you blind? Which eye saw me push this old woman?" Mrs. Chen shouted.

Not only that, she arrogantly asked Old Lady Lu, "Mother-in-law, did I push you just now?"

Old Lady Lu looked at Mrs. Chen, then at Lu Yuanfeng, shook her head, and said, "No, I fell on my own, Fengfeng, you should go find Miss Shuangshuang!"

Old Lady Lu urged Lu Yuanfeng.

But Lu Yuanfeng did not heed her words and stepped towards Mrs. Chen.

Standing at eight feet tall, he naturally exuded an overwhelming presence in front of the short-statured Mrs. Chen.

Mrs. Chen stepped back repeatedly, accidentally falling to the ground.

Seeing Lu Yuanfeng still advancing towards her, she closed her eyes and started shouting, "Help, murder, Lu Yuanfeng is killing someone..."

Mrs. Chen, accustomed to being a shrew, had a loud voice. Her shouts drew the neighbors out, who gathered around the Old Lu Family's courtyard to watch the commotion.

Clearly, this was beyond Lu Yuanfeng's expectations.

He hadn't even touched Mrs. Chen, yet she had already labeled him a murderer, and to discipline her further would risk being criticized throughout the village.

At this moment, a figure rushed forward and grabbed Mrs. Chen's wrist.

They shouted at the top of their lungs, "Aunt Lu, do you think you can fling dirt at Feng just to avoid paying back the money?"

Back then, you took quite a bit of silver taels from Feng; everyone here has keen eyes and won't fall into the trap of your lies."

Upon hearing Mu Shuangshuang's words, the villagers began to look at Chen Xiaoyue with suspicion.

Everyone was there for the spectacle, not concerned about who was right or wrong.

Mrs. Chen's hand was tightly gripped by Mu Shuangshuang, and the more she struggled, the more Mu Shuangshuang increased her grip.

After a couple of struggles, Mrs. Chen felt like her hand was about to break.

She immediately felt extremely distressed, "Let go... let go!"

"You filthy brat, you and Lu Yuanfeng are in cahoots, your words are not trustworthy, everyone help, help..."

Mrs. Chen was shouting again, her face turning beet red.

The villagers didn't know that Mu Shuangshuang was so strong; with just a grab, she made Mrs. Chen ache so much, making it seem that Chen was just shouting nonsense.

"Feng, whatever Mrs. Chen has taken from you, take it now while everyone is here, because if you try to take it back when they're not, she'll wrongly accuse you of murder again."

Mu Shuangshuang said to Lu Yuanfeng.

Lu Yuanfeng was filled with emotions at this moment, recalling that he had clearly seen Shuangshuang walking towards the Wang Family, so how did she end up back here?

But now was not the time to ponder this.

Lu Yuanfeng scanned the rooms of the fourth house of the Lu Family and finally his gaze landed on the tiles of the roof.

"Shuangshuang, those tiles were ones I bought and laid when I came back."

Mu Shuangshuang's lips curled into a smile, "What are you waiting for then, grab a ladder and take them back!"

Mu Shuangshuang's words left everyone a little dumbfounded.

Debt repayment is an obligation, but this was the first time anyone had seen someone retrieve tiles directly from someone else's roof.

Lu Yuanfeng found a ladder at the Old Lu Family and quickly climbed onto the roof.

As the first tile was thrown from the roof, Mrs. Chen went berserk.

"Oh dear, you ruthless bastard, you beast, beast..."

"Someone come, help, he's acting like a hooligan, hooligan..."

The more Mrs. Chen yelled, the more tiles fell from the roof, and in no time, a good portion of the roof was bare.

If it were to rain or blow wind, it would certainly flood.

While cursing, Mrs. Chen was trying to hit towards Mu Shuangshuang's direction, but each time her wrist was grabbed by Mu Shuangshuang.

Finally, Mrs. Chen was exhausted, and more than half of the tiles on the roof were removed.

"Bandits, both of you are bandits..."

## Chapter 955: Next Time Won't Be Like This

Mrs. Chen cried, shouted, and caused a scene, but she couldn't stop Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng from cooperating seamlessly.

By the time she stopped crying and causing a scene, her house roof had already been stripped bare, and all the tiles that came through Lu Yuanfeng's hands were thrown on the ground.

Mu Shuangshuang squatted down and said to Mrs. Chen, "We did this on behalf of Old Lady Lu.

If you ever do something like this again, I won't just strip your roof tiles; I might burn your house down."

Mrs. Chen looked at Mu Shuangshuang with eyes full of fear.

In her entire life, it was the first time she realized that there could be someone so arrogant.

With just one sentence, Lu Yuanfeng stripped all the tiles off her house.

If he were to kill, would that brat do it too?

Mrs. Chen dared not think further. She didn't know where the strength came from, but she ran, bursting into her house, which was already missing its tiles.

Only then did Mu Shuangshuang stop her hand. She dusted off the dirt from her hands and started picking up the tiles.

These were Lu Yuanfeng's belongings, and she wouldn't let these thankless jackals have them.

After Lu Yuanfeng climbed down from the ladder, he ignored Old Lady Lu and instead helped Mu Shuangshuang move the tiles.

"Feng'er... thank you!" Old Lady Lu knew her words were useless.

At that time, she had nodded in agreement to sell his mother, and regardless, it was an unchangeable fact.

Holding a wooden basin, she went back to her room and told Old Sir Lu about the incident.

The man lying on the kang realized for the first time what regret felt like.

Old Sir Lu never knew about the bullying incident of Old Lady Lu by his fourth daughter-in-law.

Even now, Old Sir Lu still thought that Zhang Huai Shu's previous visit to treat him was paid for by the fourth branch.

After all, over the years, the fourth son, Lu Zizhang, was the child Old Sir Lu had invested the most effort in.

Giving him whatever he wanted.

If there was none, even if it meant selling fields, land, or his wife, he would gather it.

Yet, the one who embarrassed Old Sir Lu first was the cherished youngest child in his heart.

"Old man, we... we really shouldn't have sold Fengzi's mother for these thankless people. I've been regretting it daily.

If we hadn't done that, now our family would be so much happier.

The eldest wouldn't have gambled even bigger after getting money and wouldn't have married Gu Jiulian, that poisonous woman.

And the fourth wouldn't have married Chen Xiaoyue, that vicious woman..."

As she spoke, tears welled up in Old Lady Lu's eyes.

How could Old Sir Lu not regret?

But the enmity of killing one's mother cannot coexist under the same sky. Even if Fengzi's mother didn't die, the pain of separation over the years was enough for Fengzi to hate them for a lifetime.

"Old lady... we deserve death!"

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Lu Yuanfeng picked up a few tiles, stacked them together, and only then did he come to his senses.

"Shuangshuang, didn't you say we were going to pick up Brother Dahu's son, daughter, and wife? We... we shouldn't bother with these tiles; picking them up is urgent."

Saying this, Lu Yuanfeng took Mu Shuangshuang's hand to head outside of Old Lu's house.

"It's getting late, we can't delay anymore."

Mu Shuangshuang secretly laughed at this foolish boy.

"I have already asked Brother Da Lang to help, so we can leisurely move the tiles here and return after lunch is ready."

Lu Yuanfeng glanced at Mu Shuangshuang.

Mu Shuangshuang rubbed her nose, blushing, and said, "Don't praise me, I know I'm very smart."

"Just now, I indeed went to Old Wang's house, but then I thought that Mrs. Chen wasn't a good person, so what if she tried to set a trap for you?"

"Coincidentally, on the way, I met Brother Da Lang and my cousin's wife, so I asked him to help run an errand. He's an old hand in town, very familiar."

After hearing this, Lu Yuanfeng pondered for a moment and said, "Your thoughtfulness ensured we could still accomplish things today."

Mu Shuangshuang chuckled.

"You don't understand women. When women go crazy, only another woman can handle them. Otherwise, even you would end up in a tough spot."

Although most men always say women only know how to cry, shout, and threaten, when done right, these tricks are enough for a man to feel overwhelmed and beg for mercy.

After hearing Mu Shuangshuang's words, the knot in Lu Yuanfeng's heart suddenly untied.

He said, "I understand now, next time if this happens, I'll consult Shuangshuang first!"

"There's going to be a next time?" Mu Shuangshuang said.

Lu Yuanfeng was taken aback, "Why? Isn't this method effective?"

"Sure, but next time, first tie Mrs. Chen up, block her mouth, and deal with her first."

Don't make a big fuss, especially don't let the villagers find out; this way, what can Mrs. Chen do?"

Lu Yuanfeng genuinely admired Shuangshuang now.

But he knew her temperament; though she said so, she wouldn't act recklessly, and Lu Yuanfeng had nothing to worry about.

"Shuangshuang, you take a break, I'll move these tiles!"

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Lu Zizhang found out his house tiles were stripped when Lu Yuanfeng had already moved them back to his own yard by himself.

He stood at the courtyard gate, cursing for a long time.

Originally being someone with little backbone, Lu Zizhang would curse, but when it came to fighting back, he was afraid.

So when Lu Yuanfeng appeared, he fled.

Lu Yuanfeng turned his head in contempt.

This time, with Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng stripping the tiles from Old Lu's fourth branch, no one from the fourth branch dared to come and cause trouble again.

Previously, Mrs. Chen's plan for her son to attend school for free now seemed as difficult as climbing to the heavens.

People from Old Lu's family were different from those from Old Mu's family.

They remember and learn from beatings; hit them once, and the next time they see you, they'll take a detour.

But people from Old Mu's family were extreme.

Hit them today, maybe they'll remember tomorrow, but once the wounds heal, they'll swagger in front of you again.

In short, Mu Shuangshuang felt she and Fengzi had won this time.

They helped Old Lady Lu and incidentally taught a lesson to those who once sold Lu Yuanfeng's mother.

The two walked together, heading towards the third branch.

Returning home, Mu Shuangshuang immediately saw Yu Si Niang and Mu Dashan anxiously waiting in the courtyard.

Before she and Lu Yuanfeng got closer, the couple had already approached.

"You two... are you alright? I just heard from Yun'er that you two had a run-in with Old Lu's people? Were you hurt?"

Mu Shuangshuang shook her head with a smile, "Nope! By the way, Mom, have Xiao Han and Yuanbao returned home from school?"

At the mention of the two kids, Yu Si Niang's attention was instantly diverted.

"No, they said they would eat at school and bond with everyone."

Yu Si Niang continued, "The two boys are attending school for the first time; everything about it is novel to them, and they are reluctant to come home even in the evening."

"But I heard from your dad that the kids really like Luo Bai, saying his classes are interesting."

Mu Shuangshuang knew Luo Bai's skills, so she wasn't surprised.

Conversely, Yu Si Niang was different, experiencing the school for the first time, first time sending a son to school...

Chapter 956: Second Branch's Little Schemes

"Mom, let's go inside and have a seat, and wait for Brother Da Lang to bring over Brother Da Wu's family," said Mu Shuangshuang.

"Indeed, we shouldn't stand outside," said Yu Si Niang.

Everyone followed and went inside.

In the kitchen, Sun Dawu was pulling out all the stops, chopping and frying with his highest level of skill.

The thickness of the vegetables must be consistent, and the spices must be used uniformly.

Having worked in the restaurant for several months, this had already become second nature to him.

In an instant, a radish was sliced into fine silver threads by Sun Dawu.

The sound of chopping echoed in the kitchen, while inside the room, Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng told the story of the Old Lu Family to Yu Si Niang and Mu Dashan.

The couple listened, dumbfounded.

However, Mu Shuangshuang spared them the details of her own actions, only mentioning Lu Yuanfeng reclaiming what was rightfully his.

When it came to Old Lady Lu being bullied, Yu Si Niang shared another matter.

She said, "I heard this while chatting casually with Zhao Yun earlier, that Old Lu Family's eldest daughter-in-law, Gu Jiulian, likes to use her hands."

The fourth daughter-in-law, Chen Xiaoyue, likes to curse. Ever since the Old Man became bedridden, neither of the daughters-in-law wants to take care of the old lady, treating her like dog turd.

"Ugh, they're not like our family. As long as Shuangshuang's grandparents aren't against us, we're willing to take care of the old couple."

Even now, Yu Si Niang never thought about ignoring the lives of the Old Mu couple.

As for those so-called brothers and sisters, she didn't think about taking care of them either, because they would eventually enjoy life with the first branch, and live no worse than the third branch."

Lu Yuanfeng sighed and finally understood Shuangshuang's sense of powerlessness.

Close relatives who don't treat you as family, even enemies aren't as harsh as those people.

Mu Dashan noticed Lu Yuanfeng's peculiarity and spoke up, "Fengzi, everyone makes mistakes.

Some mistakes, we may never feel deserve forgiveness, but after a while, looking back, it seems like we can let go."

Up until now, Mu Dashan didn't feel the need to sever ties with the Old Mu Family just because he had suffered losses there.

He is a member of the Old Mu Family, and he pays respect to his ancestors from the Old Mu Family.

Mu Dashan's words still carried a hint of advising Lu Yuanfeng to try forgiveness.

The atmosphere became somewhat awkward.

Mu Shuangshuang initially didn't want to speak, but now she had to, "Fengzi, my dad's opinion comes from his life experiences.

You have your own life experiences, as long as you feel happy doing something, don't think about anything else.

Being happy yourself is what matters!"

Life is short, enjoy it while you can.

If you can't forgive someone, then don't.

No one has stipulated that you must accommodate others while making yourself uncomfortable.

If Lu Yuanfeng was a bit confused after hearing Mu Dashan's words, he had completely figured it out after hearing Mu Shuangshuang's words.

Forgiveness isn't up to him, but his missing mother.

She is the one who was hurt.

As for his own thoughts, as Shuangshuang said, if it makes you happy, why not resent someone!

At this moment, the sound of a carriage's wheels echoed at the courtyard entrance.

Mu Shuangshuang knew Da Wu's wife had arrived.

She stood up and walked towards the outside of the courtyard.

The carriage stopped at the side gate of the Old Mu Family, first Mu Dalang jumped down from the carriage, followed by Sun Dawu's wife and two kids.

It's their first time in Er Gui Village, and the two kids were a bit timid.

They didn't even dare look up at their surroundings, clinging tightly to Da Wu's wife's clothes on both sides, which was rather endearing.

Mu Shuangshuang reached the courtyard entrance, and hearing the commotion, Sun Dawu also peeked out from the kitchen.

He happened to see his wife, daughter, and son.

Sun Dawu waved the spoon in his hand, "Little Bamboo's mom, Little Bamboo... Daya, I'm here."

Mu Shuangshuang also spoke up, "Sister-in-law, Brother Da Wu has already prepared the meals, we're just waiting for you."

Da Wu's wife and Mu Shuangshuang had met before, but still felt a little embarrassed hearing her words.

"Miss Shuangshuang, I was in such a hurry that I didn't have time to bring anything except a few baked pancakes I made this morning, I hope you don't mind."

After saying that, Da Wu's wife handed Mu Shuangshuang an oil-paper bag.

The bag contained quite a few baked pancakes.

The baked pancakes were already cold, but Mu Shuangshuang still felt very happy.

Sometimes goodwill is more important than gifts.

"Sister-in-law, please come inside, let's eat directly."

A group of people headed straight to the kitchen.

Yu Si Niang helped set the table, Da Wu's wife helped serve the food.

Mu Shuangshuang called Mu Dalang, asking him to also invite Huang Bitu, so everyone could gather for a meal.

Soon, the table was filled to the brim.

At the dinner table, everyone praised Sun Dawu's culinary skills.

"These shredded radishes, I think they're finer than the embroidery needle at home, a great chef is truly different," said Yu Si Niang.

"Auntie, it's just minor skills, but what Miss Shuangshuang makes is truly delicious," said Sun Dawu.

Da Wu's wife also said, "Miss Shuangshuang taught me how to make baked pancakes, they're very tasty."

"Haha, Brother Da Wu, sister-in-law, don't praise me, today is Brother Da Wu's show, not mine."

Sun Dawu was the chef invited by Mu Shuangshuang, everyone knew it.

Showing his skill today also gave everyone a sense of Sun Dawu's capabilities.

"Right, Shuangshuang is right, Da Wu, just relax and accept it, the women here cook well, if they say it's good, then it's good!" Mu Dashan laughed.

Everyone ate and drank, while discussing the menu.

Most of the time, it was Mu Shuangshuang, Lu Yuanfeng, and Sun Dawu talking, the others listening.

Meanwhile, at the Old Mu Family, Mu Dazhong was also discussing work similarly with Mrs. Lin.

Mrs. Lin's family had sent people several times urging Mu Dazhong to work for them in the mines, managing the workers.

Initially, Mu Dazhong thought his brother-in-law wasn't reliable and hesitated.

Later, seeing them making heaps of money.

He was already tempted.

Unfortunately, there were many affairs at the Old Mu Family before the year, he wanted to go, but Mr. Mu wouldn't let him.

Now, with the Old Mu Family deep in debt, Mr. Mu also hopes Mu Dazhong can find work outside.

"By the way, Daddy Gou Dan, make sure not to let Mom and Dad know that you're earning five taels of silver this time! Or else mom would definitely make you hand it all over."

Mrs. Lin whispered to Mu Dazhong.

"You think I'm an idiot, telling Mom how much I earn? No way, I told her it's ten coins a day, room but no board.

When I return, I'll say the money was spent on food, and there's nothing left."

"Ha, Daddy Gou Dan, you're really smart. But my brother is also great, mining is good work and earns a lot of money..."

#### Chapter 957: The Matter Is Settled

After lunch, everyone rested at the third branch for a while and chatted.

Then, Mu Dashan, the steward of the school, took Sun Dawu and his family to visit the school.

Once Sun Xiaozhu gets accustomed to the classroom environment, he can start attending school.

Seeing the school for the first time, the Sun family was extremely excited.

Especially Sun Dawu, who left his hometown just to ensure his son could attend school. Now that this dream is about to come true, how could he remain calm?

Mu Dashan led the Sun family to the entrance of a newly built courtyard and pointed to the gate, "Dawu, this is our village's school. It's not large, but the environment is excellent.

Moreover, usually, villagers don't come this way. Our fields are far away, so even during farming season, it won't disturb the children's learning."

Speaking of the school environment, Mu Dashan still admires his daughter Shuangshuang.

This place used to be a deserted courtyard that villagers dared not approach, but now as a school, it has turned from barren land into a great place.

Sun Dawu was also observing the school.

A courtyard with walls, about two to three times the size of a typical farmer's house,

The environment seemed very serene, and the largest building in the center should be the classroom. These were the biggest houses.

Through the windows, you could see desks and chairs inside.

Sun Dawu excitedly picked up his son Xiaozhu, pointed at the desks and chairs, and whispered, "Xiaozhu, these are the desks and chairs for studying. Shall I take you inside for a look?"

Sun Xiaozhu looked at the desks and chairs and nodded vigorously.

Suddenly, Sun Dawu turned and asked Mu Dashan, "Uncle Dashan, is there no class at noon in the school? What do the children eat for lunch? Do they go home to eat, or do they eat at school?"

These were questions Sun Dawu was eager to know.

Mu Dashan patiently explained, "There are no classes at noon in the school; students need rest, and Teacher Luo Bai also needs to rest. The school has a special place for students to rest, where everyone can relax."

"Furthermore, when my daughter Shuangshuang registered and made arrangements, it was mentioned that the school does not provide free meals, but students can choose to eat at school."

"Lunch costs five coins per meal, which includes one meat dish, two vegetable dishes, and one soup. It may not be much, but it ensures the children's nutrition."

"As for lunch every day, Si Niang and Zhao Yun help prepare it, and Shuangshuang pays them a certain amount."

Mu Dashan explained in detail, and Sun Dawu listened attentively.

He roughly understood how the school operates.

Sun Dawu also learned that parents of those students who dine at school can come to check anytime if they worry about the food's quality or quantity.

If they are dissatisfied with something, they can request a refund for the meal costs.

Sun Dawu had no objections to the school's management; now, he wanted to enter the school to let his son experience what it is like to study.

Entering the school, they immediately saw a few children playing around.

One of them was Yuanbao.

Seeing Mu Dashan, Yuanbao happily ran over and hugged Mu Dashan's leg.

"Uncle Dashan, why did you take so long? We've been waiting for you for a long time," Yuanbao's soft voice rang out.

Mu Dashan picked up Yuanbao with ease and twirled him around in the air.

Yuanbao giggled loudly.

People scattered in every corner gathered around.

Uncle Dashan, Uncle Dashan, they called out incessantly.

Mu Dashan was well-known here as the steward; students knew that whatever the issue, talking to Mu Dashan would get it resolved.

"Yuanbao, how does it feel to go to school?" Mu Dashan put down Yuanbao and bent down to ask.

"It feels okay, by the way, Uncle Dashan, Xiao Han is asking about teacher's lessons, should I take you to find him?"

Yuanbao tugged at Mu Dashan's hand, intending to head toward Luo Bai's room.

Mu Dashan stopped him, saying, "Yuanbao, this is Xiaozhu, he will study with you all in the future. I brought him today to see the school."

Speaking of Xiaozhu, Yuanbao then noticed the family following Mu Dashan, consisting of both men and women.

Yuanbao looked for a while, then earnestly suggested, "Let's see the teacher first, he will arrange where Xiaozhu sits, then we can have the tour!"

Despite being small, Yuanbao's sensible words did not surprise Mu Dashan.

However, the Sun family was very curious.

Sun Xiaozhu was shy, hiding behind his family when meeting strangers. '

But not Yuanbao, who boldly observed everyone he met and spoke clearly.

Sun Dawu immediately decided in his heart to encourage his child to talk more with this boy named Yuanbao at school in the future.

Arranging for Sun Xiaozhu to attend the school took quite some effort.

Half an hour later, all the procedures were completed.

Mu Dashan brought the Sun family back to the third branch.

They lingered for quite some time, making the time to discuss the restaurant menu with Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng much shorter, but they managed to draft a preliminary menu with some effort.

At dusk, they sent the Sun family back to town, but Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng didn't slack.

Once the restaurant's renovations began, the opening date wouldn't be far off.

Neither had much experience, and though Yu Dahai was helping, they intended to handle everything personally.

As a result, they ended up talking all night.

When Lu Yuanfeng reached home, the moon was already high in the sky.

Walking under the cool moonlight, Lu Yuanfeng's lips curled into a smile; even as he slept and dreamed, he was smiling.

-

The next day, with the sun high in the sky, Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng, well-rested, set out together to the town.

Only two days left until the restaurant's renovations were completely finished, then they'd have to discuss when to open.

First, they wanted to visit the restaurant to check the quality of the renovations, and then find someone to create the menu.

The menu is a crucial part of Chengfeng Restaurant; there's a text version and an illustrated version.

Mu Shuangshuang had seen town restaurants without menus, relying on waitstaff reciting to customers.

Typically, when hiring staff, restaurants prioritized memorization skills.

If someone could memorize the entire menu, they'd receive priority employment.

Often, restaurant staff were busy memorizing everything without actually engaging with customers.

Mu Shuangshuang wanted each dish illustrated, with two menus per table.

Although this approach was costly, it would certainly become a unique feature of the restaurant.

After searching most of the town, Mu Shuangshuang finally found an old master who used to paint landscapes for people, though his prices were steep: five coins per illustration.

Moreover, he insisted on painting from real examples, meaning Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng had to make every dish in front of him for him to paint.