

R Woman 771

Chapter 771:

Giving gifts isn't about the price, it's the thought that counts.

This scarf, from purchasing the yarn to the final stitch, was all crafted by Duanmu Sheng herself, and who knows how much yarn was wasted in the process.

Never before had Duanmu Sheng done something like this for her relatives, not even for her birth parents had she knitted a scarf, making the Shen parents the very first.

Actually, she was quite vexed at first about what to give as a meeting gift to the Shen parents, until Situ Ya suggested that the most important aspect of a gift is its sincerity.

Speaking of which, she should really thank Situ Ya for this.

Shen mother's disgust for Duanmu Sheng had reached a breaking point, wishing she could immediately fling the shabby scarf back in Duanmu Sheng's face.

Did Duanmu Sheng really think of herself as some country bumpkin who had never seen the world before?

Even though that was what she thought, Shen mother still put on a very surprised expression and said, "Sheng Sheng, did you really knit this yourself? You're such a filial and kind-hearted child. Our Haoguang is truly blessed to have met such a fine girl like you."

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Sheng replied somewhat embarrassedly, "Auntie, it's nothing really, I'm also fortunate to have met Haoguang."

"Good child," said Shen mother as she affectionately patted Duanmu Sheng's hand with a kind look on her face.

Shen father took a glass jar filled with tea leaves from a paper box, opened the lid, and delicately sniffed a few leaves at the tip of his nose.

He had thought that the tea Duanmu Sheng brought was some rare and treasured kind, but it turned out to be just ordinary green tea, a far cry from the rare white tea Situ Ya gave him.

This kind of tea was even inferior to what their servants drank, and if it weren't for the fact that Duanmu Sheng was still sitting there, Shen father would have thrown the tea leaves into the trash long ago.

The Duanmu family wasn't exactly poor, so he couldn't understand why Duanmu Sheng would be so petty!

Such a person deserved to be played for a fool by two-timers!

Though disdainful, Shen father still hypocritically said, "Refreshingly delightful, with an aftertaste that's subtly fragrant, excellent tea! Excellent tea! Sheng Sheng, how did you know I like tea?"

Duanmu Sheng slightly lifted her eyes and continued, "Uncle, it was Haoguang who told me. I personally picked the tea leaves from the mountains while I was on a business trip. I also roasted them myself. I'm glad you like it."

To Duanmu Sheng, these tea leaves were extremely precious. While picking tea might have been easy, roasting them was truly an art, and to achieve good appearance and flavour for the tea, Duanmu Sheng had also wasted a good deal of leaves.

Duanmu Sheng's father was also fond of tea, but she hadn't spared any for her own parents, bringing all she had to the Shen parents instead.

However, looking at the current situation, all her efforts seemed to be worthwhile.

As long as Shen Haoguang's parents were happy, that was all that mattered.

Heaven knows how nervous she was at the moment she stepped through the door, afraid that Shen family's parents wouldn't like her.

Now it seemed she had been worried over nothing.

Moved by her actions, Shen father said, "Sheng Sheng, you're quite remarkable for someone so young, even knowing how to roast tea leaves. Uncle thanks you, I will certainly cherish this tea."

Duanmu Sheng was all smiles, and thus didn't notice the flash of irony that quickly crossed Shen father's eyes.

Now more than ever, Shen father believed Situ Ya to be a more suitable bride for the Shen family, because although she came from humble beginnings, at least she was willing to spend money.

Duanmu Sheng, with her petty ways, simply didn't cut it.

Before any comparison, Shen father had no particular feelings, but now, contrasted with Situ Ya, he found himself looking down on Duanmu Sheng more than ever!

Nevertheless, in order not to let Duanmu Sheng suspect anything, Shen father and Shen mother continued to smile very benevolently.

Standing on the third-floor railing, Situ Ya watched all this, her lips slowly curling into a smile, her eyes shimmering with irony.

This Duanmu Sheng, she was indeed foolish.

In fact, this sudden visit of Duanmu Sheng to the Shen family was also incited by Situ Ya.

Nowadays, Duanmu Sheng truly treated Situ Ya as a good friend and had never doubted her intentions.

Situ Ya knew that any gift Duanmu Sheng brought would surely be scorned by the Shen family's parents.

Because every time she visited, she brought bags of valuable gifts for Shen family's parents, and thus their tastes had been raised by her generous hand, becoming a habit.

She deliberately encouraged Duanmu Sheng to prioritize thoughtfulness when choosing gifts, with the sole purpose of making the parents of the Shen family completely disgusted with him.

Unexpectedly, this Duanmu Sheng was also a fool to fall for it!

"Idiot," Situ Ya slowly uttered these two words, her face full of sarcasm.

"Good," a calculating gleam flashed across Situ Ya's eyes, then she gently pushed Shen Haoguang away, "You'd better hurry downstairs to find Duanmu Sheng now, lest she discovers any problem."

"Okay, baby, I'll go first, wait for me in the room." Shen Haoguang, suppressing the discomfort below, picked up the snacks and headed downstairs.

Situ Ya watched Shen Haoguang's retreating back, her lips curving into a meaningful smirk.

Suddenly, she felt a bit of sympathy for Duanmu Sheng.

Downstairs in the living room, Duanmu Sheng and the parents of the Shen family were chatting happily, laughter filling the air.

But the only one who was truly sincere was Duanmu Sheng alone.

"What are you and Sheng Sheng talking about, Mom and Dad? You're laughing so happily?" Shen Haoguang came over, a smile plastered on his face, deliberately placing the snacks in front of Duanmu Sheng, "Sheng Sheng, these are all your favorites."

"Haoguang, Sheng Sheng is such a good child, your father and I like her very much. You must cherish her in the future and not bully her, understand?" Shen's mother looked at Shen Haoguang, her face stern.

Upon hearing this, Shen's father immediately echoed.

"Your mother is right, Sheng Sheng is a rare find, a good girl hard to come by even with a lantern. Speaking of which, it is our Shen family who is reaching high by being with her. You, young man, must treasure her properly."

Although the parents of the Shen family didn't like Duanmu Sheng at the moment, they had to pretend to be very fond of her in face of their interests.

Duanmu Sheng was very touched. She didn't expect that her future parents-in-law would be so kind and close to her.

Throughout history, the relationship between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law has been very difficult to handle well, but Duanmu Sheng was confident that she could get along very well with Shen's parents and treat them like her own parents.

Shen Haoguang immediately said with a smile, "Mom and Dad, don't worry, I will definitely treat Sheng Sheng well and never let her down." As he said this, Shen Haoguang immediately looked at Duanmu Sheng with a face full of tenderness.

Duanmu Sheng's cheeks flushed with embarrassment. At that moment, she actually felt an urgent desire to get married.

Until then, she had refused to marry.

But now, she suddenly found that marriage wasn't so frightening after all.

As long as she was with the person she deeply loved, whatever she did, she felt it was blissful.

The four of them chatted in the living room for a while before a servant came to announce dinner.

The dinner was very lavish.

However, to show their regard for Duanmu Sheng, Shen's mother still looked at Duanmu Sheng apologetically, "I'm sorry, Sheng Sheng, because we didn't know you would come, so we didn't prepare many dishes. Next time you come over, auntie will definitely cook for you personally."

Duanmu Sheng replied with a smile, "Auntie, you are too polite. This is already quite a lot, the four of us definitely won't be able to finish it."

Shen Haoguang supported Duanmu Sheng's shoulder, whispering in her ear with a smile, "Then you should eat more, these are all your favorite dishes, there isn't a single one that I like, don't you think my mom is biased?"

"You child," Shen's mother knocked Shen Haoguang's head reproachfully, "competing with Sheng Sheng for favor, don't mind him, Sheng Sheng. Sit down, I'll go serve the rice for you."

With that, Shen's mother turned and headed into the kitchen.

"I should go help too." Duanmu Sheng stood up, intending to help in the kitchen.

"No need, let my mom do it," Shen Haoguang pressed Duanmu Sheng's shoulder, "You being here makes my mom uncomfortable. Today, you are a guest, just sit down and enjoy your meal, don't fuss."

Hearing this, Duanmu Sheng had no choice but to sit down again, waiting for dinner, her fondness for Shen's mother growing even more.

Soon, Shen's mother came out of the kitchen holding rice, "Sheng Sheng, dinner's ready." To show her special regard for Duanmu Sheng, Shen's mother placed the first bowl of rice in front of Duanmu Sheng.

"Thank you, Auntie," Duanmu Sheng immediately stood up to express her thanks.

"Silly child, sit down, sit down. We're all family here, no need for such formalities. If you keep this up, I might get angry," Shen's mother pretended to scold with a stern face.

In reality, Shen's mother was almost driven to rage!

This Duanmu Sheng really put on airs! She actually had herself serve her rice! When she went to the kitchen, Sheng didn't even know to come help! Such a person was simply not suitable to be a daughter-in-law, not knowing how to do anything! What was she, a decoration to be brought home?

If it were Situ Ya, she would have already served everyone's meal!

It's truly exasperating how some people can make others seem inadequate!

Duanmu Sheng wasn't a worm in Mother Shen's stomach, how could she know Mother Shen's true thoughts? Mother Shen's acting skills were very solid. On the surface, she didn't show any flaws, so it was normal for Duanmu Sheng to be deceived.

After all, people's hearts are separated by a layer of belly.

During the meal, Mother Shen looked at Duanmu Sheng and smiled, "Sheng Sheng, don't blame your aunt for being nosy, but you and Haoguang have been together for so many years, when do you plan to settle things with Haoguang? Haoguang is not young anymore, and your aunt is eagerly waiting to hold a grandchild."

"Auntie," Duanmu Sheng looked up at Mother Shen, "I plan to bring Haoguang to my house tomorrow night, as for my parents, as long as I agree, they basically have no objections."

Shen Haoguang had a good character, good looks, and a fine family background, so Duanmu Sheng was not at all worried that her parents would object.

"That's good, that's very good," Mother Shen nodded with a smile, "Sheng Sheng, with your words, I'm reassured. But you young people must work hard. It's not the old society anymore, having a child before marriage is a common matter, and both your uncle and I are waiting to hold a grandchild."

"Right, right, what your aunt said is right," Father Shen immediately nodded in agreement.

In fact, they just wanted to use a child to tie down Duanmu Sheng. Once there was a child, Duanmu Sheng would just have to accept her fate.

Hearing this, Duanmu Sheng slowly raised her head and looked at Shen's parents seriously, "Uncle and auntie, there is actually something I have to make clear with you, I do not intend to have a child within five years after getting married."

Before marriage, Duanmu Sheng definitely would not have any relations with Shen Haoguang; she was essentially a conservative person and somewhat opposed to premarital sexual activity.

Secondly, because of her work, she wouldn't want a child for a while.

The implication of her words was that if the Shen parents cared so much about having a grandchild, then this marriage might not happen.

A marriage needs not only love but also the support of both parents.

Both Mother and Father Shen were smart people, and they instantly picked up on the meaning behind Duanmu Sheng's words. Mother Shen immediately retorted with a smile, "Sheng Sheng, maybe your aunt is too impatient. Don't mind me, huh. Having children later is no issue; for young people, work is the most important, and I support you."

Father Shen also said, "Yes, your aunt and I mean the same thing. We were just making a casual remark. There's no rush for children; work is the most important thing."

Duanmu Sheng doesn't want to have children?

Sorry, but there are plenty of women who would be willing to have children for Shen Haoguang!

A scornful look flickered in Mother Shen's eyes. Did Duanmu Sheng really think she was someone special? Who cares about the children she bears? She would only acknowledge grandchildren that came from Situ Ya's womb.

Not expecting Shen's parents to be so understanding, Duanmu Sheng immediately expressed her gratitude, "Uncle and auntie, thank you for your understanding. I'd like to toast to you." Saying this, Duanmu Sheng picked up a glass of wine and stood up.

"We're family, no need to stand. Sit down, please," Mother Shen said with feigned politeness.

The meal was filled with joy and harmony.

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The Mo family.

Because Mo Qingyi was about to get engaged to Duanmu Zhe, the Mo family was also very busy.

Chu Jin was pregnant, and the old Madame Mo wouldn't let her help with anything, making her the most leisure person in the entire Mo family.

Mo Zhixuan was now the Lord of the Three Realms, so he wasn't idle either, which meant that most of the time, Chu Jin was sitting quietly in front of the computer, typing.

Maybe it was because this might be her last time writing, so when working on "The End Is the True Beginning," Chu Jin hesitated a lot before writing. She revised each paragraph many times before being satisfied.

The study was enveloped in 3D music, creating a perfect environment for writing.

Chu Jin was typing away when suddenly a friend request popped up on her phone.

The additional message from the friend read[Original Literature Network Editor: Mountains Have Wood.]

Chu Jin clicked 'accept,' then it dawned on her—this was the account she used in the Superpower World...

So, how did the editor add her?

Could it be that the editor was also from the Superpower World?

Soon a message came through from Shan You Mu Xi: "Hello Editor The Return of the Past, I'm now your responsible editor. You can just call me Xi Xi."

Chu Jin was stunned for a moment and then replied, Jin Xiu He Shan: "Hello."

After chatting with Shan You Mu Xi for a while, Chu Jin found out that Shan You Mu Xi was indeed from the Three Realms.

However, she was in charge of liaising between the Three Realms and the mundane world, and because "Blooms like Brocade" had become popular in the other Three Realms, she was here to discuss the book rights of "The End Is Just the Beginning" with Chu Jin.

Actually, the mundane world has always been connected to the Three Realms; it's just that ordinary people don't know about it. Traditionally, only important national leaders would communicate with the representatives of the Three Realms.

Some citizens of the Three Realms have always looked down on the mundane world, but it's undeniable that this mundane world has always been the foundation of the Three Realms.

The Three Realms coexist with the mundane world, and if the mundane world is unstable, the balance of the Three Realms will be lost as well.

After chatting with Shan You Mu Xi for a bit, Chu Jin stood up and walked to the window, gazing at the beautiful scenery outside.

It was September, a season heavy with ripe fruits, and the lush pomegranate trees were laden with bright red, large pomegranates.

At that moment, the door to the study was pushed open and Mo Zhixuan walked in carrying a tray.

Hearing the noise, Chu Jin turned around and asked in surprise, "How come you're back so early today?"

For a whole week, Mr. Mo had been coming back after eleven o'clock at night, and then getting up very early in the morning. Anyway, by the time Chu Jin woke up at 7 a.m. each day, Mo Zhixuan was already out of bed.

Every night when he returned, she was already asleep, so during this period, Chu Jin barely had a chance to see Mr. Mo properly—only catching a blurry glimpse of him if she happened to wake up in the middle of the night.

After a week without seeing him, Mo Zhixuan seemed to have slimmed down quite a bit, and blue stubble had sprouted on his chin.

However, he didn't look disheveled but instead, this added a bit of sexiness and a unique sense of authority to his appearance.

"It's not that busy," Mo Zhixuan put the tray on the table next to him and said in a deep tone, "I made your favorite pickled long bean noodles. Come and have some."

"Sure," Chu Jin said with a smile, walking over. "I'm just getting hungry."

"Then eat more. I'll make more after you finish," Mo Zhixuan said as he handed her the bowl, carefully cautioning, "Be careful, it's hot."

He acted as if Chu Jin were a three-year-old child who couldn't do anything.

Mo Zhixuan was indeed a lot older than Chu Jin, so when it came to everyday life, he wished he could take care of everything personally for her.

He felt like an... old father figure.

"Got it, Daddy Mo," Chu Jin looked up, blinked subtly and spoke with a hint of mischief in her clear eyes—a rare moment of girlish charm that caused Mo Zhixuan's gaze to flicker.

Mo Zhixuan was momentarily taken aback and then said, "Eat up. If it's not enough, I'll make you some more."

"Alright." Chu Jin nodded slightly and started eating the noodles seriously.

It had to be said, Mo Zhixuan's cooking skills were excellent. Even a very ordinary bowl of noodles, with a spoonful of pickled long bean paste, could be made so delicious by him that one would want to swallow their own tongue along with it.

"Is it good?" Mo Zhixuan sat opposite her and asked in a low voice.

"Not bad. You try some too," Chu Jin offered, lifting some noodles on her spoon towards Mo Zhixuan.

Mo Zhixuan obediently opened his mouth.

As Chu Jin was about to put the spoon into Mo Zhixuan's mouth, she suddenly retracted her hand and ate the noodles from the spoon herself.

Mo Zhixuan: "..." It was all a ruse.

Chu Jin laughed out loud, prepared another spoonful of noodles, and said, "Open up, ah, I promise no tricks this time."

Mo Zhixuan opened his mouth again.

However, Miss Chu, who had promised no tricks, successfully tricked Mr. Mo once more.

"Haha..." Chu Jin laughed uncontrollably, "Mo Zhixuan, are you a fool? How could you fall for the same trick twice?"

How could there be someone as adorable as Mo Zhixuan in this world?

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Mo Zhixuan closed his mouth, a look of deep grievance in his eyes as he gazed at Chu Jin and spoke helplessly, "Jin, it's not right to bully an honest person."

"I'm not laughing anymore, not laughing anymore," Chu Jin immediately put away her full-faced smile, very seriously saying, "The last time, I swear, I really won't deceive you again. Open your mouth."

Mo Zhixuan obediently opened his mouth again, and Chu Jin also extended the spoon to Mo Zhixuan's mouth with a face full of sincerity. But in the next second, Chu Jin repeated her old trick, quickly withdrawing her hand and eating the noodles herself.

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A moment later, Mo Zhixuan contentedly sat down in the chair opposite, stroked his chin, and spoke with a hint of meaning, "Hmm, the taste is indeed not bad, but it seems a bit too salty, next time put less salt."

Chu Jin was already accustomed to his rogue behavior and gave him a white look, "You're taking advantage of me and still playing cute."

After finishing the noodles, the two went downstairs for a walk. It was just past three in the afternoon; the sun was not very strong, the air outside was quite refreshing, and a gentle breeze was blowing, making people feel clearheaded and happy.

As they passed under a pomegranate tree, Chu Jin suddenly took an interest and said to Mo Zhixuan, "Go pick a few pomegranates for me."

"Okay," Mo Zhixuan said without hesitation, immediately climbing up the tall pomegranate tree.

"Mo Zhixuan, I want those biggest and reddest ones at the top of the tree," Chu Jin shouted from below the tree.

Occasionally, patrolling soldiers passed by without sparing them a glance, and it was only after walking a long distance that they curiously looked back.

They seemed somewhat puzzled.

If Mo Zhixuan wanted to eat pomegranates, he only needed to signal, so why bother climbing the tree himself?

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The next day.

The weather was still as clear as before.

The Chu Family.

Zhao Yan was sitting in the living room knitting a sweater when the urgent ring of the telephone suddenly interrupted her.

"Hello?" Zhao Yan put down the little sweater in her hand and answered the phone.

"Hello, Auntie, it's me, Song Chen." A polite male voice came from the other end of the phone.

Hearing this, Zhao Yan immediately spoke with a smile, "Is that Song? Do you need something, auntie?"

"Auntie, it's like this," the male voice on the phone was mild and steady, "Today, Little Dai is coming over to my place as a guest, and she really wants to eat the home-cooked meal you make. I was wondering if you could come over now?"

Since Little Dai had helped her as well, Zhao Yan naturally couldn't refuse Song Shiqin, and so she agreed with pleasure, "Alright, Song, I'll come over right away."

"Auntie, I'm sorry to trouble you. That's it then, goodbye." The voice of Song Shiqin on the other end of the phone, expressionless, hung up after saying this, his eyes half-closed, beneath the dazzling crystal light, his eyes sparkling with a chilling coldness.

This time, he had to keep Chu Jin at all costs.

He couldn't let her leave him again.

On her end, after Zhao Yan hung up the phone, she had her driver take her to the villa where Song Shiqin lived.

Dai Yu and Song Shiqin warmly received Zhao Yan.

After the meal, when Zhao Yan proposed to leave, Dai Yu stood up with a smile, "Auntie, it's rare for me to visit, please stay and chat with me a bit longer. Song Chen and I are the same, we both grew up without a mother."

At the phrase 'grew up without a mother,' a look of surprise instantly appeared in Zhao Yan's eyes, which then turned to compassion.

Children without a mother are the most pitiful; after her accident, Jin had suffered a great deal.

"Okay, then auntie will accompany you for a walk," Zhao Yan replied, getting up.

"Thank you, Auntie. By the way, Auntie, Song Chen raised quite a few small animals in the back of the villa; let me take you to see them," Dai Yu took the initiative to link her arm with Zhao Yan's, appearing very affectionate.

The Mo family.

Chu Jin was still sitting in the study creating when suddenly her right eyelid twitched, and then the phone next to her computer rang.

It was an unfamiliar number without a contact name saved; Chu Jin hesitated, then pressed the answer key.

"Jin, it's me." A deep male voice came through the phone, instantaneously bringing Chu Jin's somewhat weary mood into sharp alertness.

That voice was?

Song Shiqin.

"Jin," Song Shiqin spoke again, knowing that Chu Jin didn't like him addressing her as "Jun Huang," so Song Shiqin decided to follow Zhao Yan's way of calling her Jin.

However, in his heart, Chu Jin was Jun Huang.

"What is it?" Chu Jin's voice was somewhat cold.

"Jin, open WeChat," Song Shiqin continued.

"Just say it if it's important." Chu Jin stood up and walked to the window, her clean and fair face devoid of any expression.

Before the wedding, Song Shiqin had also called her, but at that time, she had blacklisted Song Shiqin and even changed her number. She hadn't expected that Song Shiqin would still be able to contact her.

"Jin, Auntie is here with me," Song Shiqin's voice came out from the phone screen again, his light words concealing a faint sense of crisis.

At that, Chu Jin's brow twitched; she spoke coldly, "What do you mean?"

Suddenly, Chu Jin remembered that Zhao Yan had been repeatedly mentioning little Song...

Could it be that Song Chen was Song Shiqin?

Song Shiqin + Xuanyuan Shangchen = Song Chen.

Chu Jin discerned the hidden threat in those words.

If that was true, then Song Shiqin was terrifying!

What exactly did he want to do?

Song Shiqin smiled slightly, "Just as it sounds."

Chu Jin was holding her phone while walking towards the desk, where she picked up the tablet computer, opened WeChat, and then saw a friend request.

"Jin, it's me," said Song Shiqin from the other end of the phone, as if he could see Chu Jin's actions.
"Click accept."

Song Shiqin's WeChat name was very simple.

Just three characters.

Waiting for Phoenix.

After Chu Jin clicked accept, Song Shiqin sent her a photo.

In the photo, Zhao Yan stood within a barrier, and Dai Yu stood behind her.

"So, Jin, do you believe me now?" Song Shiqin's voice came through the phone, tinged with a hint of amusement.

"What exactly do you want?" Chu Jin asked, staring at the photo on the computer screen, her voice very calm.

She knew that for the time being, Song Shiqin wouldn't harm Zhao Yan.

Song Shiqin chuckled softly, "Jin, do you still not understand what I want? Everything I've done, I've done for you! Leave Mo Zhixuan and come back to me. I will raise our child with you."

The peach blossom eyes of Chu Jin were pitch black, like ink, dense enough to send shivers down one's spine, "It's daylight, not the time for dreams," she said, her voice so faint that it was without a single ripple.

"You are my dream, Jin," Song Shiqin continued laughing. "If you reject me, I think you'll certainly regret it."

"What if I definitely refuse?" said Chu Jin, narrowing her eyes.

"You should be able to imagine the consequences," said Song Shiqin, finally picking up a vase in his hand and toying with it. "Jin, I advise you not to refuse. You'd better think carefully. Whatever Mo Zhixuan can give you, I can give you, and even what Mo Zhixuan can't give you, I can. In this world, only I am the one who loves you the most."

As Song Shiqin spoke, he grew more and more excited, his voice increasing in volume, "Mo Zhixuan isn't worthy of you! A man who would even get rid of his own flesh and blood doesn't deserve to be with you! Jin, you'd better obediently listen to me."

His last words carried a heavy warning.

He had his reasons for approaching Zhao Yan.

Chu Jin didn't respond, just stared at Zhao Yan's photo on the computer screen, her expression extremely complicated.

"Jin, I've sent you the address, and I'm waiting for you at home," said Song Shiqin before promptly hanging up the phone.

Chu Jin looked at the address sent by Song Shiqin, frowned slightly, and made a phone call. The call was answered quickly, and before the person on the other end could speak, Chu Jin said, "Have the lady of the house take the call."

"I'm sorry, the lady has gone out on some business," was the reply.

Chu Jin didn't say much more and then called Zhao Yan. But the phone was off, indicated by the automated message, so, with no other choice, Chu Jin hung up.

With the situation having escalated to this point, Chu Jin had no choice but to personally visit the address Song Shiqin had mentioned.

While walking outside, Chu Jin picked up her phone to call Mo Zhixuan.

But Mo Zhixuan was in the midst of an important meeting and so missed the call. With no other option, Chu Jin composed a text message explaining the situation and sent it to him.

Then Chu Jin got into her car and drove away.

No matter what, she couldn't abandon Zhao Yan.

Now that Song Shiqin had gone dark, who knew what he might do to Zhao Yan.

The black car quickly stopped in front of the villa, where Song Shiqin was already waiting for her at the entrance.

Song Shiqin was still wearing that black coat and had a hat on his head. Seen this way, he appeared like an envoy from the edge of hell, emanating an aura of death all over him.

"Jin, I knew you would come," said Song Shiqin, stepping forward. He reached out to take Chu Jin's hand but she subtly avoided it.

"Where's my mother?" Chu Jin looked up at Song Shiqin, her gaze filled with a strong scrutinizing intent.

"Don't worry, your aunt is inside," said Song Shiqin with a slight lift of his lips. "Jin, come, let me take you to see your room. You like the Superpower World, don't you? Then let's live here from now on."

Chu Jin frowned slightly, "Song Shiqin, let me go, and let yourself go too, okay? There're some things I don't want to say a second time."

Song Shiqin, however, didn't look at her or pick up on her words; his expression twisted and became pained in a moment, then he turned and walked up the stairs.

With no other choice, Chu Jin followed him, walking while paying attention to the surroundings. She could sense Zhao Yan's presence but couldn't pinpoint her location.

Due to her pregnancy, her constitution was now almost like that of an ordinary person; she had no spiritual power or special abilities.

Song Shiqin led Chu Jin straight into a room, "Jin, this is the room I've personally prepared for you. Do you like it?"

Pearl curtains, carved decor, all the furniture made of red sandalwood, even the patterns on the accompanying tables were of dragons and phoenixes, antique and imposing.

Looking at the room's decoration, Chu Jin suddenly felt a very familiar sensation, and her headache intensified.

Song Shiqin had set up the room according to the bedroom of the Empress from Ancient Times, hence the familiarity Chu Jin felt.

In fact, Xuanyuan Shangchen had always been deeply in love with the empress.

It's just a pity that in his youth, he chose the wrong path.

Now, wanting to have regrets, it was obviously too late.

"Jin, do you like it?" Seeing that Chu Jin was silent, Song Shiqin asked again.

"I don't like it," Chu Jin answered coldly.

The corners of Song Shiqin's mouth curled up with a hint of sarcasm, then he said, "It's alright if you don't like it. Jin, tell me, what kind of room do you like? I will make it according to how you say."

"Where is my mother?" Chu Jin countered instead of answering.

"Jin, I'm going to take you to another place. You will definitely like it there," said Song Shiqin as he turned and walked out of the room, then pushed open another room's door.

It was a baby room filled with childlike charm. Inside, everything was dainty and sweet; toys were piled everywhere - a child's paradise.

"Jin, this is specially prepared for the children, do you or do you not like it?" Song Shiqin looked at Chu Jin with anticipation, hoping to hear the words 'like it' from her.

Chu Jin lifted her eyes slightly, a chill flashing in their depths, "Song Shiqin, can't we stop playing these pointless games? Where's my mother?"

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"Jin, rest assured, from now on, I will love them as my own children." Song Shiqin shifted his gaze to Chu Jin's belly, his eyes filled with sincerity.

"My children have their own father, so you don't need to bother, Song Shiqin. Can't you stop doing this? Will you let my mother go?" Chu Jin's tone softened a bit; she was also afraid of provoking Song Shiqin.

After all, Zhao Yan was still in his hands.

"Mo Zhixuan doesn't deserve to be their father!" Song Shiqin's face suddenly turned cold, but then it quickly returned to normal. He looked at Chu Jin with patience and said, "Jin, there's no need to pretend any longer, I know everything. Don't worry, I don't mind the children in your womb, and I care even less about their constitution. Come back to my side, okay?"

"Love is a matter of mutual consent," Chu Jin calmly looked at Song Shiqin, "Mo Zhixuan is very good, so I will not leave him."

Why is Chu Jin still blindly devoted to Mo Zhixuan after all he has done to her?

"If he's so good, why did he want to abort your children?" Song Shiqin instantly flew into a rage.

"You're making things up," Chu Jin frowned slightly, "Mo Zhixuan isn't that kind of person!"

"Jin," Song Shiqin took a deep breath and lowered his gaze to Chu Jin, his voice full of hope, "can you really not come back to me?"

"Really can't," Chu Jin answered seriously.

Upon hearing this.

Song Shiqin felt a bitter taste in his heart; he had made such a big concession, why was Chu Jin still indifferent?

What exactly does she want?

A ruthless expression erupted from the depths of Song Shiqin's eyes as he looked at Chu Jin coldly, his voice full of threat, "Then, do you not care if Zhao Yan lives or dies?"

"You wouldn't dare!" Chu Jin narrowed her eyes slightly; a sharp cold light flashed in her clear eyes.

Song Shiqin chuckled and countered, "What do you think is there that I wouldn't dare do?"

A sentence filled with chill that left no room for doubt.

Chu Jin clenched her fists, her face full of coldness.

Song Shiqin leaned forward, attempting to kiss her lips, but Chu Jin coldly turned her head away.

Song Shiqin smiled, pulled out a lock of hair from his pocket, and handed it to Chu Jin with an indifferent tone, "Jin, you'd better be obedient. Otherwise, I can't guarantee what I might do to Zhao Yan." The threat was clear.

With those words, Song Shiqin grabbed Chu Jin's shoulders and leaned down again, but Chu Jin once more turned her head away.

His kiss fell on her cheek instead, as Song Shiqin's face formed a slight curve. Then he let go of Chu Jin, followed by, "You can stay in the room we just came from during this time."

As soon as Song Shiqin turned to leave,

Chu Jin took a handkerchief from her pocket and furiously wiped the spot where Song Shiqin had kissed her, then threw the handkerchief away.

Although Chu Jin no longer possessed Spiritual Power, she could see that this villa had been surrounded by a barrier set up by Song Shiqin. People inside couldn't leave, and those outside couldn't enter—it was invisible and inescapable, like a three-dimensional space.

Not long after Song Shiqin left, a very young girl with a long braid approached, looking exceptionally pretty with her rosy lips and white teeth. Unfortunately, her feet had no shadow.

The young girl came up to Chu Jin and said sweetly, "Madam, my name is Momoko; from now on, I'm your personal maid. You can give me any orders in the future."

Chu Jin ignored her and headed downstairs. She had to find Zhao Yan at all costs.

Momoko followed closely behind Chu Jin.

"Can you stop following me?" Chu Jin turned around, visibly irritated.

Visibly alarmed, Momoko said, "I'm sorry, madam. Please don't be angry; it's the arrangement made by the master, and I can only comply."

Without responding, Chu Jin walked through the villa, guiding her steps by the Five Elements. Despite lacking special abilities, her instincts and professional knowledge as a fortune-teller remained.

But no matter where Chu Jin went, Momoko was always behind her.

She searched the entire villa twice over but couldn't find any trace of Zhao Yan.

In the Mo family's residence,

Mo Zhixuan saw the text message Chu Jin had sent only two hours later. Today's meeting was particularly important, and it had dragged on longer than expected.

When he read the contents of the message, his expression tightened, and a chilling presence surrounded him. After giving Li Xunen a few brief instructions, he drove towards the address mentioned in Chu Jin's text message.

Gripping the steering wheel with one hand and his phone with the other, he tried calling Chu Jin, but her phone had already been switched off.

Mo Zhixuan cursed under his breath, tossed the phone aside, and floored the accelerator, his car racing forward almost like a blur.

Soon, Mo Zhixuan arrived at the address from the text message, but all he found were a few large trees—no other structures in sight.

Song Shiqin was no simple man, and if he intended to hide someone, it was rare for anyone to find them. Chu Jin's physique was no different from an ordinary person's now, so Mo Zhixuan was very worried.

"Jin, Jin," Mo Zhixuan shouted in place.

Unfortunately, there was no response from the surroundings.

Mo Zhixuan gradually calmed down, took out a communicator from his space, and put it in his ear. While pressing the communicator with his hand, he said, "Give me an all-around positioning of Song Shiqin's location."

After thinking for a moment, Mo Zhixuan then contacted Zi, and told her about the situation here.

Ten minutes later, Zi rushed over.

Seeing Mo Zhixuan's anxious expression, Zi comforted him, "Mr. Mo, don't worry, I was Jin's system before. As long as I can confirm that Jin is nearby, I can communicate with him telepathically."

"Good, then try it now," Mo Zhixuan urged.

"Okay," Zi nodded and then slowly closed her eyes.

Meanwhile.

Chu Jin was walking in the villa's garden. She had tried everything, but she still couldn't leave the barrier. Moreover, the ghostly Momoko kept following her closely.

"Jin, Jin, can you hear my voice?" Just then, Chu Jin seemed to hear Zi's voice in her ear.

Chu Jin stopped in her tracks, subconsciously surveying her surroundings, her gaze falling on Momoko's face. Seeing her looking back at her with a usual expression, Chu Jin narrowed her eyes. Could it be that she was experiencing an auditory hallucination?

Just at that moment, Zi's voice came again, "Jin, it's Zi. If you hear me, please respond."

This time, she truly heard it. Chu Jin's face brightened, and she turned to look at Momoko, who seemed not to hear Zi's voice; otherwise, she wouldn't be so calm.

"Zi, I'm here," Chu Jin responded with her thoughts.

"Great, Jin! I've finally got in touch with you!" Zi's voice was extremely surprised. "Jin, where are you now? Mr. Mo and I are coming to find you."

Chu Jin gave an address.

Zi frowned slightly, "Jin, Mr. Mo and I are right at the address you mentioned, and there's no villa in sight. Did you make a mistake?"

Chu Jin continued, "This place has been subjected to a barrier by Song Shiqin. I can't get out now, and you can't get in. But don't worry, I'm already looking for an exit."

Outside.

Seeing Zi keeping her eyes shut and not speaking, Song Shiqin grew anxious and shook Zi's shoulder, "How's Zi Qi? Is there any news from Jin?"

Zi opened her eyes and looked up at Mo Zhixuan with joy, "There is! There is! Mr. Mo, I've made contact with Jin. She's safe now, so no need to worry!"

Hearing this, Mo Zhixuan breathed a sigh of relief, "That's good." As his words fell, he asked again, "Where is Jin now? Has Song Shiqin bullied her?"

Zi continued, "According to Jin, she's right at this spot where we're standing. But, Song Shiqin has created a barrier here, so we can't get in, and she can't come out."

"A barrier?" Mo Zhixuan's eyes narrowed slightly, a cold light flashing in their depths. He subconsciously twisted the ferocious mutant beast ring on his index finger and said, "Zi Qi, keep in contact with Jin. Ask her to turn the wedding ring on her finger three times clockwise, then three times counterclockwise, and then follow the ring's direction to walk out."

Since Chu Jin had previously been through such an ordeal, Mo Zhixuan was cautious when choosing wedding rings. The seemingly ordinary ring was actually connected to the one on his finger. Unfortunately, in their haste, they hadn't set up a location tracker.

Otherwise, they wouldn't have lost track of her today.

"Okay," Zi nodded slightly and then closed her eyes again, communicating with Chu Jin.

Chu Jin, while communicating telepathically with Zi, sat on a stone bench in the garden, her expression indifferent. Unintentionally, her right hand covered the wedding ring on the ring finger of her left hand, turning it rhythmically.

Simultaneously, the ring on Mo Zhixuan's index finger emitted a violent red light.

Inside the barrier.

Standing on the rooftop, Song Shiqin looked down at Mo Zhixuan, a mocking curve lifting the corners of his mouth.

Mo Zhixuan should not expect to see Chu Jin in this lifetime!

All his efforts now were in vain! No one could break his barrier, not even Mo Zhixuan.

Once Chu Jin had the child, he would immediately hold a wedding ceremony with her.

Song Shiqin was so assured that Chu Jin couldn't leave the barrier that he allowed her to walk around the villa with such peace of mind. As for Momoko, she was there not only to monitor but also to take care of Chu Jin.

Now that she was with child, it was imperative to have someone look after her.

After turning the ring, just as Zi had said, Chu Jin heard Mo Zhixuan's voice in her mind: "Walk five steps to the east, then turn right and walk ten steps..."

However, Mo Zhixuan couldn't communicate with her; he could only tell her how to leave the barrier.

Chu Jin quickly memorized all the steps, then she raised her gaze to Momoko and said in a flat tone, "I'm thirsty, go get me some water."

"Right away, madam," the moment Momoko turned around, Chu Jin took two steps forward and aimed a karate chop at the back of Momoko's neck.

"Thump." With that, Momoko fell directly onto the ground. To prevent any accidents, Jin took out another Fixed Body amulet from his pocket and stuck it on Momoko's body.

Then he followed the steps given by Mo Zhixuan and started to carry them out.

Five minutes later, Jin walked out of the barrier smoothly.

"Jin!" At the sight of her, Mo Zhixuan was ecstatic and hurriedly ran over to embrace her.

"I'm alright," Jin patted his back, "Mo Zhixuan, thank you."

Inside the barrier, seeing this scene, Song Shiqin was nearly on the verge of madness!

Why!

Why did Jin still manage to walk out!

Why is fate so unfair!

"Ah!" Enraged, Song Shiqin shouted, his face veins bulging out, his whole body emanating dense black energy, and everything around him shattered and fell to the ground.

"Go bring Zhao Yan to me!" Song Shiqin roared at his subordinates behind him!

"Yes." The subordinate bowed respectfully and then walked downstairs.

Although several hours had passed, to Zhao Yan, it felt as if only ten or so minutes had gone by, and she was wandering in the garden with Dai Yu.

As Dai Yu said, Song Shiqin kept quite a few small animals in the back garden.

There were dogs, foxes, cats, tigers...

But the more Zhao Yan looked, the more wrong it seemed because these animals closely resembled the ones that had appeared around Jin.

The big black dog was like Blackie.

The fox was like Little Grey.

The cat was like a little white one.

Only the tiger had never been seen by Zhao Yan before.

"Are all these raised by Song?" Zhao Yan looked up at Dai Yu and asked with a smile.

"Yes," Dai Yu nodded politely, "Song Chen is a very compassionate person."

Just then, a man dressed in black walked up to them, whispered something in Dai Yu's ear, to which she nodded to show her understanding and turned to Zhao Yan, saying, "Auntie, it's getting late, let me take you back now. Song Chen is waiting for us ahead."

"Sure," Zhao Yan put away her suspicions and nodded.

Perhaps, everything was just a coincidence.

Following Dai Yu to the living room, Song Shiqin was already standing there, not showing any signs of abnormality. He slowly walked up to Zhao Yan and began to speak gently, "Auntie, I'm sorry!"

Before Zhao Yan could react, her vision went dark, and she passed out.

Fortunately, Dai Yu reacted in time to catch Zhao Yan.

Dai Yu fed Zhao Yan a black pill, and soon after, Zhao Yan woke up again, but there was no trace of life in her eyes. She was like a puppet on strings, a lifeless shell.

Outside the barrier, Mo Zhixuan turned to look at Zi, "Zi Qi, you take Jin and leave first." He could take care of the rest.

"I can't leave," Jin said, looking at Mo Zhixuan with firm conviction.

No matter what, she could not leave Mo Zhixuan to face danger alone. They were husband and wife and should face things together. Song Shiqin was targeting her, not Mo Zhixuan.

What if she left and Song Shiqin really did something to Zhao Yan? What then?

Mo Zhixuan seemed to see her worry and continued, "Don't worry. As long as I'm here, I won't let our mom get hurt. Trust me!"

"No, I want to stay by your side," Jin said calmly.

She had seen it all before; such trifles didn't concern her.

Mo Zhixuan's tone grew slightly cold, "It's dangerous here."

"I know," Jin looked up at Mo Zhixuan, "that's why I need to be by your side." With that, she hugged Mo Zhixuan.

Left with no other choice, Mo Zhixuan had to compromise. He turned to Zi and said, "Protect Jin well later on."

"Mr. Mo, rest assured, I'll take care of everything," Zi patted his chest.

"Hmm," Song Shiqin gave a slight nod.

His trust in Zi's abilities was absolute.

As soon as these words fell, the originally calm barrier suddenly began to tremble violently, much like lightning, with cracks appearing across its surface.

The three of them immediately heightened their alertness, with Zi shielding Chu Jin behind her.

Mo Zhixuan stood there like a mountain, his cold gaze fixed on Song Shiqin as he stepped out from the barrier, "You've finally come out. Release my mother now."

"Let Jin come out to see me, or else I'll kill Zhao Yan!" Song Shiqin's gaze bypassed Mo Zhixuan and went straight to Zi.

Hearing this, Chu Jin stepped out from behind Zi, raising her eyes to look at Song Shiqin, "Calm down."

Song Shiqin was pressing a dagger tightly against Zhao Yan's waist, and the look on her face made it clear she was under his control due to some drug.

"Come here," Song Shiqin stared straight at Chu Jin, the dagger still pressed firmly against Zhao Yan's waist.

"Don't go over, he's already gone mad," Mo Zhixuan reached out to grab her wrist with an icy tone.

"Let her go!" Song Shiqin's gaze intently fell on their clasped hands.

This scene was too glaring.

Not able to control his emotions, Song Shiqin applied force with his hand, and fresh blood began to flow from Zhao Yan's waist as he roared, "Jinhuan! You come over here!"

Chu Jin's eyelashes instantly frosted over, and her previously pitch-black pupils began to slowly redden... In an instant, her aura surged tremendously.

Pregnant women were originally devoid of Spiritual Power, but now, Song Shiqin had touched her bottom line.

"Jin, don't upset the fetus," Mo Zhixuan lowered his gaze to Chu Jin, "Trust me, I will definitely find a way to save our mother."

Chu Jin looked at him, staying silent.

Unless Song Shiqin released his hostage voluntarily, there was simply no way to wrest someone from his grasp.

In Ancient Times, there was a three-legged balance of power among Jinhuan, Xuanyuan Shangchen, and Xiao Junchi.

Now, once again, the three stand on opposing sides, as if history was repeating itself.

In an instant, intense murderous auras burst forth from between the three, chilling to the core.

Song Shiqin's entire body radiated a dense black aura, "Jinhuan, you now have two choices, one, kill Mo Zhixuan. Two, I kill Zhao Yan."

Only with Mo Zhixuan's death could Chu Jin truly belong to him.

This action would also perfectly test the extent of Mo Zhixuan's place in Chu Jin's heart.

If she could easily give up on Mo Zhixuan, then it would mean there was no real love between them.

Song Shiqin spoke earnestly, his words bearing no hint of jest.

"Impossible!" Chu Jin raised her eyes, the depths brimming with intense red light, her fists clenched as though she was on the verge of erupting at any moment.

Mo Zhixuan pressed down on her hand, eyes narrowing slightly as he searched for the right opportunity.

Song Shiqin laughed lightly, "It seems that faced with the choice between family and love, you have chosen the latter. Good, then I will grant your wishes." With those words, he flung Zhao Yan away with a raise of his hand, along with a dagger gleaming with a cold light.

Suddenly, the winds howled and clouds surged.

Zhao Yan's body flew like a kite with its string cut, crashing harshly to the other side, while the dropped dagger plunged directly into her forehead.

And with that, her life was extinguished.

Mo Zhixuan flashed over to catch Zhao Yan, "Mother!"

"Song Shiqin!" The Empress' spirit within Chu Jin erupted fully, as she pulled out a Longsword from the void and thrust it fiercely towards Song Shiqin's chest.

Dai Yu stood to the side, her eyes wide with horror, her hand tightly covering her mouth.

All this happened too quickly.

Facing the incoming Longsword, Song Shiqin did not dodge, nor did fear appear in his eyes. Instead, a look of relief emerged, with a slight curve spreading across his lips.

In this moment, countless images flashed before Song Shiqin's eyes.

A thousand years ago, on a battlefield ten leagues wide drenched in blood, a young girl in her late twenties, bold and resplendent, and later on, that spirited red-dressed woman made a resolute leap from the city tower...

Now, everything had come to a conclusion.

The past could finally settle.

Song Shiqin could clearly feel the sharp tip of the blade piercing his skin and driving straight into his heart, blood splattering everywhere. In that moment, all was still.

Just then, Chu Jin realized something was amiss and raised her eyes in surprise to Song Shiqin, "You..."

Chapter 774: clear both

Song Shiqin cracked a faint smile, black mist shrouding him as traces of blood seeped from the corner of his mouth, "Feng'er, we're finally even."

With that, Song Shiqin reached out to clasp Chu Jin's hand, shoving it fiercely inward so that the Longsword pierced straight through his back.

A thousand years ago, he owed her a life, and a thousand years later, he repaid her with one.

This life.

Owing nothing more.

At the same time, the sky returned to normal, revealing a European-style villa before everyone's eyes, as golden sunshine spilled through the clouds, coating the earth with a golden glow.

Lying motionless on the ground just moments ago, Zhao Yan suddenly opened her eyes, and the dagger lodged in her forehead vanished without a trace under the sunlight's glow.

"Mo Zhixuan, where is this?" Zhao Yan sat up, pressing her temples with her hands, her face full of confusion.

"Mom, you're awake." Mo Zhixuan looked at Zhao Yan incredulously, reaching out to help her up.

Still standing before Song Shiqin, Chu Jin watched as the red faded from her eyes, Zhao Yan standing there unharmed—as if what had just transpired was nothing but an illusion.

But Song Shiqin had indeed been truly and deeply pierced by the Longsword in her hands.

Chu Jin felt her hands trembling, her eyes brimming with rippling water-like glimmers, nearly losing control of her emotions in that instant.

He had deceived her with an illusion.

He had orchestrated his own death by her hand.

"Feng'er, don't cry," Song Shiqin said, looking at her, his lips maintaining a faint curve, "For someone like me, it's not worth it."

A lump formed in Chu Jin's throat, tears the size of beans uncontrollably rolling down, as infinite sorrow enveloped her...

Song Shiqin's face was as white as paper, yet he continued to stand there, forcibly pulling out the Longsword lodged in his chest, the once snow-white blade now a blinding red.

Song Shiqin planted the sword fiercely into the ground, one hand on the hilt, the other pressed against his chest, and soon his palm was soaked with blood.

"Feng'er, you're right, I was too stubborn, from now on, we owe nothing to each other, I let you go and I set myself free," he said with a slight smile towards Chu Jin.

Then, Song Shiqin turned his gaze towards Dai Yu, "Let's go."

He was in a pitiable state and did not want to die such a pitiable death before her.

Dai Yu snapped back to reality, her complexion pale as she supported Song Shiqin, her voice tinged with a sob, "Lord Ghost, are you alright? Let's go, I'll take you to heal!"

No matter when and where, Dai Yu's loyalty to Song Shiqin was absolute.

At this moment, Song Shiqin was severely weakened, his breath was faint, but he still forced himself to say, "I'm fine! This little injury won't do anything to me!"

As the figures of Song Shiqin and Dai Yu grew further and further away, only when they had completely disappeared from Chu Jin's view did Song Shiqin fail to suppress the blood choking his throat and spew it forth, falling unconscious.

"Lord Ghost! Lord Ghost!" Dai Yu was in total disarray, her hands trembling as she touched Song Shiqin's chest, feeling nothing but stickiness beneath her touch.

Dai Yu quickly took out medicinal pills from her space, at this point, no longer caring about their individual effects and fed them all to Song Shiqin.

On this side.

Chu Jin still stood there, her gaze fixed in the direction of Song Shiqin's departure.

The bloodstains on the grass reminded her, everything that had happened was not an illusion.

It all truly occurred.

At this moment, her mind was a messy jumble, somewhat unclear as to why things had turned out this way.

Would Song Shiqin die?

Suddenly, she was afraid to consider the possibility.

The sunlight grew fiercer, and the villa that had truly existed was now reduced to ashes by the sunlight, scattering with the breeze, "Scatter Like Ashes."

Mo Zhixuan came over and wrapped her in his arms, comforting her, "It's all over now."

If Song Shiqin had truly died, it would be nothing more than karma coming full circle.

Chu Jin had no reason to feel guilty.

She had clarified matters with him a thousand years ago; it was he who never managed to break free from that circle.

All this, no one else's fault.

Chu Jin hadn't said anything, her face expressionless, unable to act as if nothing had happened because she was the one who had wounded him.

Mo Zhixuan patted her shoulder and then turned to look at Zi, "You take mom back first."

"Alright." Zi nodded, approaching Zhao Yan, "Aunt Yuan, please come with me first."

Zhao Yan looked back at the villa that had scattered like ashes, then lifting her gaze to Chu Jin, she seemed to understand something without saying a word, nodding at Zi.

Zi left with Zhao Yan.

In the blink of an eye, the shade of the banyan tree was left with only Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan.

"Mo Zhixuan." Finally breaking the silence with a soft voice, Chu Jin then hugged Mo Zhixuan, her sobs quiet as tears quickly dampened his chest.

In her memory, she always had been strong, seldom seen crying.

Mo Zhixuan had no idea how to comfort her, only continuously stroking her back.

In the afternoon, Mo Zhixuan took Chu Jin to visit many places, and as he saw her mood slowly improving, he began, "Jin, you really don't need to carry such a burden. This matter has nothing to do with you, just as Song Shiqin said, from now on, there are no ties left between you, for him this is a form of release."

Actually, having contemplated throughout the afternoon, Chu Jin had also come to understand much.

If it weren't for that sword thrust, Song Shiqin would likely never escape that entanglement.

Hopefully, he would find his match someday.

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Yes, I know."

Mo Zhixuan smiled knowingly, "That's good." Just then, the square's large screen was playing a trailer for a newly released movie.

"Jin, we haven't seen a movie in such a long time. How about we go watch one now?" Mo Zhixuan suggested.

"Sure," Chu Jin nodded slightly.

After the movie, it was already evening, and Mo Zhixuan took Chu Jin out for dinner.

As they arrived at an open-air food street, Chu Jin stopped and said to Mo Zhixuan, "Let's eat here."

"As you wish," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly.

The food street was crowded, with almost every stall packed with people. Chu Jin was surprised to find that there were skewered spicy potatoes, stinky tofu, and spicy crayfish...

These were all famous snacks from the secular world, and unexpectedly, they were now popular in the Superpower World.

"You sit here; what would you like to eat? I'll go and queue to get it for you," Mo Zhixuan stood up from his chair.

"Skewered spicy potatoes, stinky tofu, spicy crayfish..." Chu Jin listed everything she wanted to eat.

Thirty minutes later, Mo Zhixuan returned with a bunch of packed boxes.

**

Elsewhere.

After sending Zhao Yan back home, Zi had just reached home when Duanmu Zhe's parents arrived.

Due to Duanmu Zhe's relationship with Mo Qingyi, his parents were quite familiar with Zi.

"Uncle and Auntie, what brings you here today?" Zi was somewhat surprised to see Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin.

Zhou Jin smiled and said, "Zi, actually, your uncle and I came here today because we have a favor to ask of you."

They all liked Zi very much. Although Zi appeared young, she was kindhearted, wise, and always had her own opinions on everything, which set her apart from other young people today.

"Auntie, just tell me what it is. There's no need to be so polite," Zi brought over two cups of tea.

Although Zi was a Great National Division of the Superpower World with a noble status, in her residence, she did not employ any servants.

Nor did she have bodyguards.

Usually, it was just her alone.

Duanmu Canghai didn't say a word, and Zhou Jin continued, "Zi, I'd like to invite you to our house. Tonight, Sheng will bring her boyfriend over, and since little Zhe and Qingyi are both in the military, I was hoping you could come over and take a look at the boy. Just to see what he is like for Sheng."

Zi took a sip of tea and looked at Zhou Jin, then said, "Auntie, are you saying that sister Sheng is bringing Shen Haoguang home tonight?"

"Yes," Zhou Jin nodded, excitedly adding, "Zi, do you know that boy? What do you think? How is the character of the man's family?"

Zhou Jin was very anxious about her daughter's lifelong happiness, or else she wouldn't have made the trip to Zi's place in person.

At those words, Zi's expression turned serious, "Uncle and Auntie, forgive my frankness, but scum like Shen Haoguang is not worthy of sister Sheng. I think you should persuade her not to be deceived by him."

Upon hearing this, both Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin's expressions tightened. The couple had not stayed in the Superpower World for many years and were not very familiar with its affairs.

They knew only that the Shen family was a scholarly family in the Superpower World but knew nothing of Shen Haoguang's character.

Unlike the secular world where marriage is free and one can choose to divorce if the other party is not suitable, in the Superpower World, once married, there is only widowhood, no divorce.

Therefore, they had to be extremely cautious about Duanmu Sheng's marriage.

"Zi, what exactly happened? Tell us quickly!" Zhou Jin asked urgently, looking at Zi.

"Yes, yes! Zi, please tell us," urged Duanmu Canghai.

Zi took a sip of water, cleared her throat, and began, "The situation is like this..." She spoke slowly and calmly, recounting everything she had seen at Purple Night, not missing a single detail.

She also spoke of how Situ Ya became friends with Duanmu Sheng.

"Damn it!" Duanmu Canghai was so angry that he slammed his hand on the table, "That Shen dares to bully our Sheng like that!"

"How could Sheng be so naive? She doesn't even realize she's being deceived," Zhou Jin fretted, wiping away tears.

The worries of parents are profound. In situations like these, it is always the parents who are the most anxious.

"Look at the daughter you've raised! She's been deceived by a pretty boy!" Duanmu Canghai furiously pointed at Zhou Jin.

Fathers often blame mothers for any issues with their daughters.

Indeed, a daughter's upbringing cannot be separated from her mother.

Especially when it comes to choosing a partner.

But Zhou Jin felt wronged about this matter. Because of Duanmu Zhe's situation, she had been away from the Superpower World for many years, and she rarely communicated with Duanmu Sheng.

Additionally, her third daughter had always been steady and never gave cause for concern, so Zhou Jin seldom interfered with her romantic affairs—partly to give her enough personal space and partly because she trusted her daughter completely.

Zhou Jin sighed deeply.

Duanmu Canghai was filled with anger, especially thinking that Duanmu Sheng had visited the Shen family's parents the night before, enraging him even more.

A girl with suitors wasn't desperate! Why lacked dignity? She was rushing into the man's family, especially when the man was a scoundrel!

Wasn't she simply inviting mockery?

Zi continued, "Uncle and Auntie, don't be angry. It's not sister Sheng's fault; blame it on Shen Haoguang's cunning ways! Even I haven't been able to find any evidence against him."

Duanmu Canghai sighed and stood up, "Zi, we old folks are thankful to you for this. At this time, Sheng is probably back home. We'll be going now."

"Uncle and Auntie, let me see you out," Zi stood up, picking up her jacket.

"There's no need; I'll just call a driver over," Duanmu Canghai hurriedly motioned with his hands.

"I insist on seeing you out," Zi resolutely escorted the couple out the door.

Chapter 775: Meeting the Parents, Stubborn

Twenty minutes later, a white car pulled up in front of the Duanmu Family's villa.

Zi got out of the car first, politely opening the car door for Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin.

Right at that moment, a black car drove by from a distance; it was Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang arriving.

Zi didn't want to stay here any longer because seeing the scumbag made him want to throw a few punches, so he said to Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin, "Uncle and Aunt, I'll be leaving now."

"Sure, Zi, you can go back first, thanks for your help today," Duanmu Canghai waved his hand at Zi.

Seeing this, Shen Haoguang turned to Duanmu Sheng, nervously asking, "Sheng Sheng, are they your parents? And who is that young man? Is he a relative of yours?"

Duanmu Sheng recognized Zi right away and felt an ominous premonition stirring within her. She spoke in a faint tone, "I didn't see clearly, he's probably a friend of my dad's." Shen Haoguang was quite bothered by Zi's presence, and right now, it was better not to stir up trouble.

"Oh." Shen Haoguang nodded, "Sheng Sheng, how do I look tonight? Is this appearance suitable for meeting your uncle and aunt?"

Duanmu Sheng adjusted his suit, saying, "Yes, very nice. You can relax, my dad and mom will definitely like you a lot."

Shen Haoguang came from a good family, had a good character, and good looks, the perfect son-in-law, there was no reason for Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin to disapprove.

Therefore, Duanmu Sheng had nothing to worry about.

However, Shen Haoguang was still a bit nervous as he went on, "Sheng Sheng, am I really okay like this?" In fact, he was just putting on an act.

"Really, you are." Duanmu Sheng nodded, "Let's go, I'll introduce you to my parents."

Meanwhile, Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin had not even glanced at Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang, they were walking straight into the villa.

This struck Duanmu Sheng as odd.

Logically, her parents' reaction shouldn't have been like this; just this morning, her father had called to ask if Shen Haoguang was really coming over.

What's happening now...

Duanmu Sheng pushed down the unease in her heart, took Shen Haoguang's hand, and ran ahead to catch up, "Dad, Mom, wait for me!"

Only then did Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin stop and turn their gazes toward Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang.

"Dad, Mom, let me introduce to you. This is my boyfriend, Shen Haoguang." Duanmu Sheng continued, a hopeful glint in her eyes as she wished for her parents' approval of her boyfriend.

Shen Haoguang also bowed respectfully, "Uncle, Auntie, hello, I am Shen Haoguang."

The couple looked at Shen Haoguang with a scrutinizing gaze, their expressions cold, and Zhou Jin stretched out her hand to pull Duanmu Sheng to her side, "Sheng, come here to me!"

Taken off guard, Duanmu Sheng stumbled and nearly fell, and her arm was pinched painfully by Zhou Jin, she couldn't help but complain, "Mom! What are you doing! It hurts!"

"Stand properly!" Zhou Jin's expression was very serious.

Only then did Duanmu Sheng notice that her parents' faces were looking very displeased! Instantly, her heart was also in turmoil, and she quickly made eye contact with Shen Haoguang across from her.

Being sharp, Shen Haoguang immediately realized what was happening and handed over the gifts he was carrying to Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin, "Uncle and Auntie, this is specially for you, a token of gratitude for allowing me to date Sheng."

Shen Haoguang assumed Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin were just putting on a show, after all, he was here to ask for their daughter's hand in marriage, so it made sense for him to lower his stance a bit.

Had he been courting Situ Ya, there would have been no need for such humility!

But now, despite all his resentment, he had to endure it.

"Who are your uncle and aunt! Take your things and get lost!" Duanmu Canghai swung away Shen Haoguang's hand, then grabbed Duanmu Sheng's wrist, "Sheng, you're coming back with us!"

With that, Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin forcibly dragged Duanmu Sheng back with them.

Duanmu Sheng still hadn't figured out what was going on as he struggled incessantly, "Mom, Dad! What are you doing! Let me go at once!"

Shen Haoguang was also somewhat confused about what was happening and hurried to follow the steps of the family of three, "Uncle, Auntie, have you misunderstood something?"

"Where are the guards! Get this person out of here immediately!" Duanmu Canghai didn't even want to take another look at Shen Haoguang, with his pretty face, it was clear he was no good!

"Uncle, Auntie, you must have misunderstood something! I can explain it to you..." Shen Haoguang was cut off as two security officers lifted him up, "Sheng Sheng... Sheng Sheng..."

The security officers were all trained, and Shen Haoguang was no match for them, he could only continue to struggle.

"Haoguang!" Duanmu Sheng also turned back to look at Shen Haoguang.

"Sheng Sheng."

The two of them seemed like the Cowherd and Weaver Girl forcefully separated by the Queen Mother of the West.

But soon, Shen Haoguang was thrown directly over the exterior wall of the villa.

With no other choice, Shen Haoguang could only continuously knock on the iron gate, his demeanor one of profound distress, "Sheng Sheng, Sheng Sheng, let me in quickly!"

Duanmu Sheng inside was also extremely anxious, she broke free from Duanmu Canghai's wrist, "Mom, Dad! What are you trying to do! Haven't you been clamoring for me to bring my boyfriend home for you to see? Now that I've brought him here! What is this act you're putting on now?"

Duanmu Sheng was very angry, in front of Shen Haoguang, she had lost all face.

Zhou Jin sighed, "Sheng Sheng, do you know who that Shen Haoguang really is? You want to be with him? Do you know he's been fooling around with other women behind your back! If you marry this kind of man, you will not be happy in the future!"

"Who told you these things?" Duanmu Sheng stood up at once, then continued, "It was Zi Qi, wasn't it? Mom, Dad, I'm telling you, Zi Qi is not a good person at all, he's been trying to break up me and Haoguang, his words are not true! Please believe me! Haoguang and I have been together for five years! I know very well what kind of person he is!"

In the end, Duanmu Sheng's tone gradually calmed down.

Zhou Jin frowned slightly and after thinking it through, realized Duanmu Sheng's words made sense. How could they judge Shen Haoguang to be that kind of person based on just Zi Qi's words?

Wasn't that too rash?

Duanmu Canghai "smack" hit the teacup vigorously on the table, "Is this the way you talk to your mother and me? Fine, you say Zi Qi is deceiving us, then let me ask you, have you recently made a new friend named Situ Ya?"

"Yes, what about it? Do you even have to control who I befriend?" Duanmu Sheng retorted, her tone also a bit unpleasant, as anyone would be in no mood for calm communication in this situation.

Duanmu Canghai, full of rage, said, "Do you know who Situ Ya is? Her mother was a prostitute, she grew up in places of debauchery! Is this the kind of woman you befriend?"

"Can she decide her own birth? Dad, when did you also learn to look down on people!" Duanmu Sheng's tone was cold. When someone is extremely angry, they can say anything, and at this moment, she did not consider the seriousness of her words.

She also forgot that Duanmu Canghai was her father.

Besides, Situ Ya had once saved her, so Duanmu Sheng would not tolerate any insult against Situ Ya.

"Unfilial daughter! Unfilial daughter!" Duanmu Canghai trembled with anger!

"You child! How can you talk to your father like that!" Zhou Jin poked Duanmu Sheng's head, "Your dad and I just want what's best for you, if it were any other family's daughter, we wouldn't bother even if they offered us money! Aren't we just worried that you're being deceived?"

Zhou Jin tried to persuade her gently.

Duanmu Sheng also realized that her earlier comment 'look down upon others' was somewhat inappropriate and immediately apologized, "Dad, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to talk to you like that, I was just too angry! Dad, Ya Ya is a good girl, I believe in her! She is also my friend, could you please not talk about her like that? She couldn't decide her own birth, and you shouldn't deny her because of it!"

In fact, Duanmu Sheng had always been a very kind girl, and her words were reasonable, it's just that she didn't realize that Situ Ya had been deceiving her from the beginning to the end!

She was a pure Lotus.

In this world, it's always the kind people who are deceived.

Duanmu Canghai also calmed down a bit, knocking on the table, "Break up with that Shen guy at once! From now on, you're not allowed to have any contact with him! And that Situ Ya, keep as far away from her as possible!"

"I won't!" Duanmu Sheng stated firmly, "Dad, unless the sky falls down! Otherwise, I will never break up with Haoguang! Can't you just leave my matters alone!"

Her relationship with Shen Haoguang was at its best right now, and she had just received support from his parents, so she wouldn't break up with Shen Haoguang!

She absolutely wouldn't let her parents become stumbling blocks on her path to love!

She wouldn't sacrifice her love for her parents either!

"Unfilial daughter!" Duanmu Canghai stood up suddenly, "Repeat what you just said!"

"I will never break up with Haoguang! I want to be with him!" Duanmu Sheng looked at Duanmu Canghai, enunciating each word with extreme determination.

She had been stubborn since she was a child; once she decided on something, she wouldn't change. And if anyone tried to stop her, she would fight back until the end!

With a "smack!"

Just as Duanmu Sheng's words fell, Duanmu Canghai slapped her fiercely across the face.

The air went still in an instant.

Duanmu Sheng held her left cheek tightly, looking at Duanmu Canghai in disbelief.

Zhou Jin was also stunned, quickly embracing Duanmu Sheng, and, turning to Duanmu Canghai, demanded, "Talk it out nicely! Why strike the child!"

In truth, after the slap, Duanmu Canghai also regretted it, his entire palm trembling, but the deed was done, and regret was useless now.

"A lenient mother is the ruin of her children! You spoiled her!" Duanmu Canghai looked at Zhou Jin, his face slightly cold, angry enough to seat himself back on the sofa.

Zhou Jin sighed and helped Duanmu Sheng to sit down on the sofa, whispering, "Sheng Sheng, your dad and I want what's best for you. There are things it's better to believe than to dismiss. Marriage is a lifelong matter, Mom doesn't want you to regret it later!"

"For my good?" Duanmu Sheng scoffed, "Do you have to sacrifice my happiness with just a 'for your good'?"

How many parents have used "for your own good" to manipulate their children.

"You won't find happiness with a Shen!" Duanmu Canghai said coldly.

The corners of Duanmu Sheng's mouth curled up in a mocking arc, "I know perfectly well if I'm happy or not! I don't need your judgment!"

"Sheng Sheng, calm down," Zhou Jin patted Duanmu Sheng's hand and then looked up at Duanmu Canghai, "Canghai, you too, cool off!"

Restlessly, Duanmu Canghai lit a cigarette and remained silent.

Zhou Jin continued, "Sheng Sheng, a woman's life is like a flake of snow, settling wherever it falls. Once married, you'll have to rely on a man for the rest of your life. You should keep your eyes wide open at such times, and you must not be deceived! Your father and I specially visited Zi this afternoon for your sake, and he said that Shen Haoguang is a scoundrel, that he and Situ Ya have teamed up to deceive you..."

Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin trusted Zi greatly, knowing that Zi wouldn't speak carelessly.

Duanmu Sheng bit her lip, "Mom, that Zi Qi is a fraud! He can't wait for Haoguang and me to break up so that he can take advantage. How could he say anything good about Haoguang?"

Duanmu Sheng had completely lost trust in Zi now! Having been deceived by Zi once, she wouldn't let it happen a second time! She knew that Zi might have taken a liking to her and thus resorted to such despicable means.

"If the Great National Division could fancy you, that would be your good fortune! How can you be ungrateful! You should look at how little you weigh!" Duanmu Canghai spoke bluntly and proceeded to say, "What kind of woman could the Great National Division not have if he wished? Would he bother with someone like you?"

Nowadays, Zi held a pivotal position in the Superpower World; he had no need to waste his efforts on such matters!

Moreover, as a man himself, Duanmu Canghai could tell that Zi Qi was not yet interested in women.

"Believe it or not!" Duanmu Sheng sneered coldly, then continued, "Regardless, I will not break up with Shen Haoguang! Whether you agree or not, I will marry him!" The last sentence was spoken with great conviction.

"Sheng Sheng, calm down a bit," Zhou Jin quickly interjected, "You can't just say things like that recklessly. There are countless good men in this world, why do you have to set your heart on Shen Haoguang?"

"Mom!" Duanmu Sheng turned to Zhou Jin, her gaze resolute, "I am very calm! I want to marry him!"

"Unfilial daughter! Unfilial daughter!" Duanmu Canghai stood up again, slamming the table, "How did the Duanmu Family produce such an unfilial daughter like you! Duanmu Sheng, I lay it down today—if you're determined to marry that Shen, from this day forward, you are not my daughter, Duanmu Canghai! Just get out of this house!"

Duanmu Canghai was truly furious! He had Duanmu Sheng's best interests at heart, but who could have known that Duanmu Sheng would be so stubbornly unyielding!

He had to wait until she suffered setbacks before she would finally regret it!

In reality, Duanmu Canghai didn't truly want to drive Duanmu Sheng away, he just wanted to scare her a little.

Could it be that Duanmu Sheng would really give up her own parents who gave birth to and raised her, just for a loser?

Duanmu Sheng chuckled, then said with conviction, "Dad, I'll lay it out for you today as well. No matter what, I'm going to marry Shen Haoguang! No one can stop me!"

"Then get out!" Duanmu Canghai was enraged! He pointed furiously at the door, shaking all over with anger.

"Fine, I'll leave!" Duanmu Sheng turned around, her anger flaring, and walked towards the door without a hint of reluctance.

"Oh my! What are you father and daughter trying to do!" Zhou Jin stood up, took hold of Duanmu Sheng's wrist, and tried to persuade her earnestly.

"Sheng, your father is just speaking out of anger! Do you really want to leave? My child, why can't you understand that we're doing this for your own good! Ah, I don't want you to regret it later! I don't want

you to go down a path of no return! You are our daughter, we are your parents, in this world, which parents would harm their own children? Sheng, please think it over?"

Zhou Jin voiced the sentiment of parents the world over, perhaps today you don't understand.

Once you become a mother yourself, you will understand the bitterness in a parent's heart.

Unfortunately, at this moment, Duanmu Sheng was blind to all but love, and simply couldn't hear these words, the corners of her mouth curled up in a mocking smile.

"For my good? I see it as favoritism, and you can't stand to see me doing well, can you? By saying it's for my good, you feel justified in stopping my love, but why didn't you do the same for Little Zhe? Little Zhe is about to get engaged to Mo Qingyi, and I haven't seen you object to that! When it comes to me, you just go along with whatever you hear, finding all sorts of faults. Is it because I deserve to be bullied? When I was ten, you left me behind and took Little Zhe to the secular world, and for over ten years, did you even care for me? Because I'm a girl, you never liked me even when I was little! Now, you want to meddle in my affairs? Don't even think about it!"

Tears streamed down Duanmu Sheng's face, overflowing with grievance.

In her eyes, her parents had always been extremely biased, favoring Duanmu Zhe from a young age and never her!

Now that they saw her grown up and of some use, they came to meddle!

Why should she put up with it? Was it because she was easy to bully?

At those words, Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin looked at Duanmu Sheng in disbelief.

They had never imagined that in their daughter's mind, they would be such parents.

Zhou Jin also burst into tears, clutching Duanmu Sheng's hand, "Sheng, you have to have a conscience! Is it really because we don't like you? Is it really because we deliberately abandoned you to go to the secular world? It was clearly that you disliked the secular world and refused to go! For over ten years, no matter how busy we were, your father and I always found time to come back and see you! It was you who were too busy studying, too busy working, and didn't have the time to meet us! How can you say that now?"

Zhou Jin felt wronged too, her heart gone cold. It was not that they had wanted to forsake Duanmu Sheng; she simply did not want to join them in the secular world, yet to think that in the end, Duanmu Sheng would turn it against them.

Duanmu Sheng continued with a sneer, "Since you were able to go to the secular world for Little Zhe, why couldn't you stay in the Superpower World for me? This is clearly your favoritism! You never interfered in Little Zhe's marriage, but when it's my turn, you force me to break up! Are you even my parents?"

Anyway, no matter how arguments were phrased, Duanmu Sheng always had her justification. For these past years, the fact that her parents had not been by her side was their fault, a debt they owed to her.

Zhou Jin sighed and then said, "Child, think about it, why don't we object to your brother's engagement with Qingyi? Qingyi is a good person in every aspect, not to mention, she's from the Mo family. Frankly speaking, we're the ones reaching above our station in that match. How could I find fault with them? Then look at Shen Haoguang, who's already daring to fool around with other women behind your back. After you're married, he'll only push his luck even further. How will your future years be anything but miserable?"

Sarcasm etched Duanmu Sheng's face, "Mom, after all is said and done, you just despise Shen Haoguang's background, don't you? If he were like Mo Qingyi, a relative of the Mo family, would you still oppose us? Aren't you just angry that I didn't pave the way for Little Zhe's career? Aren't you upset that I haven't brought any benefits to the Duanmu family?"

At this, Duanmu Sheng paused, then continued, "Sorry! Mom and Dad! I'm afraid I'm going to disappoint you! I'm not a fish on a chopping board! Nor am I a sacrificial lamb for your family's interests!"

Duanmu Sheng had backed herself into a corner, and couldn't see her way out any time soon.

Hearing her daughter speak like this chilled Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin to the bone. They truly had Duanmu Sheng's best interests at heart, but to think that this was how she viewed them...

Sigh...

Children are truly the creditors of their parents.

Even though Duanmu Sheng had made her stance so clear, Zhou Jin still hadn't given up on her daughter. She continued, "Sheng, it really isn't like you think! Your dad and I aren't those kinds of people! We truly are looking out for your best interest. If that man truly treated you well, even if he had nothing at all, we would not say a word against it!"

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"Enough!" Zhou Jin was cut off before she could finish her sentence by Duanmu Sheng's cold interruption, "Who can't say pretty words? Mom, I'm not a three-year-old child you can coax and deceive! Since this family doesn't welcome me anymore, then I might as well leave!"

The moment Duanmu Sheng turned around, Duanmu Canghai's voice rang out sharply as he stared at her retreating figure.

"Duanmu Sheng! If you dare to step out of this place tonight, then from now on, everything in this family has nothing to do with you! You are no longer my Duanmu Canghai's daughter!"

"Quickly apologize to your dad, and we'll forget this whole thing! Sheng, listen to Mom! Don't be so stubborn!" Zhou Jin went over, tugged at Duanmu Sheng's wrist, and tried to persuade her kindly!

"Don't pull on me!" Duanmu Sheng flung Zhou Jin's hand away, "After all, you've never treated me as your daughter! Since I dare to leave, I can handle the consequences!"

With that, Duanmu Sheng turned and left, her figure decisive.

"Sheng!" Zhou Jin cried out anxiously, wanting to run after her, but was stopped by Duanmu Canghai, "Let her go! She's an ingrate!"

Duanmu Canghai casually picked up a vase and smashed it fiercely against the doorframe.

With a "bang," the vase shattered instantly.

Zhou Jin, with tears rimming her eyes, walked over to Duanmu Canghai, "Canghai, why must you be so angry with the child! Sheng has really left! What are we going to do now?"

Zhou Jin has always been a compassionate mother.

"Don't bother with her!" Duanmu Canghai's expression was extremely serious, "It's as if I never raised that ungrateful creature!"

Zhou Jin, while wiping away her tears, said, "But she is still our daughter! Canghai, is your heart made of stone?"

Duanmu Canghai said furiously, "You treat her as a daughter, but does she consider us her parents? Did you not hear what she just said? Do you think those are words a person should say? I, as her father, have shown enough mercy by not breaking her legs!"

Indeed, Duanmu Sheng's words just now were chilling.

"Sheng is still a child," Zhou Jin said amid tears, "Why are you being so petty with a child?"

"Child, child! Is she three years old or three months old? Can a 'child' act like this? Too much motherly love ruins the child! I'm warning you, don't you dare go looking for her secretly!" As he spoke, Duanmu Canghai turned to look at the servants beside him, and then said, "And you all, from now on, we no longer have a third miss in this family, you better be smart about it!"

After he finished speaking, the surroundings fell quiet, with the servants not daring to make a sound.

Duanmu Canghai glanced at the servants and raised his voice, "Did you all hear what I said?"

"We heard it!" The servants finally answered in unison, realizing that Duanmu Canghai was serious.

Seeing this, Zhou Jin left in a huff.

Duanmu Canghai sat on the sofa, chain-smoking one cigarette after another.

Duanmu Sheng walked outside, where Shen Haoguang was still waiting. Upon seeing Duanmu Sheng emerge, a gleam of light appeared in Shen Haoguang's eyes, "Sheng, how did it go? Are your aunt and uncle feeling better? Can I go in now?"

Seeing this, Duanmu Sheng said with some guilt, "Haoguang, I'm sorry! My parents... I had a fight with them, and it looks like I'll have to fend for myself outside tonight."

Upon hearing this, Shen Haoguang became nervous, "Sheng, what on earth happened? Is there some misunderstanding that your aunt and uncle have about me? Or, is there something about me they're not satisfied with?"

Shen Haoguang couldn't quite understand it, things shouldn't have escalated to this point.

Could it be that Duanmu Sheng's parents had found out something?

"No," Duanmu Sheng shook her head, "This has nothing to do with you, it's all my fault, they never liked me to begin with..."

Duanmu Sheng blamed herself for everything.

She believed that her parents' opposition to her relationship with Shen Haoguang was due to him not coming from a sufficiently good family background, because her parents never really treated her as a daughter. If they had, they wouldn't have told her to get lost tonight.

"Sheng, how can you think that way? In this world, there is no parent who doesn't love their child. There must be some misunderstanding you have with your aunt and uncle. Come on, I'll take you inside to apologize to them," Shen Haoguang said as he grabbed Duanmu Sheng's wrist and headed towards the front door.

Duanmu Sheng had finally decided to bring him back to the Duanmu Family, and Shen Haoguang naturally wouldn't miss this opportunity.

Duanmu Sheng was touched. She hadn't expected that at such a time, Shen Haoguang would still speak well of her parents.

Therefore, Duanmu Sheng felt even more guilty towards Shen Haoguang and held his hand, "You don't owe them anything, so there's no need for you to apologize! Let's leave it at that for today. Let's go, after all, I won't be coming back to this home in the future!"

Upon hearing this, Shen Haoguang stopped in his tracks, "Sheng, what are you talking about? What do you mean you won't come back to this home? Your parents and siblings are inside! You mustn't talk like this again!"

With that, Shen Haoguang reached out and gently touched Duanmu Sheng's head.

"Let's go," Duanmu Sheng said, pulling Shen Haoguang's hand to leave.

She was afraid if she stayed any longer, she would not be able to control herself. After all, her parents had never loved her, so she felt no need to stay with this family.

"Aren't you going back?" Shen Haoguang looked hesitant, then said, "Wouldn't that be a bit inappropriate? No matter what, your aunt and uncle are your parents. Sheng, don't be too impulsive."

"There's nothing inappropriate," Duanmu Sheng sighed, "It's not like they've treated me as their daughter." With that, Duanmu Sheng pulled Shen Haoguang into the car.

"Take me to Pleasure Inn," Duanmu Sheng said as she buckled her seat belt.

"Okay," Shen Haoguang nodded, a glint of cunning flashing in his slightly squinted eyes. Perhaps, tonight was a good opportunity.

Between parents and children, there is no real hatred. Right now, the most important thing was to win over Duanmu Sheng.

Once the deed is done and there's no turning back, Duanmu Sheng's parents would have no other choice.

Soon, the car stopped at Pleasure Inn, and Shen Haoguang led Duanmu Sheng by the hand out of the car. Just as they were about to walk in, Duanmu Sheng suddenly stopped in her tracks.

"What's wrong?" Shen Haoguang asked, somewhat puzzled.

Duanmu Sheng sighed, feeling a stifling heaviness in her heart and glanced toward the bar next to them. "Haoguang, will you join me for a drink inside?"

"Sure." Shen Haoguang smiled faintly, the look in his eyes shimmering with a calculating gleam.

The two entered the bar, and Duanmu Sheng randomly ordered a lot of drinks. In no time, the table was laden with many empty bottles.

There's a reason why people say drinking to excess solves a thousand sorrows.

"Sheng Sheng, stop drinking," Shen Haoguang feigned persuasion.

"Leave me alone, I want to drink..." Duanmu Sheng belched, and her tears fell like broken pearls, filled with resentment, "They're biased... so biased..."

The inebriated often spill all their secrets, and through indirect questioning, Shen Haoguang quickly grasped why Duanmu Sheng had drowned herself in alcohol and also why the Shen family parents did not accept him.

"Sheng Sheng, it's okay, as long as you believe in me," Shen Haoguang said with a guilt-ridden face, "You don't need to quarrel with your aunt and uncle over me. Maybe we should break up... You can't give up your family for me..."

"What nonsense are you spouting!" Duanmu Sheng slapped Shen Haoguang on the shoulder, her words slurred, "I will never sacrifice my love! Haoguang, I want to be with you!"

...

The next day, when Duanmu Sheng woke up, Shen Haoguang was sleeping beside her. Instantly, her headache intensified, and fragments of last night's drunken memories flashed before her eyes.

"Sheng Sheng, you're awake," Shen Haoguang continued, "Don't worry, I will treat you well from now on."

"Mhm, okay," Duanmu Sheng nodded, her cheeks flushed with a shy blush as she hugged Shen Haoguang's waist tightly.

Though she had lost her family, her parents, she had gained a man who truly loved her. This was very good indeed.

Shen Haoguang's lips curled slightly, his eyes full of smug satisfaction.

"Sheng Sheng, let's go get our marriage certificate," Shen Haoguang said tenderly, holding Duanmu Sheng in his arms.

"So soon?" Duanmu Sheng said, surprised.

"Sheng Sheng, as a man, I must take responsibility for you," Shen Haoguang assured her, "Rest assured, from now on, I'll be good to you, I'll make you happy."

Actually, Duanmu Sheng was somewhat traditional at heart. She hesitated, then nodded, "Okay."

Since she and Shen Haoguang had already become intimate, and they truly loved each other, getting their marriage certificate was a matter of time.

Hearing this, Shen Haoguang's smile broadened slightly. Out of Duanmu Sheng's sight, his eyes were filled with irony, "After we get the certificate, I'll join you to apologize to your dad and mom, trust me, they will surely forgive us."

Duanmu Sheng nodded again, "Mhm, I'll listen to you."

A while later, the two of them got up to wash and get ready.

Duanmu Sheng went to the restroom to change, while Shen Haoguang stayed outside. He picked up his phone and sent a text message.

[Ya Ya, the fish has taken the bait. Our good days are coming.]

When Duanmu Sheng came out of the restroom, Shen Haoguang was replying to Situ Ya's message. Seeing Duanmu Sheng enter, Shen Haoguang did not show any signs of panic and remained calm.

"Who are you messaging, a little lover?" Duanmu Sheng asked with a faint smile.

"Does the madam want to check?" Shen Haoguang walked over, handing his phone to Duanmu Sheng with a face full of smiles.

"Who wants to look at your phone?" Duanmu Sheng didn't glance at it and pushed the phone back into Shen Haoguang's hands.

She absolutely trusted Shen Haoguang and knew that whether it be between spouses or lovers, one should leave enough personal space for the other. Thus, she would not snoop through Shen Haoguang's phone.

It was precisely because he understood Duanmu Sheng's character that Shen Haoguang dared to hand his phone to her.

In fact, if Duanmu Sheng had just looked down at the phone, she would have seen the messages he exchanged with Situ Ya.

"Madam, you look really beautiful today." Shen Haoguang kissed Duanmu Sheng's face again, "I'm going to change too, after all, today is a big day for us."

"Go ahead, go ahead," Duanmu Sheng waved him off.

Ten minutes later, Shen Haoguang emerged from the restroom, having changed into a very formal suit.

After breakfast, Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang went together to the civil affairs office to get their marriage certificate.

Before going to the civil affairs office, Duanmu Sheng made a phone call to Zhou Jin, "Mom, I'm going to get the marriage certificate with Haoguang today."

On the other end of the phone, Zhou Jin's entire body trembled, "Sheng Sheng, be calm, please don't act impulsively. If your mother begs you, please, you must not marry such a man!"

Zhou Jin was on the verge of tears.

The other two daughters had married far away, and only Duanmu Sheng was left by her side. She never imagined that Duanmu Sheng would end up being the daughter they worried about the most.

If Duanmu Sheng successfully registered her marriage with Shen Haoguang, her whole life would be ruined.

As a mother, she couldn't just watch her daughter jump into the fire pit.

Chapter 777: The Child's First Photo

"Sheng Sheng, Sheng Sheng... Mom's begging you, please don't be so impulsive, okay?" Zhou Jin's voice had already taken on a crying tone, "Sheng Sheng, you won't be happy with Shen Haoguang! You can't do this!"

"Mom, I'm already an adult, I'm not a child anymore, I know what I'm doing!" Duanmu Sheng's voice was very firm, "I believe Haoguang can make me happy, you are my mother, I am your daughter, I've now found my happiness, Mom, why can't you just bless me? As a mother, don't you wish for your daughter's happiness?"

By the end, Duanmu Sheng's eyes had also reddened, she had been with Shen Haoguang for five years, she knew what kind of person he was.

She hoped to have her parents' blessing.

She also didn't want to be at odds with her parents over a man, they had forced her into this! She couldn't sacrifice her own happiness for her parents...

"Sheng Sheng, I am your mom, I wish for your happiness more than anyone else, but Shen Haoguang can't give you happiness!" Zhou Jin sighed, then said irrefutably, "You can't register your marriage with Shen Haoguang! I don't agree! Duanmu Sheng! You come back here immediately!"

Hearing this, Duanmu Sheng's expression turned cold, originally she had come to inform her family, hoping to gain Zhou Jin's consent and blessing, but she hadn't expected Zhou Jin to still disagree.

"Mom, I called to inform you, you have no right to disagree! You can't negate my happiness!" With that, Duanmu Sheng hung up the phone sharply.

In Duanmu Sheng's view, her parents were just too selfish!

They would do anything for Duanmu Zhe, but when it came to her, her parents became her stumbling block!

Why!

Both being their children, why was there such a huge difference in how her parents treated them!

Favoring one child over the other!

Duanmu Sheng was very angry! Her parents hadn't cared for her since she was a child, so what right did they have now to interfere in her life, her choices?

What right did they have to disagree with this matter?

Duanmu Sheng bit her lip, anger emanating from her entire body, mixed with a hint of spite.

On the other end of the phone.

Zhou Jin stared at the disconnected call, completely stunned, she was also very angry.

Duanmu Sheng was like possessed, impervious to any advice.

Zhou Jin hurriedly redialed the number, she had to stop this!

She couldn't just watch Duanmu Sheng make a stupid mistake!

Duanmu Sheng, seeing the call come in again, dismissed it without a second thought.

But Zhou Jin didn't give up, she kept calling after being hung up on.

Duanmu Sheng was also quite stubborn, continuously disconnecting Zhou Jin's calls, her heart was set on being with Shen Haoguang, no one could stop her.

Seeing the repeatedly disconnected calls, Zhou Jin stopped calling and ran upstairs.

Duanmu Canghai was the head of the family, he definitely would have a way to stop this from happening.

Meanwhile, after hanging up the phone, Shen Haoguang came over with a smile on his face.

"What happened? What did auntie say?" Shen Haoguang looked at Duanmu Sheng expectantly.

"My mom didn't say much, don't worry." Duanmu Sheng smiled softly, "Let's go, this is our matter, it has nothing to do with her."

"Okay." Shen Haoguang, in a good mood, took Duanmu Sheng's hand and thoughtfully opened the car door for her.

The civil affairs office was a distance away from Pleasure Inn.

As Shen Haoguang and Duanmu Sheng just got out of the car, they saw Zi coming out of the civil affairs office.

On seeing Zi, Duanmu Sheng instinctively wanted to avoid her but was promptly grabbed by the wrist by Zi, who pulled her aside.

"Let go of my girlfriend!" Shen Haoguang rushed over furiously.

"You stay right there!" Zi turned coldly, chastising him in a low voice, exuding an authoritative presence without being angry.

Shen Haoguang stood frozen, his limbs instantly stiffened, not daring to let out a big breath, as if he had been put on pause, enveloped by a sense of terror.

"What do you want!" Duanmu Sheng fiercely shook off Zi's hand.

Zi looked at Duanmu Sheng and said slowly, "Sheng Sheng, your mother has already talked to me about everything, acting on impulse is the devil, you really shouldn't register your marriage with Shen Haoguang now, he's been deceiving you all along, calm down and think about it, is he really suitable for you?"

"I know my own business! I don't need you to worry about me! Who I'm with is none of your business either! Get out of the way!" Duanmu Sheng directly pushed Zi away.

She was no longer willing to listen to any advice.

If even Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin couldn't control her, on what basis could Zi Qi do so?

"Sheng Sheng, you're not a child anymore. Don't make your uncle and aunt sad," Zi didn't get angry, still speaking with great patience, and continued, "You're not a child anymore, don't let your father and mother be heartbroken."

Duanmu Sheng paused in her steps, turning back to look at Zi, a mocking curve appearing at the corner of her mouth, "Zi Qi, who do you think you are? What right do you have to control me?"

Zi didn't speak any further but took out a photograph from her pocket and handed it to Duanmu Sheng, "Sheng Sheng, take a look at this, it has been Shen Haoguang and Situ Ya scheming against you from the very beginning. For such people, it's just not worth falling out with your father and mother. Think about it."

Duanmu Sheng took the photograph, glanced at it, and then tore it to pieces, "Zi Qi, do you really think I am a three-year-old child? So easily deceived!" After speaking, she scattered the shredded pieces everywhere; they fluttered down like falling snow.

In the photograph, Shen Haoguang was embracing and kissing Situ Ya.

But now, Duanmu Sheng had been completely brainwashed by Shen Haoguang and Situ Ya, and she didn't believe any of it was true.

What could a single photograph prove, anyway?

With Zi Qi's ability, getting someone to forge a few photographs was a trivial matter.

At that moment, Zi really wanted to say, 'You're even worse than a three-year-old child!' But she held back the words.

If it weren't for the repeated requests of Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin, she wouldn't have bothered getting involved in Duanmu Sheng's affairs. This person was just naturally predisposed to being deceived. She had fallen so deep into the trap now that no matter what anyone said, she wouldn't listen.

Unless she saw it with her own eyes.

Zi sighed, then continued, "If that's how it is... Sheng Sheng, I wish you happiness." With that, she turned and left.

Duanmu Sheng didn't watch Zi leave; instead, she walked over to Shen Haoguang, grabbing his wrist, "Haoguang, let's go."

"Okay." Shen Haoguang finally came back to his senses, sweat dripping down his face.

Because in the Superpower World there was no concept of divorce, the marriage registration process was very complicated, involving a series of tests meant to ensure that both parties considered it carefully, after all, it was a lifelong commitment.

Two hours later, the two of them successfully obtained their marriage certificate and left the civil affairs office.

The marriage certificate in the Superpower World was two transparent cards, each embedded with a chip that could not be melted by fire or water, signifying that their union was indestructible.

Duanmu Sheng, looking at the tiny chip, felt a surge of emotions—she had never expected to become a wife so quickly.

Shen Haoguang, looking at the chip in his hand, had a triumphant gleam in his eyes. Duanmu Sheng, after all, hadn't escaped from the palm of his hand.

"Sheng Sheng, it's wonderful! You're finally mine!" Shen Haoguang embraced Duanmu Sheng excitedly.

"Haoguang!" Duanmu Sheng hugged him back just as eagerly.

No matter how you looked at it, today was a day worth remembering for Duanmu Sheng.

"Sheng Sheng, I'll take you to my family's house, and we'll share this great news with my parents," Shen Haoguang said excitedly.

"Mm," Duanmu Sheng nodded, her face radiant with happiness.

Regardless, she was happy now.

The Shen family.

When Shen Haoguang's parents heard the news, they naturally couldn't stop smiling. Their son was truly capable, having so quickly secured Duanmu Sheng.

Shen's mother took Duanmu Sheng's hand, her face filled with kindness, "Sheng Sheng, now that you and Haoguang have acquired your license, you are a member of our Shen family. By the way, do your parents know about this? Should we go to your family's place, discuss the matter, and then decide on an actual wedding date?"

"Aunt," Duanmu Sheng bit her lip, then said, "I won't lie to you, I've had some disagreements with my family. My parents don't agree with me being with Haoguang, so it might not be appropriate for you to go there now."

"Oh my, you child, what are you saying at this time? Still calling me aunt?" Shen's mother chided.

Duanmu Sheng quickly realized the meaning behind Shen's mother's words and said somewhat awkwardly, "Mom..."

"Ah," Shen's mother responded kindly, patting Duanmu Sheng's hand, "Sheng Sheng, there's no irreconcilable enmity between parents and children. Since you've already taken out the marriage license, let's not wait any longer. Your uncle and I will make preparations at home, and tomorrow, you and Haoguang should come with us to your family's house. I believe his parents and mother-in-law will agree to this marriage."

Since Duanmu Sheng had already registered her marriage with Shen Haoguang, it meant that the matter was settled. Was there any chance the Duanmu family would disagree?

The most important thing now was to get the Duanmu family to acknowledge the marriage, and then to grandly organize a wedding, letting everyone in all the realms know that Shen Haoguang was soon to become the brother-in-law of the Mo family!

Shen's mother did make sense, and Duanmu Sheng nodded, "Okay, Mom, I'll listen to you."

"Good child, good child," Shen's mother smiled contentedly, "We've already prepared the bridal room. Tonight, you and Haoguang can move in directly."

Duanmu Sheng smiled and said, "Thank you, Mom." As the words left his mouth, Duanmu Sheng seemed to remember something, stood up immediately, and added, "Right, I'm going to make a call and tell Ya Ya about this."

Situ Ya is currently Duanmu Sheng's best friend. Naturally, he would want to share such news with Situ Ya first.

Shen's mother watched Duanmu Sheng's retreating back, her eyes flashing with a calculating coldness. This Duanmu Sheng, hardly any different from a fool! Having such a person with her son Shen Haoguang was truly unfair to him.

The Mo family.

Today was Chu Jin's third pregnancy check-up, so Mo Zhixuan got up early in the morning, intending to accompany Chu Jin to the hospital.

But as soon as he got out of bed, there was a call from the Presidential Palace stating that an important leader from a neighboring country was paying a visit.

The call was taken by Chu Jin, who responded in a cool tone, "Okay, I understand."

Mo Zhixuan came out of the bathroom. "Who just called?"

Chu Jin was slowly buttoning up her coat. "It was Li Xunen. You better head to the Presidential Palace for a while. The leaders of L Country are here, and they can't do without you at such events."

"What about you?" Mo Zhixuan hesitated.

Because the previous check-up revealed that one of the fetuses had a special constitution, Chu Jin now needed to visit the hospital every week to avoid any problems.

"I'll just go to the hospital with Mom," Chu Jin said with a slight smile. "Besides, you're not a doctor. It wouldn't make any difference if you went. Hurry up, don't worry about me."

It was just a pregnancy check-up after all. Many expectant mothers went alone. Chu Jin wasn't so overbearing as to insist that Mo Zhixuan must accompany her, especially since she also had the company of Mrs. Mo.

"Okay, remember to call me if there are any issues." Mo Zhixuan left a gentle kiss on Chu Jin's forehead, then picked up his suit jacket and hurriedly left the room.

After Mo Zhixuan left, Chu Jin sat at the dressing table and took out the Tarot cards from a drawer.

She arranged a Sacred Triangle spread and then closed her eyes to draw three cards from it.

The first card.

Upright: Ace of Cups.

The Ace of Cups signifies a new beginning. The presence of an Ace in a spread suggests opportunities for happiness, love, and joy in life.

On the card, a hand extends from the clouds, holding a golden cup engraved with a 'W' shape, and above the cup flies a white dove, symbolizing peace.

The second card.

Upright: Wheel of Fortune.

The Wheel of Fortune hangs in the azure sky, connected to the triple tiers of the priesthood.

The Wheel of Fortune also consists of three layers, with the outermost ring inscribed with the letters 'TAROT,' representing the created world and indicating a yearning to embrace destiny.

The third card.

Reversed: Grim Reaper.

The Grim Reaper sits atop a white horse, looking down upon the creatures of the earth, holding aloft a black flag adorned with the emblem of the Rosicrucian order.

Rich or poor, young or old, death is an unavoidable natural phenomenon that cannot, and need not, be evaded.

Looking at these three cards, Chu Jin's expression grew solemn. After a short pause, she slowly put away the Tarot cards, storing them back in the drawer.

Chu Jin walked slowly to the window and exhaled slowly, the images of the three cards she had just drawn flooding her mind, bringing a sense of relief.

From the cards just drawn, Song Shiqin should be fine, but from now on, they would never cross paths again.

That was for the best.

Chu Jin looked at the view outside the window, a faint smile gracing her lips, and then she turned to walk downstairs.

Just as she reached the first floor, Mrs. Mo came up to her, beaming, "Are you ready, Jin? Let's eat breakfast and then head to the hospital."

"Yes," Chu Jin nodded lightly, "almost ready. What's for breakfast, Mom?"

"Your favorite pickled long bean noodles," Mrs. Mo said, setting her cup on the table. "Let me get it for you."

"No need, I can get it myself. It's just a few steps away," Chu Jin declined with a smile, but halfway there, she suddenly remembered the doctor's instructions about fasting before the check-up, so she had to turn back. "Mom, I almost forgot, I need to be fasting for the check-up. Let's go, and we'll eat when we return."

Mrs. Mo frowned upon hearing this. "What kind of doctor is this? Isn't this just torturing people? You're pregnant; how can you not eat anything? What if you faint from hunger?"

"It's nothing, Mom," Chu Jin said with a smile. "All pregnant women go through this."

At the hospital, after a series of checks, the doctor happily informed Chu Jin and the Old Madam Mo that both fetuses were developing very well. However, Chu Jin still couldn't take it lightly; she would need to come in for checks every week.

The doctor picked up a 4D ultrasound image with a smile and placed it in front of Chu Jin and the Old Madam Mo. "Look, the two little ones are very affectionate to each other, holding hands."

The picture from the 4D ultrasound was fairly clear, allowing a rough view of the baby's facial features.

Indeed, in the picture, the two little ones' hands were tightly clasped together.

Upon seeing this, the Old Madam Mo's heart melted, "Oh my, the two little ones are so endearing. Look at those eyes, that mouth, simply beautiful..."

Chu Jin raised an eyebrow slightly. She couldn't really see what was beautiful; after all, they were only four-month-old fetuses. What could you see clearly?

But the image was indeed full of love.

The Old Madam Mo then looked up at the doctor and asked, "Doctor, can we take this ultrasound image home with us?"

"Of course, this is for your family to take home," the doctor said with a nod and a smile.

"Thank you, doctor, thank you," the Old Madam Mo said excitedly, planning to get someone to frame the 4D ultrasound image when she got home—after all, this was the first photo of her grandchildren.

Chu Jin also took out her phone to snap a picture and sent it to Mo Zhixuan.

Soon enough Mo Zhixuan replied, [Are you sure you didn't get the wrong ultrasound image? Such a big mouth! Such a wide forehead! Such short legs! Such small eyes!]

Even through the screen, one could feel Mo Zhixuan's disdain.

The image from the 4D ultrasound was indeed abstract, and the resulting picture wasn't very nice-looking.

Thus, the two unborn little ones had been thoroughly disdained by their own father...

Meanwhile, the Old Madam Mo was still continuously praising how cute and beautiful the little ones were.

Chu Jin: "..." This is the difference between a father and a paternal grandmother.

The next day.

The Shen family.

The parents of the Shen family took Shen Haoguang and Duanmu Sheng to the Duanmu Family home to discuss the wedding.

The four of them drove in two cars, each car filled with gifts.

Although Shen Haoguang's parents didn't truly like Duanmu Sheng, they still had to go through the motions; after all, the Duanmu Family of today was no longer the same as it once was.

Both cars stopped in front of the Duanmu Family villa's courtyard.

Duanmu Sheng got out of the car first. "Dad, Mom, I'll go knock on the door. You wait here." Duanmu Sheng feared that her parents could not yet accept the Shen family.

Shen Haoguang's mother said cheerfully, "Let's go with you instead. It will show your parents our sincerity."

"Okay," agreed Duanmu Sheng with a nod.

The four of them approached the firmly closed iron gate together, and Duanmu Sheng rang the doorbell with a tense heart. After all, she had just had a big fight with her parents the day before, even declaring that she would never return to this house, only to find herself sheepishly returning the very next day.

She hoped her parents would forgive her.

With a 'squeak', the door opened a crack, and a servant asked, "Who is it?"

Duanmu Sheng's face lit up with a smile, "Little Lee, it's me. Are my dad and mom at home?"

Little Lee glanced at Duanmu Sheng, swallowed the words 'Third Miss' and instead replied, "Oh, it's you. Please wait a moment, I'll make a call."

Duanmu Sheng's expression dimmed slightly upon hearing this. It was clear from the servant's words that her parents were still angry; otherwise, they would not have addressed her as 'you' instead of 'Third Miss.'

Because Duanmu Canghai had issued a statement before, the servant did not dare to let Duanmu Sheng in casually. After speaking, the servant closed the iron gate, picked up the telephone hanging on the wall, and dialed a number.

Seeing the servant act this way, Shen Haoguang's mother voiced her dissatisfaction, "Sheng Sheng, your family's servant is really lacking manners!"

"Mom, please don't take it to heart," Duanmu Sheng said, her face carrying a hint of guilt.

Fearing that Duanmu Sheng would notice something from her reaction, her mother quickly changed her tone with a laugh, "It's fine, it's fine. I was just speaking off the cuff."

A few minutes later, the servant reappeared and looked apologetically at Duanmu Sheng, "I'm really sorry, but the sir and lady said there is no Third Miss in this house, so they won't let you in right now."

Chapter 778: Won't turn back until hitting the south wall

After finishing speaking, the servant slammed the large iron gate shut with a 'bang'.

"What an attitude! Does he know who I am?" Shen Haoguang frowned, angrily kicked the large iron gate, and complained discontentedly, "Servants will always be servants, so blinded by ignorance!"

He was the legitimate son-in-law of the Duanmu Family! How dare a mere servant treat him like that! It was as if they had the audacity of a bear and the courage of a leopard!

"Let it go, Haoguang, looks like my parents are still fuming. How about we go back first?" Duanmu Sheng said apologetically to Shen Haoguang's parents, "I'm sorry, Mom and Dad, for making you go through this."

Duanmu Sheng felt incredibly remorseful in her heart, believing that it was all because she hadn't handled the situation well.

The Shen family had been so good to her, treating her like their own daughter, yet she had allowed them to be treated so poorly, which was truly improper.

"Sheng Sheng, what nonsense are you talking about!" Mother Shen said with a smile, "Your father and I both know that this is not your fault. You're a good girl. Our Haoguang must have saved the galaxy in his past life to marry you."

"Your mother is right, Haoguang is lucky to have you; it's the Shen family's good fortune," Father Shen also agreed.

"Mom and Dad, am I as bad as you say? In your eyes, Sheng is your real daughter, isn't she?" Shen Haoguang pretended to be angry.

A look of happiness flashed across Duanmu Sheng's face as she continued, "Why don't we go back first? My parents won't come out to see us today."

"We've come all this way, how can we go back now? Maybe it's a test from our in-laws and mother-in-law?" Mother Shen took a couple of steps back and called into the yard, "In-laws, mother-in-law, it's us. Please open the door, can we sit down and calmly discuss the marriage of the two children?"

Once she finished speaking, the yard remained silent with no response.

"Mom, let's just drop it," Duanmu Sheng, who couldn't bear to see Mother Shen so humbly pleading, pulled at her sleeve and whispered.

"You child, this is about your and Haoguang's big day, how can we just let it go?" Mother Shen chided.

"In-laws, mother-in-law," Mother Shen continued to call out, "Please come out, since the children have already registered their marriage, please bless them, ok? We as parents should be open-minded and bless our children's union."

Mother Shen deliberately raised her voice loud enough for the neighboring houses to hear.

"Haoguang, quickly say something to your in-laws!" Mother Shen gave Shen Haoguang a meaningful glance.

Shen Haoguang immediately got the hint, started banging on the door, and shouted, "In-laws, it's Shen Haoguang. I registered my marriage with Sheng yesterday; please could you come out? Sheng and I truly love each other, and I hope you can bless us."

"Mom and Dad, please bless me and Haoguang," Duanmu Sheng also shouted. As husband and wife, they should move forward together, sharing honor and disgrace.

"In-laws, these children haven't had it easy; please bless them. The dowry or anything else is not a problem; no matter how much money you want, our Shen family will agree, even if it means spending our last penny," said Father Shen.

His words had a certain implication.

It sounded as if the Duanmu family was selling their daughter. On the balconies of the neighboring villas, quite a few onlookers had gathered.

"In-laws, please bless me and Sheng. If you don't come out to meet us, I will kneel here and not rise until you bless us," said Shen Haoguang as he knelt down on the spot.

"Mom and Dad, I'm kneeling for you too." As she finished speaking, Duanmu Sheng also knelt down beside Shen Haoguang, holding his hand tightly with her right hand as a sign of her determination.

"In-laws, dear mother-in-law, please have a heart and come out to see the children; they are pitiable..."

Inside the villa, Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin were sitting in the living room, trembling with rage at the voices coming from outside.

Zhou Jin's hand was still clutching a photo of Shen Haoguang and Situ Ya hugging and cheating together.

"Shameless things!" Duanmu Canghai slammed on the table furiously, his face a mask of frost. The most heartbreaking and distressing thing for a parent is to have a disappointing child.

Zhou Jin also let out a deep sigh and slowly closed her eyes, shaking her head in pain.

"Mom and Dad, Haoguang and I love each other sincerely, please bless us!" The shouting from outside continued.

Duanmu Canghai clenched his teeth, unable to endure any longer, stood up abruptly, and with a few servants, went to the courtyard and opened the door.

Seeing Duanmu Canghai finally open the door, Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang excitedly stood up. "Dad, you finally came," Duanmu Sheng said with excitement.

The Shen parents also happily came over, "In-laws."

"Dad, where's Mom?" Duanmu Sheng looked behind Duanmu Canghai, searching for Zhou Jin.

"Disappointing creature! Who is your dad!" With that, Duanmu Canghai slapped Duanmu Sheng across the face.

"In-laws, what are you doing? Why are you hitting the child for no reason?" Mother Shen quickly shielded Duanmu Sheng and looked up at Duanmu Canghai.

Without giving Mother Shen any face, Duanmu Canghai coldly viewed her and said with a mocking tone, "Who are your in-laws? What are you worth? Don't overestimate your status; a person like you is not even qualified to be a servant for our Duanmu family!"

Such parents raise such a son!

With a son like Shen Haoguang, it was clear what kind of people his parents were!

Therefore, Duanmu Canghai saw no need to show any courtesy to these people.

Mother Shen's face alternated between green and white with rage; however, she still had to put on a smile and said with a laugh, "In-laws, don't be so angry, look at the two children... "

Before Mother Shen could finish her sentence, Duanmu Canghai interrupted her harshly, "Get out! Leave at once, you trash; don't dirty our Duanmu family's doorstep!"

Mother Shen was fuming! Duanmu Canghai was too unappreciative! She had been so submissive, and yet he was still ungracious! Who did he think he was? Just because he had clung to the Mo family tree did he act so arrogantly!

If it weren't for the Mo family, who would give a damn about Duanmu Sheng!

People like Duanmu Canghai are truly disgusting!

In an instant, Mother Shen's face turned as ugly as if she had eaten shit.

Seeing this, Father Shen immediately tried to smooth things over, "In-laws, please don't be so angry; after all, Sheng is your own daughter, and now that she's with Haoguang, you are our in-laws. The kids truly love each other, as parents, why should we stand in the way of the mandarin ducks?"

"I, Duanmu Canghai, have no such disgraceful daughter. You all get out! You're not welcome here!" Duanmu Canghai's face looked extremely unpleasant, and his attitude was very firm. No matter what, they would not accept someone like Shen Haoguang, a piece of trash, as their son-in-law.

"Father-in-law, please bless me and Sheng, and if you do, I am willing to work like an ox or a horse for you!" Shen Haoguang knelt down in front of Duanmu Canghai right away.

Duanmu Sheng also knelt down, enduring the pain on her face, "Dad, please! Bless us!"

"In-law, please just bless these two children," Mother Shen followed up immediately.

"Get out, from now on, I have no daughter like you!" Duanmu Canghai kicked Duanmu Sheng away, "If you like kneeling so much, go kneel somewhere else, don't dirty the Duanmu family's ground!"

"No, if you don't bless us, we won't get up!" Shen Haoguang said with unusual determination.

Duanmu Canghai looked back at several tall and burly servants and commanded, "You guys, go throw this trash out! If they dare to step into our Duanmu home again, just break their legs!"

"Yes!" The servants bowed slightly and dragged the four members of the Shen family away, as if they were dragging dead dogs.

Meanwhile, Duanmu Canghai simply closed the door.

Once inside the house, Zhou Jin hurried over, "Canghai, how did it go? Did Sheng have a change of heart?"

Duanmu Canghai coldly responded, "She's still the same stubborn person."

Zhou Jin sighed deeply, "That child has been stubborn since she was young. This time, I'm afraid she won't turn back until she hits the south wall!"

Duanmu Canghai also sighed, with helplessness written all over his face. The situation had come to this, and they, as parents, were out of options.

On the other hand.

Father and Mother Shen, along with Shen Haoguang and Duanmu Sheng, were dragged out to the roadside.

Duanmu Sheng hurriedly got up from the ground, dusted herself off, and looked apologetically at her in-laws, "Dad, Mom, I'm sorry. I didn't expect things to turn out like this and for you to be wronged."

"Silly child, you're the one who has been wronged the most, right? I know it's not easy for you, and you didn't want this," Mother Shen extended her hand, wiping the tears off Duanmu Sheng's face, comforting her, "Sheng, don't be too sad! Your dad is just angry right now; he won't really disown you."

"Yes, thank you, Mom, thank you for understanding," Duanmu Sheng said, nodding sadly.

"Sheng, don't cry, you still have us in the future," Shen Haoguang gave Duanmu Sheng a hug.

"Haoguang... thank you." Duanmu Sheng wrapped her arms around Shen Haoguang's waist and cried out loud. At her most vulnerable, the comfort from Shen Haoguang and her parents-in-law made her feel the warmth of a family.

At that moment, Duanmu Sheng was very grateful to the Shen family.

Little did she know, from an angle Duanmu Sheng couldn't see, the Shen family of three all had mocking looks in their eyes, considering Duanmu Sheng no different from an idiot.

Maybe even worse than an idiot.

Back at the Shen residence.

Mother Shen busied herself with a 'joyful' dinner, incessantly serving Duanmu Sheng dishes.

"Sheng, isn't your brother Little Zhe about to get engaged?" Mother Shen asked casually while serving Duanmu Sheng dishes.

"Yes," Duanmu Sheng's smile was tinged with bitterness, "it's on the eighteenth of this month."

Thinking of how not long ago, she had discussed the marriage of Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi with her parents, Duanmu Sheng felt even more pained!

Hearing this, Mother Shen's eyes quickly flashed with a glint of cunning, "Sheng, no matter what, you are your parents' flesh and blood; they won't really disown you. Why not, while your brother is back, you go and talk to him, ask him to speak on your behalf to your parents. If you and Haoguang can go to your brother's engagement party, that would pretty much settle things."

At Duanmu Zhe's engagement party, there would be high-ranking officials and eminent persons, and even Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin would attend in person. If Shen Haoguang could attend as the brother-in-law of Duanmu Zhe, then it would be as if everyone knew about his relationship with the Duanmu family.

Once Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin call Shen Haoguang "brother-in-law" in front of everyone, Shen Haoguang's future career in the three realms would be worry-free.

Following this 'brother-in-law,' the Shen family's status would soar.

After that, no one would dare to look down on the Shen family again.

Mother Shen's thoughts were beautiful indeed; after all, Duanmu Sheng is Duanmu Canghai's own flesh and blood. Even a tiger wouldn't eat its cubs, and he definitely wouldn't truly disown his daughter Duanmu Sheng.

It was just a fit of anger.

Duanmu Sheng hesitated but did not immediately respond to Mother Shen because she knew Duanmu Canghai's temper well. Duanmu Canghai was a very stubborn man, and once he decided something, not even ten oxen could pull him back.

Her father-daughter bond with Duanmu Canghai, she feared, was over.

"Sheng, did you hear what your mom said?" Seeing Duanmu Sheng resembling someone who had lost their soul, Mother Shen reminded her.

"Oh," Duanmu Sheng immediately reacted, "Mom, I heard you, but I can't promise anything will work out. Judging by the look on my parents' faces, they seem to have made up their mind not to acknowledge me as their daughter."

Having said that, Duanmu Sheng sighed.

"It will definitely work out, trust me," Shen's mother smiled faintly, "By the way, Sheng, when is your brother coming back?"

Duanmu Sheng continued, "Probably in about three days."

"How about this: when your brother comes back, invite him and his fiancée for a meal at our home. I will invite all our relatives over. If your parents are unwilling to come, it's alright to have a talk with your brother instead."

Shen's mother went on, "Shaohong is my only child. I don't want there to be any regrets at your wedding. If your parents don't want to show up, it would be just as good to have your brother stand in for them."

Shen's mother was calculating very clearly; their goal was to take advantage of Duanmu Zhe's current status. At this point, Duanmu Sheng's parents weren't important anymore, what mattered was Duanmu Zhe.

As long as Duanmu Zhe still recognized Duanmu Sheng as his sister, then everything was still manageable.

Duanmu Sheng didn't think too much of it and assumed Shen's mother was considering her interests. She nodded and said, "Okay, I'll call my brother tomorrow."

"Good." Shen's mother nodded in satisfaction, "Let's eat quickly, stop worrying too much."

"Mhm." Duanmu Sheng nodded.

On this side.

Supernatural World Military District.

These days, Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe could still run into Xi He from time to time.

More often than not, before Xi He came over, Duanmu Zhe would pull Mo Qingyi out of the way. However, Xi He was like a cockroach that couldn't be beaten to death, persistent and indefatigable.

"Duanmu, this is the dessert I had someone buy from outside. It's from your favorite shop." Xi He jogged over to Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe, holding out the gift box in her hand.

Duanmu Zhe didn't bother to entertain her and simply took Mo Qingyi's hand and walked away.

Xi He ran after them, "Qingyi, why don't you try some?"

"Are you not tired of this?" Mo Qingyi stopped in her tracks, her face full of anger as she looked at Xi He, "I've said it nicely and I've said it meanly, why do you keep bothering Duanmu Zhe? Are all the men in the world dead? Do you have something wrong with your brain?!"

Mo Qingyi was indeed fed up with Xi He's pestering! This woman! She was like a pesky bug, always appearing in front of them at every moment.

Xi He just smiled at Mo Qingyi, saying nothing.

"I think you've really lost your mind!" Mo Qingyi scowled and spoke coldly.

Xi He still wore a smiling face. In such a guise, she appeared frail and rather beautiful. Sadly, she was too fixated!

"Duanmu Zhe, bend down a bit," Mo Qingyi turned and said to Duanmu Zhe.

Duanmu Zhe was puzzled but obediently bent down as Mo Qingyi asked.

As Duanmu Zhe bent over, Mo Qingyi hooked her arm around his neck, leaned in with her red lips, and kissed Duanmu Zhe's mouth, prying open his teeth and slipping her tongue inside.

In front of Xi He, they began to kiss deeply.

Xi He clenched her fists, staring unblinkingly at the two kissing passionately, her heart aching immensely.

Five minutes later, Mo Qingyi let go of Duanmu Zhe and said to Xi He, "Did you see it clearly just now? Duanmu Zhe is my man now. If you follow us again, don't blame me for getting physical! Don't say I didn't warn you!"

Mo Qingyi was truly serious this time; Xi He's behavior had caused her a great deal of trouble!

After speaking, Mo Qingyi took Duanmu Zhe's hand, "Let's go!"

Watching the two leave, Xi He immediately burst into tears.

Why? Why did they have to push her like this?

Wasn't it allowed for her just to stand by Duanmu Zhe's side and protect him?

Seeing Xi He didn't follow, Mo Qingyi breathed a sigh of relief, "Duanmu Xiaosi, do you think that Xi He is sick? With such intelligence, I really don't know how she managed to get here!"

"Don't worry, she definitely won't dare do that again," Duanmu Zhe said with a smile on his lips. The thought of Mo Qingyi taking the initiative to kiss him just now made Duanmu Zhe's heart blossom with joy.

Mo Qingyi was jealous for him! The feeling wasn't bad at all.

Just then, the ringtone of Duanmu Zhe's phone echoed, and he pressed the answer button, "Hello, Dad."

"Yes, I'm doing well, Qingyi is right by my side. Don't worry, how are you and Mom doing?"

After a bit of conversation, Duanmu Zhe's expression suddenly tightened, "Third sister? What's happened to her?"

Duanmu Zhe's expression grew steadily more serious.

About fifteen minutes later, Duanmu Canghai had finally finished disclosing what he wanted to say.

Duanmu Zhe's face had turned extremely grim, "Okay, I understand. Uh-huh, you and Mom take care of yourselves, and try not to be too angry. Qingyi and I will be back in a couple of days, goodbye."

No sooner had Duanmu Zhe hung up, than Mo Qingyi asked eagerly, "What's wrong? What did uncle say? We also heard you mention Sister Sheng."

Duanmu Zhe sighed and recounted to Mo Qingyi everything Duanmu Canghai had just told him.

In fact, the reason Duanmu Canghai had called was to discuss Duanmu Sheng's situation with Duanmu Zhe.

After hearing what Duanmu Zhe had said, Mo Qingyi was visibly furious, "That scumbag is shameless! If it were me, I would have made him suffer a long time ago! Sister Sheng is too naive."

Duanmu Zhe looked serious, with a worried glint in his eyes, "My third sister takes after my dad, incredibly stubborn! It seems this time, she won't grow without taking a loss."

"So what now? Just watch Sister Sheng get deceived by that scumbag?" Mo Qingyi continued.

"What else can be done?" Duanmu Zhe sighed, "We can only follow what my dad suggests."

Mo Qingyi frowned, "Doesn't that mean Sister Sheng will be at a disadvantage?"

Duanmu Zhe looked into the distance, a depth to his eyes, "With my third sister's temperament, it was inevitable she would stumble one day. Only by learning from her mistakes will she understand caution. A setback may serve as a lesson well learned, which may not be a bad thing for her in the end."

As a brother, Duanmu Zhe knew exactly what kind of person his sister was.

This experience could be a trial for Duanmu Sheng, for otherwise, she would forever be the same, never discerning people's true natures.

"You have a point," Mo Qingyi nodded, then added, "Ah, the people who must be most heartbroken now are your parents. Shouldn't you call them again to comfort them a bit?"

Mo Qingyi had never expected that Duanmu Sheng, who always seemed so shrewd, could make such a mistake.

Indeed, it affirmed the saying that love can make one foolish.

"No need, they're not children, they should be able to manage their emotions. Besides, we'll be going back in a couple of days anyway." As soon as Duanmu Zhe finished speaking, his phone, which had quieted down, started ringing again.

Duanmu Zhe glanced at the caller ID, sighed, and chose not to answer.

Seeing this, Mo Qingyi guessed who was calling and asked softly, "Is that Sister Sheng calling? Aren't you going to pick up?"

"Let's ignore her for a couple of days." Duanmu Zhe stashed the phone into his pocket.

Shen family.

Shen Haoguang looked eagerly at Duanmu Sheng who was making a call.

Shortly, Duanmu Sheng put down her phone, her face a portrait of despondency as she shook her head towards Shen Haoguang, "No use, Little Zhe didn't pick up."

"Don't worry; he might be busy. After all, he is a soldier, and doesn't have that much freedom with his time. Let's try again tomorrow," Shen Haoguang consoled her.

Duanmu Sheng was anxious; no matter when in the past she called Duanmu Zhe, he would promptly answer. Why not this time...

She had called five times. If Duanmu Zhe were really on a mission, he would definitely turn off his phone. Could it be that even her own brother couldn't understand her now? Duanmu Sheng sighed.

All she did was fall in love; she hadn't done anything wrong! Why was everyone treating her this way?

It was just too unfair!

"Alright, don't think too much!" Shen Haoguang wrapped his arms around Duanmu Sheng's waist, "Let's call Little Zhe again tomorrow."

Thirty minutes later.

Shen Haoguang picked up a glass of warm milk from the bedside table and handed it to Duanmu Sheng, "Sheng, have some milk. It helps with sleep and is good for your health."

Duanmu Sheng's cheeks were still flushed, "Haoguang, thank you."

For having such a devoted husband in this life, she felt it was worth it even if she had to be estranged from her family forever.

Shen Haoguang smiled, "We are husband and wife; there is no need for thanks. Drink up and get a good night's sleep."

Duanmu Sheng gulped down the milk in his glass, then felt a strong wave of sleepiness wash over him, and soon fell into a sound sleep.

Watching the now slumbering Duanmu Sheng, Shen Haoguang's lips curved into a mocking smile as he slowly uttered two words, "Idiot!" Then, he pulled back the covers, got out of bed, took a new set of clothes from the wardrobe, showered in the washroom, and then hurried out the door.

When leaving, he ran into Shen's mother, who whispered, "Are you going to Ya's place?"

"Yes, Mom," Shen Haoguang stopped in his tracks, looking at Shen's mother.

"Here, take this with you, that child is painting every day, it must be exhausting; give her this to nourish her brain." Shen's mother handed a thermal flask to Shen Haoguang and then instructed, "Remember to be careful, don't let anyone find out about you!"

Now was not yet the time for the Duanmu Family to acknowledge Shen Haoguang; it was still better to be cautious.

"I understand, Mom, don't worry," Shen Haoguang took the thermal flask, "I'm going now, Mom."

"Go ahead," Shen's mother waved her hand, her face full of smiles.

Shen Haoguang quickly left; a car was already waiting for him at the door.

Twenty minutes later, Shen Haoguang arrived at the place where Situ Ya lived.

It was a famous affluent area in the Superpower World, but Situ Ya had not used a penny of Shen Haoguang's money; she had acquired it all on her own.

Shen Haoguang entered confidently and wrapped his arms around Situ Ya from behind, "Ya Ya, I've missed you so much!"

"Oh, men!" Situ Ya tapped Shen Haoguang's head with her hand, "I don't believe a word you say!"

"Ya Ya, I'm telling the truth, everything I do is for our future, you have to believe me," Shen Haoguang kissed Situ Ya.

"Ya Ya, have you drawn a new Chapter today?" Shen Haoguang continued to ask.

Situ Ya replied, "Yes, I have, or else what would I eat?"

...

About an hour later.

Shen Haoguang sat up, fumbled to turn on the light, took the thermal flask from the bedside table, and said to Situ Ya, "Ya Ya, this is the ginseng soup my mom made especially for you, drink it while it's hot."

"Auntie is so good to me," Situ Ya said with a laugh as she took it.

"You should call her 'mom' now," Shen Haoguang pinched Situ Ya's nose.

"Yes, yes, mom," Situ Ya lifted the lid, took a sip of the soup, and said with a smile, "It's really tasty."

**

The next day.

Duanmu Sheng called Duanmu Zhe again at noon, only to find that the phone was switched off this time.

"What's wrong, wife? Is Little Zhe still not picking up?" Shen Haoguang came over.

"Yes," Duanmu Sheng nodded, "It's off."

"Don't worry," Shen Haoguang embraced Duanmu Sheng's shoulders, "He might have gone on a mission. By the way, have you ever met Little Zhe's fiancée? What's her family background?" he asked casually.

"Haoguang," Duanmu Sheng looked up at Shen Haoguang, "Actually, Little Zhe's fiancée is Mo Qingyi, which is to say, Brother Nine's sister. I'm sorry I didn't tell you until now."

Shen Haoguang smiled faintly, "You didn't have to tell me something like this; what I'm worried about is your relationship with Little Zhe. Sheng Sheng, you really don't need to have such a falling out with your parents and Little Zhe over me. I wonder if I'm being too selfish by doing this..."

As he spoke, a guilty expression appeared on Shen Haoguang's face.

"Don't be like this, Haoguang, it's not your fault," Duanmu Sheng reached out to embrace Shen Haoguang, "Haoguang, I actually have a decent relationship with Sister-in-law Nine. Maybe I should go to the imperial palace and have a chat with her, to sound out her opinion. And perhaps she could persuade my dad and mom."

Chu Jin was Mo Qingyi's maternal family, and considering the good relationship between Duanmu Zhe and Mo Zhixuan, surely something could be learned from Chu Jin. Moreover, with her status, if she could personally intervene to persuade Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin, there was bound to be a chance for a turnaround.

Duanmu Sheng had thought things through thoroughly.

After all, she had watched a movie with Chu Jin; although their time together was short, Chu Jin seemed to be an understanding person, one who would likely offer her help.

Hearing this, Shen Haoguang's eyes lit up; he was about to nod in agreement but then pretended to hesitate and said, "Sheng Sheng, is that all right? Won't it be too much trouble for Sister-in-law Nine?"

If Duanmu Sheng could call Chu Jin Sister-in-law Nine, it meant that the two had a good relationship. Unexpectedly, now he could also personally address the wife of Brother Nine as Sister-in-law Nine!

It was indeed a great honor!

"No, she won't," Duanmu Sheng shook his head, "The Ninth Lady is a good person. I'll go and see her now."

Shen Haoguang quickly stood up, "Then I'll come with you."

Without much thought, Duanmu Sheng agreed, "Alright, let's go together."

Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang got into the car and left together.

Half an hour later, the car stopped in front of an imposing building. Since Duanmu Sheng had previously been to the imperial palace with her family, she and Shen Haoguang easily gained entry.

The imperial palace was vast in its architectural expanse, with dragons and phoenixes carved everywhere, even more majestic than the royal palace. Shen Haoguang was astounded, but he tried to act calm, thinking to himself that he would often visit the imperial palace in the future and couldn't help feeling smug about it.

In the future, he would be of royal kin.

Regrettably, not many knew of his visit to the imperial palace today. If everyone knew, his status would surely skyrocket, and everyone would be envious of him then.

Contemplating this, Shen Haoguang took out his phone, switched to the camera mode, and was about to press the shutter button when a cold gun barrel was suddenly thrust in front of him, and a sergeant said expressionlessly, "Guest, photography is not allowed here."

The soldiers of the imperial palace were armed with live ammunition.

Shen Haoguang was so scared that his hands trembled. He hurriedly put his phone back in his pocket, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I wasn't trying to take a photo, I was just checking the time."

Duanmu Sheng also apologized, "Sorry, it was just a misunderstanding."

The soldier withdrew the gun.

As they reached the entrance of the hall, the soldiers stopped and went outside, and two uniformed servants came to attend to Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang, "Miss Duanmu, please come inside, the Ninth Lady will be here shortly."

The servants led Shen Haoguang and Duanmu Sheng to a special reception room.

Inside the imperial palace, it was still splendidly lavish, and Shen Haoguang noticed that even the cups for drinking water were made of high-grade crystal – genuine crystal cups.

Duanmu Zhe was so lucky to have charmed Mo Qingyi!

Why couldn't he have such luck?

After waiting for 30 minutes, they still hadn't seen Chu Jin.

Shen Haoguang was getting anxious and said in a low voice, "What's taking the Ninth Lady so long to arrive?"

"Don't worry, she might be delayed by something," Duanmu Sheng said as she took a sip of water, feeling somewhat concerned inside.

Another hour went by, and Chu Jin still hadn't appeared.

Shen Haoguang couldn't help but look at the servant beside him and asked, "Why hasn't the Ninth Lady come over? Could you please go and urge her a bit?"

The servant glanced at Shen Haoguang and replied coldly, "The Ninth Lady is resting upstairs. We servants don't dare to disturb her. You should continue to wait."

Being rebuked like this by a servant, Shen Haoguang didn't dare to retort – after all, this was a servant of the imperial palace. He could only sheepishly keep his mouth shut.

Thus, another 30 minutes passed before Chu Jin finally arrived nonchalantly.

"Sheng Sheng is here," Chu Jin greeted with a warm smile as she walked over.

"Ninth Lady." Duanmu Sheng felt a weight off her heart upon seeing Chu Jin.

Chu Jin was dressed in a white dress that day, a camisole style, with a fox fur stole draped over her shoulders. She was regal yet subtle, and despite her luxury, she exuded purity.

The baby bump didn't diminish her beauty; instead, it added a maternal glow, greatly enhancing her features – she was indeed a motherly figure above others.

Even a beauty of the heavens couldn't surpass her.

This was Shen Haoguang's first encounter with such a person, and for a moment, he didn't know how to react. Although he had seen Chu Jin on TV before, he thought those were post-production effects; surely, there couldn't be someone this beautiful!

Even if it were the reincarnation of a female emperor, she couldn't be without flaws.

Yet now, he was profoundly shaken!

"Ninth Lady, I, I am Sheng Sheng's husband. My name is Shen Haoguang," he faltered, then stood up, walked over to Chu Jin, and introduced himself eagerly.

Chu Jin lowered her eyes towards Shen Haoguang, her red lips slightly parting, "Prominent cheekbones without flesh signify selfishness and greed. Eyes too wide set below indicate wanton and fickle affection. A flat and rising brow ridge is a sign of rebelliousness."

With each statement Chu Jin made, Shen Haoguang's back bent a bit more. Eventually, he could not withstand the immense pressure and collapsed to the ground with a 'bang.' Overwhelmed with profound fear, it was as if through Chu Jin's words, he was forced to see the deep ugliness within himself, and cold sweat layered his forehead.

Chapter 780: biological

Chu Jin's lips curled into a faint arc. She walked past Shen Haoguang underfoot and approached Duanmu Sheng. Looking up at him, she said with a clear voice, "Sheng Sheng, I hadn't expected you to ultimately choose such a vile and crafty person."

"Nine Sister-In-Law, what do you mean by this? How can you speak of Haoguang like this? He is not the person you claim he is!" Duanmu Sheng frowned, full of confusion as he looked at Chu Jin.

Could it be that even Chu Jin couldn't understand him?

Chu Jin lifted her gaze towards the servants and spoke softly, "Take this man out; I need to have a word alone with Miss Duanmu."

"Yes." The servants bowed slightly, and the next second, they directly dragged Shen Haoguang out.

"Nine Sister-In-Law!" Duanmu Sheng became anxious, "Even if you look down on Haoguang, there's no need to insult someone like that!"

"Sheng Sheng," Chu Jin turned her gaze towards Duanmu Sheng, "since you've called me Nine Sister-In-Law, it shows that you don't regard me as an outsider. Don't get agitated, please sit."

Chu Jin leaned into the chair and poured a glass of water for Duanmu Sheng.

Duanmu Sheng took the glass and hesitantly said, "Nine Sister-In-Law, seeing you like this, I presume you already know about the matter between Haoguang and me..."

Chu Jin held a silver spoon, gently stirring the hot milk in the cup. Her slender, fair hand juxtaposed with the cold hard spoon, creating a ravishing sight. It was unclear whether the milk was whiter or her hand even more so.

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Hmm, I've heard a little. You love him deeply?"

"Yes, I love him very much!" Duanmu Sheng's gaze was resolute, "I hope you can help us, Nine Sister-In-Law."

"Unfortunately, he doesn't love you. Sheng Sheng, do you know that Shen Haoguang and his parents are all taking you for a fool?" Chu Jin looked at Duanmu Sheng, "Initially, I shouldn't meddle in your affairs, but now that you have sought me out, I just have to say something..."

"Nine Sister-In-Law, you needn't say more! I already understand your meaning." Duanmu Sheng interrupted Chu Jin, "You're implying that Shen Haoguang's affections for me are feigned and you want to stop us from being together. If that's the case, I can only apologize for failing to meet your expectations. I am very stubborn; once I set my mind on something, it's hard to change. It's the same with men. I love Shen Haoguang, and he loves me too. In this life, all I want is to be with him, and no one can tear us apart!"

Chu Jin's expression remained unchanged. She took a gentle sip of milk and then continued, "Sheng Sheng, let me ask you, is it right as a child to have a full-fledged fallout with the parents who gave birth and raised you, causing them such distress and heartbreak?"

In other words, without Duanmu Sheng's parents, where would Duanmu Sheng be now? As children, should they selfishly consider only themselves without putting themselves in their parents' shoes?

Moreover, it's all for a man like Shen Haoguang.

Originally, Duanmu Sheng could've perfectly avoided all these troubles. It's a pity that she wouldn't listen to anyone's advice, never leaving herself an ounce of skepticism, until now, when she still uncritically trusts Shen Haoguang.

Perhaps, this is the power of love.

"Nine Sister-In-Law, what's wrong with me pursuing my love?" Duanmu Sheng looked at Chu Jin, "If my parents were willing to support me, understand me, and bless us, things wouldn't have turned out this way!"

In Duanmu Sheng's view, the entire mess could've been avoided if it weren't for her parents' doing.

Chu Jin chuckled lightly, retorting, "Have you ever thought about why they oppose it?"

Duanmu Sheng bit her lip, "If the Shen family were as powerful and influential as the Mo family, I believe they would never oppose it!"

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly. Her serene face showed little emotion as she smiled and said, "You and Shen Haoguang have been together for five years. If your uncle and aunt truly despised the Shen family's background, they would've opposed your relationship from the start, not wait until now."

Chu Jin's words were logical, but Duanmu Sheng was not willing to listen.

Her complexion turned unsightly. Duanmu Sheng stood abruptly, "Nine Sister-In-Law, I apologize for being unwell. I've disturbed you today; I will take my leave."

She shouldn't have come today. The present Chu Jin clearly sided with her parents!

Indeed, how could the elevated Mrs. Nine possibly regard the Shen family with favor?

Hmph.

Duanmu Sheng stood up and walked away.

Chu Jin also stood up and gently called out, "Sheng Sheng, wait a moment."

"Do you have anything else, Nine Sister-In-Law?" Duanmu Sheng looked up at Chu Jin, her complexion somewhat pale; things had come to such a point that her ties with the Duanmu family were completely severed.

"Keep this." Chu Jin picked up a talisman paper from the table and stuffed it into Duanmu Sheng's hand, "Tonight at 8 o'clock, burn it to ashes and mix it with water to drink. You will see everything you want to see, seeing is believing."

"Thank you." Duanmu Sheng casually stuffed the talisman paper into her bag and then turned to leave.

As she walked past a trash can, Duanmu Sheng carelessly threw the talisman paper from her bag into it. In a marriage, there should be mutual trust; she would not be swayed by others' malicious instigations to doubt Shen Haoguang without cause.

Chu Jin stood on the fifth-floor balcony, personally witnessing all this and shook her head helplessly. It seems that Duanmu Sheng was destined to face this ordeal.

Outside the imperial palace.

Upon seeing Duanmu Sheng emerge, Shen Haoguang eagerly approached her, "Sheng Sheng, how did it go? What did Nine Sister-In-Law say? Did she agree to help you?"

Seeing Shen Haoguang's full anticipation, Duanmu Sheng felt incredibly guilty, "Haoguang, I'm sorry, Nine Sister-In-Law... she doesn't want to help us."

"It's okay, it's okay," Shen Haoguang rubbed Duanmu Sheng's head, "It's already quite something for Ninth Sister to personally receive us, how could she do such a thing for us? Little Zhe is coming back tomorrow, isn't he? Mom and Dad said they would personally host a banquet for Little Zhe and his fiancee."

"Mhm." Duanmu Sheng nodded.

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Chu Jin stood on the balcony for a while until Mo Zhixuan came out of the bathroom, drying his hair.

"Jin, who just came by?" Mo Zhixuan asked.

"Sheng Sheng and her boyfriend." Chu Jin turned slightly, "When did you wake up?"

Mo Zhixuan had been very busy recently, often reversing day and night, so he was catching up on sleep during the day.

"When you woke up, I did too," Mo Zhixuan walked to the mirror and stood still, picking up the hairdryer, "Jin, come and dry my hair for me."

Mo Zhixuan made the request as if it was the most natural thing, feeling no hesitation whatsoever.

Chu Jin's voice was soft and filled with gentle laughter, "Mo Zhixuan, asking a pregnant woman to blow-dry your hair, aren't you ashamed to say it out loud?"

She was already four months along, and her belly was already very noticeable, probably because they were twins, so she looked even bigger than a typical six-month pregnant woman.

"I've blown your hair before," Mo Zhixuan sat down on the chair and picked up the 4D ultrasound from the vanity, chuckling softly, "Those two ugly little guys, Jin, shall we call them Ugly Ugly and Clumsy Clumsy from now on?"

Chu Jin picked up the hairdryer, her fingers weaving through Mo Zhixuan's hair, the white strands so close in color to her skin that her heart ached slightly.

Under what desperate circumstances must a person be to have their hair turn completely white in an instant?

Mo Zhixuan raised a hand to hold Chu Jin's, his voice low, "I was just joking, I can dry it myself."

"Blow-drying my husband's hair is my duty as his wife," Chu Jin smiled faintly.

Mo Zhixuan proudly crossed his legs, "Then blow-dry it for me quickly, and after that, you need to feed me."

Chu Jin gave him a look, "Blow-dry your own hair, I'm going home to see my mom."

"I'll come with you." Mo Zhixuan didn't bother to finish his hair and followed Chu Jin out.

In the car.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan sat in the back seat, Mo Zhixuan one hand on Chu Jin's belly, the other holding the 4D ultrasound, "Jin, I'm serious, what do you really think about the names Ugly Ugly and Clumsy Clumsy?"

Ugly Ugly and Clumsy Clumsy?

There's no doubt that they were coined by their dear dad!

Just a while ago, they were Bao Bao and Bei Bei, and now they've become Ugly Ugly and Clumsy Clumsy!

Chu Jin arched an eyebrow slightly, "Didn't you say earlier we should use the nicknames Bao Bao and Bei Bei?"

Mo Zhixuan shook his head helplessly, "Because I now realize Ugly Ugly and Clumsy Clumsy suit them better! Jin, how come these two little ones didn't inherit our excellent genes? They look so ugly..." Mo Zhixuan appeared to be quite critical, but his eyes couldn't hide the laughter within them.

They may be ugly, but at least they're his own.

Even if they're ugly, he's come to terms with it!

They're his own flesh and blood, after all. It'd be a shame to throw them away.

"Mr. Mo, from last night till now, you've looked at this 4D ultrasound no less than 50 times!" Chu Jin reminded him, not without exasperation.

Such contradiction! He keeps looking at it despite his complaints!

And he isn't just looking himself; he insists on showing it to Zhao Yan and Chu Xiu!

Seeing Mr. Mo like this, Chu Jin felt speechless.

"Even if they are ugly, they're our creation. I accept them." Mo Zhixuan's lips held a soft smile, his eyes unblinkingly fixed on the 4D ultrasound, filled with a tender gaze.

Chu Jin: "..." I'm at a loss for words.

When they arrived at the Chu family's house, Chu Jin realised the old lady Mo had also come, and the two elders were sitting on the living room sofa, discussing how to knit the wool of a sweater.

On the coffee table in front of them, there lay a knitted baby sweater and a pair of tiny exquisite shoes.

"Wow, these are beautiful." Chu Jin picked up the sweater, her eyes filled with admiration.