

R Woman 831

Chapter 831:

It was June, yet there was a chill that seeped into every bone.

Passing by each corpse gave the eerie feeling that it would suddenly jump to life.

Mo Zhixuan stretched out his hand and grasped Chu Jin's, their fingers locked tightly, channeling a warm current from his body into hers.

Chu Jin had just given birth, her body had not fully recovered, and the last thing she needed at such a time was to deal with the dead.

However, with Mo Zhixuan by her side, no evil dared invade.

The elderly man led the two of them to a body and stopped.

Embroidered in black on the white face were the numbers "1444."

In front of the corpse's feet burned five sticks of incense, three long and two short.

"Nine Ye, Madame Nine, the body marked with 1444 is that of Xi He," the old man said respectfully.

Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly and reached out to lift the white cotton cloth that covered the body.

Moments later, the air revealed the body of a young woman.

This was indeed Xi He.

Perhaps because she had been laid out for too long, slight marks of livor mortis had appeared on her face.

"It's Xi He," Chu Jin raised her eyes to look at Mo Zhixuan.

Mo Zhixuan nodded, "It is indeed Xi He."

The body was certainly Xi He's, but if she was already dead, how could she have instructed Li Wen to steal Bei Bei...

Having confirmed Xi He's death, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan left the morgue and returned to the imperial palace, making another trip to the dungeon.

This time, however, they did not see Li Wen.

Instead, they found Li Wen's body.

Li Wen had died from crashing into a wall.

The death was gruesome; even her brain matter had burst out, she had died a terrible death.

Now, their only clue was gone.

Li Wen's death became another puzzle.

"Why do you think Li Wen would commit suicide? Xi He was clearly already dead, so why did Li Wen claim that Xi He instructed her?" Chu Jin looked up at Mo Zhixuan.

Chu Jin had already confirmed the identity of the body in the morgue; it was indeed Xi He herself.

Mo Zhixuan narrowed his eyes slightly, "Li Wen had a criminal record before; perhaps she had been entrusted by Xi He while in prison, or maybe Li Wen wanted to push the blame onto a dead person—as after all, in this world, only the dead can't fight back."

Only by doing so could Li Wen protect the real mastermind.

"As you saw, every word Li Wen spoke was true," Chu Jin continued, "Could it be that someone wore a Human Skin Mask, purposely disguising themselves as Xi He?" Now, that seemed to be the only reasonable explanation.

A dead person cannot rise to kill.

Unless someone intentionally disguised themselves as Xi He.

Mo Zhixuan followed up, "This matter might be more complicated than we thought. Don't worry, I will have it thoroughly investigated and make sure to bring the true mastermind to light, so that Bao Bao and Bei Bei won't face the slightest threat."

A Li Wen had died, but there could be a second Li Wen.

The fox would eventually show its tail.

Chu Jin nodded, "Mhm."

For now, they could only respond to provocation with stillness.

After such an incident, it wouldn't be easy for whoever was behind this to take action against Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

It might even leave a clue for them instead.

When Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan returned to the imperial palace, the elderly Madame Mo and the maternity matron were bathing Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

Seeing the two little treasures, Chu Jin immediately forgot all her troubles and worries, a smile blossoming at the corner of her mouth.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were at an age where they were active and especially loved water, splashing it constantly during the bath and laughing all the while.

"Silly boy, you can't drink the bathwater," Chu Jin quickly took away the towel Bao Bao was holding in his hand.

Bao Bao always sneakily drank the bathwater.

Neither Madame Mo nor the maternity matron could watch him closely enough.

Bei Bei, on the other hand, was much better behaved.

The two little ones sat in the bathtub, at times squeezing rubber ducks, at times squeezing sponge balls, never stopping for a moment, utterly mischievous.

After the bath, Chu Jin picked up Bao Bao.

But as soon as he was lifted from the water, Bao Bao began to wail loudly as if he had been wronged.

"If he doesn't want to get out, let him bathe a little longer; he doesn't cry during his bath anyway," Mo Zhixuan walked in from outside.

Every child loves water, and Bao Bao and Bei Bei were no exception.

But Bei Bei wasn't as extreme as Bao Bao, who would at most grunt a few times to show his displeasure.

Bao Bao, however, really cried.

Chu Jin said helplessly, "If you don't take care of him, he would sit there and wash for a whole day like an idiot." What kind of karma is this, giving birth to such a foolish son.

"Mom says you're an idiot, are you an idiot?" Mo Zhixuan wrapped his arms around Bao Bao, gently patting Bao Bao's back, "All right, no more crying, what kind of man cries and weeps? Be careful, or you might not get a wife in the future."

Upon hearing this, Bao Bao immediately stopped crying.

Tears and snot still hung on his face, his little nose sniffing, looking very aggrieved.

It was as if he understood what Mo Zhixuan was saying.

"Look at what you're saying to him! Is it something glorious for you if your son can't get a wife?" Mrs. Mo's dissatisfied voice came from behind them.

To actually ridicule his own son about not getting a wife in the future was definitely something only a biological parent would say.

"Mom..." Mo Zhixuan said somewhat speechlessly, "I was just saying it casually."

Mrs. Mo placed Bei Bei on the crib, then said, "You can't even talk casually about these things!" Such words shouldn't be said lightly, since the elderly are very superstitious about these matters.

"Don't talk nonsense in the future!" Mrs. Mo warned Mo Zhixuan before turning away.

Chu Jin took out a set of pajamas from the wardrobe and said to Mo Zhixuan, "You watch Bao Bao and Bei Bei, I'm going to take a shower."

After having their baths, Bao Bao and Bei Bei would be very well-behaved and play by themselves, so she wasn't worried Mo Zhixuan couldn't handle them.

"Okay, go ahead." Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly.

Chu Jin took the pajamas and went into the bathroom.

Mo Zhixuan then placed Bao Bao next to Bei Bei.

The crib was filled with lots of little toys.

As soon as Bao Bao was put inside, he started to laugh happily, picked up a pink piggy toy, and hugged and kissed it with joy.

Bao Bao was different from other boys.

He liked pink.

He liked fluffy teddy bears.

He even liked to play with Chu Jin's lipstick and skincare products.

He had a sense of a little girl.

This was completely different from Bei Bei; Bei Bei had no interest in fluffy toys, instead preferring guns, cars, and such.

Sometimes Chu Jin even wondered if the children had gotten their genders mixed up.

Bei Bei looked at Bao Bao playing with the piggy toy with an incredulous face.

That look seemed to say, "Whose idiot child is that?"

Mo Zhixuan also looked at Bao Bao with a speechless expression, "Mo Jingxing, you're a man! How can you play with such girly toys!" After saying that, Mo Zhixuan reached out and took the piggy toy from Bao Bao's hands.

The next second.

Bao Bao began to wail loudly with a "wah!"

That cry could shock the heavens and move spirits.

Seeing her brother cry so sadly, Bei Bei hurriedly patted Bao Bao's chest with her little hand.

She even made "oh oh..." sounds as if to comfort Bao Bao.

Seeing how sensible Bei Bei was, a gentle smile like that of a loving father emerged from the depths of Mo Zhixuan's eyes.

Seizing the moment, Mo Zhixuan took out his phone and recorded a ten-second video of the two little ones.

Ever since Bao Bao and Bei Bei came into his life, Mo Zhixuan's phone album had been filled with photos of the two little ones.

After recording the video, Bao Bao was still crying sadly.

Mo Zhixuan couldn't be bothered with this drama king; boys shouldn't be spoiled too much. They needed to be toughened up, and not catered to at every turn.

Mo Zhixuan logged into Weibo and uploaded the short video.

First EncounterV: "Sister says: Brother, stop crying, isn't a man ashamed? [Video]"

Once the post was made,

it immediately drew the attention of countless people.

Netizen A: "Wow! Genetics really are powerful! The looks of these two little buns are incredible..."

Netizen B: "Fraternal twins! It's really fraternal twins, congratulations to my goddess, congratulations Boss Mo."

Netizen C: "This is probably a sister and brother, right?"

Netizen D: "Hahaha, the little sister has my Jin's temperament."

Netizen E: "Didn't these two babies grow up eating cuteness?"

Netizen F: "Wow wow wow! Little buns have appeared, just like my goddess's little buns!"

Netizen G: "Absolutely the biological father, confirmed!"

Netizen H: "Such cute little buns, so adorable, melting the aunty's girlish heart..."

Netizen I: "Boss Mo, do you need a daughter-in-law and son-in-law? I want to book."

In less than two minutes after the Weibo post, the comments had already increased by 20,000.

Instantly trending on social media.

Just after Mo Zhixuan posted on Weibo, Chu Jin's voice came from the bathroom, "Mo Zhixuan, are you bullying Bao Bao again? Hurry up and appease him!"

It wasn't the first time Mo Zhixuan had bullied Bao Bao.

At times, this man was just like a child.

He often opposed Bao Bao.

For instance, if Bao Bao liked pink, he'd insist on blue, and if Bao Bao liked teddy bears, he'd force him to play with toy cars...

No wonder there's a saying, fathers and sons are natural enemies.

Hearing Chu Jin's voice, Mo Zhixuan immediately said, "Not at all! I'm bonding with Bao Bao! Don't worry, he'll stop crying very soon."

"Three minutes, if I can still hear Bao Bao crying, you're going to sleep in the study tonight," threatened Chu Jin from inside.

For daddies like Mo Zhixuan, threats are necessary.

Otherwise, he'd just keep bullying Bao Bao.

Even a simple kiss from Chu Jin to Bao Bao would make Mo Zhixuan incredibly jealous.

At these words, Mo Zhixuan immediately gave the little pig plushie back to Bao Bao, "Good son, here's your Peppa back. Can we stop crying now, please?"

Bao Bao didn't pay Mo Zhixuan any heed, tightly closing his eyes and howling his heart out.

"Little ancestor, can we please stop crying?" Mo Zhixuan pleaded, hands in prayer.

Angry Bao Bao had serious consequences!

"Good Bao Bao, it's all Daddy's fault. Daddy apologizes. Can you stop crying now?" Mo Zhixuan picked up Bao Bao and rocked him back and forth in the room.

He certainly didn't want to sleep in the study.

He had been 'vegetarian' for over a year.

Just as he thought the doors were opening to a new era, his own son was about to cast him into the cold palace again...

Bei Bei lay in the crib, watching Daddy rock his brother back and forth.

But Bao Bao continued crying nonstop.

"Stop crying, or you'll bring a tiger here, and be careful he eats you up." Soft approach not working, Mo Zhixuan resorted to a tougher tactic.

"Wah!" Bao Bao intensified his wailing, though not a single tear was in his eyes.

This was undoubtedly the embodiment of a drama king.

Seeing Bao Bao like this, Mo Zhixuan was also at a loss.

"Bao Bao, how about Daddy makes funny faces for you?" Saying this, Mo Zhixuan made a goofy face.

If it would make Bao Bao stop crying, Mo Zhixuan would do anything.

"Should I meow for you? Meow meow meow..."

Bao Bao responded with continued "wah wah wah" crying.

Mo Zhixuan looked at Bao Bao and felt like crying himself.

This little tyrant—he would never dare to provoke him easily again.

The more Bao Bao cried, the angrier he became, stuffing his hands tightly into his mouth.

"Bao Bao, listen to Daddy bark like a dog for you, woof woof woof, there's a big flowered dog outside..."

Unfortunately, Bao Bao was not impressed.

If someone were there at the scene, they would question their own existence.

Nobody would believe that Mo Zhixuan, who always maintained a cold demeanor, could stoop so low...

Meowing like a cat...

And even barking like a dog...

The famous Boss Mo of the Superpower World, subdued by his own son to such an extent, was truly unparalleled.

"Nice Bao Bao, how about you ride on Daddy's back?" Mo Zhixuan put Bao Bao on his neck.

Still unimpressed, Bao Bao cried out loudly.

"Are you my daddy, all right? Please stop crying..." Mo Zhixuan said helplessly.

After this ordeal, Mo Zhixuan would never dare to provoke Bao Bao easily again.

When he called Bao Bao 'Daddy'.

The crying of Bao Bao decreased slightly.

Seeing it actually had an effect, Mo Zhixuan hurriedly said, "Bao Bao, if you stop crying, from now on, you are my daddy!"

Bao Bao's cries came to an abrupt stop, his eyes wide open, staring unblinkingly at Mo Zhixuan.

Even Bei Bei was stunned.

Their dad must have gone mad...

Seizing the opportunity, Mo Zhixuan quickly handed a stuffed bear to Bao Bao, who, upon seeing the bear and Peppa, forgot everything. He took Peppa, threw the bear aside, and started smiling even with tears on his face.

Seeing this, Mo Zhixuan finally let out a sigh of relief and pulled out a baby wipe to dab away Bao Bao's tears.

"Little rascal, even your dad gets tricked by you," Mo Zhixuan said as he wiped the tears, adding, "Do you know what your mom once said? 'Your dad will always be your dad.'"

Fortunately, there were no outsiders around tonight; otherwise, he'd lose all face!

Bao Bao's temperament really needed to be straightened out. So competitive—wonder who he got that from.

If he's making his own dad admit mistakes at such a young age, what will he do when he grows up? Probably reach for the sky!

Bao Bao looked at Mo Zhixuan with an innocent and bewildered expression.

His large, deer-like eyes blinked rapidly.

Mo Zhixuan looked at Bao Bao and revealed a kind, fatherly smile, "Son, call me daddy."

Bao Bao haughtily glanced at Mo Zhixuan, then continued to play with his Peppa Pig toy.

Mo Zhixuan sighed helplessly.

In the eyes of his own son, he was less important than a Peppa Pig...

"Bei Bei, give daddy a kiss," Mo Zhixuan said, bringing his left cheek close to Bei Bei.

Who knew, Bao Bao, swinging his little hand, gave Mo Zhixuan's left cheek a loud "slap."

After hitting him, he even laughed heartily at Mo Zhixuan.

Seeing Bao Bao like this, Mo Zhixuan couldn't be mad anymore.

Bei Bei leaned over and pressed her head to Mo Zhixuan's face, leaving a drool mark with a "smack."

"My daughter is so great!" Mo Zhixuan happily picked up Bei Bei.

Indeed, daughters are their father's little patches of warmth.

Not like that little rascal.

Aside from vying for affection, he's utterly useless.

Bei Bei happily babbled away.

Bao Bao was completely engrossed in studying his little Peppa Pig toy.

Mo Zhixuan watched the two little ones, his eyes filled with warmth. If the kids weren't crying, they almost seemed human.

Twenty minutes later.

Chu Jin, drying her hair, came out of the bathroom and asked Mo Zhixuan, "Where are Bao Bao and Bei Bei?"

Mo Zhixuan put his index finger to his lips, gesturing for silence, then whispered, "They're asleep now, keep your voice down."

Chu Jin nodded, glancing at the crib. She saw the two little ones sleeping soundly in their crib, Bao Bao holding a Peppa Pig plushie in his hand, while Bei Bei lay her little feet across Bao Bao's body.

The two little ones appeared incredibly lovable.

A beautiful curve bloomed on Chu Jin's lips, her dimples lightly showing, as she walked to the floor mirror and picked up the silent hairdryer to start drying her hair.

"Let me do that," Mo Zhixuan took the hairdryer.

"Jin, why is your heart beating so fast?" he then asked.

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, "Is it faster than yours?"

"Jin," Mo Zhixuan spoke again.

"Mhm, go on," Chu Jin said, her tone indifferent.

While drying her hair, he remarked, "Jin, the roses in the backyard are blooming beautifully tonight."

Her fingertips felt incredibly comfortable running through her scalp, and Chu Jin slowly closed her eyes, softly murmuring in response.

He continued, "Tonight's moon is also very nice, big and bright."

Hearing this, Chu Jin slightly raised her eyebrows; her intuition told her that Mr. Mo was trying to sweet-talk her again.

"Mhm, so what? What are you trying to say?" she inquired.

Mo Zhixuan slowly curved his lips, his tone deep as he said, "On such a beautiful night, with the flowers and the full moon, if we don't do something meaningful, wouldn't we let this perfect night go to waste? That would be neglecting the goodwill of the heavens, right?"

Chu Jin slowly opened her eyes, somewhat speechless, "Can you speak plainly?"

...

The next morning, Mo Zhixuan indeed got up very early, sending Bao Bao and Bei Bei to Mrs. Mo.

Mrs. Mo happily took Bao Bao and Bei Bei but didn't call Chu Jin to get up.

Chu Jin had been too tired last night and didn't get up until the afternoon.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were very well behaved now; it was rare to hear them crying.

Seeing Chu Jin arrive, Bao Bao and Bei Bei both stretched out their hands, wanting to be held by her.

Mrs. Mo said with a smile, "They may be little, but their hearts are big. You want mom as soon as she comes. Am I and grandma not good to you?"

Zhao Yan also beamed, "These two clever little ones, no matter how good we are to them, we can't compare to their own mother."

Three-month-old children can now recognize their parents.

Chu Jin reached out to take Bao Bao and Bei Bei, planting kisses on their cheeks.

Chapter 832: The Greatest Vocabulary (Part 1)

"Jin, let me hold one." Mo Qingyi walked over from the side.

Seeing Mo Qingyi come over, Bao Bao reached out to be held by her.

You should know, Bao Bao still refused Mo Qingyi yesterday.

At that moment, Mo Qingyi felt incredibly honored as she took Bao Bao into her arms and gave him a big kiss, "My great nephew is really awesome."

Bao Bao giggled with delight.

"Duanmu, who do you think Bao Bao resembles more?" Mo Qingyi turned her gaze towards Duanmu Zhe beside her.

"I think he looks more like the Ninth Brother, and his eyes are a bit like the Ninth Sister-in-law's." Duanmu Zhe responded with a smile.

Zhao Yan said with a smiling face on the side, "When will the two of you have one?"

"We're not in a hurry, Qingyi is still young," Duanmu Zhe replied with a smile.

Mo Qingyi, looking at Bao Bao in her arms, had her eyes and brows filled with smiles.

These kinds of things, sometimes they're urgent, and sometimes they're not.

Just as Duanmu Zhe had said, she is still young.

Having a child, that's a matter of fate.

"That's true," Zhao Yan nodded, "You're still young now; you should enjoy this good time while you can. Once you have children, you won't have such freedom."

The Mo family matriarch wasn't in a hurry, either.

The affairs of the young people should be left to them; it's not good for elders to meddle too much.

Moreover, she already had both a grandson and a granddaughter.

Just looking at these two children was enough for the Mo family matriarch to feel content.

The life she was living now was something she had never dared to imagine before.

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The Duanmu Family.

Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin were sitting in the living room, having afternoon tea.

At this moment, a servant walked in from outside, "Sir, Madam, Miss Lin has arrived."

Lin Xiyuan followed right behind the servant.

Upon seeing Lin Xiyuan, Zhou Jin immediately stood up, greeting with a smile, "Xiyuan is here."

"Uncle, Aunt," Lin Xiyuan greeted politely.

"Xiyuan," Duanmu Canghai nodded symbolically.

"Uncle, Aunt, these are some local specialties my parents brought back from Sea City. They asked me to share some with you to try." Lin Xiyuan, smiling, placed a basket of fruit and several large seafood items on the coffee table.

The Lin family and the Duanmu family lived in the same courtyard, and the two families had always had a good relationship.

Whenever there was something good, they would share it with each other.

Zhou Jin, smiling, said, "Xiyuan, your mother is too polite, bringing things all the way from so far and even sharing with us." Sea City is a tropical area, known not only for its tropical fruits but also for its seafood.

Although the items weren't anything expensive, the sentiment behind them was what counted.

"There's a saying 'a distant relative is not as good as a close neighbor.' Aunt, you often bring things to our house too; you don't have to be so polite." Lin Xiyuan had always been someone who was good at speaking; she knew how to make the elders happy.

"Xiyuan, your words are really sweet," Zhou Jin casually took a lychee and began peeling it, then said, "Xiyuan, if I remember correctly, you're two years younger than our Little Zhe, right?"

Lin Xiyuan smiled and said, "Auntie, you must have remembered wrong. Duanmu and I are the same age."

"The same age, huh," Zhou Jin suddenly realized, then asked, "Xiyuan, do you have a boyfriend now?"

Lin Xiyuan shook her head, "Not yet."

"Xiyuan, you're not getting any younger. There aren't many good years left for a girl. You really must seize the right opportunity. How about this, shall I introduce someone to you?" Zhou Jin suggested somewhat excitedly.

Women of a certain age often have a matchmaker's heart.

All the more so since Lin Xiyuan was so outstanding, Zhou Jin couldn't help but entertain such thoughts.

"Really?" Lin Xiyuan looked up joyfully, "Then it's settled, Auntie, so I don't have to hear my mom complaining about me not being able to get married."

Lin Xiyuan was now 27 years old. An age that isn't considered old but isn't considered young either.

"Of course, it's true," seeing that Lin Xiyuan was receptive to her suggestion, Zhou Jin was also very happy, "Xiyuan, I'm not joking. I actually do know a young man around your age. He's impeccable in both character and appearance, and he's actually my nephew from my maiden family. If you're willing, when should we arrange for you two to meet?"

Lin Xiyuan nodded, "Sure, Auntie, you can arrange it."

"Good, then what's your phone number? I'll contact you later," Zhou Jin continued.

Lin Xiyuan reported a series of numbers, which Zhou Jin entered into her phone.

"Mom, Dad, I'm back." Just then, Duanmu Sheng entered from outside.

Zhou Jin turned toward her direction and said, "Sheng Sheng is back. I had Mrs. Li make you some soup in the kitchen. Go drink it while it's hot."

"Is there a guest at home?" Duanmu Sheng asked as she walked over with a big belly.

She was now almost eight months pregnant, with a belly as big as a basket, and it was the most exhausting time of the entire pregnancy.

Apart from her belly, Duanmu Sheng's whole body had rounded out quite a bit.

"Sister Sheng Sheng," Lin Xiyuan politely stood up to greet Duanmu Sheng.

"Xiyuan is here," Duanmu Sheng responded with a smile.

Having grown up in the Superpower World, Duanmu Sheng was quite familiar with Lin Xiyuan.

"Sister Sheng Sheng, I brought some fruit. It's better for pregnant women to eat this. You should have more," Lin Xiyuan said as she picked up a slice of pineapple and offered it to Duanmu Sheng.

"Thank you, Xiyuan," Duanmu Sheng thanked her politely.

At that moment, Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe returned from the imperial palace.

"Mom, this is a tonic that my mom asked me to bring for you and dad," Mo Qingyi said, carrying large and small gift boxes in her hands.

Zhou Jin quickly stood up and said, "Your mother-in-law is really too polite. We didn't bring anything for her, and yet we're consuming her things. Qingyi, you should have declined a little."

"These were gifts to my mom anyway; she couldn't finish them all by herself," Mo Qingyi replied with a cheerful smile.

"Oh, right, Qingyi, let me introduce you. This is the daughter of your Uncle Lin, Lin Xiyuan. She's about the same age as Little Zhe, so feel free to call her Xiyuan." Zhou Jin went on to say.

In fact, Mo Qingyi had already met Lin Xiyuan several times, but Zhou Jin was unaware of that.

"Mom, Xiyuan and I already know each other," Mo Qingyi said, smiling.

"Yes, Auntie, Sister Qingyi and I have known each other for a while," Lin Xiyuan also added, since Duanmu Zhe was older by several months, Lin Xiyuan would thus call Mo Qingyi 'sister-in-law.'

"That's good, good to know," Zhou Jin nodded in agreement.

Lin Xiyuan then said, "Auntie, I have something else to take care of, so I'll be going now. Remember to visit our place when you have time with Uncle, Sister Sheng Sheng, Sister Qingyi, and Brother Duanmu. I won't disturb you any longer, goodbye." With those words, Lin Xiyuan left the Duanmu Family's house politely.

Zhou Jin looked at Lin Xiyuan's retreating figure, nodded with satisfaction, and thought to herself, "This child knows the bigger picture."

She is worthy of her maternal family's nephew.

"Xiyuan, don't forget the thing we agreed on," Zhou Jin called out to Lin Xiyuan's retreating figure.

What Zhou Jin was referring to was arranging a meeting between Lin Xiyuan and her own nephew.

Lin Xiyuan turned back, "Okay, Auntie, we'll stay in touch over the phone if anything comes up."

"Qingyi, have you and Little Zhe eaten? If not, I'll go make something for you," Zhou Jin continued.

Zhou Jin was a very good mother-in-law since Mo Qingyi loved the dishes she cooked, so as long as Mo Qingyi was home, she never let the housekeeper cook; she did it all herself.

"Mom, you don't have to worry about that; Duanmu and I have already eaten." At the Mo family, the Mo family matriarch had also prepared a lot of delicious food.

"That's good," Zhou Jin turned and sat down.

Mo Qingyi turned her gaze towards Duanmu Sheng and said with a light smile, "Sister Sheng, I haven't seen you in months, your belly is so big now! Are you close to your due date?"

Duanmu Sheng touched her belly, "It's only been eight months now; there's still more than a month until the due date."

The saying 'a ten-month pregnancy' is actually incorrect.

In reality, pregnant women usually give birth after just over nine months.

"Sister Sheng, this is the gift I prepared for the baby." Mo Qingyi took out a beautifully packaged gift box from her bag and continued, "I'm worried that when you give birth, I might be out on a mission and unable to get back home, so you should take this gift and keep it safe."

Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe often had urgent missions, sometimes unreachable for months at a time.

The child inside Duanmu Sheng's belly should have been the least welcome presence, but at the Duanmu family, Duanmu Sheng never felt any strange looks from her parents.

Ever since the pregnancy, her parents had taken even greater care of her, and so had Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi, without a second word.

To say she was not moved would be a lie.

"Qingyi, thank you," Duanmu Sheng looked at Mo Qingyi with deep emotion.

"Sister Sheng, we are all one family; there's no need for thanks," Mo Qingyi patted Duanmu Sheng's hand and went on, "By the way, Sister Sheng, have you settled on a name for the child? Don't end up like my brother and sister-in-law; their baby was a hundred days old before they finally settled on a formal name."

Duanmu Sheng nodded, "Yes, I have decided on the name Nian'en for both, if it's a boy or a girl—Duanmu Nianen."

The name held significant meaning.

Duanmu Sheng wanted this child to always remember some of the kindness in this world.

The grace of parental tolerance.

The life-saving grace of Chu Jin.

Too many to count...

She didn't want her child to follow the same old paths she did.

"Nian'en, is it the 'Nian' for remembrance and the 'en' for grace?" Mo Qingyi turned to look at Duanmu Sheng.

Duanmu Sheng nodded, "Yes, that's right."

"That's a good name; it's unisex," Mo Qingyi said with a smile.

Even the usually silent Duanmu Canghai nodded in agreement.

Zhou Jin also said it sounded pleasant.

Mo Qingyi looked at Duanmu Sheng's belly and then at herself, a tinge of sadness crossing her eyes.

Time flies.

From the height of summer to the depths of winter, it's just a blink of an eye.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei are already 8 months old.

They can now stand on their own, and the two little tykes have a very strong destructive power at home, outdoing even Two Ha's destructive talents.

Usually, the Mo family matriarch, Zhao Yan, and the two maternity matrons were the ones taking care of them.

Four adults taking care of two children, it's not too exhausting.

Chu Jin was focused on writing.

After spending five hours straight in front of the computer, Chu Jin's eyes were tired; she lifted her gaze towards the snowy scene outside the window, then stood up and headed downstairs.

In the living room downstairs, a thick carpet was laid out, and many toys were scattered across it, with Bao Bao and Bei Bei sitting on the carpet playing with the toys.

When they saw Chu Jin descending from upstairs, Bao Bao and Bei Bei energetically crawled towards her.

Dressed in fuzzy little bunny suits with bunny ears on their heads, they crawled on the floor, resembling two adorable little rabbits.

Soft and cute.

Chu Jin stood there and clapped her hands, smiling, "Big Bunny, Little Bunny, come over here, there's a reward for whoever comes to mommy first."

At her words, Bao Bao and Bei Bei started crawling eagerly forward.

They babbled incomprehensible words as they crawled.

Neither of the little ones yielded to the other.

Gradually, it became apparent that Bei Bei could barely keep up her strength.

Bao Bao, still energetic, crawled determinedly.

Just as Bao Bao was about to reach Chu Jin, Bei Bei suddenly increased her speed, using hands and knees together, and while crawling, she lifted her head to look at Chu Jin, "Mama... Mama..."

At that moment, Chu Jin almost thought she was hallucinating.

Her feelings were indescribable.

Completely overjoyed.

She picked up Bei Bei, "Bei Bei, what did you just say? Could you say it again, please?"

Bei Bei seemed startled by Chu Jin's reaction, looked at her confused for a moment, and then spoke, "Mama..."

Even if the baby's pronunciation was a bit unclear, Chu Jin heard it unmistakably, Bei Bei had indeed called out 'mama'!

Chu Jin hugged Bei Bei tightly, almost to the point of tears.

Bei Bei had said 'mama'!

It was Bei Bei's first time calling 'mama'.

It was the most beautiful language in the world.

Mama.

Although it's just two simple words, it's the greatest vocabulary in the world.

Seeing Chu Jin like this, Bei Bei spoke again, "Mama, mama... mama~" She called out to Chu Jin in various intonations.

With every call, Chu Jin answered earnestly.

Chapter 833: Naughty Daddy

"Mama..." The baby on the carpet also looked up at Chu Jin and reached out both hands, "Mama hug! Mama hug!"

The baby was a very smart child with a strong ability to imitate.

Chu Jin quickly picked up the baby, her face filled with a happy smile, "My Bao Bao and Bei Bei are so good, mommy will always love you."

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were just two little chubby dumplings, Chu Jin was holding one in each arm, slightly struggling with the weight.

"Mama..." Bei Bei kissed Chu Jin on the face.

Both kids were calling out 'mommy' one after another.

Chu Jin was deeply moved.

She felt that all the hard work of the past few days had been rewarded, and looking at the two adorable little ones, Chu Jin believed that even if it took much more effort, it was worth it.

Chu Jin's eyes were slightly red.

The Mo family matriarch came out of the kitchen with a milk bottle and looked at Chu Jin, "Jin, what's wrong? Did Zhixuan bully you?" The matriarch couldn't recall Chu Jin ever having red eyes, so seeing her this way, the matriarch was somewhat worried.

"No," Chu Jin shook her head slightly and then said, "Mom, Bao Bao and Bei Bei can call 'mommy' now."

"Really?" The Mo family matriarch's face lit up with joy.

"Really," Chu Jin nodded, turned her eyes towards Bao Bao and Bei Bei, "Bao Bao and Bei Bei, call 'mommy' again."

"Mama..." Bao Bao and Bei Bei said in unison.

At eight months old, Bao Bao and Bei Bei could already be considered precocious.

When they called 'mommy', they would always laugh involuntarily, showing two little milk teeth, and their adorable appearance made them look even more like two little bunnies.

The Mo family matriarch laughed happily, "Oh my, grandma's two treasures, you are just wonderful."

The two little ones, praised by their grandma, kept calling out 'mama' non-stop.

The Mo family matriarch said with a smile, "Bao Bao and Bei Bei, can you call 'grandma' for me?"

The Mo family matriarch looked at the two little ones and taught them word by word, "Follow grandma, say 'gran—ny'!"

Bei Bei watched the matriarch's lip movements attentively and then tried to imitate, "Nainai, grandma..."

"My clever granddaughter!" The Mo family matriarch planted a big kiss on Bei Bei's face.

In her lifetime, she had finally heard these two words.

Seeing Bei Bei speak up, Bao Bao was not to be outdone and promptly called out crisply to the Mo family matriarch, "Grandma, grandma hug, grandma..."

The Mo family matriarch excitedly picked up Bao Bao.

Just then, Mo Zhixuan walked into the house covered in snow.

The snow outside was falling heavily, and a thin layer of fine snow had settled on Mo Zhixuan's shoulders.

"Zhixuan, Bao Bao and Bei Bei can talk now!" The Mo family matriarch was very excited as she looked towards Mo Zhixuan, "They can call 'mommy' and 'grandma' now!"

"Really?" Mo Zhixuan was also a bit surprised.

The two little ones were making babbling sounds all day long but had never managed to utter a complete sentence.

Chu Jin, holding Bei Bei, said with a smile, "Bei Bei, call your daddy and let him be surprised."

"Dada." Bei Bei looked at Mo Zhixuan and spoke crisply.

This clear call struck straight into Mo Zhixuan's heart, leaving him somewhat unable to react.

"Bei Bei..." Mo Zhixuan looked at Bei Bei, in case he had just hallucinated.

"Dada, dada, dada, dada..." Bei Bei seemed extraordinarily excited, wriggling in Chu Jin's arms.

"Ah, daddy's good girl!" Mo Zhixuan took Bei Bei, his excitement bringing him to tears.

This "daddy" was of extraordinary significance.

"Dada, dada." Bei Bei grabbed Mo Zhixuan's ears with her little hands, ceaselessly calling dada, which almost made Mo Zhixuan lose his bearings.

"Bao Bao, you call daddy too."

Bao Bao clung to the Mo family matriarch's neck, not making a sound.

"Bao Bao is a good boy, call daddy." Chu Jin also coaxed softly.

"Mama." Bao Bao looked at Chu Jin, voicing in a milky tone.

"Say 'daddy'." Chu Jin patted Bao Bao's head.

"Mama." Bao Bao looked at Chu Jin, blinking a pair of innocent big eyes, as if not understanding what Chu Jin was saying.

"Bao Bao, call daddy, dad—dy." The Mo family matriarch also chimed in.

Bao Bao turned his head to look at the Mo family matriarch and sweetly said, "Grandma, grandma hug."

"You little rascal, call daddy!" Mo Zhixuan looked at Bao Bao, his face serious.

He knew that the little rascal was definitely doing it on purpose.

Mom and Grandma could both tell it apart, but he just wouldn't call Daddy.

Bao Bao looked at Mo Zhixuan, tightly closing his mouth, staring eye to eye with Mo Zhixuan without saying a word.

"Say Daddy!" Mo Zhixuan narrowed his eyes slightly, threatening, "If you don't call out, be careful Daddy's going to spank you!" With that, Mo Zhixuan swung his fist towards Bao Bao.

This little brat was just asking for it!

"Wah!" Bao Bao was immediately scared into crying loudly by Mo Zhixuan.

Madam Mo soothed Bao Bao right away, "Be good, Bao Bao, obey. Let's not bother with the naughty Daddy, alright?"

Bao Bao, feeling wronged, rubbed his eyes, crying and saying, "Naughty Daddy, naughty Daddy! Grandma hug!" His pitiful look melted Madam Mo's heart completely.

What's good they don't learn, but they pick up the bad things straight away.

Mo Zhixuan, seeing Bao Bao's Oscar-worthy performance, said somewhat helplessly, "This stinky kid!"

"Daddy, Daddy." Bei Bei was hugging Mo Zhixuan's neck, sweetly calling out.

Daughters are better, a daughter is Daddy's little padded jacket, Mo Zhixuan contentedly kissed Bei Bei.

Over there, Bao Bao was still calling out about the naughty Daddy.

Watching this scene, Chu Jin couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Don't cry anymore, Bao Bao," Chu Jin walked over to Madam Mo, reaching out her hand to Bao Bao, "Mommy will hold you, are you hungry, do you want to drink milk?"

Hearing the words "drink milk," Bao Bao immediately stopped crying, no longer calling "naughty Daddy," and reached out to hug Chu Jin's neck, saying intermittently, "Hungry, Bao hungry, drink... milk..."

Once children start to speak, they pick it up fast afterward.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were both clever kids, and they started talking earlier than most children.

Chu Jin, holding Bao Bao, sat down on the sofa, lifted her shirt, and began to breastfeed Bao Bao.

Bao Bao immediately began to suckle vigorously.

The sound of him drinking was clear and audible.

This scene was like a stab to Mo Zhixuan's eyes.

Normally, Chu Jin would use a breast pump and then feed Bao Bao with a bottle; he hadn't expected her to... today of all days.

That was his exclusive privilege!

This stinky kid!

Not calling Daddy was one thing, but now he dared to compete for favor and privileges!

An uncle could bear it, but a father couldn't!

"Why aren't we using a bottle today?" Mo Zhixuan asked in a calm tone.

Nothing unusual could be discerned from his voice.

No matter the situation, Mo Zhixuan always seemed unshaken.

Even when he was jealous, he wouldn't express it directly.

Chu Jin, looking at Bao Bao and without lifting her head, said, "The backup milk is all finished, the bottles are empty."

Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, then continued, "Bao Bao is also eight months old now, isn't it time to wean him? I've looked up the information. The longer a child drinks breast milk, the lower their IQ will be. The best time for a child to be weaned is at eight months; after a point, breast milk isn't very nutritious anyway."

Upon hearing this, Madam Mo frowned slightly and said, "Zhixuan, who told you these nonsensical theories? Who says drinking breast milk will lower intelligence?"

"Experts, of course," Mo Zhixuan said calmly, "Mom, this isn't alarmism." Indeed, Mo Zhixuan had a point. Breast milk did become less nutritious over time, and after five months, children should start having some grains to maintain a balanced diet.

"Those experts are full of nothing but hot air, Bao Bao and Bei Bei are only eight months old, who weans their kids so early?" Madam Mo also felt pity for the children.

Weaning is a very painful process.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei both had strong cravings for milk.

"Mom, I was weaned at eight months too," Mo Zhixuan turned and looked at Madam Mo, "Better to err on the side of caution. Do you want the Mo family to raise two fools in the future?"

As soon as he said this, Madam Mo immediately fell silent.

If the Mo family really ended up with two fools, that would be a real joke.

Since Mo Zhixuan was the one who said it, Madam Mo didn't question its veracity.

She turned to look at Chu Jin, "Jin, what do you think?"

Chu Jin spoke with a smile, "Let's listen to Mo Zhixuan. After eight months, breast milk really isn't very nutritious. Let's start giving Bao Bao and Bei Bei more formula and some complementary foods."

In ancient times, parents who doted on their children would breastfeed till they were 7–8 years old, not knowing that they were actually harming their children.

Chu Jin had looked it up, the optimal weaning period is indeed between 8–9 months.

Seeing Chu Jin agreeing, Madam Mo had no choice but to compromise, "Jin, then you give Bao Bao and Bei Bei a little more to drink tonight, and we'll start weaning officially from tomorrow."

"No, if we're going to wean, it starts tonight. Mom, let Bao Bao and Bei Bei sleep in your room tonight." Mo Zhixuan was very firm in his stance.

"So soon?" Chu Jin looked up in surprise at Mo Zhixuan, "Let them have one more night of nursing."

Seeing Chu Jin speak in this way, Mo Zhixuan had to compromise, "Then tonight is the last time. Starting from tomorrow night, they will sleep with their mother until weaning is successful."

Just endure it one more time.

The next day, Bao Bao and Bei Bei officially began weaning.

During the day, it wasn't too much of an issue. The two little ones drank their formula and ate their solid food, and the day passed by. But at night, the cravings for nursing hit them hard.

They started crying loudly.

"Don't cry, don't cry, Grandma will get you milk right away," the Mo family matriarch turned to get a bottle from the warmer. Seeing Grandma holding the bottle, Bao Bao and Bei Bei immediately stopped crying in unison.

Fixedly staring at the bottle.

Their expressions were as if they wanted to swallow the bottle whole.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei firmly watched the bottle, making suckling motions. Their cute little faces made the Mo family matriarch's eyes crease into slits with joy.

But as soon as she slipped the nipple into their mouths, after only one suck, they realized something was wrong and began to wail.

Crying, their little faces scrunched up into little balls, flushed red.

It seemed as if they were angrily questioning why Grandma would deceive them.

While crying, they both called out for "mama."

Hearing this from the next room broke Chu Jin's heart. She lifted the blanket and was about to get out of bed when an arm draped over her waist, "Don't go. Let them cry it out. I've done some research, and it's normal for children to be like this when weaning. They'll be fine after a short while."

Chu Jin exhaled deeply, then settled back into bed. Mo Zhixuan was right; every child has to go through this. If she went to them now, they would never wean successfully.

Every cry from Bao Bao and Bei Bei tugged at her heart.

Outside the room, the crying grew louder and louder.

Chu Jin couldn't sleep; she wanted to go out and check on them.

"Jin, you don't need to worry, they'll be alright after a little crying," Mo Zhixuan held Chu Jin close, "Now is not the time for your heart to ache."

"Mo Zhixuan," Chu Jin turned around and pinched Mo Zhixuan's cheek, "Are you still their father? Bao Bao and Bei Bei are crying so much, doesn't it break your heart?"

"Heartache is useless," Mo Zhixuan replied in a calm tone, "This craving for milk is actually quite similar to nicotine addiction. These kids are simply not strong-willed enough; crying so hard just because of weaning. When I had a heavy smoking addiction, I quit for these two little ones. Did you hear me say anything?"

"Mo Zhixuan, they are only eight months old, were you only eight months old? Comparing yourself to them? You've got some nerve!" Chu Jin poked Mo Zhixuan's head.

Outside, the crying continued.

Mo Zhixuan sighed, threw off the blanket, "You go to sleep first, I'll go have a look." Although he said this, as a father, watching his children cry like that, it was false to claim he wasn't distressed. With the children crying in such a way, he couldn't sleep either.

Only at times like these does one realize how hard it is to be a parent.

"Alright, and while you're there, help Mom soothe them. Bei Bei listens to you the most." Before Bao Bao and Bei Bei could successfully wean, Chu Jin couldn't appear before them.

If Chu Jin appeared before them, it would completely trigger their craving for milk.

"Mhmm, don't worry, go to sleep," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, draped on a coat, and walked towards the door.

How could Chu Jin fall asleep? She listened intently to the noises from the other side.

"Mama... mama..." Bao Bao and Bei Bei cried heartbreakingly.

The Mo family matriarch and the maternity matron held them, but no matter how they tried to soothe, the children just couldn't stop crying.

Crying standing up, sitting down, and even while being rocked...

Bao Bao even gave up on his favorite Peppa Pig.

"Mom." Mo Zhixuan stood outside and knocked on the door.

"Zhixuan, come in," the Mo family matriarch looked toward the door.

Mo Zhixuan entered.

In that instant, Bao Bao and Bei Bei unintentionally turned their gazes towards the door.

"Mom, why are Bao Bao and Bei Bei crying so hard?" Mo Zhixuan approached the Mo family matriarch and the maternity matron.

"The craving for milk kicked in. They won't even drink formula. Continuing to cry like this isn't viable. Maybe we should have Jin come over and nurse them one more time to get them to sleep," the Mo family matriarch's eyes were full of concern.

Since they were born, it was the first time Bao Bao and Bei Bei cried so fiercely, their small faces red and flushed.

"No, if we give in and nurse them every time they cry, they'll never wean," Mo Zhixuan was very firm, extending his hand to the Mo family matriarch, "Let me hold one."

The Mo family matriarch handed over Bei Bei from her arms to Mo Zhixuan with some dissatisfaction, "You are too heartless as a father. Your son and daughter are crying like this, and you still won't let them nurse."

"Every child has to go through this. Mom, you can't be too soft on them at times like this," Mo Zhixuan spoke gently.

The Mo family matriarch sighed.

Mo Zhixuan took Bei Bei and gently soothed her in his arms, "Don't cry, Bei Bei, Daddy is here."

Bei Bei cried too hard to even want to open her eyes. Perhaps there was a scent of Chu Jin on Mo Zhixuan, as she searched for food in his arms. Mo Zhixuan picked up a bottle and put the nipple in Bei Bei's mouth.

Perhaps being extremely hungry and smelling the scent of her mother, she settled down, sucking vigorously on the milk. Tears still clung to her face while she drank and mournfully continued to cry.

Bei Bei had stopped, but Bao Bao was still crying.

With one hand holding Bei Bei, Mo Zhixuan extended his other hand toward the Mo family's elder matriarch, "Mom, give Bao Bao to me, please."

Although Mo Zhixuan usually had some small complaints about Bao Bao, seeing him cry so fiercely still tugged at his heartstrings. Even if it meant holding two children with one arm, he was determined to do so. After all, he was their father.

Holding Bao Bao, the Mo family's elder matriarch asked with concern, "Can you manage both children by yourself?"

"It's fine, it's just two kids," Mo Zhixuan said in a light tone.

The elder matriarch handed Bao Bao over to Mo Zhixuan.

In their father's arms, Bao Bao's cries began to soften.

After all, they were father and son. No matter the friction between them on normal days, at times like this, no one was closer than dad.

With mom not around, dad was also good enough.

Not long after Mo Zhixuan had taken them, the crying of Bao Bao and Bei Bei gradually subsided until it disappeared completely.

Chu Jin's face was full of disbelief.

She hadn't expected Mo Zhixuan to have such skills.

After a while, Mo Zhixuan walked in from the next room.

Chu Jin looked up at Mo Zhixuan, "How are Bao Bao and Bei Bei?"

"They're fine, both have fallen asleep," Mo Zhixuan raised an eyebrow slightly, boasting proudly, "How about that, am I impressive or what?"

"Impressive, very impressive," Chu Jin nodded earnestly, "You're amazing. How did you do it?"

"Secret," Mo Zhixuan said mysteriously.

"Psh, if you don't want to tell me, then forget it. I'm sleepy, and going to bed." Chu Jin pulled the blanket over her face.

Mo Zhixuan's lips curled up, and he pounced onto the blanket, pressing down on Chu Jin, "The kids are asleep now, shouldn't we do something meaningful?" As he spoke, his hands were already slipping under the blanket.

"Ah! Mo Zhixuan, you shameless!" Chu Jin exclaimed.

Mo Zhixuan lifted the blanket and sealed Chu Jin's exclamation with his lips.

With the two little ones not around, the happiest person was undoubtedly Mo Zhixuan, because he could finally have his way with Chu Jin in all manners possible.

That night, Mo Zhixuan finally had his chance to sing triumphantly.

Meanwhile.

On the road, the bakery.

Duanmu Sheng moved nimbly between the tables, delivering pastries and drinks.

Three months had passed, and Duanmu Sheng had successfully "unloaded her cargo," giving birth to a healthy baby girl named Duanmu Nianen.

Now, Duanmu Sheng's beauty had returned to her pre-pregnancy state, not looking at all like a mother who had a child.

"Duanmu Sheng, your daughter is hungry! Come quickly! I can't hold her any longer!" A female voice called out in the air.

"Coming," Duanmu Sheng responded, placing the last drink on a customer's table before rushing toward the counter.

Standing beside the counter was a woman holding a baby, dressed in a professional suit, clearly a career woman.

This person was none other than Situ Ya.

Over the past few months, Situ Ya often came here for coffee and pastries, and sometimes she met with clients to discuss contracts.

As time went on, Situ Ya and Duanmu Sheng had become good friends.

Sometimes, Situ Ya helped Duanmu Sheng look after the baby.

Like now.

"Nianen, don't cry, mommy's here," Duanmu Sheng said tenderly as she took her child.

As soon as she was in her mother's arms, Nianen stopped crying.

The little one was very cute and looked a lot like Duanmu Sheng.

Looking at her daughter, Duanmu Sheng's face was filled with smiles, and she felt fortunate for having kept the child.

This was her redemption.

"Look how smart Nianen is, she even recognizes her mom," Situ Ya remarked, touching Nianen's little face.

Thankfully, there was no trace of Shen Haoguang to be seen in the child; otherwise, Situ Ya couldn't have brought herself to like her.

After feeding, Nianen fell asleep.

Duanmu Sheng put her down to rest in the lounge and asked the pastry chef to keep an ear out for her, to remind her if Nianen cried.

Since having the child, Duanmu Sheng had lost a lot of weight. Nianen needed several milk feedings during the night, and during the day, she had to work while taking care of Nianen.

Seeing her like this, Situ Ya couldn't bear it any longer, "Duanmu Sheng, can you keep this up? Why don't you get two maternity matrons to take turns looking after Nianen? Look how much weight you've lost recently!"

Chapter 834: Marriage Fate

Zhou Yiheng was really struggling now.

Single mothers as capable as her were truly rare.

While mixing a drink, Duanmu Sheng said, "I don't want to hire a maternity matron. Not only do they charge high fees, but I also don't trust them with Nian'en. I'm still young, and a bit of hardship doesn't

matter. I don't want to compromise Nian'en's care." No matter what, no one could care for a child better than their own mother.

Duanmu Sheng had invested all her savings into the bakery. The bakery had just opened, and its income was barely enough to cover daily expenses and wages. Now that she had a child, she had to have savings. Only then would her child's future be secure.

Right now, she couldn't afford to misuse a penny; she had to plan for Nian'en's future.

Nian'en was already without a father; she didn't want her to lose at the starting line.

Situ Ya continued, "Even if you don't trust the maternity matron, you should trust your parents. Why not let them take care of the child while you focus on work? Why wear yourself out like this?"

Duanmu Sheng passed the prepared drink to Situ Ya and replied, "The child is mine, and the mistake was mine. I don't want to dump her on my parents. I have to bear this responsibility. Since I brought her into this world, I have to be responsible for her. How can I just hand her over to my parents? They've already raised me; how can they raise my daughter too?"

No matter what, Duanmu Sheng wouldn't let her parents take care of Nian'en.

Just like she had said, the mistake was hers to bear, and she had to take responsibility for it.

Situ Ya sighed, "You! Look how clear-headed you are now. If you had been this clear-headed back then, things wouldn't have turned out like this!"

Duanmu Sheng smiled at the mention of the past, her face showing little discomfort, her expression faint.

What had happened had happened; all she could do was face it calmly.

"Sister Sheng." Lin Xiyuan walked in from outside.

"Xiyuan, take a seat inside." Duanmu Sheng moved out from behind the bar.

Lin Xiyuan handed a paper bag to Duanmu Sheng, "Sister Sheng, these are clothes I bought for Nian'en. I'm not sure if they're the right size; try them on her later."

"Xiyuan, you really didn't have to go to the expense..." Duanmu Sheng replied somewhat awkwardly.

Lin Xiyuan was a good person. When Duanmu Sheng was giving birth, Lin Xiyuan had brought loads of gifts. And now after the birth, Lin Xiyuan continually bought things for the child.

"By the way, Xiyuan, let me introduce you. This is my good friend, Lin Yuya. This is Lin Xiyuan." Duanmu Sheng proactively introduced the two.

In this world, there was no Situ Ya, only Lin Yuya.

"Nice to meet you, Sister Yuya." Lin Xiyuan stretched out her hand to Situ Ya.

"Nice to meet you." Situ Ya nodded, then turned to Duanmu Sheng, "I have stuff to take care of at the company. I'll be going now, goodbye."

Duanmu Sheng knew Situ Ya was a busy person and said with a smile, "Take care on your way."

Situ Ya nodded, "Alright, I'm off then. Goodbye, Miss Lin."

"Goodbye." Lin Xiyuan watched her leave, briefly lost in thought.

Lin Yuya.

These three characters felt somewhat familiar. Lin Xiyuan narrowed her eyes slightly and then withdrew her gaze, a sharp gleam flickering across her eyes.

Situ Ya's figure quickly disappeared down the road.

Duanmu Sheng turned to Lin Xiyuan, "Xiyuan, take a seat inside. My cousin might have been delayed by traffic; he's not here yet." Indeed, Lin Xiyuan was here for a blind date today, arranged by Zhou Jin, who had introduced her own cousin to Lin Xiyuan.

Since Lin Xiyuan was a military doctor and had been busy until the end of the year, they were only meeting today.

Lin Xiyuan smiled gently, "No problem, I'm free today anyway."

Seeing how understanding Lin Xiyuan was made Duanmu Sheng feel even more relieved, increasing her favorable impression of her.

Compared to most girls these days, Lin Xiyuan was doing exceptionally well to be as she was.

Her cousin really lacked a sense of time.

"Xiyuan, what would you like to drink?" Duanmu Sheng handed the drink menu to Lin Xiyuan, "It's my treat today."

"Thank you, Sister Sheng. I'll have a matcha coffee," Lin Xiyuan said, taking the menu.

Duanmu Sheng nodded, "Alright, coming right up."

Unlike others, who would start playing with their phones as soon as they sat down, Lin Xiyuan picked up a fashion magazine to read.

After the matcha coffee was served and Lin Xiyuan had drunk most of it, the male lead still hadn't appeared.

Lin Xiyuan wasn't in a rush, showing no signs of impatience, and continued to browse the magazine.

Duanmu Sheng stood at the bar, calling her cousin. As soon as the call connected, she snapped, "Zhou Yiheng, what's the deal? The woman has been waiting for over half an hour for you! What on earth are you doing? I must tell you, this girl lives in the same courtyard as us! You must show up today, or my mother simply won't be able to explain it to them!"

The man on the other end was surprised, "Ah! Lin Xiyuan hasn't left yet? She's really patient! Wait for me; I'll be right there!"

"Hurry up!" Duanmu Sheng hung up the phone, still fuming.

After the call, Duanmu Sheng put on a smile again, went over to Lin Xiyuan, and with a sincere apology said, "Xiyuan, I'm really sorry to keep you waiting so long. My cousin just contacted me, he ran into some trouble on the road, but he'll be here soon."

Lin Xiyuan put down the magazine and looked up at Duanmu Sheng, smiling, "Don't worry, Sister Sheng. I understand."

Lin Xiyuan didn't mind at all that the man was late.

"Xiyuan, you really are a great girl," Duanmu Sheng said appreciatively.

"Sister Sheng, I'm not as good as you say," Lin Xiyuan replied modestly.

A short while later, the car belonging to the male lead, Zhou Yiheng, finally stopped in front of the bakery.

Seeing the familiar vehicle, Duanmu Sheng hastily stopped what she was doing, walked outside, and opened the car door. She spoke irritably, "Zhou Yiheng! What's going on with you? If you didn't want to go on a blind date, you shouldn't have agreed to my mom! You agreed and now you're late! Do you realize the girl has been waiting for over an hour? Xiyuan has good manners; if it had been me, I would have lost my temper by now!"

Zhou Yiheng stepped out, slinging an arm around Duanmu Sheng's shoulders nonchalantly, "Don't be angry. Who's going to take care if you ruin your health? You know it was an order from Auntie, I dared not disobey... And Auntie, why does she bother about my affairs when there's no need?"

Duanmu Sheng rolled her eyes at Zhou Yiheng.

"My mom is only doing this for your own good! Let me tell you, Xiyuan is a great girl, pretty too, and you must straighten up your attitude and then properly apologize to her!" Zhou Yiheng nodded repeatedly, "I know, I know, don't worry, I'll definitely offer her a proper apology."

"Go on then," Duanmu Sheng turned and walked inside, lowering his voice as he went, "Be smart about it later on, I just said you had a bit of trouble on the road, you know how to spin that, right?"

After all, it was his own cousin, and Duanmu Sheng's heart was with Zhou Yiheng.

Lin Xiyuan was a good girl, and Duanmu Sheng didn't want Zhou Yiheng to miss this opportunity.

"Got it! Don't worry!" Zhou Yiheng patted Duanmu Sheng on the shoulder, complaining, "You're younger than me but nag more than my mom!"

As they talked, the two of them arrived at Lin Xiyuan's location.

Duanmu Sheng greeted Lin Xiyuan with a smile, "Xiyuan, this is my cousin Zhou Yiheng. Cousin, this is Lin Xiyuan."

"Mr. Zhou, hello." Lin Xiyuan extended her hand very politely.

"Miss Lin." Zhou Yiheng also shook her hand with gentlemanly grace.

Seeing that the two had a good impression of each other, Duanmu Sheng said, "Then I'll be leaving now, you two chat at your leisure."

Lin Xiyuan nodded with a smile, "Sheng, go ahead with your things; don't worry about us." Lin Xiyuan was gentle and kind, elegant and poised.

Not wanting to disturb the two, Duanmu Sheng quickly left.

In a blink, only Lin Xiyuan and Zhou Yiheng remained at the window-side seat.

The two of them looked at each other in silence, the atmosphere somewhat awkward.

In an attempt to lighten the mood, Zhou Yiheng said apologetically, "Miss Lin, I'm really sorry, the traffic was just so bad on the way here, making you wait for so long."

Zhou Yiheng watched Lin Xiyuan, his face devoid of excessive expression.

Lin Xiyuan was very beautiful.

So beautiful she had no distinguishing features.

A standard beauty's face.

It was precisely because she had no distinguishing features that it was hard to remember her.

There are simply too many beautiful women in this world.

"It's okay," Lin Xiyuan said with a light smile, "Mr. Zhou, there's no need for such formality, Sheng and I are very good friends, you can just call me Xiyuan."

Zhou Yiheng nodded, "Alright, then you don't need to be so formal either, just call me by my name, Zhou Yiheng—'Zhou' as in auspicious, 'Yi' as in unique, and 'Heng' as in eternal."

Maybe Lin Xiyuan didn't look that stunning at first glance, but upon a second look, she appeared quite amiable. Perhaps due to being in the military, she didn't exude an air of greed for fame or fortune, nor did she seem calculating.

She was taking this blind date very seriously.

Seeing his own tardiness, Zhou Yiheng felt somewhat embarrassed.

The conversation between them was, however, quite congenial.

After finishing their coffee, Zhou Yiheng took the initiative to invite Lin Xiyuan to a movie, and she nodded, "Sure, I don't have anything else this afternoon. I'll go to the restroom to touch up my makeup first."

"Okay." Zhou Yiheng nodded with gentlemanly grace.

As Lin Xiyuan stood up to leave, Duanmu Sheng handed the child off to another attendant and quickly followed her.

Upon entering the restroom, Duanmu Sheng immediately pulled Lin Xiyuan aside and asked in a low voice, "Xiyuan, how is it going? Does my cousin stand a chance?"

Lin Xiyuan smiled and nodded without playing coy, "Zhou Yiheng seems like a decent guy; we've planned to go see a movie later."

"Really?" Duanmu Sheng was somewhat surprised.

"Of course, it's true." Lin Xiyuan nodded.

"That's great," Duanmu Sheng said excitedly, "If things really work out between you two, then you'll become my cousin's wife. Xiyuan, my cousin is truly a good man," Duanmu Sheng appreciated Lin Xiyuan a lot.

If Lin Xiyuan really ended up with Zhou Yiheng, that would be a joyous event.

"It's all about fate; I still don't know what he thinks of me," Lin Xiyuan said softly.

"Don't worry, my cousin is bound to have no objections to you; you're so pretty, if anyone is to choose, it's for you to pick," Duanmu Sheng said with a smile.

If Zhou Yiheng really had no interest in Lin Xiyuan, he wouldn't have taken the initiative to ask her to the movies.

Lin Xiyuan also smiled, her eyes twinkling with a soft light, "If he has no objections to me, then we can start by being friends, and if things really work out later, that would be wonderful. I'm not getting any younger, and my parents do hope for me to settle down soon."

"Yeah," Duanmu Sheng nodded and said, "Start by being friends. If my cousin ever bullies you, you can call me, and I'll have my mom give him a telling-off for you."

"Okay." Lin Xiyuan nodded.

After chatting in the restroom for a bit, Lin Xiyuan left.

After Lin Xiyuan's departure, Duanmu Sheng immediately called Zhou Jin, who was also very happy upon hearing the news.

Lin Xiyuan and Zhou Yiheng got along very well, and they decided to start off as ordinary friends.

During holidays, the two would make plans to eat out and watch movies.

Because of Lin Xiyuan, Zhou Yiheng began to visit the Duanmu Family more frequently, and Lin Xiyuan was also coming more often.

Lin Xiyuan came because of Zhou Yiheng, and Zhou Jin was very welcoming of her.

Zhou Jin also hoped Lin Xiyuan would become her nephew's wife.

Chapter 835: Grandma is also well-behaved

During this time, Bao Bao and Bei Bei had successfully weaned and learned more and more words. Not only could they distinguish between daddy, mommy, grandma, and auntie, but they could also recognize different small animals.

However, the ability to distinguish small animals was something Chu Jin only discovered today.

At night, Chu Jin held a bunch of cards and said to Mo Zhixuan, "Mo Zhixuan, Bao Bao and Bei Bei can recognize many kinds of small animals now." For nine-month-old children, being able to distinguish animals was a sign of early wisdom.

"Really?" Mo Zhixuan raised his eyebrows slightly.

"Mhm," Chu Jin nodded, "Of course it's true, don't believe me? Watch."

Chu Jin sat in front of Bao Bao and Bei Bei, flipped over a card with a bird on it, and said, "Tell mommy, what small animal is this?"

"This is Le Le." The two little ones said in unison, their pronunciation not quite standard, their voices still babish.

"And this one?" Chu Jin then flipped over a card with a monkey on it.

"Hao Hao." Hao Hao meant monkey, and the two little ones still spoke in unison.

"Mm, Bao Bao and Bei Bei are really great. What about this one?" Chu Jin flipped over another card, this one with a picture of Little Grey.

"Fei Fei." Fei Fei was Grey Grey, and Grey Grey was Little Grey.

Mo Zhixuan looked at the two clever little ones and couldn't help but curve his lips upward, proud that they were his offspring.

A sense of pride welled up inside Mo Zhixuan, but his expression remained as usual on the surface.

"And this?" Chu Jin flipped over another card, this one with an image of a little white.

"Mimi." The two characters for Mimi were pronounced very standardly. Mimi stood for a little kitten.

"And this one?" To test the little ones' response ability, Chu Jin flipped over another card, this one with a picture of an airplane.

Bei Bei looked at the card with the airplane, slightly stunned, furrowed his brow like a little adult, as if he was trying hard to think what exactly this was.

However, Bao Bao excitedly picked up the card and shouted loudly, "Mama, airpane!"

Bao Bao's favorite things besides fluffy toys were airplanes.

"Bao Bao, it's fly! Airplane!" Chu Jin corrected his pronunciation.

Bao Bao watched Chu Jin's mouth shape, then earnestly mimicked, "Airplane!"

Chu Jin corrected him again, "Not air, it's fly, airplane."

Bao Bao looked at Chu Jin, very earnest, "Airplane!"

Chu Jin held her forehead, "Fly!"

Bao Bao followed her lead, "Air!"

"It's fly!"

"Air!"

"Airplane!"

"Airplane."

"Bao Bao, it's air, airplane!" As soon as Chu Jin finished speaking, she realized something was off and held her forehead helplessly, "I almost got wound up by you, little rascal! It's airplane!"

"Airplane!" Bao Bao laughed happily, "Mama, silly!"

Watching the comical interaction between mother and son, Mo Zhixuan couldn't help but chuckle, "Jin, let it be. Bao Bao is still little, it's normal for his pronunciation to be imprecise. He'll get it right when he grows up."

Chu Jin looked at her adorably foolish son and shook her head helplessly.

Chu Jin flipped over another card, "What is this?"

"Bao Bao." The two little ones spoke in unison once again.

This was a card with a picture of bread.

"Last one, okay?" Chu Jin put the final card in front of the two little ones.

Seeing the picture, the two little ones became extremely excited and started shouting joyfully, "Papa!"

Pffff! Chu Jin couldn't help but burst out laughing.

Mo Zhixuan looked at the card with a big fat pig on it, his face turning a bit dark. Did these two little ones have some misunderstanding with the word "Papa"?

"Look again, is this really Papa?" Chu Jin asked again, trying to hold back her laughter.

"Papa!" The two little ones were unwavering.

"It's a pig." Chu Jin corrected.

"Pig." Bei Bei quickly corrected himself and then sweetly called out to Mo Zhixuan, "Papa, hug."

"Ai, Papa's darling girl." Mo Zhixuan reached out to hug Bei Bei and planted a big kiss on her little face, all his irritation dissipating.

"Papa," Bao Bao, always wanting to be contrarian to Chu Jin, looked at the card with the pig and called it Papa.

Chu Jin laughed, "It's not Papa, it's a pig."

"It's Papa!" Bao Bao said firmly, addressing the big fat pig as Papa.

Bei Bei corrected from the side, "Gege, pig."

Bao Bao grabbed Bei Bei's hand, "Bei Bei, Papa, it's Papa..."

Actually, Bao Bao, cunning as a little fox, knew that wasn't Daddy. He was intentionally trying to rile up Mo Zhixuan.

"You little rascal, you're even teaching your sister bad habits!" Mo Zhixuan put Bei Bei on the crib and reached out to pinch Bao Bao's little ear, scolding, "Let's see if I don't teach you a lesson today!"

Bao Bao didn't dodge, but stood like a little grown-up with his hands clasped behind his back, staring intently at Mo Zhixuan without blinking—little eyes locked with big eyes.

"Say you're sorry to Daddy," Chu Jin gave Bao Bao a meaningful look.

But Bao Bao acted as if he didn't see Chu Jin's signal, standing fearless in front of the icy Mo Zhixuan.

Indeed, a newborn calf is not afraid of tigers.

Just when Mo Zhixuan was about to lose his temper, Bao Bao suddenly pulled out a candy from his pocket and held it out to Mo Zhixuan, "Daddy, eat candy..."

In that instant, the anger in Mo Zhixuan's heart dissipated completely. He reached out to pat Bao Bao on the head, then picked him up and smiled, "You little rascal."

Bao Bao was very smart, knowing to win people over with candy.

"Daddy, peel..." Bao Bao held the candy up to Mo Zhixuan's mouth.

As he spoke, Bao Bao opened his mouth wide, waiting to be fed like a little bird.

Mo Zhixuan: "... He thought the little rascal was offering him the candy to eat, but he was mistaken— Bao Bao just wanted it for himself...

"Daddy, peel!" Seeing that Mo Zhixuan was still not peeling the candy, Bao Bao reached out and gave Mo Zhixuan's hand a little slap.

"Alright, alright, Daddy will peel it for you now." Mo Zhixuan obligingly began to peel the candy for Bao Bao.

Chu Jin intervened from the side, "Mo Jingxing, you can't have any more candy today." Just like all other kids, Bao Bao loved eating candy, having just gotten over his milk addiction only to develop a sweet tooth.

Bao Bao's lips puckered in a pout, looking aggrievedly at Mo Zhixuan, "Daddy, peel..."

Seeing Bao Bao like this melted Mo Zhixuan's heart, and he turned to Chu Jin, "Just let Bao Bao have one piece of candy."

"No eating," Chu Jin declared firmly, "He's already had two pieces today. He needs to restrain himself."

Children shouldn't eat too much candy, otherwise, their teeth will get ruined.

Chu Jin was a gentle mother but also a strict one.

"If Mommy says no candy, then we won't have any, okay?" Mo Zhixuan echoed Bao Bao's usual way of speaking.

In this family, Chu Jin was the head of the family.

"Wah!" Hearing he couldn't have candy, Bao Bao hugged Mo Zhixuan's neck and began to cry loudly, while sobbing out, "Candy... want candy... peel..."

"Mo Jingxing," Chu Jin adopted a serious tone, "I'm counting to three—stop crying at once."

"Three, two..."

Just as she was about to say "one," Bao Bao's cries abruptly stopped. He looked up at Chu Jin with such pitiful eyes that it was hard to say anything harsh to him anymore.

Bao Bao sniffled and then reached out his arms towards Chu Jin, "Mommy, hug..."

Having annoyed Chu Jin, Bao Bao knew how to coax her; tears were still on his face, yet a smile was forming at the corner of his mouth.

Facing such an adorable little one, who could bear to get angry at him?

Chu Jin looked at Bao Bao, feeling both frustrated and amused, and took him up in her arms, gently patting his little bottom, "You little scamp."

Seeing that his mom wasn't mad anymore, Bao Bao continued, "Candy candy, Mommy, peel..."

Chu Jin's expression changed.

Bao Bao immediately withdrew his hand and threw the candy onto the carpet, huffily saying, "Don't want candy!"

Actually, Bao Bao was a little afraid of Chu Jin—he decided it was better not to upset Mommy...

A real man should know when to hold firm and when to yield—not to bend over for a few pieces of candy.

Seeing Bao Bao like this, both Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan chuckled.

The little fellow was so clever and quirky, it was unclear whom he took after.

After soothing Bao Bao and Bei Bei to sleep, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan carried them over to the next-door baby room.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei now slept soundly, capable of sleeping through till daylight, and hardly needed tending to.

In the blink of an eye, the New Year was upon them.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were already eleven months old.

Now that the two little ones had learned to walk, the natural consequence was them running all over the house every day.

Old Mrs. Mo and the maternity matron barely took their eyes off them for a second before they couldn't find the two little ones.

New Year's Eve.

It was a scene of harmonious joy at the Mo family.

As in previous years, Chu Xiu and Zhao Yan came to the Mo family for New Year's celebrations.

Unlike previous years, this year's New Year's Eve saw two new members added to the festivities.

After lunch, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan were in the living room writing couplets.

Meanwhile, Old Mrs. Mo and Zhao Yan were busy scouring the house for Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

Ever since Bao Bao and Bei Bei learned to play hide-and-seek, they would disappear whenever someone wasn't paying enough attention.

"Zhixuan, Jin, have you seen Bao Bao and Bei Bei?" Old Mrs. Mo asked, her forehead covered with sweat.

"She was just here; she might have gone to the toy room," Chu Jin said, her eyes lifting slightly.

No sooner had she spoken than the Mo family matriarch and Zhao Yan immediately headed for the toy room.

Indeed, they found the two little ones in the toy room.

Now, because of the two little ones, the Mo family matriarch didn't make New Year's goods herself like before but left these tasks to the servants.

She now focused solely on taking care of Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

Watching Bao Bao and Bei Bei grow day by day filled her days with fulfillment.

Looking at Bao Bao and Bei Bei, Chu Jin suddenly thought of the day she got married and only now understood Zhao Yan's feelings at that time.

She could hardly bear to imagine the scene of marrying off Bei Bei in the future.

Seeing her like this, Mo Zhixuan stopped writing with his brush and asked curiously, "What's wrong now?"

Chu Jin collected her thoughts, "Nothing, just suddenly realizing how fast time flies. In the blink of an eye, Bao Bao and Bei Bei can walk. I still remember when they were born, how you thought they were so ugly," Chu Jin couldn't forget Mo Zhixuan's reaction at the time.

Nor could she forget the way Bao Bao and Bei Bei looked when they were born.

So tiny.

So soft.

Their fists were almost the size of Mo Zhixuan's one finger.

"Yeah, time flies so fast," Mo Zhixuan said deeply moved. Had he not experienced it himself, he would never have imagined that the two ugly creatures could turn into the soft, cute, smart, and lovely beings they were now.

For bringing these two little ones into the world, Chu Jin had suffered so much, but fortunately, both tykes were obedient and sensible, and also quite easy on the eyes...

Chu Jin then said, "What kind of man do you hope Bei Bei marries in the future?"

"Marry off?" Mo Zhixuan frowned slightly, somewhat baffled, "Why does my daughter need to marry off?"

Why should his precious daughter be taken away by someone unrefined? Shouldn't others be marrying into his daughter's family?

Mo Zhixuan had never considered this question before.

"Mo Zhixuan, I'm serious. Girls grow up, and one day they will marry off," continued Chu Jin.

Upon this topic, Mo Zhixuan's expression also grew serious; he could hardly bear to imagine such a scene...

When he married Chu Jin, he was the groom, delighted at last to have the beauty to himself, it was a happy, blessed occasion.

But when Mo Qingyi got married, as a brother, he knew the sourness in his heart.

It was a joyous event.

But the experience was truly suffocating.

Longing for his sister's happiness, yet wishing she could stay in the family forever.

If Mo Zhixuan had to marry off Bei Bei himself, he simply wouldn't be able to do it.

She was the daughter he had raised with his own hands; why should he hand her over to another?

Mo Zhixuan fell into deep contemplation.

Seeing him like this, Chu Jin reminded him, "Hey, Mo Zhixuan, I'm talking to you!"

Mo Zhixuan snapped back to reality, "I only have two requirements, one is to treat Bei Bei well, and the other is she can't marry far away." It was obvious that keeping Bei Bei single for life was not practical.

After thinking for a moment, Mo Zhixuan added, "Why not have the man marry into our family instead? Why should it be our Bei Bei who marries off?"

Bei Bei was his precious treasure, after all.

Chu Jin said with a laugh, "Traditionally it's always the daughter who marries off. Have you ever heard of a family marrying off a son? By your logic, why didn't you marry into my family at the time?" His ideas were indeed odd.

Mo Zhixuan thought about it, then said, "Then it has to be someone who will treat Bei Bei well and can't take her far away!" He needed to see his precious daughter every day to feel at ease.

"When a daughter grows up, the parents can't control everything," Chu Jin said with a smile, "Of course, treating Bei Bei well is a must, but the matter of marrying far is not for us to decide."

Chu Jin was much more rational than Mo Zhixuan. Although she couldn't bear the thought of her daughter marrying far away, if Bei Bei truly found her love one day, she couldn't use the name of love to shackle her.

Mo Zhixuan narrowed his eyes thoughtfully, and to forestall any future issues, he picked up his brush again, took an A4 paper from the side, and began to write with a light touch.

Unlike the imposing cursive script used for couplets,

what landed on the A4 paper was an extremely elegant small script.

Each stroke was meticulous, so elegant it looked as if it had been printed.

Chu Jin glanced sideways and saw that the A4 paper had a neatly written title.

Promissory note.

"I promise never to marry far away!"

Promisor: Chu Ge.

Agreement date: XX year, February 15th.

After writing, Mo Zhixuan gestured for Bei Bei to come over, "Bei Bei, come here."

"Daddy." Bei Bei toddled over with her chubby little legs, puffing and panting.

Bao Bao was sitting on the carpet in front of Bei Bei, and seeing Bei Bei running quickly, he silently stuck out a chubby leg in her path, then watched her with a mischievous smile.

Bao Bao had become a little rascal, always ready to bully Bei Bei.

Bei Bei ran quickly, as if she hadn't seen Bao Bao's leg, and stepped on it hard.

Bao Bao was a troublemaker, but Bei Bei wasn't someone to be messed with either.

That step really hurt, and Bao Bao instantly burst into loud wails. He immediately stood up and ran to Chu Jin's side, "Mommy, it hurts..."

Chu Jin glanced at Bao Bao and showed no sympathy, "Serves you right, for bullying your sister."

Having no choice, Bao Bao then turned his gaze toward Mo Zhixuan, "Daddy, it hurts... huff huff..." it won't hurt after huffing.

Bao Bao wore a pitiful look, attempting to melt Mo Zhixuan's heart.

"You deserve it!" Mo Zhixuan had the same reaction as Chu Jin, then he patted Bei Bei's head, "Bei Bei, you did great. Daddy will reward you with a candy. You must keep this up; if anyone dares to bully you, we'll bully them back."

Girls should be a bit fierce after all.

That way, they won't be cheated once they go out into society.

"Okay Daddy." Bei Bei took the candy, and with a proud huff, turned towards Bao Bao.

"Wah!" Bao Bao cried even harder.

He must not be their biological son.

Daddy and Mommy don't love him!

His sister bullied him, and Daddy and Mommy didn't come to comfort him, instead, they even rewarded his sister with candy...

So annoying!

Bao Bao cried very sadly.

"Don't cry Bao Bao, grandma will also give you candy!" The old Madam Mo hurried over, peeling a candy for Bao Bao, her face full of distress.

Seeing his savior, Bao Bao immediately clutched the old Madam Mo's hand, "Grandma, it hurts... huff huff..." Bao Bao cried as if he were a pear flower bathed in rain.

The old Madam Mo instantly picked Bao Bao up and gently blew on his little leg after lifting his pant leg.

"Grandma will huff huff for Bao Bao, and it won't hurt anymore. Bao Bao, you have to behave from now on and stop bullying your sister. You know it hurts to be stepped on, but it also hurts if your sister falls,

right? You're the older brother, and brothers should protect their sisters, so no more bullying your sister from now on, got it?"

Bao Bao, while munching on candy, hummed lightly, unclear if he understood or not, his cheeks puffed out and tears still clinging to his eyes, then nodded.

"Grandma's Bao Bao is so good." The old Madam Mo smiled with relief.

"Grandma... is also good..." Bao Bao extended his little chubby hand and gently touched the old Madam Mo's face, his smile radiant.

The old Madam Mo's face was filled with smiles because of Bao Bao's adorable antics.

On this side.

Mo Zhixuan picked up Bei Bei, took off her shoes and socks, and pressed her little foot into the ink pad, then very solemnly stamped it onto the pledge.

The black and white pledge was suddenly adorned with a bright red little footprint.

"Bei Bei, this is the pledge you signed with Daddy; you can't go back on it later," Mo Zhixuan looked at Bei Bei with gentle eyes.

Bei Bei couldn't read, nor did she know that Daddy had dug a huge pit for her; she just smiled sweetly at Mo Zhixuan.

To prevent Bei Bei from regretting it when she grew up, Mo Zhixuan handed her the pledge and said softly, "Bei Bei, hold on to this. Shall Daddy take a picture of you with it?"

"Yes." Bei Bei nodded happily. She loved taking pictures the most now and took Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan's phones every day to take selfies.

Bei Bei, holding the pledge, smiled very happily.

Mo Zhixuan picked up the phone and captured this precious moment.

Chu Jin held Bao Bao, standing behind them, watching this father and daughter with tender eyes.

Zhao Yan came over and said with a smile, "Zhixuan, you really have a lot of clever tricks; how did you even think of this method?"

In fact, Mo Zhixuan had seen this method by chance on TV and was just applying it on the fly now.

In this world, he's not the only father worried about his daughter marrying far away.

Many fathers share his worries.

After all, who would want to hand over their precious child to a pig?

Mo Zhixuan tenderly kissed Bei Bei's little face, then asked, "Mom, what do you think of this method?"

"It's pretty good, just afraid Bei Bei won't acknowledge it later," Zhao Yan picked up the pledge, examining it closely.

"Not acknowledging it is not an option," Mo Zhixuan picked up Bei Bei and said, "Bei Bei, tell Daddy if you'll acknowledge it when the time comes?"

"I will," Bei Bei nodded seriously, "acknowledge."

"That's Daddy's good daughter." Mo Zhixuan kissed Bei Bei's face again.

Mo Zhixuan then picked up the phone, switched to video mode, and said, "Bei Bei, Daddy will say a sentence, and you repeat after Daddy, okay?"

"Okay," Bei Bei nodded.

Mo Zhixuan began slowly, "I, Chu Bei Bei."

Bei Bei also began, "I, Chu Bei Bei."

Mo Zhixuan continued, "with the given name Chu Ge, willingly sign this pledge today without any threats. I am very happy now. I love Daddy and Mommy very much and I want to stay by Daddy and Mommy's side forever, never to marry away."

Bei Bei looked at Mo Zhixuan, somewhat speechless, "Daddy, you're speaking too fast..." She simply couldn't keep up with such a speed.

Chapter 836: can only like one, who do you choose

Mo Zhixuan had no choice but to teach her line by line until the entire video was recorded.

Bei Bei looked so happy in the video, you couldn't tell she was coaxed by Mo Zhixuan at all.

"Daddy, kiss..." After the video was recorded, Bei Bei happily kissed Mo Zhixuan.

"Do you like daddy?" Mo Zhixuan looked at Bei Bei, his eyes brimming with warmth.

"Like." Bei Bei nodded without hesitation.

"Does Bei Bei like mommy?" Chu Jin walked over, with a smile in her eyes.

"Like," Bei Bei reached out and grabbed the hem of Chu Jin's clothes, "Mommy hug..."

Chu Jin picked up Bei Bei and kissed her little face.

"If you can only like daddy or mommy, who do you like?" Chu Jin continued to ask.

Bei Bei glanced at Mo Zhixuan, then turned to look at Chu Jin and crisply said, "Like both."

A satisfied smile appeared on Mo Zhixuan's face, the daughter was indeed his daughter, if it were Bao Bao, that little rascal, he would definitely say he only liked mommy.

Chu Jin pretended to be stern, "Bei Bei, you can only choose one, do you want daddy or mommy?"

Bei Bei continued to speak, "Want both, like both."

She loved both daddy and mommy.

Mommy thought she could trick her? No chance.

Not even a window, let alone a door!

"Mommy hug." Bao Bao toddled over, panting as he ran, wrapped his arms around Chu Jin's leg and looked up with arms wide open.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei, now only eleven months old, still couldn't speak a complete sentence; they could only manage to blurt out two or three words at a time.

Even though their speech wasn't complete, the two of them already knew how to vie for affection.

When Chu Jin was holding Bei Bei, Bao Bao would insist on being held by her, and vice versa when she was holding Bao Bao, Bei Bei would not be outdone either.

Seeing both little ones like this, Chu Jin had no choice but to hold one in each arm.

"Mommy, kiss." Bei Bei hugged Chu Jin's neck.

Bao Bao immediately mimicked Bei Bei and also hugged Chu Jin's neck, "Mommy, love you..."

With one on the left and one on the right, the two little ones had Chu Jin completely charmed.

"Mommy can't hold you both, let daddy hold you," Mo Zhixuan reached out his hand towards Bei Bei.

"No!" Bei Bei directly pushed away Mo Zhixuan's hand, "Want mommy..."

Both children were quite clingy to Chu Jin, which left Mo Zhixuan very helpless. Bei Bei was one thing, but Bao Bao, a big boy, was also clinging to his mother, what was that about?

Seeing Bao Bao was so irritating.

Mo Zhixuan conceived a plan.

"Daddy will buy you candy," Mo Zhixuan continued.

The two little ones were now addicted to sweets.

Sure enough, upon hearing what Mo Zhixuan said, Bei Bei's big eyes immediately filled with a thick shine. She let go of Chu Jin's neck and stretched out her little hand toward Mo Zhixuan, "Dang... Daddy... hold..."

Seeing her little sister do this, Bao Bao was also quick to bend the knee for candy, reaching out her hands to be held by Mo Zhixuan, "Daddy, buy dang..."

The two little ones' pronunciation was very inaccurate; they would say "dang" for candy and "fei" for water. However, for two children who were only a little over eleven months old, being able to speak at all was already quite remarkable.

Mo Zhixuan held one in each arm, smiling warmly, "Let's go, Daddy will buy you candy. Is Daddy good?" Mo Zhixuan, being a man, had broad shoulders, and he had no trouble holding two children at once.

"Good, Daddy... good," the two little kids said in unison, all for the sake of candy.

Daddy buying them candy was definitely good.

"Then do you like Daddy or Mommy more?" Mo Zhixuan continued to ask.

The two little ones were very perceptive as they cooed, "Daddy, Daddy..." While they said it, they reached out their little hands and clapped them together; their sycophantic little expressions had long since erased Chu Jin from their thoughts. At this moment, Bao Bao and Bei Bei were only thinking about candy, not their mommy at all.

A pleasant curve formed at the corners of Mo Zhixuan's mouth.

"Daddy, buy buy..." Bao Bao shook Mo Zhixuan's neck.

"Buy buy..." Bei Bei tugged at Mo Zhixuan's hair.

The two little ones were very fond of going to the supermarket now. Whenever the elderly Mrs. Mo took them out, they would begin to babble "buy buy..."

"Let's go, Daddy will take you to buy candy," Mo Zhixuan turned and walked toward the door.

"Hey..." Chu Jin lifted her eyebrows slightly and hurriedly caught up with Mo Zhixuan, "Are you really going to take them?"

Chu Jin had thought that Mo Zhixuan was just joking, but he was serious about it.

"Of course, I'm serious."

Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, then said, "Zengzi once said: Do not play with the child. A child lacks wisdom and learns from their parents, following their instruction. If today you deceive them, you teach them to deceive. If a mother deceives her child, the child will come to distrust their mother, which is not conducive to their upbringing."

This was the story of Zengzi killing a pig.

The general meaning of this saying is: You should not deceive children. Children are small and ignorant; they only imitate their parents and listen to their teachings. If you lie to them today, you are essentially teaching them to lie themselves. Besides, if a mother deceives her child, the child will feel that their mother's words are unreliable, and they will be less likely to believe her when she tries to educate them in the future. Such actions are detrimental to family education.

Mo Zhixuan had his own methods when it came to educating children; he always meant what he said and would never deceive them.

Chu Jin nodded, "Okay, then I'll go with you. Bao Bao, let me hold you, and we'll go buy candy with Daddy and your sister," Chu Jin reached out to Bao Bao.

"Mama..." Just as Bao Bao was about to reach out to Chu Jin, Mo Zhixuan pushed his hand back, "You little fatty, Mommy can't carry you."

"Can you really carry both children by yourself?" Chu Jin looked up at Mo Zhixuan.

"Of course, I can," Mo Zhixuan said, holding the two children, showing no signs of struggle, "Let's go."

Mo Zhixuan's embrace was wide and the children were very happy to be held by him.

The festive atmosphere outside was strong.

The family of four had just stepped out the door when they met Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi, who had come to visit.

"Brother, Jin Bro, where are you all heading to? This is fish balls and meatballs that Duanmu's mom made by hand, along with some handmade noodles; she specifically asked us to bring some over for you," Mo Qingyi handed the bag to Chu Jin.

"Bao Bao and Bei Bei were fussing for candy, so Mo Zhixuan and I were about to go out and buy some," Chu Jin said, smiling as she accepted the bag, "Your mother-in-law's cooking is really good, the fish balls smell so nice."

Mo Qingyi smiled and said, "Her skills are indeed quite good," then turned to Bei Bei and clapped her hands, "Bei Bei, would you like auntie to hold you?"

However, Bei Bei pushed Mo Qingyi's hand away, "Piggy... dang..."

Piglet?

Auntie?

Unable to contain a chuckle, Mo Qingyi took a very attractive-looking candy from her pocket and dangled it in front of Bei Bei, "Bei Bei, auntie has candy for you."

"Piglet, hug..." Bei Bei held out her arms to Mo Qingyi.

"Piglet... hug..." Seeing Bei Bei get candy, Bao Bao also stretched out his hands towards Mo Qingyi.

Mo Qingyi was no Mo Zhixuan; she couldn't hold two children at once. Duanmu Zhe at her side immediately offered his arms to Bao Bao, "Bao Bao, be good, uncle has candy too."

As long as they were provided with candy, Bao Bao and Bei Bei would be very obedient, calling out "Piglet, Pig Father" ever so sweetly.

Mo Qingyi laughed and said, "Jin, Bao Bao and Bei Bei are just too funny; they can be bribed with just a candy."

Chu Jin looked at the two little ones, a doting light in his eyes, and said helplessly, "They are two little fools."

Who knew, no sooner had the words left his mouth, than Bei Bei looked up and retorted, "Not silly! I'm not silly."

Mo Zhixuan immediately said with a laugh, "That's right, that's right, we aren't silly; our Bei Bei is very clever."

Bei Bei looked up at Chu Jin, saying somewhat haughtily, "Clever... indeed..."

Seeing this, Chu Jin, Mo Qingyi, and Duanmu Zhe all let out light laughter.

It was New Year's Eve, so Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe didn't stay at the imperial palace for too long and soon went back.

It was also nap time for Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan continued to put up couplets.

By the time they finished pasting all the couplets, it was evening already, which brought them to the most important ritual of New Year's Eve.

Ancestor worship.

In the ancestral hall, the elder Mrs. Mo stood with a solemn face.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan knelt down there burning paper offerings.

Seeing that the adults were all quiet, Bao Bao and Bei Bei didn't dare to speak either.

"Bao Bao and Bei Bei, go kowtow to your grandfather," the elder Mrs. Mo said softly, looking down at Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei obediently walked up to the kneeling mat and kowtowed very properly with hands together.

The two little figures bowed down on the ground like two little snowballs, soft and cute.

The elder Mrs. Mo looked at the two little ones, a hint of relief flashing in her eyes, and spoke softly, "Cheng Bei, these are Zhixuan's son and daughter, your grandchildren as well; they are now eleven months old and look so much like Zhixuan when he was little. Cheng Bei, I haven't let you down; our Mo family... now has hope."

By the end, tears had welled up in the elder Mrs. Mo's eyes as she gazed at the two little ones, warmth filling her vision.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were the hope of the Mo family, the redemption for the entire Mo clan.

Once, the elder Mrs. Mo thought Mo Zhixuan was destined to live a lonely life.

This outcome was something she had never anticipated.

After the ancestor worship, it was time for the New Year's Eve dinner.

With the addition of two little ones, this year's dinner was much more lively.

Recently, Bao Bao and Bei Bei had just learned to use chopsticks, so they were quite curious about eating by themselves and wouldn't let anyone feed them.

Chu Jin found bibs to put on them before handing them the children's tableware.

"Eat meal, meal..." Bao Bao and Bei Bei joyfully clapped on the table.

At first, the two ate reasonably well, but within three minutes, they started to let loose, spreading food all over the table, their hands, chests, and clothes smeared with food and soup.

The scene was dreadful to behold.

Of one bowl of rice, more than half was spilled.

And yet, they wouldn't allow others to feed them, insisting on eating by themselves.

However, with Bao Bao and Bei Bei at the dinner table, it did become much more entertaining.

During the meal, the elder Mrs. Mo and Zhao Yan prepared two thick red envelopes for Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

The two little ones politely said, "Thank you, grandma; thank you, grandmother."

Afterward, Chu Xiu also pulled out two big red envelopes for Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

Although Chu Xiu was still a student, he had his own side business by now and was already a little rich man, not lacking in money at all.

Clutching their thick red envelopes, the two little ones had stars in their eyes, saying,

"Thank you, uncle, money! Buy candy..."

"Candy... Uncle, buy candy..."

For Bao Bao and Bei Bei, the only use of money was to buy candy.

Mo Zhixuan, smiling amiably, took out a handful of candies and offered them to Bao Bao and Bei Bei, "Bao Bao and Bei Bei, how about Dad exchanges these candies for your money?"

"Candy, eat candy..." Bao Bao immediately shoved the red envelope into Mo Zhixuan's hand, grabbing two fistfuls of candies and laughing happily.

For the first time in his life, he could freely have so many candies, which excited Bao Bao tremendously.

Bao Bao looked at the candies in his hands, so happy he didn't know which one to eat first.

Bei Bei clutched the red envelope tightly, guarding it against Mo Zhixuan with suspicion in her eyes.

Daddy wanted to use a few candies to exchange for her money!

She certainly wasn't as foolish as Bao Bao!

"Bei Bei, don't you want to eat candy?" Ever since Bao Bao and Bei Bei learned to speak, the way Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin talked had also become cuter.

Candy, money, meal, cabinet...

There were quite a few similar childlike expressions.

Bei Bei held on tightly to her red envelope and took a few steps back, steadfastly shaking her head, "Daddy... bad..." Daddy was trying to trick her out of her money; he was really bad!

Chu Jin laughed lightly, "Mo Zhixuan, you really think Bei Bei is as silly as your son."

"Not silly..." Bei Bei also shook her head in agreement, "Bei Bei, not silly... Bei Bei... clever..." Clever, although Bei Bei's pronunciation was still a little unclear.

Seeing Bei Bei's avaricious expression, everyone else at the table let out light laughter.

Chapter 837: Silly Daddy

"Bei Bei, are you really not going to swap?" Mo Zhixuan continued to look at Bei Bei and said, "Look how sweetly brother is eating. Candy is very sweet..."

Bei Bei kept shaking her head, eyeing the candy in Mo Zhixuan's hand with longing, but still firmly stood her ground, saying in a babyish voice, "Not enough... Daddy, not enough..."

Hearing this, the others laughed again, originally thinking that Bei Bei understood the importance of money, but it turned out, Bei Bei just thought the candy wasn't enough...

Mo Zhixuan then took another piece of candy from his pocket and placed it in his palm, "Bei Bei, is this enough now?"

"Not enough..." Bei Bei shook her head.

"I'll give you two more." Mo Zhixuan reached into his pocket and pulled out two more candies.

"Not enough..." Bei Bei continued shaking her head.

"I'll give you one more, I really can't give you any more than that." Mo Zhixuan pulled out another candy from his pocket.

"Not enough... Daddy... not enough..." Bei Bei still shook her head.

"If it's not enough, then forget it." Mo Zhixuan pretended to put the candy away, "I'll keep the candies for myself then."

Seeing Mo Zhixuan starting to put the candy away, Bei Bei panicked, hurriedly trotted over with her little short legs, puffing and panting as she ran towards Mo Zhixuan, shouting as she ran, "Enough... Daddy, enough!" In her urgency, Bei Bei's speech became more articulate.

Fearing that Mo Zhixuan would change his mind, Bei Bei stuffed the three big red envelopes she was holding into Mo Zhixuan's pocket, then stretched out her little hand towards him, "Daddy, Daddy..."

Mo Zhixuan took out the candies and filled Bei Bei's little pockets.

"Is Daddy good?" Mo Zhixuan bent down to pick up Bei Bei and kissed her on the cheek. How could his daughter be so adorable?

"Good..." Bei Bei nodded vigorously, "Daddy... good..."

Seeing this, both the elderly Madame Mo and Zhao Yan couldn't help but smile broadly.

No wonder they say children are like little bundles of joy...

Chu Jin looked at Mo Zhixuan and raised her eyebrows slightly. This man was so adept at coaxing out red envelopes, he must have tricked Mo Qingyi into giving him many red envelopes when he was young.

I should have recorded a video just now to show to Bao Bao and Bei Bei when they grow up.

Their father was already outwitting them in their childhood.

After the New Year's Eve dinner, the family went outside the imperial palace to set off fireworks.

Because Bao Bao and Bei Bei are young, they couldn't set off big fireworks and could only be satisfied with fairy wands.

Even with the small fairy wands, the two little ones were still very happy and laughed a lot.

They chased and frolicked on the lawn.

The dazzling fireworks reflected on everyone's cheeks.

Such a life was really wonderful.

Ordinary, yet filled with happiness.

The next day.

The first day of the new year.

Chu Jin woke up early and dressed the two little ones in new clothes.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei didn't have much concept of the New Year yet, but eating candy every day made them very happy.

So, they were still very happy now.

"Do you love Mommy?" As Chu Jin dressed Bao Bao, she asked.

"Love." Bao Bao stood on the bed, letting Chu Jin fuss over him.

Chu Jin kissed Bao Bao and asked with a smile, "How much do you love her?"

Bao Bao, eager to please, said, "Love her very very much."

Bao Bao's emotional intelligence was still very high; he already knew how to make Chu Jin happy.

Bei Bei lay on the bed, holding a little foot in her mouth and nibbling on it, looking as if she was savoring a delicious pig's trotter.

Mo Zhixuan came over and lay down on the bed, pinched Bei Bei's little face, and said with a look of disgust, "Bei Bei, quick, put down your foot. It stinks to death."

"Not stinky, smell good..." Bei Bei's drool was about to dribble out.

To those unaware, they might think she was enjoying some exquisite delicacy.

Mo Zhixuan leaned over to take a sniff, then immediately covered his nose with his hand, saying with distaste, "Yuck... it stinks!"

"Does not stink! Smells good!" Bei Bei glared at Mo Zhixuan with big eyes.

"Stinky!" Mo Zhixuan teased Bei Bei on purpose.

"Daddy stinks!" Bei Bei looked at Mo Zhixuan angrily. Her little foot didn't stink at all!

"Stretch out your little foot and let Daddy sniff it again." Mo Zhixuan lowered his gaze towards Bei Bei.

Bei Bei first slapped Mo Zhixuan, then steadying herself with his head, she stood up wobbly and stretched out a foot to his face, "Daddy, take a good sniff..."

Mo Zhixuan acted as if he was possessed by a drama king, pulling a "stinking" face and collapsed onto the bed, "Bei Bei's little feet have stunk Daddy to death!"

After speaking, he lay there motionless, as if he had indeed died.

Bei Bei looked at Mo Zhixuan speechlessly, then patted Chu Jin on the shoulder with a forlorn look, "Mommy, Daddy is retarded!" Her little expression seemed to be questioning Chu Jin, how could you marry a retard just like that?

Chu Jin chuckled, "Then let's not play with the retard."

Bei Bei said seriously, "Retardation is contagious!"

Mo Zhixuan gave Bei Bei a melancholy glance, "Bei Bei, Daddy really is dead!"

"Daddy is a big dummy." Bei Bei walked over and kicked Mo Zhixuan, since when do dead people still talk? Did Daddy really think he was a dummy?

Mo Zhixuan: "..."

From then on, Mo Zhixuan was given the nickname "big dummy" at home.

After dressing Bao Bao, Chu Jin began to dress Bei Bei.

"Don't want to wear, don't want to wear!" Bei Bei was very resistant to the set of clothes Chu Jin had, continuously pushing it away with her hands.

"Why don't you want to wear it?" Chu Jin looked at Bei Bei with some confusion.

Bei Bei pouted dissatisfiedly, "Ugly!"

"It's not ugly, look, Grandma specifically bought this for you, and look, there's even a 'fortune' character on it, how nice is that." The old folks all have the same idea, they think children during the New Year should wear something a bit more festive, so for Bao Bao and Bei Bei, they had prepared a set of red Tang-style clothes with the character for fortune embroidered on it.

It's somewhat like the blessing babies from the New Year pictures.

Don't think that Bei Bei's young, but she still loves to be pretty. She's not like Bao Bao, a classic rough and tumble kid, who is okay with any clothes, even if there are patches on the clothes, it doesn't matter.

That's also the difference between having a son and a daughter. Boys can wear the same clothes for a year, while girls need many pretty clothes, dresses, leggings, lace-trimmed socks, leather boots... and all sorts of pretty hair ties...

Having a daughter is like possessing a treasure that you must guard all the time.

Boys are different; after they grow up, they can bring a treasure back home.

"Ugly! Mommy, that one!" Bei Bei pointed at a pink outfit with bunny ears hanging in the closet.

Holding the little Tang outfit, Chu Jin said, "This was bought by Grandma for you. If you don't wear it, Grandma will be upset with you. If Grandma is upset, then no one will buy you candy anymore. Think it over for yourself, do you want to wear it or not?"

It was after all a thoughtful present from Zhao Yan, and if Bei Bei refused to wear it, Zhao Yan would certainly be sad.

Today was also the first day of the New Year, and Chu Jin wanted to make the elderly happy.

"Ugly..." Bei Bei pouted, feeling wronged.

"It's not ugly," Bao Bao took Bei Bei's little hand, puffed up his chest, comforting her, "Pretty!" Bao Bao was also wearing an outfit just like Bei Bei's.

Chu Jin placed the little bunny outfit in front of Bei Bei, saying casually, "Choose for yourself between the candy and the clothes."

"Sister, block, block." Bao Bao reminded Bei Bei from behind.

Bei Bei touched the bunny outfit, very reluctant to put it down, but then took the Tang outfit instead, "Mommy, I'll wear this one." Between candy and clothes, she chose candy.

Chu Jin took the little Tang outfit and dressed Bei Bei, then held her in front of the mirror.

Immediately, a doll with rosy cheeks and a delicate appearance appeared in the mirror, looking just like a doll that walked out of the television.

Chu Jin smiled, "See, it looks really nice. Where is it ugly?"

Only then did Bei Bei smile satisfactorily, "Pretty."

Bao Bao also stood in front of the mirror, admiring himself, "Beautiful."

The two little ones in the mirror truly had the power to melt hearts.

It has to be said, genetics is a powerful thing.

Dragons beget dragons, phoenixes beget phoenixes; this saying isn't false.

After looking in the mirror, both little ones, one on the left and one on the right, pulled on Chu Jin's hands, "Mommy, let's go downstairs to eat."

"Go call Daddy," Chu Jin reminded them.

Bei Bei said with a face full of disdain, "Daddy is a big dummy!"

Bao Bao then said, "Daddy, cleaned up!" Cleaned up = died.

If he's cleaned up, there's no need to eat.

Chu Jin chuckled, "When did Daddy clean up?"

Bao Bao scratched his head seriously, "Just cleaned up... stinked up by sister..."

Chu Jin was amused by Bao Bao's earnest manner and laughed softly.

"Who told you Daddy was dead?" Mo Zhixuan jumped up from the floor, scooped up Bao Bao in one swoop and planted a big kiss on him.

"Daddy's alive." Bao Bao reached out to poke Mo Zhixuan's face, his big puzzled eyes twinkling with curiosity.

Daddy is so strange, one moment he's alive, the next moment he's washed.

Mo Zhixuan pinched Bao Bao's little nose, "Daddy has always been alive."

"Daddy said, Daddy was washed." Bao Bao blinked with big eyes, he still didn't quite understand the true meaning of 'dead'.

"So what would you do if Daddy were really dead?" Mo Zhixuan continued asking.

Bao Bao glanced at Mo Zhixuan and said indifferently, as if it had nothing to do with him, "If he's washed, he's washed." What else could he do if he's washed?

Mo Zhixuan: "... " This really is his own son.

Chu Jin smiled and said, "Who asked you to talk nonsense in front of the child? You had it coming."

"Daddy's not dead! Little rascal, don't spout nonsense in the future!" Mo Zhixuan reached out and pinched Bao Bao's face.

Bao Bao nodded, but his big eyes rolled around as he thought, Daddy is really strange, it was clearly he himself who said he was washed...

"Daddy, hold me..." As they descended the stairs, Bei Bei also reached out her little hands toward Mo Zhixuan.

"Let Mommy hold you," Chu Jin squatted in front of Bei Bei.

Bei Bei pushed Chu Jin's hand away, "I want Daddy to hold me..."

The two little ones started their daily competition for affection again.

Mo Zhixuan immediately freed one of his hands and picked up Bei Bei, "Let Daddy give you a kiss."

Bei Bei immediately placed her little hand in front of Mo Zhixuan's lips, "No! Daddy smells!"

Bei Bei was a child who 'held grudges.'

It was all because Daddy was the first to call her smelly!

"Daddy doesn't smell at all!" Mo Zhixuan forcibly kissed Bei Bei on the face, "Daddy smells nice."

"No, Daddy smells!" Bei Bei covered her little nose with her hand, looking very disgusted, "Daddy smells washed!"

Mo Zhixuan took Bei Bei's hand away and brought his face close to her nose, smiling, "You smell it carefully, does Daddy really smell?"

Bei Bei immediately collapsed onto Mo Zhixuan's body, "Bei Bei has been washed smelly by Daddy..."

Mo Zhixuan: "...". Why does this scene feel so familiar?

Chu Jin laughed softly on the side, true enough, like father, like daughter.

Bei Bei was imitating Mo Zhixuan perfectly.

Downstairs.

Chu Xiu was video calling with the little loli.

Across the screen, the little loli very politely sent her New Year's greetings to Chu Jin, "Jin brother, happy New Year, wishing you a fresh start in the new year."

Chu Jin smiled and replied, "Pengpeng, happy New Year to you too. When are you coming over to play? I'll pick you up at the airport."

Every summer and winter holiday, the little loli would come and play at Chu Jin's place for a while.

Chu Jin had also invited the little loli to stay over for the New Year, but she refused every time. She was a very filial child, and couldn't bear to leave Mo Qianjue alone during the New Year.

So every year, it was the little loli who spent New Year's with Mo Qianjue.

And Mo Qianjue hadn't been looking for a mother figure for the little loli.

The little loli said excitedly, "I'll come in a few days, Jin brother, you must prepare lots of delicious food!"

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Don't worry, I will prepare lots and lots of delicious food for you."

After chatting for a while with the little loli, Chu Jin handed the phone back to Chu Xiu.

Chu Xiu and the little loli had many common topics of conversation.

The two of them were chatting very happily.

Chu Xiu, a young man usually reticent, was transformed into a chatterbox under the influence of the little loli.

It must be said that the little loli was also a very influential young lady.

When chatting with the little loli, Chu Xiu's smile appeared more frequently.

The Duanmu Family.

The Duanmu Family was especially lively today, with Duanmu Zhe, Mo Qingyi, Duanmu Sheng, and Duanmu Zhe's two other sisters, Duanmu Yao and Duanmu Ting, along with the other two brothers-in-law, all present in the living room.

They all came to pay a New Year's visit.

Duanmu Yao and Duanmu Ting, who had married far away, were usually out of sight, and were only seen during the New Year and other holidays.

At the moment, the Duanmu Family was bustling with noise, as it was rare for the whole family to be together, making Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin very happy.

Everyone was fussing over Little Nianen.

Little Nianen was now over three months old and could already smile. She was looking very cute and growing more and more like Duanmu Sheng.

Luckily, this child doesn't resemble Shen Haoguang; otherwise, everyone's feelings would've been a bit uneasy.

Duanmu Canghai also went from initially resisting to now liking him. Holding Little Nianen, he almost couldn't bear to put him down, affectionately calling him "Bao Bao" at every turn.

"Little Zhe, look how much Dad likes the child. When are you and Qingyi going to have one?" Duanmu Yao asked with a smile.

Upon mentioning this issue, a shadow of sadness flickered across Mo Qingyi's eyes.

It wasn't that she didn't want one; she just couldn't conceive.

Though the pre-marital medical check-up showed that both were perfectly healthy, it had been over a year since their wedding, and yet her belly remained still.

Mo Qingyi was also very anxious.

Duanmu Zhe said with a smile, "Qingyi and I are still young; we're not in a hurry to have children. Besides, isn't there Nian'en in the family now?"

Duanmu Yao glanced at Duanmu Zhe and chided, "What do you mean 'little'? You've turned thirty today! Listen to your sister; it's better to have children sooner rather than later."

Duanmu Zhe took a sip of tea and continued, "I don't want to have kids right now, big sister, so please let's not talk about it." Duanmu Zhe took all the responsibility upon himself as he didn't want Mo Qingyi to suffer any grievances.

Moreover, having children wasn't just an issue for Mo Qingyi alone.

These kind of things couldn't be rushed; everything should follow its course.

Duanmu Ting added, "Big sister is right. Little Zhe, you are not getting any younger. You should think about having a child soon. It would be more lively with a few more kids at home. Look at Nine Ye and his wife, their child is nearly one year old now, right? Your wedding wasn't much later than theirs, so why isn't there even a whisper of news yet?"

Duanmu Zhe was already thirty years old this year, and Mo Qingyi was twenty-six. Both of them were indeed at an age suitable for becoming parents.

Zhou Jin said with a smile, "Tingting, Yaoyao, don't worry about it so much. Having children is not that easy. You're speaking about Little Zhe, but why don't you have one yourself?" Duanmu Ting and Duanmu Yao had been married for five or six years and still didn't have any children.

Zhou Jin was a good mother-in-law. Although she also valued offspring, she didn't want to be the kind of mother-in-law who unreasonably pressured her daughter-in-law.

Duanmu Ting immediately replied, "Aren't we still young? Having a child is too much of an encumbrance."

Duanmu Yao added with a laugh, "Exactly, having a child is such a hassle. I still want to enjoy a few more years of comfort."

A child is like a burden that can make life difficult early on.

Duanmu Canghai added, "That's the spirit; don't impose on others what you yourself do not desire." Then he turned to Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe, "Little Zhe, Qingyi, don't rush. You young people should have your own plans for a career; don't let family hold you back."

Duanmu Canghai was a very open-minded family elder who could understand the young people of today.

It was normal for young people who are under a lot of stress not to want children so early.

"Thank you, Dad." Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe said their thanks in unison, perfectly in sync.

Just then, a servant guided a young man and woman over.

It was Zhou Yiheng and Lin Xiyuan.

The last matchmaking attempt was very successful; Lin Xiyuan and Zhou Yiheng had already become a couple. They were now in their honeymoon phase, having met each other's parents, and wedding preparations were the only thing left.

"Uncle, Aunt, three younger sisters, and cousins, Happy New Year," Zhou Yiheng greeted everyone with great politeness.

"Uncle, Auntie, Happy New Year. Sisters Tingting, Yaoyao, Shengsheng, Happy New Year." Lin Xiyuan followed with greetings. "Big Brother Duanmu, Sister-in-law Qingyi, Happy New Year.

"Happy New Year, Happy New Year, please sit down," Zhou Jin promptly invited Zhou Yiheng and Lin Xiyuan to take a seat.

Mo Qingyi took the initiative to pour tea for the two of them.

As a guest, and as the daughter-in-law of the Duanmu family, it was her duty to serve tea and attend to guests.

"Xiyuan, why did you come here first with Yi Heng? Have you visited your mother's home yet?" Zhou Jin asked with concern.

Zhou Jin always paid attention to etiquette; if Zhou Yiheng hadn't visited the Lin family but had come here first, it would have been improper.

"Auntie, Yi Heng has already visited my home. It was my dad and mom who asked us to come here to give our New Year's greetings," Lin Xiyuan politely replied.

"That's good," Zhou Jin said with satisfaction, nodding her head. "Go ahead and eat some sunflower seeds. Oh, Yi Heng, you must not bully Xiyuan. She is a good girl."

"Auntie, rest assured, I might bully others but I'll never bully Xiyuan," Zhou Yiheng said earnestly, then continued, "Auntie, you can speed things up on your end, talk to my parents-in-law and arrange when I can take Xiyuan back home."

As the matchmaker, it was natural for Zhou Jin to take care of arranging the wedding date.

At the mention of this, a glint of light flashed in Lin Xiyuan's eyes.

Just then, Duanmu Zhe came over with a cup of tea, "Xiyuan, have some tea."

Lin Xiyuan quickly reined in her thoughts, took the cup with a soft voice, "Thank you, Big Brother Duanmu."

"You're welcome." Duanmu Zhe's expression was calm as he handed another cup of tea to Zhou Yiheng, "Cousin, have some tea."

This tea should have been brewed by Mo Qingyi, but Duanmu Zhe, feeling sorry for her, took it upon himself to do it instead.

Mo Qingyi sat beside Duanmu Zhe, who occasionally whispered to her, eliciting light laughter.

Lin Xiyuan glanced at the pair and commented with a smile, "Big Brother Duanmu and Sister-in-law Qingyi have such a great relationship."

"Listen to you," Zhou Yiheng raised his hand to pull Lin Xiyuan closer by the shoulder, "we are also very much in love, I swear, after we get married, our relationship will be even better than my cousin's and his wife's."

"I don't believe you!" Lin Xiyuan teased, "Who was it that was one whole hour late to the movies the day before yesterday?" The remark seemed to scold Zhou Yiheng while also signaling to others in the Duanmu family, a statement laden with multiple meanings.

Chapter 838: have a child earlier

"I was wrong, I was wrong," Zhou Yiheng immediately apologized, "I won't dare to do it again in the future."

"Alright, alright, I accept your apology, just don't do it again in the future," Lin Xiyuan said with a smile.

Zhou Jin also said, "Yiheng, young people should be aware of time. Being late all the time won't do. Since you've decided to be with Xiyuan, you'd better reign in any other distractions." Zhou Yiheng had taught quite a few girlfriends in the past and had made some careless mistakes, so Zhou Jin was also reminding him.

After all, Lin Xiyuan was not the same as other girls.

"Aunt, don't worry, I understand all that. Now in my heart, there is only Xiyuan," Zhou Yiheng said as he wrapped his arm around Lin Xiyuan's waist, then kissed her on the cheek.

Lin Xiyuan remained composed, but quickly reached up to block her left cheek, and Zhou Yiheng's lips landed on the back of her hand. Lin Xiyuan had perfectly dodged the kiss. She looked back at Zhou Yiheng smilingly with a hint of reproach, "There are so many people here!"

Lin Xiyuan had always been a very traditional woman. During the many days she had been dating Zhou Yiheng, the two had not even shared a kiss. The closest they had gotten was holding hands and wrapping arms around the waist. Zhou Yiheng had moments when he couldn't help himself, but Lin Xiyuan always said that she wanted to save the most beautiful first time for their wedding night.

Now, girls as pure as Lin Xiyuan were quite rare, which is why Zhou Yiheng cherished her so much.

He just liked that kind of push and pull.

"Aunt," Zhou Yiheng continued, looking up at Zhou Jin, "you've got to push harder, and get my in-laws to set a date sooner. Xiyuan and I aren't getting any younger, and we don't want to drag this on."

The Lin family, having only Lin Xiyuan as a daughter, were not ready to let go so soon.

Hearing this, Lin Xiyuan also looked up at Zhou Jin, "Auntie, please take care of this for us. I've also mentioned this to my parents, but still, I think it's more appropriate for you to speak. Yiheng and I are not young anymore, and we want to have children sooner rather than later." Toward the end, Lin Xiyuan's face flushed with a shy blush.

This was the second time the topic of children had been mentioned here.

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Yao immediately said, "Little Zhe, look at Xiyuan, she's anxious to have children already. Why aren't you and Qingyi in a hurry? If I remember correctly, Xiyuan is about the same age as you, right?"

Duanmu Zhe looked up at Duanmu Yao, "Big sister, if I remember correctly, Xiyuan is actually four years younger than you, isn't she? Logically, your child should have already been born."

At this, Duanmu Yao continued, "Little Zhe, you're wrong there. Just because I don't want children doesn't mean you shouldn't. You are the only heir of the Duanmu Family, and your duty is to continue the family line."

Duanmu Zhe had grown up in the secular world, and since Duanmu Yao and Duanmu Ting had married relatively early, he had almost no emotional connection to them.

He didn't understand why these two were so fixated on the topic of children today.

Duanmu Yao's words were a bit out of line! What did she mean Duanmu Zhe's duty was to continue the Duanmu family line?

Duanmu Zhe's expression remained calm, "Big sister, I didn't say we don't want children. You should just take care of yourself. As dad says, 'Do not do unto others what you don't want done unto yourself.'"

Duanmu Yao looked gloomily at Duanmu Zhe and stopped talking. She was genuinely concerned for her brother and the entire Duanmu Family, yet Duanmu Zhe blamed her instead! Her parents, too, did not seem to bother to say a word to help her.

Sons and daughters are indeed viewed differently.

Duanmu Ting immediately stepped in to smooth things over, "Little Zhe, big sister was just speaking casually, there's no other meaning. If you don't want children, then don't. It's none of our business."

Lin Xiyuan sipped her tea quietly, a spark of sharpness flashing in her eyes.

Children.

It seems that the Duanmu Family still places great importance on the issue of having children.

After sitting in the living room for a while, Duanmu Zhe stood up, "Mom and Dad, it's getting late, and Qingyi and I need to make a trip to Sir Ninth and Lady Ninth's place."

Zhou Jin and Duanmu Canghai also immediately rose, "Alright, then you two should go ahead. We have guests at home today, so your mom and I won't be joining you. Give our regards to the dowager and to Sir Ninth, Lady Ninth on our behalf."

"Okay," Duanmu Zhe nodded.

"Qingyi, this is the gift I prepared for your mother. Take it with you," Zhou Jin said as she picked up a pile of gifts and handed them to Mo Qingyi.

"Mom, you don't have to be so polite," Mo Qingyi declined. Zhou Jin was really too courteous; every time Qingyi went back to her parents' home, Zhou Jin would prepare a lot of things for her to take back.

"This is just proper etiquette. Listen to me, you must take them, or I will be unhappy," Zhou Jin said, feigning sternness.

"Okay, okay," Mo Qingyi nodded, "then I'll take them. Thank you, Mom."

"We're all family. No need for thanks. Hurry along now; it's getting late. Your mom must be waiting at home for you," Zhou Jin urged.

With Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi gone, only the three Duanmu sisters, Zhou Yiheng, and Lin Xiyuan were left in the living room.

Duanmu Canghai looked at his two daughters and then spoke, "Tingting, Yaoyao, in the future, do not talk about children in front of your younger brother and sister-in-law. You can't even manage your own affairs, and now you want to meddle in others'? Do you have that much free time?"

Duanmu Canghai could tell that Duanmu Zhe was very resistant to this matter.

He, too, had been young once and could understand Duanmu Zhe better.

Having children is a matter of fate; it cannot be forced, nor can pressure be applied to the young. Otherwise, it would only backfire.

Zhou Jin added, "Your father's right. Don't talk recklessly in the future. Take care of yourselves first before trying to manage others' affairs."

Seeing her parents criticizing her, Duanmu Ting said with reluctance in her heart, "Mom and Dad, I am doing this for their own good. It's not a bad thing; it's important for the family's prosperity! If my older sister and I don't speak up now, what if Little Zhe and Qingyi never have children?"

She was truly concerned for the whole Duanmu family. If she weren't Duanmu Zhe's older sister, she wouldn't bother with such trivial matters.

"Tingting, what I'm saying is for your own good too. You only see your brother not wanting children, but have you looked at yourself? Think about it, how many years have you and Chen Hui been married? Have Mom and Dad ever pressured you? Put yourself in Qingyi's shoes. Would you feel comfortable if you were her?" Duanmu Canghai was a very reasonable man.

At these words, Duanmu Ting immediately fell silent.

Thinking it over, what Duanmu Canghai said made a lot of sense.

Do not do onto others what you do not want done to yourself.

To lighten the atmosphere, Zhou Jin said with a smile, "Alright, alright, today is a happy day; let's not talk about these things anymore. Yi Heng, don't worry, I, as your aunt, will definitely keep your and Xiyuan's marriage in mind."

Since Zhou Yiheng and Lin Xiyuan were not considered outsiders, Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin did not avoid them during their preceding conversation.

"Okay, thank you, Aunt," Zhou Yiheng was very happy, "Aunt, I still have things to deal with, so I'll take Xiyuan and leave first. I'll wait for your good news."

Zhou Jin nodded, "Alright, you guys go ahead."

Lin Xiyuan bid farewell to everyone in the room very politely before following Zhou Yiheng away.

Watching the two leaving, Zhou Jin's eyes were full of satisfaction.

Time flew by quickly and in the blink of an eye, it was Bao Bao and Bei Bei's birthday.

This was their first birthday and also their first-year feast.

Therefore, the Mo family held a banquet and invited many guests.

The one-year-olds, Bao Bao and Bei Bei, were walking more steadily and speaking clearer by the day.

Many people came for the first-year feast.

Almost all the big names from the Three Realms were there.

The little loli came over with a gift early in the morning, "Brother Jin, today is brother and sister's birthday, and this is my gift to them." The little loli, now fifteen, had features that had started to blossom, with an exquisite face that blended sweetness with gentleness, just like when she was little, both cute and cool.

"Thank you, Pengpeng." Chu Jin took the gift box with a smile.

The little loli continued, "Brother Jin, hurry up and see what's inside!"

Chu Jin smiled at the little loli, "Alright."

As the little loli watched eagerly, Chu Jin opened the gift box to find two hand-knitted scarves, one in pink and the other in blue, with Bao Bao and Bei Bei's names respectively embroidered at the ends.

"Wow, they're beautiful! Pengpeng, did you make these yourself?"

The little loli nodded proudly, "Yes, Brother Jin, I spent a whole month learning how to do it, do you like it?"

"I do," Chu Jin's eyes were sparkling as he held the little loli's face in his hands and touched his forehead to hers, "Pengpeng, on behalf of brother and sister, I thank you." Chu Jin was somewhat aware of what happened on the day of birth.

If it weren't for the little loli's help, she wouldn't have given birth so smoothly.

The little loli also cupped Chu Jin's face in her hands, "Brother Jin, there's no need for formalities with me."

The two of them exchanged smiles, creating an exceptionally warm scene.

Just then, Bao Bao and Bei Bei came running over, panting, "Sister, sister..."

They hugged the little loli's legs from either side, "Sister, hug..."

The little loli, looking at Bao Bao and then at Bei Bei, wasn't sure which one to hug first.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were also very fond of the little loli and even forwent their favorite candy to see her.

With no other option, the little loli could only hug Bao Bao first and then Bei Bei.

Chu Jin took out the scarves from the gift box and tied them around Bao Bao and Bei Bei's necks, asking with a smile, "Bao Bao and Bei Bei, do you like the scarves sister made for you?"

"We like them," Bao Bao and Bei Bei said in unison.

"Have you thanked sister?" Chu Jin asked next.

"Thank you... sister." Bei Bei was quick to react, hugging the little loli's neck and planting a big kiss on her face.

"Kiss... kiss..." Bao Bao, standing on tiptoes, reached his arms out toward the little loli.

Bei Bei, meanwhile, clung to the little loli's neck, reluctant to let go, "Sister..."

Soon after, Chu Xiu arrived, and Chu Jin said to her and the little loli, "You two play with Bao Bao and Bei Bei for a while, I'll be down in a bit."

"Sis, you go ahead, leave Bao Bao and Bei Bei to me and Pengpeng," Chu Xiu said with a smile, looking at Chu Jin.

The little loli also said, "Brother Jin, don't worry, leave it to me and Brother Xiu."

Bao Bao and Bei Bei even wave their little hands to Chu Jin, "Mommy goodbye..."

After they had their sister and uncle with them, they completely forgot about their parents.

Watching Bao Bao and Bei Bei, the little loli's eyes flashed with envy.

It's nice to have a mom.

And especially one as beautiful as Brother Jin.

Noticing the sadness in the little loli's eyes, Chu Xiu asked softly, "What's wrong?"

"Brother Xiu, it's nothing," the little loli replied with a sweet smile to Chu Xiu.

Chu Xiu gently ruffled the little loli's hair, his lips curling into a warm smile.

The little loli looked up at him, her eyes filled with bright light.

The little loli and Chu Xiu were four years apart.

There was a significant difference in their heights too, with Chu Xiu at nineteen and a height of 1.81 meters, and the loli at fifteen with a height of 1.62 meters.

Every time the little loli spoke to Chu Xiu, she had to look up at him.

The bright chandelier light cast a faint aura around them.

Chu Jin went downstairs.

The first-year feast for Bao Bao and Bei Bei was held in the imperial palace. As Chu Jin descended the stairs, she saw Han Zixiu and Ding Siyu who had just walked in from the outside. Ding Siyu was close to her due date, so her stomach was very large, even bigger than Chu Jin's when she was pregnant with Bao Bao and Bei Bei. Because of her pregnancy, Ding Siyu had put on weight all over, with her face rounder and fuller than before.

Compared to Chu Jin back then, she was in a completely different state.

Chapter 839: all are younger brothers

"Sis, brother-in-law," Chu Jin hurried over to support Ding Siyu's arm.

"Jin," Ding Siyu smiled slightly at Chu Jin, "Where are Bao Bao and Bei Bei?"

"They're upstairs. I'll take you to them," Chu Jin replied softly.

"You don't have to follow us. I'll go upstairs with Jin to have a look," Ding Siyu turned and said to the person beside her, Zhou Yiheng.

"Then be careful. I'll just be downstairs," Zhou Yiheng said, gazing tenderly at Ding Siyu.

"Hmm," Ding Siyu nodded, then followed Chu Jin upstairs.

"Jin, look, I'm just over 8 months pregnant, and my belly is already so big. Nothing is convenient, and these feet are as swollen as bread buns. Did you have edema when you carried Bao Bao and Bei Bei?" Ding Siyu complained to Chu Jin as they walked.

One does not understand a mother's hardship until one becomes a mother.

Watching others' pregnancies seem easy, but only those who have experienced it know the hard truth.

Chu Jin carefully supported Ding Siyu, speaking gently, "I did have some swelling during the later stages of my pregnancy, but it wasn't severe. Eating less salt and more fruit helped with recovery."

Ding Siyu continued to ask, "Jin, did you get any stretch marks on your stomach during pregnancy? You didn't get any, right?" Early in the pregnancy, it was fine, but entering the second trimester, Ding Siyu noticed many stretch marks on her belly, which didn't look very nice.

Having seen Chu Jin in a dress, Ding Siyu noticed her stomach was smooth, as if she had never given birth, so now she was very curious and envious.

Compared to Chu Jin, it was as if she were enduring a fake pregnancy.

Chu Jin said with a smile, "Of course, I got them. It's an experience no mother can avoid. However, I have developed a special oil. After the child is born and you apply it to your stomach during the confinement period, the stretch marks will fade away."

Chu Jin was someone who cherished beauty; naturally, she couldn't tolerate having stretch marks on her body, so she created this special oil.

Upon hearing this, Ding Siyu immediately said with a smile, "Really, Jin? You have something that amazing?"

Chu Jin nodded, "Of course it's true. I have several bottles of it at home. I'll give you a few to take home later."

"That's great, Jin. Thank you so much," Ding Siyu thanked her right away.

Just the thought of being able to get rid of the stretch marks brightened Ding Siyu's entire disposition.

Patting Ding Siyu's hand, Chu Jin laughed and said, "What are you thanking me for among sisters?"

In no time at all, the two of them arrived at the children's room upstairs.

The little girls and Chu Xiu were cuddled on the sofa playing video games.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were busily stacking blocks.

The two little ones were so well-behaved, they hardly caused any worry for Chu Xiu and the little girls.

"Auntie, auntie..." Bao Bao and Bei Bei cheerfully jumped up as soon as Ding Siyu arrived in the children's room upstairs.

"Auntie... hug..." Bao Bao cooed, wanting to be held.

Chu Jin bent down to pick up Bao Bao, "Bao Bao is good. Auntie has a little baby in her belly now, so I can't hold you. How about mom holds you instead?"

Understanding yet not quite grasping, Bao Bao looked at Chu Jin, scratching his head and asking, "Little baby? Where?"

Chu Jin patiently explained, "In auntie's belly. You and Bei Bei were also born from mom's belly."

"Oh..." Bao Bao nodded, somewhat confused, staring intently at Ding Siyu's belly, his eyes glinting with curiosity.

"Bao Bao is so cute," Ding Siyu reached out and touched Bao Bao's little head. "Bao Bao, what's your full name? How old are you this year?"

Bao Bao softly replied to Ding Siyu, "I'm Mo Jingxing, one year old this year."

The Mo family matriarch taught Bao Bao and Bei Bei these basic things many times a day.

"Good job, Bao Bao," Ding Siyu smiled warmly. "Now, take a look and tell auntie, is there a little brother or a little sister in here?"

The saying went that the mouth of a child was magical, so Ding Siyu wanted to see if it held any truth. She was also curious about the gender of the child in her belly.

Bao Bao glanced at Ding Siyu's belly and then looked up at her, his voice milky as he spoke, "Auntie, let Bao Bao touch."

"Okay," Ding Siyu stepped forward a few paces and sat down on the sofa.

Bao Bao stretched out his chubby little hand, touched Ding Siyu's belly, and murmured, "Brother good, brother good..."

Brother?

Surprised, Ding Siyu raised her eyebrows and then asked, "Bao Bao, only a brother? No sister?"

Bao Bao lifted his hand toward Bei Bei, who was playing with blocks, "Sister, over there."

Ding Siyu looked at Bao Bao, "Bao Bao, does auntie mean there's no sister in auntie's tummy?"

Bao Bao shook his head, "No sister, brother, auntie's brother, it's a brother... all brothers..."

Chu Jin laughed and patted Bao Bao's little head, "You little guy, just spouting nonsense. Big sister, don't listen to Bao Bao, he still has no concept of gender."

Ding Siyu smiled and said, "They say children's mouths carry the divine truth, what if I really do have three little rascals in here?" As she spoke, Ding Siyu was a bit puzzled, "Why are they all little rascals..."

She clearly preferred little girls, so why were all three children not little girls?

"Big sister, don't listen to Bao Bao's rambling. You're carrying triplets; there's definitely going to be a girl," Chu Jin consoled.

"I'm not talking nonsense!" Bao Bao covered Chu Jin's mouth with his little hand, his face filled with grievance, "Bao... didn't talk nonsense!" He would never talk nonsense!

His words made Ding Siyu burst into hearty laughter.

Downstairs, the first birthday celebration had already started.

The Mo family matriarch had two large tables set up in the middle of the banquet hall, covered with red cloth. On the red cloth, there were many small items: toy cars, airplane models, writing brushes, abacuses, books, car keys, and so on...

This ceremony of destiny grabbing was a tradition both in the secular world and the Superpower World.

Actually, sometimes it was quite effective, otherwise it wouldn't have continued to this day.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan carried Bao Bao and Bei Bei downstairs and placed the two little ones on the table.

Chu Jin, with a smile brimming in her eyes, said to Bao Bao and Bei Bei, "Bao Bao, Bei Bei, pick something you like for yourselves."

Upon hearing this, Bao Bao and Bei Bei immediately crawled toward the center of the table.

The others gathered around, watching the two little ones intently.

These were the offspring of Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin.

One was the Lord of the Three Realms, and the other a reincarnated ancient empress, which made these little ones extraordinary.

It was said that when the little ones were born, there had been a sighting of a mystical qilin, and many had captured that day's anomaly.

But now, when people looked at Bao Bao and Bei Bei, they clearly saw something different.

Everyone thought they had seen it wrong, but when they looked again, the scene before them remained unchanged.

Spiritual Power surged around Bao Bao, while Bei Bei seemed entirely ordinary, clearly showing no sign of a special ability bone.

How could this be?

How could the union of Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin result in a child with such average talent?

A layer of confusion flashed in everyone's eyes.

Actually, the fact that Bei Bei was of ordinary talent was something Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan had never intended to keep hidden from everyone.

Because it was something that couldn't be kept secret.

Sooner or later, they would find out.

Instead of hiding it, it was better to be open about it and let Bei Bei get used to it early on.

Being born into the Superpower World without a mutant bone inevitably meant receiving strange looks.

Although people were surprised, they did not show it, because, after all, Bei Bei might have ordinary talent, but Bao Bao was a top-level superpower genius. Even at a young age, he possessed extraordinary talent and would certainly be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

A genius, one was enough!

How could both be geniuses?

God is fair. When he opens a door for you, he will simultaneously close a window.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei struggled their way to the center of the table, gazing at the various toys with stars in their excited eyes, not knowing what to take.

Despite the many people surrounding them, Bao Bao and Bei Bei were not at all stage-shy; they were incredibly brave, touching this and that, unable to decide. Bao Bao seemed particularly interested in the writing brush and first grabbed one, and then his left hand picked up a curved dagger.

The dagger was sheathed, so there was no need to worry about getting hurt.

Seeing this, people chuckled, "Nine Ye, looks like Little Nine Ye wants to excel in both the scholarly and martial arts."

Mo Zhixuan's face also rarely showed a touch of tenderness, while Chu Jin was busy taking photos of Bao Bao and Bei Bei with her mobile phone.

Bei Bei directly picked up a toy gun. Like a boy, she had always been interested in toy guns and cars. She played with the gun for a while, then picked up a model of an off-road vehicle.

The person next to them immediately laughed and said, "Nine Ye, your Little Princess is quite formidable too." It's a shame her talents are a bit lacking.

If it weren't for Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin's status, how could the Superpower World tolerate someone with ordinary talent?

This would directly affect the future lineage of the Superpower World.

But with Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan standing there, who would dare to utter a word of dissent?

Mo Zhixuan nodded in satisfaction, clapped his hands towards Bei Bei, "Bei Bei, come to daddy."

Hearing daddy's voice, Bei Bei immediately stood up, turned around, and walked towards Mo Zhixuan, "Daddy... Daddy..."

Mo Zhixuan picked up Bei Bei in one swoop, turned around to face the crowd, and with slightly parted lips said, "Thank you all for attending my daughter and son's first birthday party today. On behalf of my children, I thank everyone." Mo Zhixuan, tall and with long legs, even as he held a soft and cute child, still gave off an extremely aloof feeling.

With this gesture, Mo Zhixuan was also signaling to the crowd how much he valued his daughter.

Even if his daughter was ordinary in talent, she was still his precious girl.

Everyone present was sharp and could clearly see Mo Zhixuan's true intentions.

Who then would dare to underestimate Bei Bei?

They all caught Bei Bei and lavished her with praise.

The catching ceremony ended successfully and it was time to eat. The Mo family had chosen a buffet style, and there was a dance floor set up on the other side of the dining area with a cellist providing live accompaniment. The beautiful waltz music spread through the air.

Many couples went to dance on the dance floor.

"Mommy, dance..." Bao Bao tugged at Chu Jin's clothes, leading her towards the dance floor.

"Bao Bao, how about sister takes you to dance?" the little loli walked over and squatted in front of Bao Bao.

Bao Bao nodded, extended his little hand, and placed it on the little loli's, "Sister, dance."

The little loli looked up at Chu Jin, "Jin, I'm taking Bao Bao to dance now."

Chu Jin nodded, "Go ahead, take it slow."

"Mommy..." A crisp child's voice rose over her head, and Chu Jin looked up only to see Bei Bei sitting astride Mo Zhixuan's neck, cheerfully greeting her.

Chu Jin waved her hand towards Bei Bei, saying tenderly, "Hello, Bei Bei."

"Mommy, hello, I'm riding a big horse..." Bei Bei, holding onto Mo Zhixuan's hair with one hand and waving like a fortune cat with the other, greeted her.

The onlookers couldn't believe the scene.

Such an aloof Nine Ye, today, actually let his daughter ride on his head...

And he even had a smile on his face, it was just too unbelievable.

This was truly a doting father...

"Giddy up, giddy up, daddy giddy up, whoosh..." Bei Bei's horse-riding skills were quite good.

"Daddy, I want to ride a big horse too!" Bao Bao came running over, puffing and panting, and blocked Mo Zhixuan's way, stretching out his hand.

"A big boy like you, isn't it embarrassing to ride a big horse?" Mo Zhixuan glanced at Bao Bao.

"Not embarrassed, I want to ride a big horse!" Bao Bao immediately hugged Mo Zhixuan's leg, no one could stop his heart from riding a big horse.

"Then aren't you a big boy?" Mo Zhixuan continued to ask.

"Yes!" Bao Bao patted his chest, "Of course, I'm a big boy!"

Mo Zhixuan said with a smile, "Only little girls ride a big horse. If you ride a big horse, then you'll turn into a little girl."

Immediately, Bao Bao covered his crotch with his hand, protecting his little brother, and looked up at Mo Zhixuan, "Daddy, are you telling the truth?" He could do without anything, but he couldn't do without his little brother!

Mo Zhixuan nodded earnestly, "Of course it's true, when has daddy ever lied to you? Tell daddy, do you want to become a little girl?"

"I don't want to, I'm a big boy!" Bao Bao immediately shook his head.

"Then do you still want to ride a big horse?" Mo Zhixuan continued to ask.

"Not anymore." Bao Bao continued to shake his head.

Only then did Mo Zhixuan smile in satisfaction, "That's right, a real man should act like one. Sister wants to eat cake, go and get some cake for her."

"Okay." The bamboozled Bao Bao immediately strode off with his little short legs to get cake for Bei Bei, even considerately asking her if she wanted chocolate.

Thus, the scene became Mo Zhixuan turned into Bei Bei's big horse and Bao Bao became the little servant handing water and tea to Bei Bei.

It must be said that Mr. Mo's preference for sons over daughters is very severe.

Look at how he treats Bao Bao—how could he bully him like this?

Yet Bao Bao thinks Daddy is doing so for his sake.

Chu Jin watched the father and sons not far away, shaking her head helplessly with a faint smile in her eyes.

Mo Qingyi stood in the dining area, her face brimming with smiles as she looked over, "I really didn't expect such a big change in my brother."

Duanmu Zhe also said, "Yeah, Nine Ye has really changed a lot." The former Mo Zhixuan was such a cold person, and now he's become a loving father.

Mo Qingyi looked at Duanmu Zhe and continued, "My brother's significant change is due to Jin as well as the child. He used to be so aloof; I was even worried he might not like children. Duanmu, do you like kids?"

She had been married to Duanmu Zhe for such a long time without any sign of pregnancy, and Mo Qingyi had quietly taken Duanmu Zhe to the hospital for check-ups, but the doctors said they were both perfectly normal.

It wasn't something one could easily discuss with others, and she didn't know what to do.

Although Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin didn't pressure her, Mo Qingyi herself was very anxious.

After all, it's been over a year...

Duanmu Zhe wrapped an arm around Mo Qingyi's shoulders, his face serious, "I only like you." Children were not a big deal for Duanmu Zhe; he was happy just to have Mo Qingyi. He continued, "Qingyi, don't overthink it. We're still young, we're in no hurry for kids. Some things just happen naturally. Besides, having a kid is such a hassle, I still want to enjoy our time together just the two of us."

"Really?" Mo Qingyi looked at Duanmu Zhe, her eyebrows raised slightly.

"Of course, it's true—truer than pearls," Duanmu Zhe kissed Mo Qingyi on the cheek.

This scene was so sweet it made others envious.

"Little Zhe, cousin-in-law," Zhou Yiheng approached with Lin Xiyuan from the other side.

"Cousin, Xiyuan," Mo Qingyi greeted politely.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei's birthday party had many guests, of course, Lin Xiyuan wasn't one of them; she attended as Zhou Yiheng's date.

Lin Xiyuan was dressed beautifully tonight, dazzling to behold.

Zhou Yiheng then said, "Little Zhe, I still have some matters to handle at the company. After the party, could you and the cousin-in-law also take Xiyuan back with you?"

Lin Xiyuan was now Zhou Yiheng's girlfriend; this request was something Duanmu Zhe readily agreed to, laughing, "Of course, cousin, if you have something to do, go ahead."

Zhou Yiheng clapped Duanmu Zhe on the shoulder, "Good brother, I'll leave Xiyuan in your and my cousin's care for now." Trusting Xiyuan to his cousin, Zhou Yiheng felt very reassured.

Duanmu Zhe nodded.

Zhou Yiheng said a few more words to Duanmu Zhe and then left the party. Before leaving, Lin Xiyuan affectionately told him, "Yi Heng, be careful on the road, contact me once you get there."

Zhou Yiheng nodded, "Alright."

Mo Qingyi smiled at Duanmu Zhe, "Cousin and Xiyuan seem to be getting along well." Those two met through a blind date, and before that, Mo Qingyi thought blind dates were unreliable but Zhou Yiheng and Lin Xiyuan had come so far; it wasn't easy.

"Yes," Duanmu Zhe also spoke softly, "Cousin has finally settled down; uncle and aunt must be very happy." Before this, Zhou Yiheng had dated numerous girlfriends, but none had reached the phase of discussing marriage like with Lin Xiyuan.

Since Lin Xiyuan wasn't very familiar with the Mo family, she stayed close to Mo Qingyi for the following time.

"Qingyi, I heard that your sister-in-law is the author of 'Blooms like Brocade,' and I really like her books. Could you introduce me to her?" Lin Xiyuan looked at Mo Qingyi, her eyes pleading.

Actually, Lin Xiyuan had already met Chu Jin at the horse track.

Mo Qingyi glanced at Lin Xiyuan, her eyes flashing with surprise, "You've read my sister-in-law's books too? Sure, she's right over there. I'll take you to meet her." Since Lin Xiyuan was Zhou Yiheng's girlfriend,

it was hard for Mo Qingyi to refuse her request. However, Lin Xiyuan wasn't the type to seek personal gain; she probably just genuinely admired Chu Jin.

It shouldn't cause any trouble for Chu Jin.

Lin Xiyuan was very happy, "Really? That's great! I've wanted to greet Mrs. Nine for a while, but I always lacked the courage. Qingyi, thank you."

"You're welcome," Mo Qingyi linked arms with Lin Xiyuan, "Let's go now."

Chu Jin was chatting with Weiwei and Ding Siyu over there.

"Jin," Mo Qingyi approached with Lin Xiyuan beside Chu Jin.

"Qingyi, come over and sit down," Chu Jin said, looking up.

Mo Qingyi smiled and said, "Jin, let me introduce you. This is Duanmu's cousin's girlfriend, Lin Xiyuan. She's a loyal fan of yours."

Chu Jin smiled at Lin Xiyuan and nodded, "Hello."

Lin Xiyuan excitedly extended her hand to Chu Jin, "Mrs. Nine, hello. I'm Lin Xiyuan, and I really love the books you write. Could you sign an autograph for me?" She took out a pen and notebook from her elegant handbag.

Chu Jin took the notebook and pen, nodded slightly, "Of course, thank you for liking them." Then she gracefully wrote down the three characters, "The Return of the Past."

Chapter 840: Plan Formed

Lin Xiyuan slightly bent down, taking the notebook with both hands, and said with a face full of joy, "Thank you, Ninth Madame."

As Chu Jin looked at Lin Xiyuan, she suddenly experienced a sense of déjà vu, almost as if she had seen Lin Xiyuan somewhere before.

It was not just an acquaintance from one previous encounter.

This feeling was very strange, as though she had known her for a long time.

Lin Xiyuan stared at the notebook, on which the characters for "The Return of the Past" were flamboyantly written, momentarily lost in thought.

Seeing her like this, Chu Jin asked, "What's wrong? Is there something not right?"

Lin Xiyuan immediately came back to her senses, smiling broadly, "Ninth Madame, there's nothing wrong. I'm just too excited, thank you." Having said that, Lin Xiyuan carefully tucked the notebook into her handbag.

Chu Jin gave a faint smile, "It was nothing." It was strange, the more she looked at Lin Xiyuan, the stranger the feeling became.

Making an excuse, Chu Jin pulled Mo Qingyi aside and asked in a low voice, "Qingyi, who exactly is Lin Xiyuan?" After all, with what had happened to Bao Bao and Bei Bei during their hundred days celebration, she couldn't afford to be careless.

Mo Qingyi glanced towards Lin Xiyuan and said, "She is the daughter of the great general Lin Hong and the girlfriend of Zhou Yiheng. Jin, is there a problem? Is there something wrong with her?"

The great general Lin Hong, Chu Jin was aware of him.

Including him personally, Lin Hong's family had served in the military for generations, making significant contributions to the Superpower World. Hearing that Lin Xiyuan was his daughter, Chu Jin gradually let down her guard.

She did have some impressions of Lin Xiyuan, but they were not deep.

After all, their only connection was from a single encounter.

"That's enough." Chu Jin handed the notebook back to Lin Xiyuan.

Chu Jin also recalled seeing a middle-aged couple at the horse farm before, and they were Lin Hong and Lin Lan.

Chu Jin stifled her swirling thoughts, "Oh, it's nothing, I was just asking casually. However, I think this Lin Xiyuan is not so simple. You better pay attention."

Mo Qingyi nodded, "Mhm, I know."

Mo Qingyi had always been very obedient to Chu Jin's words.

As evening deepened, the first birthday party gradually came to an end.

Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi said their goodbyes and drove off, with Lin Xiyuan following behind them.

Because Lin Xiyuan was there, Mo Qingyi didn't sit in the front passenger seat but sat in the back with Lin Xiyuan, chatting with her.

On the way, Lin Xiyuan considerably made a phone call to Zhou Yiheng.

But Zhou Yiheng seemed very busy and hung up after just a few words.

Seeing this, Duanmu Zhe said, "Xiyuan, don't mind it, my cousin sometimes does that when he's busy. He doesn't want to take anyone's call."

Lin Xiyuan placed her phone back into her bag, smiled slightly, and very understandingly said, "Mhm, since I've chosen Yi Heng, I can understand him. You don't need to worry."

Duanmu Zhe nodded and said no more.

The car soon stopped in front of the Lin family's villa. Duanmu Zhe stayed in the car while Mo Qingyi escorted Lin Xiyuan out, "Xiyuan, go inside. Rest early."

Lin Xiyuan smiled and nodded, "Mhm, goodbye."

After bidding each other goodbye, Mo Qingyi pulled open the car door, got into the passenger side, and without further delay, Duanmu Zhe started the engine and left.

The black SUV quickly disappeared into the night.

Lin Xiyuan watched the car drive away before turning to enter the villa.

Lin Hong and Lin Lan were not at home. The large villa housed only Lin Xiyuan alone.

Without turning on the lights, Lin Xiyuan found her way through the dark living room and up the stairs to her bedroom.

Only when she reached her bedroom did Lin Xiyuan turn on the light.

She didn't change out of her gown but sat directly at the desk by her bed, pulling out the notebook she had placed in her handbag and flipping to the first page.

The very first page was the one with "The Return of the Past."

Looking at the signature, Lin Xiyuan's lips curved into a smile that held a hint of disappointment. She then slowly tore out the signed page, took a classic lighter from the drawer.

With a "click," a pale blue flame leapt from the lighter.

The firelight reflected on Lin Xiyuan's face, giving her eyes a strange sheen. She moved the flame slowly to the paper signed with 'The Return of the Past,' allowing the intense flame to gradually consume the white paper, turning it into ashes.

As she watched the paper turn to ash, Lin Xiyuan narrowed her eyes, a cold light flickered in them, and then she blew the ashes into the trash can.

What a pity, the signature on this paper was not Chu Jin's own.

If it had been Chu Jin's own signature, there would have been quite a show at the imperial palace tonight.

Lin Xiyuan had calculated countless scenarios, but she had not anticipated that Chu Jin would have a pen name.

After finishing all this, Lin Xiyuan stood up from her desk, her expression returning to normal as she took her change of clothes and went into the bathroom.

Coming out of the bathroom, Lin Xiyuan didn't go straight to bed, but applied a delicate makeup look, took her car keys, and walked downstairs towards the garage.

Soon, a red sports car left the Lin family villa.

Lin Xiyuan headed straight into a bar. She was unrecognizable compared to before, heavily made up, her true face obscured. She walked into the center of the dance floor and pulled out a punky looking girl.

The girl seemed about seventeen or eighteen, with colorful dyed hair and a nose ring, "You're here for the stuff? Where's the money?" The girl reached out her hand towards Lin Xiyuan.

Lin Xiyuan placed the pre-prepared money into the punk girl's hand and said coldly, "Remember to do what I've asked you to."

"Don't worry," the girl weighed the banknotes in her hand, smiled, and said, "I've always kept my word. Just wait for my message at home."

"Alright, remember what you said today." After saying that, Lin Xiyuan turned and walked away.

Watching Lin Xiyuan's receding back, the young punk shook her head slightly and said, "Tsk tsk tsk, when this woman gets tough, what's a man to do?"

Immediately, a rascal of a youth popped up beside her. "Boss, boss, are you saying you're not a woman?"

"Get lost!" The young punk smacked the youth on the head and then said, "Tell the brothers to eat and drink their fill tonight. It's on me, their boss!"

"Following the boss gets us a feast; I'll go and tell the brothers right now." The youth happily weaved through the middle of the dance floor.

Grabbing the microphone, the youth announced to the wildly dancing crowd, "Brothers, tonight we can eat and drink to our heart's content. Boss Yan says she's picking up the tab!"

"Long live Boss Yan!" The people below cheered excitedly.

That young punk was Yan Yi, who actually had very attractive facial features, just dressed too counter-mainstream.

Yan Yi held up a cocktail with a pleasant color, gently swaying it under the lights.

Her good days were just beginning.

A calculating smile played at the corners of Yan Yi's mouth.

Time flew, and two months passed.

Today was Ding Siyu's expected delivery date. Being pregnant with triplets, the doctors did not recommend natural childbirth, so she was scheduled for a cesarean section.

Early on, Mo Zhixuan accompanied Chu Jin to the hospital.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were too young to be in the hospital often, so Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan left them at home, under the watchful eyes of the old Madame Mo and the maternity matron.

Before entering the operating room, Ding Siyu was very nervous.

Chu Jin touched her hand and comforted her in a low voice, "Sis, you don't need to be nervous. The cesarean section is very safe. The doctor will give you an anesthetic, and after it's administered, you'll fall asleep. When you wake up, you'll be able to see your three adorable babies."

Grasping Chu Jin's hand tightly, Ding Siyu said, "Jin, do you think the anesthesia will affect the children? And... What if the hospital's blood bank runs out of blood suddenly..." No matter how strong a person is, it's inevitable to have some fear before giving birth.

After all, it's like walking through the Gates of Hell for a woman.

Chu Jin smiled and said, "Don't worry, the chief surgeon that your brother-in-law found for you is of professor level. When you're on the operating table, try not to be so nervous. A cesarean is much more comfortable than a natural birth. Just think, I went through it myself, didn't I? Really, it's nothing to worry about."

"Okay." Ding Siyu nodded, the comparison comforting her and greatly easing her mind.

Han Zixiu also approached Ding Siyu, bent down, and kissed her forehead. "Wife, don't be nervous. I'll be waiting outside for you and the children."

"Have you prepared the children's clothes and toiletries?" Ding Siyu asked.

"Yes, everything's ready." Han Zixiu nodded.

"What about diapers? What about baby formula?" Ding Siyu continued to ask.

"Wife, you just focus on the delivery. I've prepared everything; you don't have to worry at all," Han Zixiu said with a heavy tone.

"Okay." Ding Siyu nodded again. "Then that's good. Han Zixiu, do you hope our babies are boys or girls?"

"As long as you give birth to them, boy or girl, I'll like them both," Han Zixiu responded, his words smooth and well-crafted.

Chu Jin stood aside, looked at Han Zixiu, then at Mo Zhixuan, and lightly opened her red lips, "Look at brother-in-law. You should learn a bit from him. In the future, you're not allowed to prefer sons over daughters, always bullying Bao Bao!" Mo Zhixuan had often bullied Bao Bao at home.

Mo Zhixuan raised his eyebrows slightly, "Jin, girls should be raised richly, and boys frugally. That's the rule our ancestors left us. How can you say I prefer sons over daughters? Besides, when have I ever bullied Bao Bao?" He was a reasonable person.

"Do you dare tell me, on your conscience, that you haven't preferred sons over daughters?" Chu Jin poked Mo Zhixuan's head.

"No." Mo Zhixuan was serious as he answered.

He had always been following the rules laid down by the ancestors, so how could he harbor the outdated notion of preferring sons? After all, the ancestors themselves said girls should be raised richly, boys frugally.

He wasn't the one in the wrong.

Chu Jin: "Heh."

The time for the surgery soon arrived, and Ding Siyu was wheeled into the operating room by the doctors and nurses.

With a "slam," the doors to the operating room closed behind her.

The operating light came on.

Now, the anxious one was Han Zixiu.

He stood outside the operating room, eyes unwavering from the doors.

Seeing Han Zixiu like that, Mo Zhixuan seemed to see himself a year ago. He walked over, patted Han Zixiu on the shoulder, and said softly, "Sis will be fine. Don't worry. A cesarean section is a surgery without any risk."

Han Zixiu also straightened up for once and looked at Mo Zhixuan. "Got a smoke?"

Ever since Ding Siyu got pregnant, he had quit smoking, but now, he felt restless inside.

Since Chu Jin was pregnant, Mo Zhixuan had also quit smoking, and hadn't touched one again even after Bao Bao and Bei Bei were born, "No, shall I go buy you some?"

"Yeah, sorry to trouble you," Han Zixiu said, using the words 'sorry to trouble you' in a rare moment of civility that would have been unimaginable under normal circumstances between the two of them.

"Okay, just wait for me." Mo Zhixuan understood Han Zixiu's current state of mind.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan went downstairs together to buy cigarettes, while Han Zixiu stood in front of the operating room.

Until they returned, Han Zixiu maintained the same posture.

Mo Zhixuan handed the cigarettes to Han Zixiu, and thoughtfully brought a lighter.

"Thank you." Han Zixiu lit the cigarette, thanked Mo Zhixuan, and then said, "Last time my sister went into the delivery room, did you wait like this? How long did you wait?" Han Zixiu was getting impatient; it had already been almost an hour since they went in, yet there was still no response.