

R Woman 861

Chapter 861: end it in a joking manner.

"Alright, then let's go together," Chu Jin nodded and continued, "But you have to behave yourselves, don't disturb Auntie, and don't speak out of turn." Mo Qingyi was already in such a state, and Chu Jin worried that Bao Bao and Bei Bei, with their unfiltered mouths, might say something hurtful and sadden Duanmu Zhe.

Children's mouths can be very fast, and without careful attention, they might blurt out something unpleasant.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei nodded obediently, "Mommy, don't worry, we know our limits." The two little ones chorused together, sounding like little adults, which made Chu Jin unable to help but smile.

The Duanmu Family.

Zhou Jin was kneeling in front of the Buddhist hall, praying for Mo Qingyi.

The words of Lin Xiyuan echoed in her ears over and over again.

Was the Duanmu Family really going to come to an end?

Zhou Jin closed her eyes and let out a deep sigh.

So many days had passed, and Mo Qingyi was still the same, with no sign of improvement...

Maintaining life on expensive medicines every day, if Mo Qingyi had been born in an ordinary family, she might have long since passed away.

After a while, Zhou Jin stood up from the meditation cushion, picked up the cell phone next to her, and called Lin Xiyuan.

After so many days, it was time to give Lin Xiyuan a response.

Lin Xiyuan's eyes flashed with a glimmer of delight when she saw the incoming call from Zhou Jin, but she didn't answer right away. She waited for a while, letting the ringing continue for a second time before picking up.

"Hello, Auntie? I'm sorry, I was just a bit busy and didn't hear the phone ring, so I'm only answering now."

Whatever was said on the other end, the smile remained on Lin Xiyuan's face, "Mhm, I understand. Goodbye, Auntie."

After hanging up, Lin Xiyuan's smile faded as she entered the restroom, changed into a new set of clothes, and then drove out.

If Zhou Jin refused to help her, she would have to find her own way out.

In this life, she really couldn't afford to lose again.

Lin Xiyuan arrived at the hospital just as Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan were leaving.

They brushed past each other, but neither paid any attention to the other.

Lin Xiyuan was carrying a bouquet of fresh flowers as she walked straight into Mo Qingyi's hospital room.

In the room, Duanmu Zhe heard the knock and answered faintly with two words, "Come in."

Lin Xiyuan pushed the door open, her face wearing a faint smile, "Big Brother Duanmu, I've come to see how Sister Qingyi is doing."

Duanmu Zhe looked up at Lin Xiyuan, "Thank you, please have a seat." Compared to before, Duanmu Zhe looked much more haggard. Some stubble was showing on his chin, and Lin Xiyuan, who had never seen him like this, momentarily felt a twinge of pity.

She looked at Duanmu Zhe with a bit of nervousness, "Big Brother Duanmu, are you alright? Sister Qingyi has become like this; you need to stay strong."

Duanmu Zhe nodded, his voice low, "I'm fine."

"Big Brother Duanmu, I brought some chicken soup, why don't you have some first?" Lin Xiyuan set the flowers on the table and took out an insulated container from her bag. As she unscrewed it, the sweet scent of chicken soup filled the room, tantalizing the taste buds.

But Duanmu Zhe showed no expression on his face and said indifferently, "Put it away, I don't want any."

Lin Xiyuan ladled some chicken soup into a small bowl and offered it to Duanmu Zhe, gently saying, "Big Brother Duanmu, please have a little bit. You can't not eat anything. It's not good for you either."

Duanmu Zhe pushed the bowl away, "No need, thank you."

At a time like this, how could Duanmu Zhe have any appetite for chicken soup.

Lin Xiyuan sighed and sat across from Duanmu Zhe, "It's heartbreaking to see Sister Qingyi like this, but what's done is done, and you have to face reality. Life goes on, and you must continue to walk the path ahead."

"I believe Qingyi will definitely wake up," Duanmu Zhe lifted his gaze to Lin Xiyuan, his tone steady, "Qingyi will not leave me."

Lin Xiyuan tucked a strand of hair behind her ear, looking somewhat concerned, "But, Brother Duanmu, have you ever thought about what if Sister Qingyi can't hold on... and she leaves you? One cannot dwell in the past forever; we must face reality."

Duanmu Zhe closed his eyes, "Then I'll go with her. Wherever she goes, I will follow, and devote my life to being by her side."

That was the sincerest of confessions.

Regrettably, the present Mo Qingyi couldn't hear it.

A pang of sorrow briefly flitted across the depths of Lin Xiyuan's eyes.

Duanmu Zhe then spoke, "If there's nothing else, you should go back, Qingyi likes quiet."

That statement was a polite way to dismiss her, and Lin Xiyuan could certainly discern that.

However, since she had come, she wouldn't leave so easily.

"Brother Duanmu," Lin Xiyuan stood up, facing Duanmu Zhe, "I have a way to save Mo Qingyi's life."

"You have a way? What is this way?" With these words, Duanmu Zhe stood up in excitement, even failing to notice the change in how Lin Xiyuan addressed Mo Qingyi.

"If I say I have a way, naturally I won't disappoint you," Lin Xiyuan spoke slowly, "However, I have one condition."

Duanmu Zhe grabbed Lin Xiyuan's shoulders, his voice urgent, "What condition, say it! As long as it's within my power, I will agree." As long as Mo Qingyi could be saved, Duanmu Zhe was willing to do anything.

Lin Xiyuan looked at the hands Duanmu Zhe had on her shoulders, a hint of a smile appearing on her lips.

Duanmu Zhe also realized his own impropriety and quickly retracted his hands, his eyes filled with endless hope.

Lin Xiyuan continued, "Brother Duanmu, this condition of mine is really very simple for you, just a nod of your head will suffice."

"Just tell me directly," Duanmu Zhe maintained some calm.

Lin Xiyuan gazed at Duanmu Zhe, her expression somber, its depths unfathomable, as she slowly began, "Brother Duanmu, I won't hide it from you, ever since you saved me that time, I've been irretrievably in love with you. I love everything about you, and I want to be with you. I don't need any status, nor will I compete with Sister Qingyi for her place. I just want to give you a child, Brother Duanmu, please let me have your child."

Lin Xiyuan spoke with utmost seriousness, without a trace of jest in her words.

Duanmu Zhe frowned slightly and quickly interrupted Lin Xiyuan, "Stop! This is impossible!" To Duanmu Zhe, this proposition was utterly preposterous. How could he possibly have a child with any woman other than Mo Qingyi?

Lin Xiyuan grabbed Duanmu Zhe's hand, "Brother Duanmu, even as a way of repaying a debt of gratitude? You saved my life, and I'm repaying you with a life, making us even from then on!"

Duanmu Zhe shook off Lin Xiyuan's hand, saying firmly, "Lin Xiyuan, I saved you that day because it was my duty as a soldier! And because of the affection between our parents. I don't need your gratitude, you should leave. I'll treat today's words as if you've never said them."

"Brother Duanmu, don't you want to save her life?" Lin Xiyuan pointed to Mo Qingyi on the bed.

Duanmu Zhe was silent for a moment before saying, "Apart from this matter, I can agree to any other condition." No matter what, he would not do anything that would disappoint or hurt Mo Qingyi.

Lin Xiyuan laughed briefly, then continued, "Brother Duanmu, I know you want to save her life. You love her so much; you wouldn't ignore her plight. My condition isn't too excessive; I merely want to bear your child. Why won't you even agree to that? After all, you and she haven't managed to have a child up until now. If I have a child for you and it saves her life, so she can stand by your side once more, wouldn't that be the best of both worlds? Why make things so difficult for yourself?"

Lin Xiyuan's words had reached this point, but Duanmu Zhe had no intention to compromise at all.

In the eyes of others, this proposition no matter how you looked at it, was a boon for Duanmu Zhe — after all, having a woman offer to bear his child and save a life at that, was an opportunity hard to find even with a lantern.

But to Duanmu Zhe, it was unbearable.

The love between him and Mo Qingyi was something no one had the right to desecrate.

"There's no use in more words where sentiments do not align, you should leave," Duanmu Zhe made a gesture of farewell.

Lin Xiyuan looked at Duanmu Zhe, her voice raised, "Duanmu Zhe, does having a child with me humiliate you that much? Are you going to just watch Mo Qingyi die?" Lin Xiyuan's eyes had reddened, not knowing what place she held in Duanmu Zhe's heart, nor understanding whether all her efforts in these two lifetimes were right or wrong...

She really didn't know.

Love was like a poppy seed in her heart, taking root and sprouting, growing unceasingly.

Once, she thought time could erase everything.

In the end, she realized that time only deepened love instead of mitigating it.

Time was never a good medicine; it was poison.

She tried so hard to get what she wanted.

But in the end...

A bitter smile crept onto Lin Xiyuan's face.

Duanmu Zhe looked up at Lin Xiyuan, "If she really died, then it was just fate. When the time comes, on the road to the underworld, I won't let her be alone. My Qingyi, she's afraid of the dark." The meaning behind Duanmu Zhe's words was very clear.

If something really happened to Mo Qingyi, he would follow her in death.

Lin Xiyuan nodded, as tears unconsciously fell from her eyes, "Alright, alright, I understand. Your love is stronger than gold, I truly envy you."

Duanmu Zhe sighed, "You can go out now."

Lin Xiyuan stood there without moving.

"Please leave," Duanmu Zhe repeated.

Lin Xiyuan looked at Duanmu Zhe, took out a pill from her pocket, and handed it to him, speaking coldly, "This is a poison pill, with no antidote. Once taken, it will dissolve into a pool of blood within three minutes. If you refuse to give me a child, then swallow this pill, and I will allow Mo Qingyi a path to reincarnation."

This act intended to use Duanmu Zhe's death to secure Mo Qingyi's life.

They were in love, weren't they? Then she would ensure that they could never meet again, not in life nor in death!

Similarly, Lin Xiyuan was also forcing Duanmu Zhe's hand.

She knew how much Duanmu Zhe loved Mo Qingyi; he surely couldn't bear to leave her and go on his own. Compared to his life, what was having a child with her?

Alive, at least he could continue to love Mo Qingyi.

If he died, their destiny would truly come to an end.

So, Lin Xiyuan was confident that Duanmu Zhe would never swallow the poison pill.

Compared to death, Duanmu Zhe might prefer to live.

"Is that really true?" Duanmu Zhe looked at Lin Xiyuan, his eyes narrowing slightly.

"I never lie to you," Lin Xiyuan stated with certainty, her eyes filled with resolute determination. She continued, "It's up to you whether you're willing to die or not."

In the face of Mo Qingyi's life and death, Duanmu Zhe didn't have the luxury of time to think it over. He took the pill from Lin Xiyuan's hand and, without any hesitation, swallowed it.

Faced with the choice of death or betraying Mo Qingyi, he chose the former.

He would rather die than betray Mo Qingyi.

Lin Xiyuan stood there stunned, her face devoid of any expression, the image of Duanmu Zhe swallowing the pill replaying in her mind.

She had never expected Duanmu Zhe to choose death over having a child with her when faced with the choice.

He would rather die than have a child with her.

Lin Xiyuan watched Duanmu Zhe, took a deep breath, and her face broke into a relaxed smile, "Big Brother Duanmu, I'm sorry, I was just joking with you. I don't have the power to save Sister Qingyi, the pill is fake, just a piece of candy. I really just wanted to test how deep your feelings for each other were. I'm sorry, Big Brother Duanmu, I won't joke about your feelings for Sister Qingyi ever again. Please forgive me." Full of guilt, Lin Xiyuan deeply bowed to Duanmu Zhe and then left the hospital room.

At that moment, Lin Xiyuan felt like a complete fool.

She had planned for today for so long.

In the end, she had not been able to shake Duanmu Zhe in the slightest.

Suddenly, Lin Xiyuan began to understand how Duanmu Zhe felt.

Duanmu Zhe was willing to die for Mo Qingyi, and she had already died for Duanmu Zhe once.

In some ways, she and Duanmu Zhe were the same, extraordinarily devoted.

The only difference was, Duanmu Zhe and his love were in a mutual relationship.

While she was just hopelessly in love.

She loved Duanmu Zhe too deeply to extricate herself.

Duanmu Zhe loved Mo Qingyi too deeply to extricate himself.

She would never fall in love with anyone else in her lifetime, and Duanmu Zhe would never waver in his devotion. Putting herself in his shoes, she suddenly understood Duanmu Zhe...

It was all her fault, all her fault for falling in love with someone she shouldn't have.

Thinking this, Lin Xiyuan's silhouette grew straighter, and from an angle where Duanmu Zhe couldn't see her, she was already in tears.

The story began in the most real way but ended as a joke.

Duanmu Zhe stared at Lin Xiyuan's retreating figure for a long, long time, unable to react.

He thought that with his death, he could exchange it for Mo Qingyi's life.

He never imagined that all this was just a joke in the eyes of others...

Duanmu Zhe clenched his fist and smashed it onto the table, leaving a deep dent, his eyes bloodshot.

Why?

Why do people give him hope only to disappoint him?

This feeling of seeing a glimmer of dawn only to be engulfed in darkness again was truly unbearable...

No one could understand.

"Qingyi, please get well, okay?" Duanmu Zhe took Mo Qingyi's hand in his, pressed it against his forehead, and cried silently.

He so wished that what Lin Xiyuan had said before was serious.

He wanted Mo Qingyi to come back to life.

"Little Zhe." Duanmu Sheng entered from outside, carrying takeout food in her hands. She said softly, "Little Zhe, eat something first."

Duanmu Zhe looked up at Duanmu Sheng, trying to muster a smile, "Big Sister, I'm not hungry."

Duanmu Sheng sighed, "Hungry or not, eat something first."

"I really am not hungry," Duanmu Zhe gently pushed away the bowl offered by Duanmu Sheng.

"Little Zhe, look at what you've become! If you keep this up, your body won't be able to take it! If Qingyi wakes up and sees you like this, she will be sad too!" Her voice softened as she spoke. "Little Zhe, at least eat something for Qingyi's sake, okay?"

The current Duanmu Zhe was nothing like his former self.

To Duanmu Sheng, as his sister, it pained her heart to see him like this.

"Sis, do you think Qingyi can still wake up?" Duanmu Zhe looked at Duanmu Sheng, his voice hoarse.

Duanmu Sheng nodded firmly, "She can, definitely."

A smile suddenly spread across Duanmu Zhe's lips, "Sis, I believe you."

"Then eat something quickly." Duanmu Sheng handed him a bowl of century egg porridge.

"Okay," Duanmu Zhe nodded and, with tears mixed in, devoured the food hungrily.

Chapter 862: Origin, Extinction, Dissipation

Even for the sake of Mo Qingyi, he had to eat well; he couldn't let Mo Qingyi worry.

Seeing Duanmu Zhe willing to eat, Duanmu Sheng finally breathed a sigh of relief. She glanced at the fresh flowers and chicken soup on the table and asked curiously, "Little Zhe, has someone been here just now?"

"Mm," Duanmu Zhe nodded.

"Who was it?" Duanmu Sheng asked with some curiosity.

Duanmu Zhe's expression was somewhat faint, "It was Lin Xiyuan."

"Oh," Duanmu Sheng went over to arrange the flowers in the vase properly, then said, "What did she come for?"

"Nothing much," Duanmu Zhe drank the last of the preserved egg porridge in his bowl and said with a hint of indifference, "Just made a little joke with me."

A joke he almost took seriously.

Seeing Duanmu Zhe like this, Duanmu Sheng didn't ask any further.

Lin Xiyuan left the hospital without crying or showing anger. She was calm, eerily calm.

Thirty minutes later, a black sedan stopped in front of the Lin family's villa.

Back in the house, Lin Xiyuan moved the room's green plants to the balcony to bathe in the sun, then watered them.

The watered plants, under the sunlight, looked vibrant, lush, and dripping with vitality.

"Xiyuan," Lin Lan came over with a bowl of mung bean soup, smiling, "It's strangely hot today. Have some mung bean soup first, it's cooling and detoxifying."

Lin Xiyuan reached out to take it, "Thanks, Mom."

After finishing the mung bean soup, Lin Xiyuan seemed to remember something and said, "Mom, I'd like to take this holiday to go out for a bit, to clear my mind. I've already bought a ticket for tonight's flight and might not come back for a short while."

Having experienced what she just had, it was good for Lin Xiyuan to take a trip. Lin Lan nodded, "Okay, go ahead, but will you be okay by yourself?"

"I'm going with a classmate," Lin Xiyuan hugged Lin Lan, "Don't worry, Mom. I'm not a child anymore."

Lin Lan patted Lin Xiyuan's shoulder, smiling, "No matter how old you get, you're still Mom's child."

Hearing this, Lin Xiyuan's eyes reddened slightly, but she quickly held back the tears and sincerely uttered four words, "Mom, thank you."

Those four words carried so much meaning.

Four years, neither long nor short, the Lin family had given her so much warmth.

"Silly child," Lin Lan let go of Lin Xiyuan, "I'll help you pack your luggage."

Lin Xiyuan nodded and continued, "Mom, while I am not at home, you must remember to water my flowers. And don't forget to feed Little Fu and Little Lu morning and evening." Little Fu and Little Lu were two tortoises Lin Xiyuan was raising.

As Lin Lan packed clothes, she said, "You don't even need to tell me. When you were in the army, I took care of these flowers and tortoises. Don't worry, I will fatten up Little Fu and Little Lu."

"Thanks, Mom. You're the best," Lin Xiyuan, hugging Lin Lan's neck, began to act coquettishly.

If she could turn back time to four years ago, she would definitely not choose the same path.

She would be a good daughter to the Lin family, fully savor the family affection she had never enjoyed before, be filial to her parents, and let them live out their years in peace...

Unfortunately...

There is no medicine for regret in this world.

"Still acting coquettishly with Mom at this age?" Lin Lan chuckled and patted Lin Xiyuan's head.

Lin Xiyuan replied with a smile, "No matter how old, I am still your daughter."

In the evening, Lin Xiyuan had a reunion dinner with Lin Lan, Lin Hong, and Grandfather Lin.

Lin Xiyuan also had the maids take a family portrait for them.

Grandfather Lin even lamented that apart from the New Year, the family rarely had such a complete reunion.

After dinner, Lin Hong and Lin Lan drove Lin Xiyuan to the airport.

Only after personally seeing Lin Xiyuan onto the plane did Lin Lan and Lin Hong leave.

Following the departure of Lin Hong and Lin Lan, Lin Xiyuan also pulled her luggage away from the airport.

Dressed in black, Lin Xiyuan walked into the night, and soon, her figure disappeared into a mountain range.

In a cave high up on the mountain,

Clad in black, Lin Xiyuan kneeled devoutly in front of a pool of spring water.

"Have you really thought this through?" After a while, an old woman wrapped in a cloak appeared above the spring.

She wore a pointy hat upon her head and had a long nose. Her eyes glinted with a greenish light, and her face bore deep wrinkles, stacking layer upon layer; she looked eerily like the witches described in fairy tales.

This was the Red Lotus Master.

The reason Lin Xiyuan was able to be reborn was also due to this indispensable person.

Lin Xiyuan nodded firmly, "Yes, disciple has thought it through."

Hearing this, Red Lotus Master closed her eyes, began calculating with her fingers, as if pondering something.

A few moments later, Red Lotus Master opened her eyes and said slowly, "Having laid out the plans for four years without detection shows that you are smart, that you can achieve great things. It was not in vain that Number Two and Number Six sacrificed themselves to grant you a second chance at life."

That statement carried a huge amount of information.

Lin Xiyuan was not really Lin Xiyuan.

She was just a wandering soul inhabiting Lin Xiyuan's body.

She was Xi He.

That Xi He who had fallen foolishly in love.

Her life had been exchanged for by the Second Elder and Elder Liu with their own deaths.

A mocking smile curled the corners of Lin Xiyuan's lips as she placed her hands on the ground and kowtowed to the Red Lotus Master, "Disciple's mind is made up, I beg the Master to grant this wish."

Trapped by love, chaotic at heart.

What's the use of living after all?

Only now did Lin Xiyuan realize how completely foolish she had been.

At the same time, she understood the true meaning of the words "true love is invincible."

The truly in love cannot be separated, no matter what destruction you bring to bear.

Like Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi.

Duanmu Zhe would rather die for Mo Qingyi than be with her.

She had no intention of persisting in her entanglements....

The Red Lotus Master sighed and continued, "Your second and sixth teachers exhausted their efforts and even sacrificed themselves to save you. Now, are you really willing to give up your life for a man and fulfill their happiness?"

"Yes," Lin Xiyuan closed her eyes, her gaze shimmering with determination.

All of this, since it started because of her, should also end because of her.

Love can make one foolish, it can take one to the peak, and drive one mad...

If there is an afterlife, she wished not to love anymore...

She wanted to be an ordinary person, travel through the green mountains and waters, living freely and willfully.

The Red Lotus Master closed her eyes and continued.

"Then do you know, if you let your body be sacrificed to that Death Lotus, you will 'scatter like ashes,' forever vanish from this world, with no cycles of reincarnation, no transmigration, and your soul will become a grain of sand, eternally sealed within that Desert of Death."

The price was too great.

But Lin Xiyuan was indifferent, even a trace of relief appeared on her face.

Wasn't that what she sought?

No reincarnation, no transmigration, just a grain of sand in that desert...

Thus, she would never be tormented by love again.

Thus, she would not be tortured by life or death...

Without the seven emotions and six desires, joy, and sorrow...

She would not hold others back, nor would she hold herself back.

Just like this.

Very well.

"Yes," Lin Xiyuan nodded firmly, "Master, I am willing."

The Red Lotus Master sighed, "Well then, since your mind is made up, there's no point in me saying more." With these words, she waved her hand and a blood-red lotus appeared in the air. However, instead of a lotus seed, there was a gaping maw in its center.

It was a sight that instilled fear and made one shudder without being cold.

The Death Lotus held the power to bring life and the force of death.

To gain something, you must pay double.

It was because of her that Mo Qingyi had ended up that way. Now, Lin Xiyuan's 'scatter like ashes' was just to exchange for Mo Qingyi's life; it was simply the cycle of heaven's law.

Lin Xiyuan stood up, bowed to the Red Lotus Master, then looked at the Death Lotus and slowly spoke, "Divine Race's Xi He, today with my body, shall sacrifice to the Death Lotus. My wish is to 'scatter like ashes' in exchange for one person's life, never to regret." After speaking, she leaped forward and her figure immediately vanished into the center of the blood-red lotus.

In that moment, Lin Xiyuan's saw a rush of memories before her eyes.

She bribed prisoners to harm Chu Jin's child...

She schemed to infect Mo Qingyi with a virus, rendering her infertile...

She sowed discord in front of Zhou Jin...

To gain the Duanmu family's trust, she did not hesitate to play with Zhou Yiheng's feelings, making him fall in love with her, and later, she brought about Yan Yi, ensuring the Zhou family and Duanmu family were utterly indebted to her...

Just for Duanmu Zhe to notice her, Lin Xiyuan even colluded with the people of Vietnam, betrayed Mo Qingyi, allowing her to become a hostage of Vietnam.

Even that perfectly targeted gunshot was fired by her.

All she did, she did for Duanmu Zhe.

All these actions and schemes were designed by her own hands.

It's just a pity that in the end, she never got what she wanted.

Thinking back on everything, a tear slid down the corner of Lin Xiyuan's eye.

However, this tear did not extinguish the raging fire on the Red Lotus.

The lotus slowly opened its gaping maw and directly swallowed Lin Xiyuan whole.

In the air, it was as if Lin Xiyuan's figure had never appeared.

Only leaving behind a single tear sparkling with light.

It was crystal clear, resting on the petals of the lotus, twinkling with an unusual glow.

The Red Lotus Master stood up from the water surface, slowly raised her hand, and the Red Lotus that had been floating on the water's surface gradually shrank, then drifted into the Red Lotus Master's hand. In an instant, the Red Lotus disappeared into the palm of the Red Lotus Master.

"Another fool." The voice of the Red Lotus Master was hoarse and murky, her eyes filled with emotions that were hard to discern.

At the same time, the skin of the Red Lotus Master that originally looked like creases, suddenly became smooth and glossy in an instant, as if she were a young girl of eighteen or nineteen. Her previously hunched waist straightened, her figure becoming curvy and delicate. Only her facial features had not changed much yet.

The Red Lotus Master picked up a copper mirror, and reflected in the mirror were features that resembled those of a witch. She slowly covered her face with her hand, murmuring, "One more, just one more."

An eerie smile appeared on her face.

Hospital.

Duanmu Zhe had been keeping watch at the bedside. Days of fatigue caused Duanmu Zhe to fall into a deep sleep beside Mo Qingyi.

At that moment, one of Mo Qingyi's fingers suddenly moved.

Mo Qingyi struggled to open her eyes but in vain, for they felt glued shut no matter how hard she tried, she just could not open them.

Even in his sleep, Duanmu Zhe held Mo Qingyi's hand tightly. He clearly felt her fingers seemed to move.

"Qingyi!" Duanmu Zhe awoke from his sleep with shock and looked at Mo Qingyi in front of him.

But Mo Qingyi's eyes remained tightly closed, no change at all.

"Qingyi..." Duanmu Zhe reached out to touch Mo Qingyi's face.

Still, there was no response from Mo Qingyi.

Just as Duanmu Zhe was about to lose all hope, Mo Qingyi's fingers moved again and her lips also twitched.

"Qingyi! Qingyi, you're awake!" Duanmu Zhe stood up excitedly, pressing the bell at the bedside.

At this time, he absolutely couldn't panic.

The director arrived quickly, "Mr. Duanmu, is there any new development with Miss Mo?"

"Yes, yes." Duanmu Zhe nodded repeatedly, "Yes, director, just now, Qingyi's hand moved! She moved!"

The director walked over to Mo Qingyi, took a small flashlight in one hand, flipped open Mo Qingyi's eyelid with the other, shone the light and then exclaimed, "A miracle, truly a miracle, Mr. Duanmu, please contact Lady Nine immediately!"

"Okay, okay." After so many days, Duanmu Zhe finally saw hope, how could he not be happy?

Chu Jin rushed over immediately after hearing the news, leaving Bao Bao and Bei Bei behind.

The director handed the prepared surgical gown to Chu Jin, respectfully saying, "Lady Nine, given Miss Mo's current condition, we need to perform surgery immediately."

Chu Jin put on the surgical gown, donned rubber gloves, and a mask, leaving only her delicate peach-blossom eyes exposed. Without asking anything further, she said, "Alright, let's go quickly, to the sterile room."

"Sister-in-law Nine, director, we're entrusting everything to you," Duanmu Zhe said to Chu Jin and the director with a serious expression.

"Duanmu, rest assured, we will do our best," Chu Jin slowly spoke.

Duanmu Zhe bowed slowly to the two.

Then, the door of the sterile room slowly closed, and the surgical light inside lit up.

The fate of Mo Qingyi also fluctuated with that surgical lamp, at times bright, at times dim.

Before long, Madam Mo and Zhao Yan arrived with Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

Everyone knew that today's surgery was vitally important for Mo Qingyi. If it failed, Mo Qingyi would not even have the option of living as a vegetative person ever again.

"Amitabha, may Buddha bless her," Madam Mo murmured while fingering her Buddha Beads with utmost devotion.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei sat sensibly on a plastic chair aside.

Time ticked away, second by second.

Three hours later, the surgery light finally went off.

Everyone's gaze shifted to the door of the sterile room.

After a moment, the door slowly opened.

"Sister-in-law Nine, how did it go?" Duanmu Zhe immediately approached and asked.

Chu Jin nodded with a smile, "The surgery went very smoothly. Once the anesthesia wears off her, Qingyi will be able to wake up. You should quickly prepare some food she likes to eat; she must be hungry after so many days."

The moment Madam Mo heard these words, she burst into tears.

Finally, finally, her vigilance was rewarded with a glimpse of the clearing skies.

"Sister-in-law Nine, thank you, thank you so much," Duanmu Zhe was beyond excited.

Chu Jin took off her rubber gloves, smiling, "Duanmu, you don't have to thank me. The one who truly saved Qingyi was herself. If she hadn't kept persisting and not given up, then nobody could have saved her."

It was strange indeed. Chu Jin hadn't developed a method to combat the virus, yet during the surgery today, she accidentally discovered that the viruses in Mo Qingyi's body had completely disappeared without a trace.

"Mom, please take care of Qingyi for a moment, I'm going to buy her something to eat," Duanmu Zhe turned his eyes towards Mrs. Mo.

Mrs. Mo nodded and then said, "Little Zhe, tidy yourself up and give Qingyi a surprise."

With his disheveled beard, Duanmu Zhe knew that Mo Qingyi would surely feel distressed if she saw him like this.

To take good care of Mo Qingyi, Duanmu Zhe hadn't had a good night's sleep for days. At this moment, he was not in high spirits and had lost more than a little weight.

"Alright, Mom, I know," Duanmu Zhe ran excitedly downstairs.

Watching Duanmu Zhe's retreating figure, a smile appeared on Mrs. Mo's face as well.

In the hospital room, Mrs. Mo was wiping Mo Qingyi's face, while Zhou Jin was trimming her nails.

Mo Qingyi loved beauty, so Mrs. Mo and Zhou Jin wanted her to see the best version of herself when she woke up.

"Auntie, when will she wake up?" Bao Bao stood on tiptoe at the bedside, looking at Mo Qingyi.

"She will wake up in a little while," Chu Jin reached out and touched Bao Bao's head.

"Mommy, how long is a little while?" Bei Bei looked up at Chu Jin, curiosity twinkling in her large eyes.

Chu Jin slightly smiled, "About one more hour."

"Is one hour 70 minutes?" Bao Bao scratched his head.

Bei Bei smacked Bao Bao's head, "Silly brother, one hour is 60 minutes, 3600 seconds."

Bei Bei was naturally sensitive to numbers; Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan never deliberately taught her these things, but she knew them on her own.

"Oh, I see," Bao Bao said, touching his head innocently.

An hour later, Mo Qingyi indeed slowly opened her eyes.

Duanmu Zhe immediately rushed to grasp Mo Qingyi's wrist, "Qingyi, you're finally awake! Qingyi!" Duanmu Zhe cried tears of joy.

So many times, Duanmu Zhe dreamt of Mo Qingyi being well and by his side, but upon waking up, it was just a dream.

That feeling of powerlessness was something no one could understand.

Now, Mo Qingyi had finally come to her senses, and heaven knows how happy Duanmu Zhe was.

Faced with Duanmu Zhe's fervent affection, Mo Qingyi appeared very calm. She looked at Duanmu Zhe with a puzzled and somewhat dazed expression as if... she didn't recognize Duanmu Zhe or anyone else.

"Who are you?" Mo Qingyi asked curiously, looking at Duanmu Zhe, slightly aghast.

Duanmu Zhe was stunned. He hugged Mo Qingyi tightly, "Qingyi, don't scare me! Qingyi!" Duanmu Zhe's voice began to waver with a sobbing tone.

What was happening?

How could Mo Qingyi not recognize him?

"Qingyi, you're joking with me, right?" Duanmu Zhe asked, his eyes red as he looked at Mo Qingyi.

Mo Qingyi gazed at him innocent, blinking, "Ouch, that hurts. Who exactly are you? Do I know you?"

At these words, surprise flashed in the eyes of the others as well.

Mrs. Mo and Zhou Jin immediately gathered around Mo Qingyi, "Qingyi, do you recognize me?"

Mo Qingyi looked at Mrs. Mo, shook her head in confusion.

"What about me? Do you still recognize me?" Zhou Jin asked.

"I don't know you," Mo Qingyi continued to shake her head.

"Auntie, auntie," Bao Bao and Bei Bei squeezed next to Mo Qingyi, "Auntie, do you still recognize me and Bei Bei?"

Mo Qingyi tried hard to remember, then shook her head regretfully, "I don't know, who are you guys?"

Bao Bao immediately expressed his shock, "It's all over, it's all over, auntie has become like a foolish son from a landlord's house."

Bei Bei quickly covered Bao Bao's mouth, "Brother, don't talk nonsense! Auntie is clearly a girl; how can you describe her with such a term?"

Chu Jin stood aside, watching Mo Qingyi, her eyebrows slightly raised, a smile spreading across her lips.

"How can this be?" Duanmu Zhe mumbled to himself, then lifted a finger towards Mo Qingyi and said, "Qingyi, do you know what number this is?"

Mo Qingyi looked at Duanmu Zhe, and seriously said, "Do you think I'm really stupid? Not even knowing such a simple thing, that's an 8."

An 8?

It seems auntie really did become foolish!

Bao Bao immediately pulled at Mo Qingyi's sleeve and whispered, "Auntie, that's a 1."

"Nonsense!" Mo Qingyi frowned slightly, "That's clearly an 8!"

It appeared that not only had Mo Qingyi lost her memory, but her IQ had also taken a hit.

Duanmu Zhe could only look to Chu Jin for help, "Sister-in-law, Qingyi she..."

Chu Jin walked over with a smile, "Let me take a look."

Chapter 863: Little Black Charcoal

Duanmu Zhe rose to his feet to give Chu Jin a place, "Ninth Sister-in-law, please have a seat."

Chu Jin composed herself and sat on the edge of the bed, extending her hand to take Mo Qingyi's pulse before closing her eyes.

Everyone in the room held their breath following Chu Jin's actions.

It was very quiet.

Nobody spoke.

After a moment, Chu Jin slowly opened her eyes, and the elderly Mrs. Mo asked anxiously, "Jin, how is it? What's the situation with Qingyi now? Is there any chance for recovery?"

Chu Jin sighed, then shook her head.

The implication was clear without words.

Seeing Chu Jin like this, Bao Bao immediately grew anxious and turned to Bei Bei, "This is bad, this is bad, could Auntie really become an idiot?"

Bei Bei also looked nervous. She glanced at Mo Qingyi and then grasped Bao Bao's hand, "Brother, the books say that we must be conscientious. Auntie has always been so nice to us, even if she really becomes an idiot, we can't despise her, we need to take good care of her."

"Mhm," Bao Bao nodded, looking like a little adult, "Don't worry, sister, I understand all these principles."

Chu Jin and these siblings, who were like treasured clowns, almost burst into laughter.

Where on earth did these two little fools learn such things? They were truly amusing.

"Ninth Sister-in-law, please just tell me the truth, can Qingyi's intelligence still recover?" Duanmu Zhe looked at Chu Jin and continued.

Chu Jin glanced at Mo Qingyi, shaking her head regretfully, "Right now, Qingyi has the intelligence of a three-year-old child and I'm afraid it can't recover."

"Ah?" Dismay spread across Duanmu Zhe's face, "How can this be? Ninth Sister-in-law, could you have made a mistake?"

How could the heavens be so cruel?

It was hard enough for Mo Qingyi to finally wake up, only to now say she could only remain like a three-year-old child.

Duanmu Zhe found it hard to accept this all at once.

Chu Jin slightly raised her eyebrows, "What, are you questioning my medical skills?"

Duanmu Zhe snapped out of his disbelief, "Ninth Sister-in-law, I didn't mean that, but is there really no way to restore Qingyi's intelligence?"

The elderly Mrs. Mo also cared deeply about this issue and hastily said, "Jin, Qingyi has finally regained consciousness, please think of a solution!" Mo Qingyi's life had already been hard enough.

Chu Jin smiled and said, "Actually, there is a method, but it depends on whether Duanmu is willing."

"What's the method?" The elderly Mrs. Mo immediately asked.

Duanmu Zhe also said, "Ninth Sister-in-law, just tell me, whatever the method, I will agree to it."

"Are these words the truth?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly.

"It's the truth!" Duanmu Zhe affirmed with a nod.

Chu Jin then said, "It requires using the blood from your heart as a medicinal guide. If taken for seven days, Qingyi can return to normal. However, after drawing the heart's blood, your soul will suffer damage..."

"I'm willing!" Duanmu Zhe interrupted Chu Jin's words, "As long as Qingyi can recover, no matter what I have to sacrifice, I will agree."

Upon hearing this, emotion appeared on the elderly Mrs. Mo's face.

Chu Jin took out a dagger from her space ring and handed it to Duanmu Zhe, "Come on."

Duanmu Zhe took the dagger, closed his eyes, and stabbed fiercely toward his heart.

"No!"

Just as the dagger was about to pierce into Duanmu Zhe's heart, a pair of soft hands timely grasped Duanmu Zhe's hand.

Duanmu Zhe opened his eyes to see the person before him, and said with some puzzlement, "Qingyi?"

The others were also somewhat astonished by this scene.

"Stop being silly, I was lying to you." Mo Qingyi hugged Duanmu Zhe tightly, "Duanmu Xiaosi, why are you so foolish?" Mo Qingyi was both angry and amused.

Duanmu Zhe was still somewhat dazed, holding Mo Qingyi and somewhat at a loss, "Qingyi, I'm not dreaming, am I? You're really okay?"

"Idiot! Of course, I'm fine! I was just tricking you," Mo Qingyi said while patting Duanmu Zhe's back with tears in her eyes.

She had only wanted to play a joke on Duanmu Zhe.

She didn't expect Duanmu Zhe to take it seriously and actually attempt to draw his heart's blood.

That moment had truly scared Mo Qingyi.

"It's good that you're fine, it's good that you're fine," Duanmu Zhe held Mo Qingyi tightly, his heart filled with relief.

Mo Qingyi released Duanmu Zhe and looked up at Chu Jin, chiding him, "Jin, you are too bad! Even though you knew I was pretending, you actually scared Duanmu Xiaosi, this honest person!"

Chu Jin reached out and pinched Mo Qingyi's cheek, "It was all thanks to your convincing performance."

The elderly Mrs. Mo said with a smiling face, "It's not just Xiaosi who was fooled, even I was deceived."

Zhou Jin smiled without a word.

Actually, she had seen through Mo Qingyi's joke from the beginning; she just chose not to reveal it.

"That's great, Auntie isn't silly anymore! Auntie can take us to buy candy again!" Bao Bao jumped up happily.

It didn't matter whether Auntie was silly or not, what mattered was that Auntie could take them to buy candy again.

Buying candy was the most important thing.

Bei Bei stood in front of Mo Qingyi, blinking her large eyes and asked softly, "Auntie, do you now recognize who I am?"

"You're Auntie's little cotton-padded jacket," Mo Qingyi kissed Bei Bei.

"And what about me?" Bao Bao immediately stepped next to Mo Qingyi, "Auntie, what am I to you?"

Mo Qingyi replied with a smile, "You're my little vest."

Bao Bao seemed unhappy and said, "Auntie, I also want to be your little cotton-padded jacket..." A vest was missing two sleeves, and he was amazing, how could he just be a vest?

Bei Bei glanced sideways at Bao Bao, "Brother, you're so shameless! I'm Auntie's little cotton-padded jacket."

"I don't care!" Bao Bao crossed his arms, "Anyway, I am going to be Auntie's little cotton-padded jacket."

Mo Qingyi touched Bao Bao's little head, "Alright, alright, Bao Bao is also my little cotton-padded jacket, you both are my little cotton-padded jackets."

Bao Bao was still not satisfied, pouting his lips, "Auntie, I want to be that little cotton-padded jacket you love wearing the most."

Bei Bei was not to be outdone, "I am the little cotton-padded jacket Auntie loves wearing the most! Right, Auntie?"

Mo Qingyi reached out to embrace Bao Bao and Bei Bei. "You two are auntie's most beloved little cotton-padded jackets."

In the hospital room, laughter abounded.

Seeing the adorable little fellows Bao Bao and Bei Bei, Zhou Jin's eyes warmed slightly.

If only she could have two adorable grandsons like them someday.

Then she would die with no regrets.

However, such things cannot be forced.

Now that Mo Qingyi had safely awakened, she was already very happy.

As for the matter of offspring, she would just let nature take its course.

After several days of observation in the hospital, Mo Qingyi moved back to the Duanmu Family home.

Having suffered serious injuries, she would need at least a year and a half to recover, so she couldn't report back to the army for the time being.

Mo Qingyi was injured in the line of duty, so Duanmu Zhe could stay home to take care of her.

These days, the two of them were together all the time and never got tired of each other.

Having experienced life and death together, they treasured each other all the more.

After a heavy rain, a rare rainbow appeared in the sky of the Superpower World.

The rainbow attracted many onlookers.

At that moment, Duanmu Zhe was standing on the balcony, hanging clothes out to dry for Mo Qingyi.

Mo Qingyi tiptoed over, wrapped her arms around Duanmu Zhe's waist from behind, and rested her cheek against his back. "Duanmu Xiaosi, why do I fancy you so much?"

Duanmu Zhe smiled faintly, turned around, and took her into his arms. "I fancy you too."

The two nestled together, with the sunlight casting a soft warm glow over them.

"Look, there's a rainbow," Mo Qingyi suddenly exclaimed, noticing the rainbow in the sky, excitement twinkling in her eyes.

Duanmu Zhe looked up.

"Is it pretty?" Mo Qingyi continued.

"Pretty," Duanmu Zhe nodded slightly, then changed the subject, "But in my eyes, you're the most beautiful. No scenery can compare to you."

Mo Qingyi had heard many sweet nothings from Duanmu Zhe before, but none was as pleasing to her ears as this remark.

Mo Qingyi smiled faintly, the rainbow's colorful light reflecting in her eyes, splendid and vivid.

Inspired by the beautiful rainbow, she wrapped her arms around Duanmu Zhe's waist, tiptoed, and took the initiative to kiss his lips.

Mo Qingyi seldom took the initiative, and Duanmu Zhe, of course, responded eagerly.

Deep in their affection, Mo Qingyi clung to Duanmu Zhe's neck. "Duanmu Xiaosi, let's have a child." She had already asked Chu Jin; she could now get pregnant normally, and today was exactly her ovulation day.

Young and full of vigor, Duanmu Zhe couldn't resist such seduction, and with a heavy breath, he picked up Mo Qingyi at the waist, pushed open the balcony door with his foot, and tossed her onto the soft, large bed.

"Qingyi, tell me, how many do you want to have?" Duanmu Zhe whispered seductively into her ear.

Mo Qingyi wasn't one to be easily provoked; she flipped over, pinning Duanmu Zhe beneath her. "That depends on your capabilities."

"You dare question me?" Duanmu Zhe raised an eyebrow slightly. "Hmm?"

"It's not that I question you," Mo Qingyi said, looping her arms around Duanmu Zhe's neck, "even if the soil is fertile, seeds that don't sprout are still useless."

"Mo Qingyi, you're done for." Duanmu Zhe rolled over and in an instant, pinned Mo Qingyi beneath him.

An exclamation sounded in the intimate atmosphere.

After today, Mo Qingyi would never dare to casually question a man's abilities again.

Terrifying.

Truly terrifying.

The rosy glow suffused the room with amorous color.

Heart-fluttering sounds kept coming from the bedroom.

At the bakery on the street,

"Sheng Sheng, why isn't my goddaughter here again?" Situ Ya walked in from outside, dissatisfied at not seeing Little Nianen, whom she doted on.

Duanmu Sheng, without lifting her head, replied, "I sent her to learn etiquette. After her etiquette class, there's calligraphy. She likely won't be back until after 6 o'clock."

Hearing that, Situ Ya incredulously said, "Oh my! You're actually making Nianen learn so much! Nianen is only three years old this year! Can't you ease up and give Nianen a wonderful childhood?"

After all, Nianen was only three years old.

Forcing such a small child to study so much wasn't good for her growth.

But Duanmu Sheng thought differently; she believed a girl needed to learn more and see more of the world so that she wouldn't be deceived in the future.

A girl should be cultured from a young age.

In the future, she should be able to carve out her own space in the world without relying on a man.

Duanmu Sheng certainly didn't want Little Nianen to follow her own old path.

Pressing Situ Ya down by the shoulders, Duanmu Sheng reassured her, "Don't worry, I know what I'm doing, and I'm doing all this with Nianen's consent. If she truly can't handle it, she would definitely tell me. Don't think Nianen is young; her mind is actually very mature."

"Forget it, I can't be bothered with you. Just don't exhaust my goddaughter," Situ Ya waved her hand dismissively. "Right, how's your sister-in-law doing?"

Situ Ya had heard a bit about Mo Qingyi from Duanmu Sheng.

Being so close to Duanmu Sheng, it was only right for her to show some concern for Mo Qingyi.

Duanmu Sheng nodded, "Yeah, she's fully recovered."

With that, Situ Ya poured herself a drink, "That's great, it'll save you the worry."

"Sheng Sheng, Miss Lin," just then, a warm, pleasant male voice filled the air.

Situ Ya immediately raised her hand to greet the newcomer, "Hi... Little Black Charcoal..."

The person was Zi.

Zi now wasn't black at all, but his skin had turned bronze, with very handsome features. Placed in the sunlight, he was an outright warm-hearted man, the type very popular among young girls.

Chapter 864: haven't you seen a beauty before?

Upon hearing this, Zi felt awkward yet maintained a polite demeanor, looking towards Situ Ya with a polite smile.

As a true man, one should not nitpick with a young lady.

Situ Ya glared at Zi ungraciously, "What are you looking at? Haven't you seen a beautiful woman before?"

Zi continued to smile courteously and said, "Yes, that's right." I just haven't seen a beauty quite like you. What are you going to do about it, bite me?

Situ Ya: "...". This response left her speechless.

She had always considered herself to have thick skin! But it turned out, this guy's skin was even thicker than hers!

Duanmu Sheng chuckled lightly, "Zi, you came."

"Hmm." Zi nodded slightly, "I came for the cake, Sheng Sheng Sister. I heard you created a new one recently."

Situ Ya said in a faint voice, "Nobody asked what you came for, why are you so anxiously explaining? Are you trying to cover something up by being so overt?"

Zi took a seat opposite Situ Ya at a leisurely pace, smiling and saying, "Miss Lin is joking. There's nothing here I need to cover up."

No matter when, Zi always maintained a polite smile.

Every time, Situ Ya tried to steer the conversation towards Duanmu Sheng, but to no avail, as Zi smoothly deflected every time.

It seemed that Duanmu Sheng was going to be disappointed this time...

Actually, Situ Ya did hope that Zi could end up with her.

Situ Ya followed up by saying, "Zi Qi, can I ask you a question?"

Suddenly so friendly and not calling him Little Black Charcoal anymore, Zi felt a little uncomfortable.

Zi took a sip of water with a feigned depth, "Hmm, ask away."

"Do you have a girlfriend yet?" Situ Ya asked slowly as she observed Zi.

Zi had repeatedly rejected her matchmaking attempts; could it be that he already had a girlfriend?

Or perhaps, did he have someone he liked?

Zi shook his head, "No." The main point is, a girlfriend isn't something you can eat, so having one isn't very useful to me.

If a girlfriend could be turned into food, then he might consider it.

Situ Ya nodded, "Next question, what kind of girl do you like?"

Zi said with a smile, "Miss Lin, that's two questions." What about just asking one question as we agreed?

As expected, a woman's words can't be trusted.

Situ Ya, somewhat speechless, said, "What's the big deal if I ask you one more question? Are you even a man? Why are you acting like a fussy woman?"

She wondered how Duanmu Sheng could fall for this kind of small man.

He didn't have an ounce of manliness.

Even if a guy like Zi Qi offered himself to her on a silver platter, she wouldn't take him.

Zi looked up at Situ Ya, equally speechless, "Anyway, I certainly wouldn't like someone like you." Looking at Situ Ya, where was there any sign of a womanly demeanor?

Prickly and bristly, just like a man.

Any man who was blind enough to fall for her was heading for a tragedy!

In his heart, Zi felt immense sympathy for Situ Ya's future husband...

"Haha," Situ Ya let out a scoff, "You talk as if I like you a lot. Do you think you're currency?"

This Situ Ya was really sharp-tongued!

But Zi wasn't one to be trifled with either, especially after spending so much time following Chu Jin.

Zi, with a smile in his eyes, said, "Haha, likewise, you're not all that desirable yourself." And certainly not spiced sunflower seeds! Or even potato chips!

Only something delicious could be Zi's true love.

The two of them, with tacit understanding, crossed their arms and made a face of disgust.

Looking at them like this, Duanmu Sheng's eyes revealed a hint of envy.

She wished she could interact with Zi this easily, but sadly, Zi always treated her as a sister.

Thinking of this, a tinge of sorrow flickered through Duanmu Zhe's eyes.

Compared to her, Zi seemed to talk more with Situ Ya, even though they were both disparaging each other.

But as the saying goes, enemies are bound to meet.

These two...

Just then, a couple walked into the shop, looking anxious, "Sheng Sheng, have you seen our Xiyuan?"

The visitors were none other than Lin Xiyuan's parents, Lin Hong and Lin Lan.

"Uncle, Auntie, what brings you here?" Duanmu Sheng stood up and then said, "I haven't seen Xiyuan. What's wrong? Can't you find her?"

Lin Lan, frantic, had red eyes, "We have no idea where that child has gone, she's not answering her phone or replying to messages. We haven't been in contact with her for over half a month."

Duanmu Sheng poured a glass of water for the couple, "Uncle, Auntie, don't panic. Take it slow and have some water."

Lin Hong and Lin Lan took the water glasses and told Duanmu Sheng the whole story.

After hearing all the details, Duanmu Sheng frowned slightly and said, "Have you contacted Xiyuan's classmates?"

Lin Lan nodded, "We have, but they said that Xiyuan didn't take the flight with them that day. But that day, Lin and I clearly sent her to the plane! How could things turn out like this? Sheng Sheng, do you think Xiyuan could be in danger?"

Lin Hong and Lin Lan were genuinely very worried since Lin Xiyuan had been missing for such a long time.

After all, she was their only daughter.

Their daughter who was once lost and now found again.

Duanmu Sheng immediately reassured them, "No, no, Auntie, don't think like that. Maybe Xiyuan has gone to some mountains where there's no signal. It's normal you can't reach her. Hasn't she told you before that she was going out to have fun? Xiyuan is an adult now, she can take care of herself. You don't need to worry. By the way, have you called the police?"

Lin Lan nodded, "We have already reported to the police, but there's been no progress on their part. Sheng Sheng, haven't you been in contact with Xiyuan these past days?"

"I too haven't seen Xiyuan for quite some time..." Duanmu Sheng's brows knitted together slightly. Since that incident with Zhou Yiheng, she hadn't seen Lin Xiyuan.

Zhou Yiheng was, after all, her own cousin. If she really saw Lin Xiyuan, she would feel extremely guilty.

Situ Ya, standing aside while observing Lin Hong and Lin Lan, frowned slightly and then spoke up, "Uncle and Auntie, excuse me for interrupting, may I ask, is the Xiyuan you're mentioning Lin Xiyuan?"

"Yes, yes, yes! It's Lin Xiyuan!" Lin Hong and Lin Lan nodded excitedly, "Young lady, have you seen our Xiyuan?"

A flicker of confusion passed through Situ Ya's eyes and then she said, "Uncle, Auntie, pardon my boldness, please confirm, are you Lin Hong and Lin Lan?"

Lin Hong immediately said, "I am Lin Hong, she is Lin Lan. We are Lin Xiyuan's parents. Young lady, have you seen our Xiyuan somewhere?" His eyes sparkled with urgency.

Situ Ya nodded, took an envelope out of her bag and handed it to Lin Hong, then said, "Uncle, I met Lin Xiyuan half a month ago. She entrusted me, should I see you here at Sheng Sheng's place, to give this to you."

This was a blood letter, visible only to the recipient; to others, it was just a blank sheet of paper.

Lin Hong didn't immediately open the letter but continued, "Did Xiyuan tell you where she was going? Where was the last place you saw her?"

Situ Ya continued, "I saw her on my way home from work. I remember it was quite late at night, she was in such a hurry, as if she was rushing to do something. After handing me the letter, she left that place, and I didn't ask further."

Even Situ Ya found it baffling.

Reflecting on it now, that girl named Lin Xiyuan was rather strange. How did she know she would definitely meet this couple here?

Had it not been for sharing the Lin surname, Situ Ya wouldn't have agreed to do this favor.

After all, she and Lin Xiyuan didn't know each other, and she had no idea where Lin Xiyuan came from.

Up until now, Situ Ya hadn't figured out why she agreed to this task; it didn't seem to be solely because of the shared Lin surname.

Seeing the expression of the couple now made her feel like she might have gotten involved in some serious trouble.

As long as they could ensure Lin Xiyuan was still alive, Lin Hong and Lin Lan could temporarily breathe a sigh of relief.

"Lin, hurry up and open it to see," Lin Lan urged Lin Hong.

"Alright." Lin Hong's hands trembled as he opened the blood letter.

Unlike ordinary letters, the recipient of a blood letter can see the state of the person writing it between the lines, like a camera recording the scene at that moment.

Lin Xiyuan's handwriting was beautiful, a very formal running script.

Each stroke very clear.

"Mom, Dad, please allow me to call you this one more time.

Thank you for your love over these four years, which has let me experience warmth like I never had before.

In truth, I am not your daughter.

I am but a wandering soul.

By a twist of fate, I occupied Lin Xiyuan's body and continued to live in her place.

My real name is Xi He..."

As they read on, Lin Hong and Lin Lan's eyes moistened.

In less than a moment, tears streamed down their faces.

Xi He explained the whole story in this letter.

This included the love and hatred between her, Mo Qingyi, and the Duanmu Zhe.

It also mentioned her causing Mo Qingyi to nearly die.

And the planning against Zhou Yiheng...

The only thing left out was her intention to trade her own life for Mo Qingyi's.

At the end of the letter, she wrote this.

"Mom and Dad, I'm sorry for disappointing you. I wish that in my next life, I can still be your daughter, a real daughter."

After reading the letter, the couple held their heads and wept bitterly.

Duanmu Sheng, Situ Ya, and Zi were all stunned.

They couldn't see the contents of the blood letter, so naturally, they had no idea what had happened.

"Uncle, Auntie, don't cry. What happened? Tell us, and we can solve it together," Duanmu Sheng hurriedly took out a tissue and handed it to the husband and wife.

The couple still kept crying incessantly.

They had never imagined that their beloved daughter of four years was someone else...

The daughter they had recently regained had now become a cold corpse.

This sudden blow would be unbearable for anyone.

"Uncle and Auntie, did something happen to Lin Xiyuan?" Situ Ya asked cautiously.

Lin Lan said hoarsely, "She can't come back, my Xiyuan can't come back..."

"Auntie, what happened to Xiyuan?" Duanmu Sheng was also worried.

After all, the Duanmu family and the Lin family had many years of connection, and besides, Zhou Jin was so fond of Lin Xiyuan.

Lin Lan just cried and didn't answer Duanmu Sheng's question.

With such an incident, she suddenly didn't know how to face the Duanmu family.

After all, the various events that had occurred in the Duanmu family in recent years had been constantly linked with Lin Xiyuan.

But then again, Lin Xiyuan was no longer Lin Xiyuan...

All these things were caused by Xi He...

Even so, Lin Lan still couldn't get over the psychological hurdle.

After all, it was Xi He who did all these things under the guise of Lin Xiyuan's identity.

"Sheng, Xiyuan's gone! She'll never come back," Lin Lan cried to Duanmu Sheng.

In the letter, Lin Xiyuan did not say where she had gone, only that she had gone to a place far, far away and would never return.

The meaning of never coming back was very deep, and between the lines, there was a longing for death.

Therefore, Xi He most likely was...

Lin Lan dared not think further.

"Aunt, don't worry for now, Xiyuan is not the kind of person to act rashly. She must be playing a prank on you. Once she's had enough fun outside, she'll naturally come back," Duanmu Sheng consoled.

"She's not coming back... She won't be able to come back..." Lin Lan knew Xiyuan couldn't come back after such an incident...

Lin Lan was very clear about it.

"Child, is your name Situ Ya?" Lin Hong looked up at Situ Ya.

"Yes, it is." Situ Ya nodded slightly, but inside, she was somewhat curious as to how the Lin parents knew her name.

She remembered that she had never told Lin Xiyuan her full name from start to finish.

This was a bit strange.

Lin Lan also stopped crying and looked at Situ Ya before continuing, "Is your mother... Qin Ling?"

Situ Ya nodded, "Yes, Uncle and Auntie, how do you know my mother?"

Qin Ling had passed away early, and Situ Ya did not expect that there were still people in the world who remembered her.

Hearing this answer, Lin Lan covered her mouth, and the tears she had finally held back now broke through once again, her shoulders shaking.

Situ Ya narrowed her eyes slightly. She suddenly felt that something was off, as Lin Hong and Lin Lan's reactions were really strange.

Could all this be related to that letter?

Situ Ya shifted her questioning gaze to the blood letter.

However, the Lin couple had already closed the letter, and she couldn't see anything.

Situ Ya redirected her gaze back to the now slightly stunned Lin Lan and Lin Hong and spoke again, "Uncle and Auntie, do you know my mother?"

Lin Hong and Lin Lan immediately snapped out of their daze.

Lin Hong wiped away tears and said, "No, we might have made a mistake. Xiao Lan, we should go home now."

"Right." Lin Lan also stood up, "It's time to go home."

After bidding Duanmu Sheng goodbye, Lin Hong and Lin Lan left the bakery.

But after leaving the bakery, they didn't immediately return to the Lin family's home; instead, they walked into a hospital, clutching a strand of hair.

Bakery.

Situ Ya watched the backs of Lin Hong and Lin Lan as they left, slightly dazed. She always felt there was a special sense of familiarity about this couple.

A moment later, she looked back at Duanmu Sheng and said, "Sheng, your friend's parents are so strange."

Duanmu Sheng scratched his head, "I also think they were a bit odd today. Normally they're not like this. I don't know what exactly happened to Xiyuan." Speaking of which, Lin Hong and Lin Lan were indeed very strange today. They had come to find Lin Xiyuan, but then, after reading a letter, they gave up on looking for her.

Then there was this conversation with Situ Ya.

From their conversation, it was clear that Lin Hong and Lin Lan recognized Lin Yuya's mother, but why would they deny it?

However, all of this had nothing to do with her, so Duanmu Sheng didn't think too much about it.

Situ Ya continued, "I think your friend is quite clever. He shouldn't get into any trouble."

Duanmu Sheng nodded, "I hope so." No matter what, she hoped that Lin Xiyuan was well.

Speaking of which, Lin Xiyuan was also a pitiful person, having been deceived by the same man twice.

Because of the matter concerning Lin Xiyuan, Duanmu Sheng hadn't paid any attention to Zhou Yiheng for a long time.

What Duanmu Sheng disliked most was the kind of person Zhou Yiheng was, fickle and uncommitted; even though he was her cousin, Duanmu Sheng could not forgive him.

**

Mo family.

In the blink of an eye, it was the day for Bao Bao and Bei Bei to start school.

Although Bao Bao and Bei Bei were only four years old, they were already starting the first grade.

There was no kindergarten in the Superpower World, so children directly started in the first grade.

In the morning, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan accompanied the two little ones to pick up their books and bring them back.

At this time, Mo Zhixuan was covering books with protective sleeves with a tender expression on his face, while Chu Jin sat next to them, sharpening pencils, preparing for Bao Bao and Bei Bei's schooling.

Tomorrow would be the official start of school, and Chu Jin was somewhat worried that the little ones might not be accustomed to starting school for the first time.

After all, they were only four years old.

After sharpening the pencils, Chu Jin said to Bao Bao and Bei Bei, "Bao Bao and Bei Bei, once you get to school, you must listen to the teacher, not bully your classmates, get along well with your little friends, and pay attention in class, do you understand?"

Bei Bei nodded obediently, "Okay, mommy. Don't worry, my brother and I won't let you down."

Bao Bao also patted his chest, "Mommy, I'm already a man now. Don't worry, I'll protect my sister at school, and besides me, no one else can bully her."

"You little rascal!" Mo Zhixuan pinched Bao Bao's ear, "You're not allowed to bully your sister either!"

"Daddy, I was just saying. I love my sister too much to even think of bullying her," Bao Bao immediately pleaded for mercy. Bao Bao's emotional intelligence was quite high, often leaving Mo Zhixuan disoriented with his endearing behavior.

Mo Zhixuan then released Bao Bao's ear.

The next morning.

As they were too excited for the first day of school, Bao Bao and Bei Bei woke up early.

After putting on their school uniforms, they were now brushing their teeth in the washroom.

After brushing their teeth, Chu Jin crouched down to tie Bei Bei's red scarf, while Mo Zhixuan was doing the same for Bao Bao.

Though the two little ones were not tall, the red scarves lent them a rather impressive appearance.

"Bao Bao and Bei Bei, from today onwards, you are primary school students. You can't act like small children anymore. You must study hard, aim higher every day, and become useful people in the future, understand?" Chu Jin adjusted Bao Bao's collar.

Bao Bao nodded and then said, "Mommy, from now on, I'll do my own things and won't need your help. Just teach me how to tie this red scarf."

Chu Jin smiled and said, "Okay, mommy will teach you once. Watch closely." With that, she untied the red scarf and slowly tied it again.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were both clever children. After just one look, they learned how to tie the red scarf.

Seeing how smart both children were, Chu Jin felt very relieved.

Perhaps, to others, tying a red scarf might seem like a trivial matter, but to her, a mother, it was not so simple.

It signified the growth of her children.

After breakfast, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan personally escorted Bao Bao and Bei Bei to school.

Because it was the first day of school, the school gate was crowded with parents sending their children to school.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan hadn't sent their children to some aristocratic school; they chose an average public school. Only in the most ordinary places can children see more, hear more, and grow faster.

There was also that saying, only through bitter experience can one become a superior person.

"Daddy and mommy, you can go back now, I can take sister inside. Don't worry, I will protect her," Bao Bao said seriously, holding Bei Bei's hand and looking at Chu Jin.

The children from other families were all entering the school under the escort of their parents. Bao Bao and Bei Bei seemed much more sensible and stronger compared to them.

With so many people around, Bao Bao and Bei Bei were not a bit scared, instead, their big eyes sparkled with curiosity as they discreetly observed every parent there to send off their children to school.

Chapter 865: Pick-up

"Bao Gege, you're also coming to school, huh!" A little distance away, an adorable little girl was bouncing eagerly towards them, several other children trailing behind her.

"Little Butterfly!" Bao Bao waved at the little girl with an air of sophistication.

"Papa, Mama, let me introduce you, this is my good friend, Little Butterfly, Lingling, and Lili," Bao Bao continued to introduce these few children to Chu Jin.

"Hello, uncle and auntie," the three children greeted Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan politely.

"Bao Gege, your mother is really beautiful," Little Butterfly said with a smile, looking at Bao Bao with eyes full of envy.

With a proud and coy expression, Bao Bao said, "Of course, didn't you see who's Mama she is?"

Chu Jin: "...". Why did she have a feeling that her being beautiful was somehow thanks to Bao Bao?

Mo Zhixuan silently observed his son's group of little friends, hmm...

All girls.

And all these girls were very pretty with sparkling eyes.

Most importantly, they all sweetly called Bao Bao 'Bao Gege'.

Mo Zhixuan raised an eyebrow slightly.

Bao Gege, such a cheesy nickname...

This little rascal really knew how to take advantage of others.

Knew how to mooch off people when he was a child, he'd surely be a playboy when he grew up...

Nothing like his father at all.

"Bao Bao didi, Bei Bei meimei," just then, a little boy ran over from afar.

The little boy was slightly taller than Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

"Lin Yuze!" Bei Bei looked back happily.

"Bei Bei meimei, you've also come to school, what class are you in? I'll take you and Bao Bao didi to the classroom," Lin Yuze, who was two years older than Bao Bao and Bei Bei and already in the second grade, knew his way around the school very well and seemed much more mature than both.

Bei Bei looked at Lin Yuze and asked, "My brother and I are in class one-two, Lin Yuze, what class are you in?"

"I'm in two-three, just above your class. Let's go, I'll take you there," Lin Yuze said, pulling Bei Bei towards the school.

Just then, a stylishly dressed woman came out of the crowd and said to Lin Yuze, "Yuze, don't be rude. Have you greeted Sir Ninth and Lady Ninth?" This was Lin Yuze's mother, Qian Jiafeng.

Qian Jiafeng had heard that Sir Ninth's and Lady Ninth's educational methods were different from other parents, so she took a gamble, foregoing the aristocratic schools to send her son to this public school.

She never expected to actually meet Sir Ninth and Lady Ninth here, proving that fortune favors the bold.

"Hello, uncle and auntie," Lin Yuze immediately bent towards Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan in greeting.

Chu Jin reached out to touch Lin Yuze's little head, and smiled, "No need to be so polite, thank you for taking Bao Bao and Bei Bei to the classroom."

Lin Yuze looked up at Chu Jin and exclaimed in amazement, "Auntie, you are so beautiful." Not only beautiful, but also very young. Compared to his mother, Qian Jiafeng, she was like day and night.

Qian Jiafeng was already in her forties when Lin Yuze was born, so she naturally looked quite a bit older than Chu Jin.

The Lin family was a household of high standing. In order to sustain the family lineage, Qian Jiafeng had a total of eight children, with Lin Yuze coming after seven older sisters.

No matter how strong a body is, it can't withstand such wear and tear.

This made Qian Jiafeng look to be in her fifties.

Regrettably, after giving birth to Lin Yuze, Qian Jiafeng did not stabilize her position in the Lin family. However, it was also fortunate that she gave birth to Lin Yuze in her last pregnancy; otherwise, she would have already become a servant in the Lin family by now.

At least now, she was still Mrs. Lin!

Upon hearing Lin Yuze's praise, Chu Jin replied with a smile, "Thank you, you are very adorable too." There were no lies in the words of a child, so Chu Jin was genuinely happy.

"Sir Ninth, Lady Ninth, I am Lin Yuze's mother." Qian Jiafeng greeted from behind with a smile.

Chu Jin had some impression of Qian Jiafeng. Upon hearing her, she politely nodded, "Hello."

Qian Jiafeng's husband, Lin Changtian was also a person of great prestige in the Superpower World. It was just a pity that he was too dismissive of women and his thinking was too feudal. Otherwise, he would have certainly made greater contributions to the Superpower World.

Qian Jiafeng, looking at Lin Yuze, instructed, "Yuze, since you are older than Bao Bao and Bei Bei, and also started school a year before them, you'll need to take good care of them at school, understand?"

Lin Yuze nodded, "Okay, Mom, I understand. Don't worry, I will definitely take good care of brother Bao Bao and sister Bei Bei."

Qian Jiafeng smiled satisfactorily.

Bao Bao, holding Bei Bei's hand, turned to Qian Jiafeng, and said slowly, "Auntie, I can protect my sister. There's no need to trouble Lin Yuze, but thank you for your kind intentions." His sister didn't need protection from other boys.

It was only natural for a brother to protect his sister. Why should an outsider meddle in this matter?

"Oh my, Bao Bao is really sensible," Qian Jiafeng said, looking at Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan with a smile, "Sir Ninth and Lady Ninth are really lucky to have such an understanding young master. In the future, he is sure to achieve great things."

Chu Jin smiled lightly, "Not at all, he's just good at talking. That's all." She then turned to Bao Bao and Bei Bei, "Alright, go to the classroom with Yuze. In the evening, when school is out, Daddy and Mommy will come to pick you up."

Qian Jiafeng immediately spoke up, "Lady Ninth, I'm also coming to pick up Yuze this evening. If you are busy, I can take Bao Bao and Bei Bei back with me. Yuze often plays with Bao Bao and Bei Bei." This was a rare opportunity that Qian Jiafeng did not want to miss.

If she could establish a connection with the Mo family, Madam Fox would soon have no say in the Lin family.

Their family's Lin Yuze was gifted and adorable, more than sufficient for Bei Bei, who had just average talents.

Chu Jin responded with a faint smile, "Thank you, Mrs. Lin, for your kindness, but I'm not busy this evening and can come to pick them up myself." The three realms were very peaceful now, and with Mo Zhixuan maintaining order, most days Chu Jin was just occupied with writing and studying ancient medicine; she wasn't very busy.

There wasn't any need for her to be involved unless it was necessary.

"Oh, Lady Ninth, you don't have to be so formal with me. If you ever get too busy in the future, you can always tell me," Qian Jiafeng said with an accommodating smile. "It's Yuze's good fortune to be friends with Bao Bao and Bei Bei."

Chu Jin smiled lightly, "Thanks, but that won't be necessary." She then turned to Bao Bao and Bei Bei, "What are you waiting for? Go to the classroom."

It's only natural to take responsibility for one's own children, and Chu Jin did not want to entrust it to others.

"Daddy, Mommy, goodbye, Auntie goodbye," Bao Bao and Bei Bei said in a sensible manner as they waved to Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan.

"Uncle, Auntie, goodbye, Mommy goodbye," Lin Yuze followed, waving his hand as well.

When Lin Yuze looked at Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan, his eyes gleamed with envy, but then they dimmed quickly as he looked ahead at his lonely mother.

He reminisced about his mother's instruction and clenched his fist with determination; he definitely wouldn't disappoint her!

He was determined to make his father see his mother again.

With this in mind, Lin Yuze took the initiative to hold Bao Bao and Bei Bei's hands. "Bao Bao, little brother, and Bei Bei, little sister, from now on, I'll take care of your safety. If anyone dares to bully you, just come and tell me."

Seeing this, a pleased light shone in Qian Jiafeng's eyes. This child had finally made her proud.

Back when she had sent Lin Yuze to this school, he had been utterly reluctant.

Indeed, at that time, the students here were all commoners; it was indeed a bit unfair to Lin Yuze.

But now it was different. With Bao Bao and Bei Bei here, Lin Yuze had taken a big step toward his goal.

Watching Bao Bao and Bei Bei enter the classroom, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan finally withdrew their gaze and began walking towards where they had parked.

Outside the school, many parents were uneasy about their children and lingered at the gate. Some were even glued to the walls, closely watching everything inside the campus, fearing that their children would struggle with the unfamiliar surroundings.

"Mo Zhixuan, do you think Bao Bao and Bei Bei will cry?" Chu Jin was also worried about Bao Bao and Bei Bei's situation.

The two children were only four years old this year and had never been away from them for more than a day. The unfamiliarity of everything in the school made Chu Jin uneasy.

"They won't; they're both strong kids," Mo Zhixuan wasn't in the least bit anxious.

"But they're only four years old," Chu Jin continued to say.

Children from ordinary families usually don't start first grade until they're five or six years old, so Bao Bao and Bei Bei were still a bit young.

"What's the big deal? I started first grade when I was three," Mo Zhixuan raised an eyebrow slightly, then added, "Besides, Bao Bao is there. Don't worry, he's a good big brother, he will take good care of Bei Bei. You shouldn't worry."

Although he was also a bit concerned for Bei Bei, as a man, he naturally couldn't let this worry show on his face.

Chu Jin looked at Mo Zhixuan helplessly. After all that, it turned out he was only worried about Bei Bei...

This man's thoughts of favoring girls over boys were getting more and more serious!

"Aren't you worried about Bao Bao?" Chu Jin poked Mo Zhixuan's head with her hand.

Mo Zhixuan looked at Chu Jin, somewhat speechless. "What's there to worry about Bao Bao? He's already a little man!"

"I can't with you," Chu Jin slightly raised her eyebrows.

"While the two little ones are gone, let's go see a movie, shall we? I know there's a big American film that's been released recently and is quite popular," Mo Zhixuan suggested, taking Chu Jin's hand.

Since they had Bao Bao and Bei Bei, his and Chu Jin's private time had become increasingly scarce.

No matter where they went, they were followed by two little ones. They couldn't even enjoy a moment of romance without them, and leaving them behind felt like a grave sin.

Being a parent is hard!

Being a good parent is even harder!

Now that Bao Bao and Bei Bei were off to school, they naturally wanted to enjoy some time alone.

"Are you sure about going to the cinema now?" Chu Jin asked, raising her eyebrows slightly.

It was only just past seven in the morning. The cinema wouldn't be open yet.

"Let's have breakfast first; we won't go home, that's all," Mo Zhixuan already had a plan in mind. He was determined to have a romantic day with Chu Jin today.

"Aren't you busy?" Chu Jin looked at Mo Zhixuan.

Mo Zhixuan slightly curved his lips into a smile. "Even if I'm busy, I need to take a day off. Let's go, today you belong to me." Without the disturbance of the two little ones, this kind of life was really wonderful.

Chu Jin smiled faintly, seeing as Mo Zhixuan was in high spirits, of course, she couldn't say no.

The two of them went to a place with a nice environment for breakfast.

When they left the breakfast cafe, it was already past nine o'clock. Passing by a flower shop, Mo Zhixuan stopped in his tracks. "Jin, wait here for me a moment," he said.

Chu Jin nodded, not understanding why, and was about to ask what Mo Zhixuan was up to when he had already vanished into the crowd.

Chu Jin could only stand there waiting for him.

She wore a slim-fitting red dress that highlighted her lovely figure, the striking red becoming somewhat dimmed against her radiance.

A breeze arose, messing her black hair into a disheveled sort of beauty.

Her peach blossom eyes sparkled enchantingly under the golden sunlight.

Surely this was what people meant by a woman as lovely as jade.

"Excuse me, miss, do you know where Lingbo Road is?" A young man approached from afar to ask for directions.

Asking directions was just a pretext; hitting on her was his real intention.

These days, it was rare to see a beauty like her.

Most importantly, she seemed to be alone, which made it even easier to approach her.

The man was good-looking and came from a very good family, which was why he had the confidence to approach her.

Chu Jin smiled politely and pointed down a road. "Go down that road, then you will see the sign."

Chapter 866: You Need to Make an Effort

Her voice was also extremely pleasant to the ear.

The young man couldn't find a single flaw in her; she was like an uncut jade, an object of desire. Compared to her, the women he had seen before couldn't even be considered ordinary.

"Thank you, miss, may I ask for your name, if it's not too much trouble?" the young man asked. Facing such a beauty, he too was quite nervous. In just a short while, his palms were already coated with a layer of sweat.

"It's not convenient," said Chu Jin in a cool tone, her reply blunt and straightforward.

By this point, she knew this man wasn't here just to ask for directions.

The young man wasn't embarrassed and continued, "Miss, the Buddha says, 'Five hundred glances in past lives exchange for a single passing by in this one.' Meeting here today means we're fated. A blockbuster just got released in America. Would you do me the honor and join me to watch the movie?"

It was normal for a beauty to have a bit of temperament. If she were too easy to approach, that would be suspicious.

Chu Jin took a polite step back, then said, "I'm sorry, but my husband and I have plans already." Since this man had approached her intentionally, she would dispel his ideas early. She wasn't someone who enjoyed ambiguous relationships.

"Your husband?" The young man frowned slightly. "You mean you're married?"

Seeing her barely into her twenties, how could she be married already? He was sure this was a lie! If she really was married, why would she be standing all alone on the street?

She was clearly making up excuses to reject him.

Anyway, the man didn't believe that Chu Jin was already married.

Undeterred, the young man said, "Miss, I'm not the kind of person to mess around carelessly. I truly feel there's a connection between us. How about we exchange phone numbers and start as friends? Let me introduce myself; my name is Liu Qingdong, I'm 30 years old, the CEO of a listed company, with an annual salary of over ten million. I own more than a dozen properties. Look, that car parked over there is mine."

Not far away at the roadside, a million-dollar luxury car was parked, glistening under the sunlight.

There was also a look of pride on the young man's face. Nowadays, people as outstanding as him were rare.

Even if the woman before him was beautiful, she would certainly be moved by him, because not everyone gets the chance to meet the privileged.

If she just seized this opportunity properly, she would rise above others in the future.

Sure enough, after the young man finished speaking, he saw a hint of a smile on Chu Jin's face.

He knew, in this world, no beauty could resist the allure of money.

Just as the young man was about to say something, he saw Chu Jin walk forward.

In front of her, a man in a suit, holding a large bouquet of roses, was walking towards her.

The man was tall with long legs, and deep-set, cool features. His thin lips pressed tightly together and his whole body emitted a powerful and compelling aura, sending chills down people's spines.

One could tell at a glance that he was not an ordinary person.

The man held the bright red roses, which set off the red dress the woman was wearing, creating an exceptionally beautiful picture.

It was so beautiful that it didn't seem real, as if from a television drama.

How could there be two so perfect people in this world at the same time?

Watching Mo Zhixuan, the young man's sense of superiority instantly vanished, replaced by a sense of inferiority.

"Did you go buy flowers?" said Chu Jin, with a spark of surprise in her eyes as she looked at Mo Zhixuan.

"Hmm," Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, handing the roses to Chu Jin. "For you, do you like them?"

"I do," Chu Jin took the flowers with both hands, sniffing them gently, "They smell wonderful."

"I'm glad you like them," Mo Zhixuan put his arm around Chu Jin's shoulder. "I wanted to surprise you. I didn't expect that just as I left the flower shop, you would give me a shock. Who allowed you to attract butterflies?" It's unbearable that she's still so restless even after having our child.

No matter where she went, it always resulted in him having to deal with rivals.

She was not making things easy.

Chu Jin clearly knew what he meant, and said with a smile, "It was you who told me to wait there for you. I swear, I didn't do anything."

"Are you saying you wanted to do something?" Mo Zhixuan's gaze lowered toward Chu Jin.

"Don't worry, I only want to do something with you." Chu Jin tiptoed and kissed Mo Zhixuan's thin lips.

Sometimes, this man needed a bit of cajoling.

After that kiss, Mo Zhixuan's heart immediately smoothed over.

The young man saw the couple kissing not far away, a look of resignation flashed across his face before he turned and walked away.

He had thought he encountered a romantic adventure today, but as it turned out, she was taken.

Indeed, such a beautiful girl would naturally find someone who is worthy of her.

The young man lowered his gaze to look at himself and then lifted his eyes to Mo Zhixuan, a hint of sadness flickering in his eyes.

That day, without the disturbance of the two little ones, Mo Zhixuan took Chu Jin to re-experience everything they had done during their courtship.

They started by watching a movie and then went to an amusement park, toured a haunted house, and rode on a Ferris wheel...

Four o'clock in the afternoon.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan appeared at the school gate on time.

By then, many parents had already gathered at the school gate to pick up their children.

Many parents hadn't left at all that day, constantly keeping an eye on the situation inside the school and, if circumstances permitted, they would have loved to go in and accompany their children through the school day.

"Nine Ye, Madame Nine, have you also come to pick up Bao Bao and Bei Bei from school?" Qian Jiafeng approached with a beaming smile.

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Yes."

Qian Jiafeng smiled and said, "It's only four o'clock now, they won't be let out until 4:20. You're both very busy people; you don't need to come so early."

Chu Jin returned a faint smile, "Today is the first day of school for Bao Bao and Bei Bei, and I was worried they would not be accustomed to it, so I came early."

"Bao Bao and Bei Bei are smart kids; they definitely won't have trouble adjusting. When Lin Yuze first came to school last year, he was so happy. Other children were crying when they came out, but only our Yuze was smiling. Bao Bao and Bei Bei will surely do better than Yuze." Qian Jiafeng spoke prettily, praising her own son while also complimenting Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

If Bao Bao and Bei Bei were also crying when they came out, then it would mean that her Lin Yuze was different from others right from the start.

It would also let Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan see Lin Yuze's strengths.

Qian Jiafeng's calculations could be said to be quite shrewd.

"I'll take that as a good omen," said Chu Jin with a slight smile, looking toward the school.

She wasn't much of a talker, and facing Qian Jiafeng's enthusiastic engagement, Chu Jin was somewhat overwhelmed.

Qian Jiafeng continued, "Madame Nine, if you are personally coming for Bao Bao and Bei Bei again tomorrow, just let me know. I can help you get a spot in line in advance so you won't have to queue when you arrive. It's no trouble; I have nothing much to do at home, and I'm the one who picks up our Yuze."

Her words also demonstrated her own care and importance placed on Lin Yuze.

Chu Jin smiled faintly and replied very politely, "Thank you, but there's no need. I don't mind waiting a bit; I'll line up myself."

"Oh, Madame Nine, you really don't need to be so formal with me," Qian Jiafeng expressed, eager for Chu Jin to notice her.

If this led to a friendship with Chu Jin, that would be even better.

The Mo family was like a large tree; as long as one held on tight, one could enjoy the shade.

In the future, within the Lin family, nobody could look down on her and her son!

Chu Jin smiled slightly, "Thank you, but really, there's no need."

Seeing Chu Jin like this, Qian Jiafeng also smiled briefly and stopped talking.

Qian Jiafeng was a clever person; she could sense that Chu Jin was not very talkative. The fact that she had said so much to her was already a feat; she knew that anything further had to be approached gradually.

Soon afterward, the dismissal bell rang out.

The parents around also became restless, and they orderly lined up at the school's entrance.

First and second graders came out together.

Third and fourth graders used another school gate.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan saw that the expressions on the faces of the first-grade newcomers were indeed not too cheerful, and some children were crying out loud.

Thinking about it, it made sense; these little ones were usually treated like little princes and princesses at home, pampered by parents and grandparents. Suddenly being brought to school, their freedom was restricted, their behavior was regulated, plus they had to attend classes and do homework...

Of course, they wouldn't be happy.

There were even a few children who clung to their grandparents' necks, crying and making a scene.

Seeing this, Chu Jin couldn't help but worry about Bao Bao and Bei Bei; she looked at Mo Zhixuan, her voice filled with concern, "Mo Zhixuan, do you think Bao Bao and Bei Bei will have trouble adjusting? Are they crying?"

"Don't worry, they definitely won't cry," Mo Zhixuan held Chu Jin's hand tightly.

The son and daughter of Mo Zhixuan would not be so fragile.

After quite a while, as they watched the other parents picking up their children, Bao Bao and Bei Bei finally walked out of the school.

The two little ones wore their backpacks and red scarves around their necks, looking quite the part.

Lin Yuze followed behind Bao Bao and Bei Bei, considerately saying, "Bei Bei, your backpack is too heavy, let me carry it for you. I'm a boy, I don't mind the weight."

Bei Bei turned to look at Lin Yuze, her voice soft and childlike, "Thank you, but my mommy says I should do my own things, so I will carry it myself." Bei Bei was a sensible and obedient treasure.

Lin Yuze smiled and said, "It's okay, let me carry it for you. I'm older than you, it's only right for me to take care of you." Like a little man, Lin Yuze willingly took on the responsibility, knowing that it would make his mother happy, that she would see him as a sensible and good child.

Bao Bao proactively took off Bei Bei's backpack from her shoulder, asserting in a grown-up manner, "Bei Bei, let brother carry your backpack. From now on, let brother carry it for you." Bei Bei was his sister, and it was his responsibility to protect her. Daddy had said early on not to let any other boys trick his sister away, he was protecting his sister!

"Thank you, brother, let's go." Bei Bei took hold of both Bao Bao and Lin Yuze's little hands.

The three little ones hopped and skipped towards the school gate.

Bao Bao was bearing two backpacks, clearly struggling. Lin Yuze noticed this and offered, "Bao Bao, let me carry that for you. I'm two years older than you, and I'm stronger too."

"No need, I can do it by myself." Bao Bao was reluctant to hand over Bei Bei's backpack to Lin Yuze.

Daddy had said, unsolicited kindness is suspect, either a trickster or a thief.

He had to watch out for Lin Yuze, to prevent him from taking Bei Bei away.

Under the teacher's lead, the three little ones joined the rest of the students at the school gate.

"Daddy, Mommy!" Bao Bao and Bei Bei, upon seeing Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan, were so excited they nearly lost their shoes as they ran.

Lin Yuze chased after them, "Bei Bei, Bao Bao, slow down! Be careful not to fall."

Seeing her son so sensible, Qian Jiafeng nodded in satisfaction.

This was the scene she needed to witness.

She believed that Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan must also be very pleased with Lin Yuze right now.

Good impressions are built up over time.

The two little ones ran straight into Mo Zhixuan's embrace, his face filled with a fatherly, kind smile.

Hmm.

These two little ones really deserved all the love, knowing to cherish him, their dad.

Chu Jin felt a little jealous.

These two little ones, always calling her mommy so sweetly, turned out to have eyes only for Mo Zhixuan...

So affectionate with their dad, they almost forgot about her, their mom.

Unbeknownst to her, just as the two little ones were about to dive into Mo Zhixuan's arms, they sharply turned, giving Mo Zhixuan a surprising curveball, and headed straight for Chu Jin's embrace instead.

Chu Jin was also surprised and delighted, hugging the two little ones tightly, her face beaming with joy.

"Mommy, I've missed you so much." Bao Bao clung onto Chu Jin's neck, acting spoiled.

"Mommy, I missed you more than brother did..." Bei Bei was determined not to be outdone.

"There there," Chu Jin kissed Bei Bei, then kissed Bao Bao, "Mommy missed you too."

An empty-handed Mo Zhixuan stood by: "...". Was it really okay for them to tease him like this?

He seriously questioned whether these two little rascals were actually his own!

Argh! It was so infuriating!

They had actually played him!

"You don't miss Daddy?" Mo Zhixuan commented from the side with a faint voice.

"Not at all." Bao Bao shook his little head vigorously like a rattle-drum.

Mo Zhixuan glanced at Bao Bao and warned, "I'll give you another chance to make it right."

The chilly tone made Bao Bao shiver all over.

"I do, I do, I do," Bao Bao's survival instincts were strong, "Daddy, I was just playing with you earlier, I really missed you all day today."

"Daddy, I missed you the most. If you don't believe me, feel my heart, it's beating so fast." Bao Bao walked over to Mo Zhixuan, grabbed his hand, and pressed it to his own right chest, demonstrating his sincerity.

Mo Zhixuan pinched Bao Bao's little nose, somewhat helplessly saying, "You really are my son, even though you're studying medicine, the heart is on the left side..."

Bao Bao sighed, somewhat speechlessly saying, "And you call yourself my dad, it's Bei Bei who is studying medicine, I'm Bao Bao..."

Mo Zhixuan chuckled as he patted Bao Bao's head, "Daddy of course knows, Daddy was just teasing you."

Bao Bao also patted Mo Zhixuan's head, smilingly saying, "Daddy, I was just teasing you too."

These two, truly a pair of treasures.

Chu Jin shook his head helplessly.

"Silly Daddy." Bao Bao helplessly patted Mo Zhixuan's shoulder, sighing again.

Mo Zhixuan: "...". Suddenly, he had the strange feeling that he was the son.

"Let's go, let's head home." Mo Zhixuan picked up a child with one arm.

Bao Bao immediately said, "Daddy, I'm already in elementary school now, I can walk by myself!" And with that, he struggled to get down and walk.

Bao Bao, like a little adult, held Chu Jin's hand, carefully taking one step at a time.

"Hmm, my Bao Bao has grown up, he can walk by himself now." Chu Jin contentedly patted Bao Bao's little head.

Bei Bei, on the other hand, was being held in Mo Zhixuan's arms. Bei Bei also wanted to come down and walk, but Mo Zhixuan wouldn't let her.

A girl, after all, should be pampered.

The silhouette of this family of four looked exceptionally harmonious and blissful.

Seeing this, Qian Jiafeng, following behind, silently put down Lin Yuze in her arms.

"Yuze, walk by yourself," Qian Jiafeng said as she took Lin Yuze's small hand.

Lin Yuze's eyes flickered with dissatisfaction. He didn't understand why he had to follow behind Bao Bao and Bei Bei, but still obediently took his mother's hand and walked ahead by her side.

Upon getting into the car, Qian Jiafeng led Lin Yuze to the front of Bao Bao and Bei Bei, smilingly saying, "Yuze, go ahead and say goodbye to your younger brother and sister, and to your uncle and auntie."

Lin Yuze waved his hand with a smile, "Goodbye, Sister Bei Bei, goodbye, Brother Bao Bao, goodbye, Uncle and Auntie."

"Goodbye, Lin Yuze." Bei Bei also happily waved to Lin Yuze and then, as if remembering something, pulled out a small toy from Bao Bao's backpack, "Lin Yuze, don't you like this? Here, it's for you."

Lin Yuze took the toy, "Thank you, Sister Bei Bei, don't worry, I will definitely take good care of it."

Seeing how well these two kids got along, Qian Jiafeng's eyes were filled with relief, and her gaze towards Bei Bei softened even more, as if she was looking at her future daughter-in-law.

That Bei Bei and Lin Yuze had come this far was not in vain of her painstaking efforts over such a long time.

After saying goodbye to Lin Yuze, Bao Bao and Bei Bei got into the car.

The driver was driving, with Chu Jin, Mo Zhixuan, and Bao Bao and Bei Bei all sitting in the back seat.

Qian Jiafeng watched the black car gradually disappear, smiling contentedly. She squatted down, pulled out a piece of candy from her pocket, and handed it to Lin Yuze, smilingly saying, "Yuze, you did a great job today, keep it up, okay? This is mom's reward for you."

Lin Yuze took the candy, politely saying, "Thank you, Mom."

Qian Jiafeng continued, "In the future, our place in the Lin family will all depend on you. Remember what I said, as soon as you are done with classes, go find Bao Bao and Bei Bei to play with. You mustn't let other boys play with Bei Bei, her good friend can only be you, understand?"

Lin Yuze nodded, "Oh, I understand, and Bao Bao?"

"You don't need to worry about Bao Bao, he can play with whomever he likes, that's none of our concern." Bao Bao is a boy, so Lin Yuze doesn't need to worry about this.

Lin Yuze said somewhat uneasily, "But, I also can't control who Bei Bei wants to play with..." Who Bei Bei chooses to play with is her freedom, he couldn't possibly dictate that.

"Then find a way!" Qian Jiafeng looked at Lin Yuze with a serious face, "Son, you must stand up for your mom. Find a way to become Bei Bei's only good friend. Once you become her good friend, she will not play with other boys."

Childhood friendship often starts from being good friends.

Lin Yuze and Bei Bei have known each other since they were young; aren't they childhood friends?

With this advantage Lin Yuze has now, it must not be wasted.

"Okay." Lin Yuze nodded, he was already Bei Bei's friend, but he wasn't yet her best friend.

Qian Jiafeng then said, "Son, do you know what you need to do now?"

"I know, find a way to become Bei Bei's best friend, forcing her not to play with other little boys." Lin Yuze repeated Qian Jiafeng's words.

Qian Jiafeng nodded happily, "Good, good, that's my good son. Just remember, not only do you have to become Bei Bei's best friend, but in the future, you have to make Bei Bei your wife, and marry her into our family, turning her into a member of the Lin family."

Chapter 867: a noble guest arrives

In fact, little Lin Yuze didn't understand all that much, but having been instilled with many such thoughts, the Lin Yuze of now had learned a lot.

Lin Yuze nodded firmly, "Yeah, Mom, I know. Don't worry, when I grow up, I will definitely marry Bei Bei and bring her back."

Qian Jiafeng was deeply moved as she hugged Lin Yuze in her arms, her voice filled with emotion, "You really are Mom's good son. You haven't let Mom down." Qian Jiafeng closed her eyes, shedding two lines of moved tears.

Her status and position in the Lin family all depended on this son making a turnaround.

The little Lin Yuze, he bore too much, far too much.

Qian Jiafeng had even forgotten that Lin Yuze was just six years old this year. He was still a child, supposed to be carefree at this age, but he was mixed up in the adult world early on, losing the happiness he should've originally had.

The imperial palace.

Old Lady Mo had made sweet soup and snacks early at home, waiting for Bao Bao and Bei Bei to finish school.

When the house had two children, it was filled with bustle and noise every day. Plus, since she had raised Bao Bao and Bei Bei herself, their sudden departure for school left Old Lady Mo feeling somewhat unaccustomed.

Without the two children at home, the imperial palace seemed much larger.

Her heart felt empty too.

Old Lady Mo sat in the living room, looking longingly towards the door. School had been over for a while now, so why hadn't Bao Bao and Bei Bei come back yet?

Finally, laughter came from outside the door.

Old Lady Mo's expression tensed, and she quickly stood up, walking towards the door.

Just as Old Lady Mo reached the door, two little ones bounced in, each latching onto one of Old Lady Mo's thighs, "Grandma, Grandma!"

Old Lady Mo squatted down, her face brimming with happiness, "Grandma's two big grandsons are back? Are you hungry? Grandma has specially prepared sweet soup for you, and some snacks too."

"Thank you, Grandma, I love you the most! Grandma, give me a kiss!" Bao Bao hugged Old Lady Mo's neck, peppering her face with kisses.

"Grandma, I'm the one who loves you the most, don't be fooled by brother!" Bei Bei argued for affection, unwilling to be outdone.

Old Lady Mo was completely overwhelmed by these two little ones' sweet words and flattery.

Seeing this, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan both shook their heads helplessly.

These two little sycophants, it's hard to say whom they take after.

Old Lady Mo led the two little ones into the house, then instructed the servants to bring up the sweet soup and snacks.

"Wow, mung bean cake! I love Grandma's mung bean cake the most!" Bei Bei shouted excitedly.

"You're really the best, Grandma, I love you the most." Bao Bao declared his love earnestly again.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei are twins, and their tastes are pretty much the same, they like sweet, spicy, sour...

Although making pea cake is quite bothersome, the elder Mrs. Mo was willing to do it for her two precious darlings, no matter how troublesome it was.

Perhaps because the school meals weren't very tasty, Bao Bao and Bei Bei ate most of the pea cake and even drank a bowl of sweet soup before contentedly leaning on the sofa.

Seeing the two like this, the elder Mrs. Mo said with a heartache, "Zhixuan, you should also speak to the school, ask them to make the meals more delicious, look how hungry the children are."

To avoid special treatment and to allow Bao Bao and Bei Bei to see things they normally wouldn't see, they went to school with their identities hidden.

The teachers and leaders at the school had no idea about the background of Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

The real names of Bao Bao and Bei Bei were not disclosed to the public either.

In the school records, the family of Bao Bao and Bei Bei was just an ordinary wage-earning family.

If outsiders knew the children of Nine Ye were attending such an ordinary school, it would undoubtedly cause quite a stir.

Upon hearing this, Mo Zhixuan responded, "Linshan Elementary School has thousands of students, and the meals for all the children are the same. Everyone else eats their fill, so why can't Bao Bao and Bei Bei?"

Bao Bao, rubbing her little belly, said with a bit of grievance, "Grandma, it's not that we aren't full; it's just not very tasty. The rice is very hard, and there are no sausages, just green vegetables... It's a far cry from the meals we have at home." After all, being a public school, the canteen was outsourced to

external contractors. With the low cost of meals and contractors hoping to make a profit, the food naturally couldn't compare to the three meals a day at the imperial palace.

Upon hearing Bao Bao's words, the elder Mrs. Mo immediately said with pity, "Don't worry, Bao Bao. Grandma will prepare some delicious food tonight for you and Bei Bei to take to school tomorrow. We won't eat the school's meals from now on."

Bao Bao nodded happily and said, "Thank you, Grandma, long live Grandma!"

Bei Bei also hugged the old lady joyfully and cooed, "Grandma, why are you so nice?"

Mo Zhixuan frowned slightly and said sternly, "Mom, don't always spoil them like this. Children should appropriately experience hardship from a young age. There are thousands of kids at school, and no other parents bring food for their children. Bao Bao and Bei Bei are not allowed to either." Mo Zhixuan had sent them to an ordinary private primary school precisely to build their character.

At this, the elder Mrs. Mo retorted somewhat dissatisfied, "I didn't say anything about you sending Bao Bao and Bei Bei to a public primary school, and now you won't even let them eat well. They are growing right now. What kind of father are you?"

The elder Mrs. Mo had already picked out a British Aristocratic School and even paid the deposit. Unexpectedly, Mo Zhixuan disagreed at the last moment, insisting on sending Bao Bao and Bei Bei to an ordinary public school.

She couldn't fathom what he, as a father, was thinking.

Everyone wants their children to have the best, to provide them with the best education. Yet, he chose such an ordinary school for Bao Bao and Bei Bei.

Can an ordinary school provide the quality of education that they need?

Mo Zhixuan pursed his lips, then continued, "Mom, I'm also thinking of Bao Bao and Bei Bei's best interests. They are still young and need to be tempered to take on responsibilities in the future. 'To ride

the wind and break the waves, there will be times; to hang the clouds and sail the sea.' If you let them live comfortably now, they will become complacent in the future. A flower that has always been sheltered in a greenhouse cannot withstand the test of storms."

In fact, what Mo Zhixuan said made a lot of sense.

If a person becomes used to comfort for too long, they will lose the ability to think and the motivation to struggle.

On the path of growth, only through enduring hardships can one see the rainbow.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei's lives also require training from an early age.

The elderly Mrs. Mo sighed, no longer speaking. She couldn't bear to see Bao Bao and Bei Bei's pitiful appearance. Such good children, starving to that extent! They gobbled up their food vigorously.

Seeing Mrs. Mo like this, Bao Bao immediately hugged her neck and spoke in a soft voice, "Grandma, actually, I really like the food at school, there's no need for anything special. Grandma, please don't be angry, you don't look good when you're angry."

Bei Bei also held Mrs. Mo's hand, saying, "Grandma, don't be angry. My brother and I eat very well at school, and we're very happy with our classmates. There's no need for you to make special arrangements for us." Bao Bao and Bei Bei were both very sensible.

They also knew how to comfort Mrs. Mo.

Seeing this, both Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan had a look of relief in their eyes.

With the two little ones being so understanding, all their efforts were worth it.

Having two such adorable little ones around, Mrs. Mo couldn't get angry. She asked with a smile, "What did the teacher teach you today? Can you tell grandma about it?"

At this, Bao Bao somewhat speechlessly said, "The knowledge points the teacher talked about were all too simple. It's just the letters aoe, right? We already knew that. It's really boring to go to school with those children. Daddy, can you let me skip to third grade?"

Bei Bei added, "I also thought what the teacher taught was quite easy. I had already learned that when I was three years old. Daddy, I want to go to third grade too."

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were very intelligent, and some things they could learn after a single lesson. When they were two years old, they could already recite three hundred Tang poems...

For them, the knowledge points of first grade were indeed very simple.

"Skip to third grade?" Mo Zhixuan raised his eyebrows slightly. "Are you sure you can understand the knowledge points in third grade?"

Bao Bao immediately nodded, "Yes, yes, I even helped Little Fatty with his test papers!" Little Fatty was a third-grade student.

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, speaking in a light tone.

"No, you can't just skip to third grade. Although you've understood some of the knowledge points, the teacher will still teach you a lot of other things. Besides, the third graders are older, and you won't be able to fit in with the group. It's better to stay in first grade and continue to work hard. Don't let us down." Bao Bao and Bei Bei starting first grade at the age of four was already much earlier than other children.

If they were to skip grades now, it wouldn't be good for them.

Chu Jin didn't want them to miss out on their childhood.

Moreover, with such a large age difference, Bao Bao and Bei Bei wouldn't have much in common with the other children in their class.

Being good at studying alone is not enough; one must also learn how to behave.

Hearing Chu Jin say this, Bao Bao and Bei Bei could only give up the idea.

Chu Jin looked at Bei Bei, then continued, "Bei Bei, have you finished eating? If you have, come with Mommy to the medicine room."

First graders don't have homework, so Chu Jin wanted to use the time to teach Bei Bei about ancient medicine.

Like ancient medicine and martial arts, one must start from childhood.

"I'm done eating." Bei Bei patted her little hands, stood up, and followed Chu Jin.

Mo Zhixuan also said, "Bao Bao, let's go to the training room as well."

"Okay, Daddy." Bao Bao got up and followed behind Mo Zhixuan.

"Mommy, I also want to follow Daddy and learn about special abilities." Bei Bei tugged at Chu Jin's clothes, her large eyes filled with a pleading look.

Chu Jin squatted down to look Bei Bei in the eyes, "Bei Bei, girls should learn ancient medicine and martial arts like Mommy. Only boys learn special abilities." Chu Jin didn't directly tell Bei Bei that she didn't have a mutant bone; she didn't want her child to feel different from other children and develop a sense of inferiority at such a young age.

This was something that had to be addressed gradually.

Upon hearing she could be like her mother, Bei Bei was very happy, "Mommy, will I be as pretty as you when I grow up?"

Chu Jin's eyes curved with a smile, "Of course, you are my daughter, after all."

"Yay, I can be like Mommy..." Bei Bei skipped happily toward the medicine room.

Chu Jin followed behind, watching Bei Bei's joyful figure, a trace of worry flickered in her eyes.

With Bei Bei's constitution, she might not be spared from certain looks in the Superpower World in the future.

Hopefully, no matter what difficulties she faced, she would continue to smile as she does now.

In the living room.

Mrs. Mo was tidying up the toys of the two little ones.

Just then, a servant walked in. "Madam, there are two adults and a child outside looking for you. Would you like to see them?"

"Someone is looking for me?" Mrs. Mo frowned slightly. "Who are they?"

"They claim to have the surname Tong." The servant answered respectfully.

Nowadays, the surname Tong was increasingly rare. Aside from Tong Zhi and Mrs. Mo, there were virtually no other people in the Superpower World with the surname Tong.

The servant had come to find Mrs. Mo for this reason.

"The surname Tong?" Mrs. Mo narrowed her eyes. "Let's go out and take a look."

"Yes."

Mrs. Mo followed the servant outside.

There, outside the door, stood three people.

All three were dressed brightly, an elderly person, a youth, and a child.

Chapter 868: Past Prospects

Apart from the child, the old Madam Mo was familiar with the other two people, but, as soon as she saw them, she turned around angrily.

The woman caught sight of the old Madam Mo and hurriedly tiptoed to say, "Sister, sister, I'm Xiangzhi!" She seemed not to notice the disgust in the old Madam Mo's eyes, her face full of ingratiating smiles.

The young woman beside her also immediately said, "Aunt, I'm Qiaoqiao."

Since they had both addressed her that way, the old Madam Mo couldn't pretend not to see them and reluctantly turned around, approached the door, and through the iron bars said, "How did you get here?"

"Sister, look at this, it's not a good place to talk. Let us in first," said the woman with a simpering smile.

"Greetings to grandma, I'm little Jinzi," the child next to the two women also sweetly spoke up.

The old Madam Mo looked at the child with some suspicion, her brows slightly furrowed.

Seeing the old Madam Mo like this, the woman immediately said, "Sister, this is Qiaoqiao's son, little Jinzi."

The old Madam Mo pursed her lips and said nothing, only smiling at little Jinzi. Regardless, the affairs of the adults should not involve the child.

"Sister, please let us in. The imperial palace guards are really strict, we've been made to stand here for more than half an hour without even being offered a cup of water," she said, a hint of complaint in her voice.

The old Madam Mo's gaze was cold, and she spoke tensely, "You should leave, I do not recognize you." With that, she looked away and then turned around.

"Sister, I'm your sister-in-law! How can you deny me now? Sister!" Li Xiangzhi clung tightly to the iron bars.

This person was indeed the old Madam Mo's sister-in-law, Li Xiangzhi.

The young woman standing next to Li Xiangzhi was her daughter, Tong Qiaoqiao.

Tong Yuan was the old Madam Mo's only brother, and under normal circumstances, she should be happy to welcome a visit from her sister-in-law, Li Xiangzhi.

Indeed, apart from Tong Zhi, Li Xiangzhi and her daughter were the only relatives the old Madam Mo had in the Superpower World.

However, more than twenty years ago, after the incident involving Mo Zhixuan and the Superpower World, Li Xiangzhi, seeking to avoid disaster for themselves, cut off contact with the Mo family and the old Madam Mo and publicly declared that from then on, the Tong family and the Mo family would have nothing to do with each other.

Only Tong Zhi followed the old Madam Mo to the secular world.

At that time, Mo Zhixuan had been seriously injured, and the old Madam Mo had risked seeking medicine, but Li Xiangzhi showed no past affection. She not only refused to help but also reported Mo Zhixuan's whereabouts to the Elder, exacerbating Mo Zhixuan's injuries.

In the midst of betrayal and abandonment, Mo Zhixuan left the Superpower World with the old Madam Mo.

Li Xiangzhi's actions at that time were utterly disheartening—she did not even regard Mo Zhixuan as her nephew.

If it were not for Chu Jin, Mo Zhixuan would not be in the Superpower World now.

Having done such things twenty years ago, the old Madam Mo was now unwilling to pay any attention to Li Xiangzhi.

"Didn't we already have no relation to each other 28 years ago? Sister-in-law? What kind of sister-in-law are you?" The old Madam Mo looked at Li Xiangzhi, a glint of revulsion in her eyes.

Upon hearing these words, Li Xiangzhi's face suddenly changed, and like a shrew, she knelt on the ground, crying out, "Sister, how can you be like this! Now that Zhixuan is prominent, you don't recognize us poor relatives? Tong Yuan left us early, the only relative won't care for us, how are we, a mother and her orphaned child, supposed to survive... Poor Tong Yuan was still thinking of you before he died..."

At these words, the old Madam Mo's brows furrowed with surprise, "You said... Tong Yuan... is dead?" At that moment, the old Madam Mo was finding it hard to breathe.

Tong Yuan was after all the old Madam Mo's only brother, and now hearing of his death, she was somewhat unable to accept it. Tong Yuan was a henpecked and honest man; the events of those years could not really be blamed on Tong Yuan—they were caused by Li Xiangzhi. At that time, Li Xiangzhi's family was powerful, and Tong Yuan had no say in the Tong family.

The day before leaving the Superpower World, Tong Yuan had secretly met with the old Madam Mo, and the siblings had wept in each other's arms.

That scene before departure forever lingered before the old Madam Mo.

It is said that when marrying, one should choose a virtuous wife, for looks are not that important. Tong Yuan's life was weighed down by Li Xiangzhi.

Hearing what the Elder Lady Mo said, Li Xiangzhi cried even more bitterly, "Yes, that dead Tong Yuan, he left me and our daughter too early, sister, it was all my fault back then, I shouldn't have done that. Over these twenty-some years, I have lived in guilt and repentance every single day, sister, I was wrong! I really know I was wrong, please show magnanimity, forgive me... Tong Yuan has already gone, I can't lose you as my sister too..."

Elder Lady Mo felt a bit unsteady on her feet; she touched her temples only to feel dizzy and her eyes reddened in an instant.

Fortunately, a servant was quick and steady, supporting Elder Lady Mo in time.

Seeing Elder Lady Mo like this, a sharp light flickered through Li Xiangzhi's reddened eyes.

She knew that Elder Lady Mo had always been a person of deep feelings; Elder Lady Mo would definitely not turn a blind eye to her own plight.

The Mo Zhixuan of today was no longer the Mo Zhixuan of the past, and if she could stay in the imperial palace, then she could once again appear before everyone in full splendor in the future.

She was now the aunt of the Commander of the Three Worlds. If this were the ancient times, she would be among the royal relatives.

Even if Elder Lady Mo wouldn't forgive her, she wouldn't hold the grudge against Tong Yuan.

"You may leave," Elder Lady Mo calmed her mind, cast her eyes downward toward Li Xiangzhi, who was kneeling on the ground, and spoke with a slightly cold tone, "Twenty years ago, your Li family and our Mo family had already severed all ties."

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi immediately panicked, clutching the iron gate tightly and crying out, "Sister, you can't say that. Even if my surname is Li, Qiaoqiao still carries the Tong surname, ah. She is

the child of your Tong family, the sole descendant of the family, and the only child Tong Yuan left in this world. Even if I've done wrong before, sister, these are grievances between adults, how can you take this out on a child? Sister, now that Tong Yuan is gone, following me, Qiaoqiao and little Golden Child will only suffer. I implore you to show mercy and take in Qiaoqiao and little Golden Child, don't let this mother and son wander homeless..."

Li Xiangzhi cried very sadly, her words fully expressing the helplessness and greatness of a mother.

"Mom, don't cry, rest assured, I will never leave you no matter what," Tong Qiaoqiao knelt beside Li Xiangzhi, also with a face covered in tears. It was evident that Tong Qiaoqiao was a child with great filial piety.

Little Golden Child, too, burst into loud sobs, obviously frightened by his mother and grandmother.

Little Golden Child appeared to be about the same age as Bao Bao and Bei Bei, looking plump and adorable; moreover, Elder Lady Mo noticed that there was a resemblance between Golden Child's eyebrows and eyes and her brother Tong Yuan. Seeing Golden Child and Tong Qiaoqiao crying so sadly, Elder Lady Mo couldn't bear it and felt a surge of pity.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei had never cried so pitifully before.

Since Elder Lady Mo had Bao Bao and Bei Bei, these adorable little ones, she couldn't stand to see children cry...

The hearts of the elderly soften.

Indeed, Li Xiangzhi said one thing that was very true: grievances between adults should not involve the children, no matter what, Tong Qiaoqiao was her only niece.

Tong Qiaoqiao was not involved in the events of that year.

As the sole bloodline of her brother left in this world, Elder Lady Mo had to take responsibility for this matter.

The expression changes of Elder Lady Mo didn't escape Li Xiangzhi's eyes. Li Xiangzhi, a master of manipulation, immediately said to Elder Lady Mo, "Sister, I beg you to show great kindness and take in Qiaoqiao and her child. I was wrong toward you and Zhixuan back then, and I have regretted it all these years. I have wronged you, and I bow my head to you! Sister, you are Qiaoqiao's aunt; she is your niece. If I am no longer around in the future, you will be her birth mother. Please treat her well. Qiaoqiao is also a child of misfortune, becoming a widow two years into her marriage, and has been living a hard life with me all these years. I ask that you find a good household for her in the future, I thank you in advance..."

With Tong Qiaoqiao by Elder Lady Mo's side in the future, her status would definitely rise accordingly. Even as a second marriage, she could certainly marry very well. That she would marry into a prestigious family was without question, and Li Xiangzhi was calculating this with resounding clarity.

"Sister, please show great magnanimity; don't stoop to a child's level of understanding. I know I am a sinner. I no longer dare to ask for your forgiveness..."

Li Xiangzhi spoke with tears streaming like rain, her sadness penetrating, and her remorse full.

Elder Lady Mo sighed, "Enough, Qiaoqiao, you bring the child inside." Saying this, Elder Lady Mo glanced at Li Xiangzhi, "As for you, Li Xiangzhi, return to wherever you came from." Elder Lady Mo could accept Tong Qiaoqiao, but she could not accept Li Xiangzhi.

The things Li Xiangzhi did back then were too much.

"Thank you, sister, for being willing to take in Qiaoqiao and the child," Li Xiangzhi wiped her tears, stood up, and pushed Tong Qiaoqiao toward the door, "Qiaoqiao, your aunt has forgiven you. Go in quickly, and remember to always honor your aunt well in the future, she is a good person..."

"No, Mom, I can't just go in like this; I need to be by your side." Tong Qiaoqiao clung tightly to Li Xiangzhi's hand, unwilling to let go.

"Qiaoqiao, Mom knows you're a good child with filial piety, but with the situation as it is, you won't have a good life following me. Please go in with your aunt," Li Xiangzhi wiped away a tear, the very image of a loving mother.

Little Golden Child clung to Li Xiangzhi's leg, wailing, "I don't want to! Grandma!"

This scene of separation between flesh and blood was somewhat difficult to watch, leaving a heartbreaking feeling.

"Aunt, please forgive my mother," Tong Qiaoqiao knelt down in front of Elder Mo's wife, "Aunt, what's past is past, no matter what my mother was like before, she has now realized her mistakes. My dad has passed away, and I can't lose my mother as well, Aunt, I beg you... I don't want to become an orphan..."

"Great-aunt, forgive my grandmother, please..." Little Jinsi followed and knelt down as well.

The three generations knelt in a line, and even if Elder Mo's wife had a heart of stone, she couldn't bear such a scene.

Elder Mo's wife let out a deep sigh, closed her eyes, "Come in then."

At this point, it would be best to let bygones be bygones.

Hearing this, Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes lit up, and she immediately said, "Thank you, Auntie, thank you, Auntie!"

"Thank you, sister!" Li Xiangzhi was also overcome with emotion and pressing Little Jinsi's head, said, "Little Jinsi, quickly thank your great-aunt."

"Thank you, great-aunt." Little Jinsi then stopped crying.

Elder Mo's wife had the gates opened and slowly spoke, "Come inside first."

Only then did the three of them enter, with Tong Qiaoqiao and her daughter Li Xiangzhi exchanging a look and a smile that was filled with smug satisfaction, fleeting in their eyes.

Elder Mo's wife led them toward the imperial palace.

As Li Xiangzhi and Tong Qiaoqiao walked, disbelief filled their eyes.

The exterior decoration of the imperial palace was already imposing and magnificent, exuding an overwhelming presence. They didn't expect that the interior would be even more luxuriously decorated, dazzling everywhere with gold and brilliance, hardly inferior to the palaces of ancient times.

Just the thought of living here in the future excited both mother and daughter beyond measure.

The imperial palace, after all...

It's not a place just anyone can reside in.

However, just as the mother and daughter were starting to dream, Elder Mo's wife mercilessly shattered their illusions.

Elder Mo's wife slowly said, "You and your daughter, along with Little Jinsi, can stay here for a while. Once I have made suitable living arrangements for you, you will move out."

Upon hearing this, the mother and daughter's hearts immediately cooled, for they didn't want to leave the imperial palace once they'd come in.

Li Xiangzhi gave Tong Qiaoqiao a look, and Tong Qiaoqiao immediately took Elder Mo's wife's arm, smiling, "Aunt, my cousin and I haven't seen each other for over twenty years, and I want to spend more time with you. My father passed away so suddenly, seeing you makes me feel like I'm seeing my father again. You don't need to hurry to find us a house, we're all family, there's no need for the trouble. My mother and I staying here is fine, and besides, I can keep you company. Isn't that killing two birds with one stone?"

Tong Qiaoqiao appeared gentle and kind, making her seem at first glance like a good girl, which is why Elder Mo's wife had a rather good impression of her.

"Sister, Qiaoqiao is right, the imperial palace is so big, and empty rooms are just going to waste. My daughter, Qiaoqiao, Little Jinsi can make do with living here, there's no need for you to spend extra money just to find us a place," Li Xiangzhi continued.

Elder Mo's wife replied, "Qiaoqiao, your aunt knows you mean well, but the imperial palace is ultimately where your cousin and his wife live. It would be inconvenient for you and your mother to stay here long-term. I will have someone else take care of the housing, it's no trouble at all. In the future, if you miss me, you can come to see me anytime."

Tong Qiaoqiao nodded, "Alright, Aunt, then I'll leave everything to you." Elder Mo's wife had already said as much, and if she insisted any further, it would be all too transparent.

Li Xiangzhi did not speak further; some things couldn't be rushed and had to be approached slowly. That Elder Mo's wife had accepted her so quickly was already beyond her expectations.

Moreover, anything that came from Elder Mo's wife's hands was extraordinary. She was sure they would be given an estate. If they really did get an estate, then everything she did today would be worth it.

Li Xiangzhi also said, smiling obsequiously, "Thank you, sister, for being so generous. You don't know how much I've regretted what happened every day and night. Up until his last moments, Tong Yuan was always talking about not being able to see you for the last time. He told me that the person he owed the most in this life was you, sister."

Hearing this, Elder Mo's wife stopped, looked at Li Xiangzhi, and spoke slowly, "The one who owes me an apology has never been Tong Yuan, and I've never blamed him."

The atmosphere seemed to freeze in that instant, and Li Xiangzhi felt extremely awkward. She knew full well the implication of Elder Mo's wife's words.

What she meant was, it was Li Xiangzhi whom she blamed.

Li Xiangzhi smiled, but inside she was blaming the Mo family's matriarch for being too petty. After all, it had already been said that past grievances would be overlooked, so why bring them up again now? To kill a person, one only needs to strike their head.

Although Li Xiangzhi was dissatisfied, she did not show the slightest hint of it on her face. At this moment, she was the one in need of shelter, and couldn't afford to look down on anyone.

"Let it be," sighed the Mo family's matriarch, "in front of the children, I no longer wish to bring up the past."

"Yes, yes, Big Sister is so magnanimous," Li Xiangzhi said with an obliging smile.

The imperial palace was vast, and it took them about ten minutes to reach the main hall.

The main hall was dazzling with opulence, filled with carvings of dragons and phoenixes everywhere, the epitome of luxury.

Tong Qiaoqiao was so amazed by all this that her mouth hung open in awe. If she could live here forever, she would be willing to do anything.

Unfortunately, she was only staying temporarily; she didn't have such good fortune...

The family's servants quickly served tea and snacks.

"Please sit, no need to stand on ceremony," the Mo family's matriarch said casually with a wave of her hand.

"Sister, rest assured, we are all one family. Being here is just like being at my own home, so Qiaoqiao, little Jin, and I won't be polite," Li Xiangzhi said, fawning.

Indeed, fortunes rise and fall over thirty years.

More than twenty years ago, Li Xiangzhi would have never imagined that Mo Zhixuan could turn his fortunes around and become the most revered person in the Three Worlds.

If only she had known what the future held, she would have treated Mo Zhixuan like an ancestor rather than severing ties with him.

The matriarch of the Mo family, her eyes brimming with mirth, handed little Jin a piece of candy, "Little Jin, have some candy." If it weren't for her niece Tong Qiaoqiao, she would have never let Li Xiangzhi step foot in here.

It was Tong Qiaoqiao's words, "I have already lost my father, I cannot lose my mother as well," that had moved the matriarch.

The matriarch of the Mo family was a single mother herself, and knew the challenges faced by a child raised in a single-parent home.

Seeing that the matriarch seemed reluctant to deal with her, Li Xiangzhi was not embarrassed and instead smiled, "Little Jin, go on and take Grandma's candy. See how much Grandma likes you? In the future, you must show a lot of filial piety to Grandma."

Only then did little Jin accept the candy from the matriarch's hand, and said very politely, "Thank you, Grandma. Rest assured, when I grow up, I will definitely be good to you."

With a beaming smile, the matriarch said, "Don't mention it. There are two other kids in the house about your age. I will have them come to play with you later." The matriarch was very fond of children.

"Okay," responded little Jin, nodding and then unwrapping the candy to eat it.

The Mo family's matriarch then instructed, "Qinghe, go and ask Jin and Zhixuan to bring the kids over for a bit, tell them we have guests."

"Yes, Elder," Qinghe complied and left.

Li Xiangzhi continued, "Speaking of which, it's been over twenty years since I last saw Zhixuan. I've heard he's become a father now. Sister, you're really blessed to have your children and grandchildren around you so quickly." The most important thing was Chu Jin, now a well-known figure in the Three Worlds as the reincarnation of the ancient empress. If it wasn't for Chu Jin, Mo Zhixuan wouldn't have risen so quickly.

The Mo family's matriarch's eyes smiled, but she did not reply.

Li Xiangzhi picked up her cup, took a sip of tea, and a sharp light flickered in her eyes.

It could be seen that although the matriarch of the Mo family didn't like her very much, she was quite fond of her niece Tong Qiaoqiao. If only they could become even closer relatives, perhaps then all resentments would dissipate naturally.

It wasn't long before Mo Zhixuan arrived with Chu Jin.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei followed behind them, giggling and chattering about who knows what.

The combined presence of these two was enough to astonish others.

Chapter 869: living here

Watching the couple walk in hand in hand from outside, Tong Qiaoqiao was instantly stunned. She looked at the handsome man and beautiful woman, then at herself, and couldn't help but feel a sense of inferiority.

Mo Zhixuan was clearly her cousin, so why was there such a big gap between them?

And Chu Jin, why was she born as the reincarnation of an empress? Not only was she beautiful, but she also had a halo, shining and sparkling wherever she went.

Sigh...

She wasn't bad-looking either; she just lacked a shining and sparkling identity.

But now it was different from before. Now that Mo Zhixuan was her cousin, she would be a person of high status, and she would shine and sparkle too.

With this thought, Tong Qiaoqiao's face broke into a smile of confidence, and the sadness in her eyes instantly dissipated.

"Cousin, cousin-in-law, hello, I am Qiaoqiao." Tong Qiaoqiao stood up with an air of grace and poise.

Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin were both taken aback, wondering where this cousin of such considerable age had suddenly appeared from.

Seeing their reaction, the elder Mrs. Mo immediately stood up and explained, "Zhixuan, Jin, this is your cousin, Tong Qiaoqiao, and she's the only niece on your maternal side."

The elder Mrs. Mo cleverly used the word "only" to signify Tong Qiaoqiao's importance.

Upon hearing this, Mo Zhixuan's expression remained unchanged as he just nodded slightly. He didn't know Tong Qiaoqiao, but after seeing Li Xiangzhi at the side, he understood what was going on.

Mo Zhixuan knew a little about his uncle's affairs. After his uncle passed away, only Li Xiangzhi and her daughter Tong Qiaoqiao were left. Tong Qiaoqiao had an unfortunate life; her husband had died, and at a young age, she started living as a widow. It was normal for her to seek refuge with the elder Mrs. Mo, given her tough circumstances.

However, Mo Zhixuan didn't expect Li Xiangzhi to have the audacity to come along. Considering her past actions, it wouldn't have been too much to kill her, but somehow the elder Mrs. Mo had forgiven her.

Since the elder Mrs. Mo had dismissed past grievances, Mo Zhixuan also didn't want to say anything more. He was a man, the commander of all three realms, and surely he couldn't be overly critical with two women, could he?

However, deep down, Mo Zhixuan truly had no respect for Li Xiangzhi.

After doing such things in the past, she now shamelessly came to seek refuge with the Mo family.

Only because the elder Mrs. Mo was kind-hearted could she forgive them.

If it had been anyone else, they would have kicked this mother and daughter out long ago.

However, Tong Qiaoqiao was indeed the elder Mrs. Mo's only niece, and it was only human for the elder Mrs. Mo to be compassionate.

Chu Jin, unaware of the past animosities between the two families, smiled at Tong Qiaoqiao and said, "Hello Qiaoqiao."

"Cousin-in-law, you're really beautiful. Your skin is so nice. What brand of skincare do you usually use?" Tong Qiaoqiao then asked.

Tong Qiaoqiao was clever; she knew to say pleasing things.

But Chu Jin wasn't someone who enjoyed flattery. She smiled and said, "I just use whatever," In reality, she didn't use any skincare products. However, no one would believe that if she told them, so she chose not to mention it.

"Oh," Tong Qiaoqiao's face flashed a hint of embarrassment before she sat back down on the sofa.

Li Xiangzhi immediately stood up and said, "This must be Zhixuan. Look at him, after more than twenty years, Zhixuan has changed so much. Do you still recognize me, Zhixuan? I'm Qiaoqiao's mother, your aunt."

Mo Zhixuan's expression remained calm, his lips pressed tightly as he replied indifferently, "After more than twenty years without contact, if you hadn't mentioned it, I really wouldn't remember you." Since the elder Mrs. Mo had decided to let bygones be bygones, Mo Zhixuan didn't want to leave Li Xiangzhi

without face. Li Xiangzhi wasn't much younger than the elder Mrs. Mo, and he couldn't bear to be harsh with an elderly lady.

He hoped that after so many years, Li Xiangzhi had truly changed for the better.

Li Xiangzhi continued, "The person beside you must be your wife, right? She is quite the beauty, even prettier than the ones we see on TV."

Chu Jin smiled and said, "Hello aunt, I'm Chu Jin, you can just call me Jin."

"That's a nice name, and you're beautiful. Sister, you're going to be lucky. Your daughter-in-law is young and capable; she and Zhixuan are a match made in heaven." Li Xiangzhi smiled as she looked towards the elder Mrs. Mo.

The elder Mrs. Mo also commented, "The old saying is never wrong—those who survive great disasters are destined for fortune afterward." This great disaster was referring to the incident that occurred during the New Year celebration.

Chu Jin glanced at Li Xiangzhi and then at the elder Mrs. Mo, sensing there was definitely a story behind this.

The elder Mrs. Mo was always a kind old lady, never intentionally causing trouble for anyone. However, today's remarks were clearly pointed, as if she was targeting Li Xiangzhi.

This was odd because, given the importance the elder Mrs. Mo seemed to place on Tong Qiaoqiao, why would she be targeting Li Xiangzhi?

Weren't these two mother and daughter?

Chu Jin subtly furrowed her brows.

Hearing this, the smile on Li Xiangzhi's face remained, as she smoothly changed the subject, "These two adorable children must be Zhixuan's son and daughter, right? Oh my, they're so cute, and they look just like Zhixuan when he was little."

Chu Jin squatted down, resting her hands on Bao Bao and Bei Bei's shoulders, and said, "Bao Bao, Bei Bei, this is your great-aunt, and this is your older cousin, and this child..." Chu Jin didn't know the little boy, so for a moment she wasn't sure how to introduce him.

Seeing this, Li Xiangzhi immediately said, "This child is your cousin's son, named Little Golden, and he's five years old. By the way, how old are you two?"

"Hello, great-aunt, my sister and I are fraternal twins. I'm Bao Bao, and she's Bei Bei. We are four years old this year." Bao Bao introduced himself with the air of an adult.

Bao Bao already had quite the resemblance of an elder brother.

"You're four, so you should call Little Golden your older brother," said Li Xiangzhi with a smile.

Bao Bao, who had always been treating others as younger siblings, suddenly had to call someone else his older brother, and he was a bit taken aback.

There had been a little aunt and little uncle in the family a while back, and now there was a new older brother...

Heaven, what was this leading to? Would he now forever be the youngest?

My heart hurts!

"Hello, little brother and sister, from now on we are a family. We must take care of each other." Little Golden Child walked over, looking very sensible as he spoke.

The Mo family's old lady watched the three children with a tender look in her eyes.

Since Little Golden Child had taken the initiative to greet them, Bao Bao and Bei Bei couldn't be shy, "Hello, Brother Golden Child, I'm Bei Bei, and this is my brother Bao Bao. You can just call us by our names from now on, and we'll be good friends."

Little Golden Child shook his head, "No, we are not just good friends, we are family, I am your older brother."

Children have their own way of interacting with each other. The old lady smiled and said, "Bao Bao and Bei Bei, go take your brother to your playground to have fun, and play nicely. Don't bully your brother, understand?"

Bao Bao nodded, "Grandma, I understand." Then he took Little Golden Child's hand, "Brother, let's go."

The three little friends went to the playground to play together.

Watching Little Golden Child walk away, a worried look flashed through Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes.

Smiling, the Mo family's old lady said, "Qiaoqiao, don't worry, Little Golden Child is safe with Bao Bao and Bei Bei. There are servants following them closely, so there's no need to worry."

Tong Qiaoqiao gave a slight smile, "Aunt, Little Golden Child can be quite naughty. I'm afraid he might bully Bao Bao and Bei Bei."

"No worries, no worries. Where are there children who don't roughhouse with each other?" The Mo family's old lady said nonchalantly, waving her hand, and then she turned to the servants beside her, "Qinghe, take Qiaoqiao and her mother to rest first. Go to the east wing, I've already had someone clean it up."

"Alright." Qinghe nodded slightly, then said to Tong Qiaoqiao and Li Xiangzhi, "Please follow me this way."

Li Xiangzhi said with a smile, "It's really troubling my sister, but we'll head there first."

"Goodbye, Aunt," Tong Qiaoqiao also said very politely as she took her leave from the Mo family's old lady.

The two followed Qinghe away.

In the blink of an eye, only Mo Zhixuan, Chu Jin, and the Mo family's old lady were left in the living room.

The Mo family's old lady sat on the couch, looked at Mo Zhixuan, and then began to speak, "Zhixuan, now that your uncle is gone, and he only left behind Qiaoqiao, she's the only blood of the Tong family. Please do understand why I did what I did; I couldn't let your uncle rest in peace."

No matter what, the Mo family's old lady still sought Mo Zhixuan's understanding.

Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, "Mom, I know that what happened back then was not greatly related to my uncle. Now that he's passed away, it's only right for you to care for his widow. However, if they were to stay in the imperial palace indefinitely, that might be somewhat inappropriate, wouldn't it?"

What had happened years ago was orchestrated by Li Xiangzhi herself.

Mo Zhixuan wasn't the type to hold petty grudges, but having Li Xiangzhi living here would always be a bit uncomfortable.

Chu Jin wasn't very clear about the situation, so she had been silent the entire time.

However, from the conversation between Mo Zhixuan and the Mo family's old lady, it was clear that there must have been some unpleasantness between Mo Zhixuan and them in the past.

Hearing this, the Mo family's old lady exhaled and said, "Zhixuan, I'm glad you feel this way. Don't worry, I've already sent someone to prepare a place for them to live. They won't stay here for too long."

The Mo family's old lady had thought that Mo Zhixuan would firmly oppose this arrangement.

Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, "Alright, if there's nothing else, Jin and I will go upstairs."

"Go ahead," the Mo family's old lady said with a smile, waving her hand, "I'll call your Aunt Tong. We finally have everyone gathered today, I'll ask her to come over for some fun too."

It's better to resolve conflicts than to let them fester.

A harmonious family prospers in all things.

The Mo family's old lady had come to a realization; all past grudges should end tonight, and from now on, the family should live together in harmony and joy.

The Mo family's old lady made a call to Tong Zhi, and soon the call was answered.

Meanwhile, Mo Zhixuan went upstairs with Chu Jin.

In the study, Mo Zhixuan took the initiative to tell Chu Jin about an incident that had occurred more than twenty years ago.

Mo Zhixuan's expression remained unchanged, his demeanor so calm that it seemed as though he was telling someone else's story.

But Chu Jin's eyes reddened.

"Mo Zhixuan..." Chu Jin reached out and hugged his waist, unable to imagine how Mo Zhixuan had endured those times. Just hearing about it was horrifying, let alone having lived through it...

"It's alright now, it's all in the past." Mo Zhixuan patted Chu Jin on the shoulder.

Now he was content, blessed with both a son and a daughter.

With an annoyed expression, Chu Jin said, "I should go and kick them out! These people are shameless! After what they did to you back then, they have the nerve to come around! Opportunists! I bet they're here to ride on your coattails now that you hold a high position in the Three Realms."

"Let it go, it's all in the past. Li Xiangzhi's getting on in years, and since my uncle has passed away, we should consider his feelings. My mom only had that one brother, and besides, Qiaoqiao was just a child back then and had nothing to do with it. My mom's old now; as long as she's happy, that's what matters."

If it had been up to Mo Zhixuan, he certainly wouldn't have allowed Li Xiangzhi through the door, though Tong Qiaoqiao might have been a different story.

She was still a child at the time, after all.

But since things had turned out this way, he would just have to go with the flow. He couldn't snub his own mother over it.

Now that Li Xiangzhi was Tong Yuan's widow, it wouldn't look good to be too harsh.

"Mo Zhixuan, I'm sorry you have to put up with this," Chu Jin held him tightly, her face pressed against his chest, sincerely saying, "Don't worry, now that you're with me, I'll take good care of you from now on."

Chapter 870:

Chu Jin also knew of Mo Zhixuan's concerns.

Indeed, with the old lady of the Mo family's relationship, it is rather difficult to interfere in this matter.

Now that people have moved in, some things can't be done too excessively.

...

After Qinghe escorted Li Xiangzhi and Tong Qiaoqiao to the eastern wing, he left.

Although the eastern wing was only of medium standard in the imperial palace, its decoration was still luxurious, and the ornamental items lying on the ground in the courtyard were all made of agate.

Just any ornament in the room was an antique.

Ever since Tong Qiaoqiao entered the room, she had been in continuous awe; her family's circumstances had also been good when she was a child, but never to this extravagant extent!

"Mom, look, this is pure gold! This is a crystal cup! My God! Our aunt's home is truly wealthy enough to rival a country!" Tong Qiaoqiao exclaimed.

Li Xiangzhi scoffed disdainfully, "What an inexperienced thing to say, 'wealthy enough to rival a country'? The entire Superpower World belongs to the Mo family! Now, we can even be considered royal relatives!"

Very excited, Tong Qiaoqiao said, "Then if this were in ancient times, I could practically be considered half a princess, right? With the support of the Mo family, we're going to prosper in the future!"

Now that the mother and daughter had attached themselves to the Mo family, they were surely going to be admired by thousands from now on.

Li Xiangzhi snorted coldly, "What's so great about being a princess? Only becoming the queen would be a real accomplishment! Haven't you heard? We can only stay here temporarily, and in a few days, we'll have to move out!" As she spoke, Li Xiangzhi's eyes filled with resentment.

"Mom, what do you mean by that?" Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes flickered with doubt as she asked.

Li Xiangzhi curved her lips into a smile, "I mean exactly what I said. But, my daughter, it all depends on your ability now. Between princess and queen, it's your choice."

Her words carried deep meaning.

Tong Qiaoqiao narrowed her eyes, instantly grasping the meaning behind her mother's words, and with some disbelief, she said, "But Mom... Mo Zhixuan is my cousin!" They were blood relatives! This Li Xiangzhi really dared to think of anything!

"What about him being your cousin?" Li Xiangzhi looked up at Tong Qiaoqiao, "Haven't there been many cousin marriages in ancient times?"

They weren't real siblings! Since ancient times, there have been numerous intermarriages among cousins; how much blood relation could there be between male and female cousins?

Tong Qiaoqiao frowned slightly, "But, cousin already has a wife, I don't stand a chance." In the Superpower World, there was no such thing as divorce; she certainly couldn't expect Mo Zhixuan to leave his wife for her. That was beyond her abilities, and Tong Qiaoqiao was well aware of that.

Li Xiangzhi said with a smile, "You're a widow who has lost her husband, do you really expect Mo Zhixuan to marry you?"

Tong Qiaoqiao shook her head, "Mom, I still don't understand what you mean..." Surely she wasn't suggesting she become the other woman? The other woman was frowned upon! Even though the Tong family had fallen, she was once their young mistress; how could she stoop to being the other woman? It was utterly impossible!

In some respects, Tong Qiaoqiao still held certain principles; becoming the other woman was out of the question!

Li Xiangzhi continued, "The Tong family is in decline now, you're just a widow who has lost her husband, stop acting so high and mighty. If Mo Zhixuan takes a fancy to you, that would be your good fortune! You are your aunt's niece, and once you and Mo Zhixuan engage in that kind of relationship, our two families will become even closer relatives. She couldn't possibly not protect you. Then, both of us could

stay in the imperial palace forever, enjoying all the glory, wealth, and respect of others, and also find a good path for little Jinzi, allowing him to rise above others without the hard work. But it all depends on your ability, whether you can hook Mo Zhixuan or not!"

In other words, even becoming Mo Zhixuan's mistress would be a stroke of luck for Tong Qiaoqiao!

Mo Zhixuan was the commander of the entire Superpower World!

"Would that really work?" Tong Qiaoqiao frowned, "I've seen that Chu Jin; she's very beautiful, like a goddess from a painting. Would cousin take a liking to me?"

Li Xiangzhi smiled lightly, "Men have a certain flaw, home flowers are not as fragrant as wild flowers, and even the shit outside smells sweet to them. As long as you're willing to work hard, there's nothing you can't accomplish. Besides, for a man like Mo Zhixuan, who's so outstanding, having three wives and four concubines is normal." Li Xiangzhi made it seem as if she was making perfect sense, which made even Tong Qiaoqiao eager to act.

"Mom, do you really think I can do it?" Tong Qiaoqiao looked at Li Xiangzhi, full of doubt.

Before Li Xiangzhi spoke these words, Tong Qiaoqiao wouldn't dare to even dream such thoughts, but after Li Xiangzhi mentioned it, the image of Mo Zhixuan's stunning face appeared in her mind, stirring a sense of spring yearning within her.

There wasn't a single woman in the world who could resist Mo Zhixuan's charm.

"My daughter, how could you not?" Li Xiangzhi clasped Tong Qiaoqiao's hand, her face alight with smiles.

Tong Qiaoqiao still hesitated, "Then tell me, will my aunt help me when the time comes? Chu Jin doesn't look like someone easy to mess with. If she finds out, she will definitely not let me go! Mom, aren't we taking too big of a risk by doing this?"

Tong Qiaoqiao was somewhat afraid of Chu Jin; she couldn't even look her in the eyes directly.

Li Xiangzhi snorted lightly and said with a smile.

"What if Chu Jin finds out? Can she ascend to the heavens? You have your aunt protecting you, what are you afraid of? There isn't a good mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship anywhere in this world. I'm sure your aunt and Chu Jin's relationship is terrible! But you're different, you're her only niece. Jin is the only heir of the Tong family. Even if just to preserve the Tong family's bloodline, she will surely protect you."

Li Xiangzhi's words made a lot of sense, and Tong Qiaoqiao's smile grew wider. With this reasoning, Tong Qiaoqiao felt much more relieved and didn't have so many worries anymore.

In front of the powerful and wealthy, what are morals? Can you eat them?

With the Old Madame Mo as her protective umbrella, she didn't need to worry at all.

The Old Madame Mo wouldn't possibly side with Chu Jin, an outsider, over her own grandniece! She could see the Old Madame Mo liked her very much!

Tong Qiaoqiao thought it through very well.

After all, who wouldn't want boundless wealth and privilege?

"Mom, with your words, I'm much more at ease. Now tell me, what should I do?" Tong Qiaoqiao lacked experience in this area, so she sought advice from Li Xiangzhi.

Li Xiangzhi smiled and said, "Between men and women, it's all the same old story. Hook him until he can't quit you, and then he will be at your mercy. Qiaoqiao, you have to work hard. The future of Jin and your mother's rest of life all depend on you!"

Li Xiangzhi was full of confidence in Tong Qiaoqiao. After all, her daughter was also very beautiful. Although she couldn't compare to Chu Jin, she had her own charm.

Tong Qiaoqiao nodded, "Okay, Mom, I know what to do now. Don't worry, I definitely won't let you down."

Li Xiangzhi smiled contentedly, "That's my good daughter. In the future, if you end up with Zhixuan, you'll be like an imperial noble consort by the side of an ancient emperor. If you give birth to a son for Zhixuan, who knows, maybe one day he could inherit Zhixuan's mantle. I've inquired about it, and the twins that Chu Jin gave birth to are defective. Just put in the effort, and it's possible to push her aside."

Upon hearing this, Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes lit up with curiosity, "Defective? What kind of defect?" This could indeed be her opportunity, so Tong Qiaoqiao was very interested in this matter.

"The girl of the twin siblings is a normal human, without any special ability mutant bone; she can't even learn to use special abilities. Since the girl is like this, the boy can't be much better, after all, they were both born of the same mother," Li Xiangzhi said with a disdainful expression. Her Jin was so clever and learned special abilities so quickly, in the future, he would certainly outshine Chu Jin's twins!

Furthermore, they both crawled out of the same belly. How could only one be a normal person?

As far as Li Xiangzhi was concerned, both kids were probably normal people. It was just the Mo family saving face, too embarrassed to say it out loud!

If it were revealed, Mo Zhixuan's position might not be so secure!

How can one pacify the nation if they cannot pacify the people's hearts?

Tong Qiaoqiao frowned slightly, "I'm not sure about the girl, but I heard that the boy is a child of auspicious omen. Besides, there was a unicorn that came to bring a child during Chu Jin's childbirth. Mom, you might have heard wrong." The event of the unicorn bringing the child was known to all three realms, but the fact that Bei Bei had an ordinary physique was only known within the Superpower World.

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi sneered and continued.

"How could I have misheard? If you don't believe me, go out and ask around tomorrow—what unicorn bringing a child, I think it's mostly them drumming up support for this kid! Chu Jin, as one of the Superpower World's Nine Ladies, has given birth to two children with mediocre talents; to speak of it would invite ridicule! Therefore, I am certain that the little boy is probably a good-for-nothing! So, Qiaoqiao, you must try harder and give your aunt a smart child."

Before deciding to ally with the Mo family, Li Xiangzhi had already thoroughly investigated these matters.

She had always planned this; she just hadn't discussed it with Tong Qiaoqiao before.

Tong Qiaoqiao used to be a very proud person; if she had been told about this early on, she definitely wouldn't have come along. Now that Tong Qiaoqiao had witnessed the wealth of the Mo family for herself, once people enjoy a luxurious life, they don't want to go back to their old ways.

Li Xiangzhi understood humanity quite well.

"Mom." Tong Qiaoqiao pulled Li Xiangzhi's hand with a smile on her face, "I understand, thank you for the advice today. From now on, I'll definitely make you and my aunt the toast of the town, both in public and in private."

Li Xiangzhi nodded in satisfaction. "Who else should I advise if not you, my daughter? You must work hard because, who knows, maybe something unfortunate could happen to Chu Jin along the way, and then, the queen's throne could be yours."

Indeed, there are no divorces in Superpower World, but there are cases of wives dying.

If Tong Qiaoqiao is outstanding enough, ascending to that position is not impossible. People do need ambition, otherwise, they'll never have the drive to progress.

"Mhm." Tong Qiaoqiao looked at Li Xiangzhi and nodded with a smile, the triumph in her eyes as if she had already obtained everything she desired.

"By the way," Li Xiangzhi continued, "You can't let your aunt and the others discover your thoughts for now. Wait until after we achieve our goal, then we can go and appeal to your aunt together." Li Xiangzhi was a rather intelligent and rational person.

She understood the pros and cons of such a plan.

She also knew that the old Madam Mo didn't like her at the moment. If Tong Qiaoqiao caused any trouble, it would surely annoy the old Madam Mo. They could only come clean with the old Madam Mo after Tong Qiaoqiao had seduced Mo Zhixuan.

In the living room.

Tong Zhi and Mo Fengxu had already brought Xiangru and Yimo with them.

Mo Fengxu took Xiangru and Yimo to the amusement park to play with Bao Bao and Bei Bei, so now, only the old Madam Mo and Tong Zhi were left in the living room.

"Sister, you're really too naive! How could you accept someone like Li Xiangzhi? Have you forgotten how she treated you back then?" Tong Zhi looked at the old Madam Mo with a speechless expression.

The old Madam Mo sighed. "What are you going on about Li Xiangzhi for? She is your brother's wife! Now that Tong Yuan has passed away, leaving behind a widow and orphan, it's quite pitiful. And Qiaoqiao, that child, her husband is dead..."

"Tong Yuan has gone?" Tong Zhi frowned slightly, "Where did he go?" Tong Zhi was also very concerned about this brother.

The old Madam Mo sighed deeply, the implication obvious without words.

"Sister..." Tong Zhi struggled to accept this reality for a moment, "Are you saying Yuan has already... died?" The last words were difficult to utter.

The old Madam Mo nodded, her eyes reddening.

Actually, both sisters knew that this brother was an honest man who couldn't control Li Xiangzhi. None of them ever blamed this brother.

Over the years, it was always Li Xiangzhi controlling Tong Yuan, preventing him from having any contact with Tong Zhi and the old Madam Mo.

"Li Xiangzhi has truly gone too far!" Tong Zhi slammed the table and stood up. "Yuan has passed away, and she didn't even notify us! What a cruel heart! Sister, how did Yuan die? My poor brother, I didn't even get to see you for the last time!" Tong Zhi couldn't help but cry out loud.

What Li Xiangzhi did was indeed excessive. No matter what, Tong Zhi, the old Madam Mo, and Tong Yuan were siblings. With his passing, the fact that she didn't send even a message was intolerable!

The Mo family matriarch's face didn't look good either, "Back then we were all in the secular world, this can't be blamed on Li Xiangzhi. It was an old ailment of your brother's..."

Tong Yuan's health had never been good, often falling ill.

Moreover, at that time the Mo family matriarch and Tong Zhi were in the secular world, and for Li Xiangzhi, a woman of traditional virtue, dealing with so many matters was indeed overwhelming.

"I don't care! Sister, I will not recognize this Li Xiangzhi! Hurry up and have her thrown out! I feel sick just looking at her!" Tong Zhi was very determined.

Madam Mo sighed, "Thrown out? Where would she go? You speak as if it's easy, but what about Qiaoqiao? Qiaoqiao is your brother's only child, the only bloodline of our Tong family left in this world. Where do you want to drive her to? Besides, this whole affair was caused by Li Xiangzhi, it has nothing to do with Qiaoqiao. After all, you are Qiaoqiao's aunt! Don't look at the monk, look at the Buddha! If we don't take care of them, the mother and daughter, how can your brother rest in peace?"

At these words, Tong Zhi fell silent.

Madam Mo was right, Tong Qiaoqiao was innocent. Now that her brother had passed away, if something were to happen to Tong Qiaoqiao, she would feel as if she had let her deceased brother down.

No matter what, the two sisters had to preserve the only bloodline of the Tong family in this world.

"Sister, what do you suggest?" Tong Zhi asked, frowning slightly.

Madam Mo continued, "First, let the mother and daughter stay with me for a few days. Once I have arranged a house for them outside, then they can move out. On your end, see if you can find a lighter job for Qiaoqiao. It's not easy for the two of them, a mother and daughter, to raise a child."

Tong Zhi nodded and sighed, "Well, that's all we can do for now. I haven't seen Qiaoqiao for many years, what does she look like now?" She hoped that Qiaoqiao didn't resemble Li Xiangzhi at all.

"She looks like Tong Yuan around the eyes," Madam Mo said with a deep gaze. She then added, "Xiao Zhi, since it's all in the past, when Qiaoqiao and her mother come over later, don't keep a long face. We're all family, it's better to be harmonious."

"Family?" Tong Zhi raised her eyebrows slightly, with a touch of sarcasm, "You consider Li Xiangzhi as family, but does she consider you family? Sister, you... you're just too kind-hearted!"

Madam Mo wasn't like this in the past, but as people age, they have their concerns.

"There's no need to overdo it. Even when killing someone, we shouldn't go beyond a beheading. Li Xiangzhi has already become what she is now. We should be forgiving where we can, why cling to the past?" Madam Mo's voice sounded flat.

Tong Zhi sighed, "Alright, I understand." Madam Mo's words were not without reason, after all.

As long as Li Xiangzhi could recognize her errors and change, living as a harmonious family from now on would be quite good.

Before long, it was time for dinner.

Madam Mo had someone invite Li Xiangzhi and her daughter to the main hall for dinner.

Everyone else was already seated at the table.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei sat to her left and right, close to Madam Mo. They were little, so they sat in baby chairs.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan had not yet come down.

"Qinghe, go check why Zhixuan and Jin haven't come down yet," Madam Mo said to Qinghe beside her.

"Yes, Madam," Qinghe replied and headed upstairs.

The bedroom was very soundproof, so Qinghe didn't hear any noise.

She knocked on the door, "Nine Ye, Mistress Jin, it's time for dinner."

"Get up, let's not keep mom and Aunt Tong waiting," Chu Jin lifted the curtain, went to the bathroom for a quick shower, and came out in 5 minutes.