

## R Woman 881

Chapter 881: the door of home is always open for you

Lin Hong watched Situ Ya in silence, his eyes brimming with myriad emotions, a thick paternal love and helplessness nearly impossible to conceal.

Situ Ya, looking at the couple, suddenly didn't know how to refuse and found herself nodding as if compelled by some Ghost Envoy.

The couple was overjoyed and in tears, at a loss about what to say next.

"Come on, Ya Ya, your dad and I will take you back right now."

Situ Ya took out a tissue from her bag and handed it to the couple, "First, wipe away your tears." Under the current circumstances, Situ Ya also didn't know what to call the couple in front of her...

Call them uncle and auntie? That didn't seem quite right.

Call them mom and dad? That felt a bit awkward, as if in doing so she'd be betraying her own mother.

Lin Lan took the tissue, wiping the tears from her face, their gaze constantly on Situ Ya, making her feel rather uncomfortable.

"Shall I drive?" Situ Ya looked at the couple.

"Let's take our car, the driver's just waiting outside." Lin Lan tightly held Situ Ya's hand.

"Alright." Situ Ya nodded.

The Lin family's car was a military vehicle, looking quite imposing.

The three of them got into the car, with Lin Lan accompanying Situ Ya in the back seat, perhaps to spare Situ Ya any awkwardness, while Lin Hong sat in the passenger seat.

The car sped along the road and soon stopped in the military compound.

"Ya Ya, let's go in from here so you can get to know the surroundings," Lin Lan said seekingly, with a cautious glint in her eyes.

"Sure," Situ Ya nodded.

The family of three got out of the car.

This was the first time Situ Ya was so close to a military compound; as expected of a place where soldiers lived, both the outside and the inside exuded an honorable aura that felt very solemn.

The family roamed through the military compound as Lin Lan introduced it, "If you follow this road straight ahead, you'll come to an artificial lake. Walk along the lake's embankment, take a turn, and you'll be at our home."

The scenery inside the compound was very beautiful, and as they reached the artificial lake, they could see people out exercising.

A middle-aged man approached them with a smile, saying to Lin Hong, "Old Lin, is this your younger daughter? Congratulations, after more than twenty years of hoping! She looks like you!"

"Thank you," Lin Hong said with a full smile, then turned to Situ Ya, "Ya Ya, this is Uncle Wang, he also lives in this compound."

"Hello, Uncle Wang," Situ Ya greeted with a polite smile.

Lin Hong looked at Situ Ya somewhat stunned, his eyes reddening. He thought Situ Ya would remain silent, not expecting that she would take the initiative to greet someone.

"Good girl, it's great you are back," Uncle Wang, too, looked at Situ Ya with a relieved expression, then continued, "You have no idea how heartbroken your parents were when you first went missing."

Situ Ya just smiled faintly, not speaking further.

Along the way, they met many comrades of Lin Hong and Lin Lan.

Those who knew the situation would say, "Your second daughter has come back?"

Those who didn't would ask, "Old Lin, who's this young lady? Why haven't we seen her before?"

Lin Hong would answer with a smile, "This is my younger daughter, look, does she resemble me?"

"Look, that's our house," Lin Lan pointed to one of the villas, "The person standing at the door is your grandfather. He stands there every day waiting for you to return."

Situ Ya looked up and indeed saw an old man with white hair at the door of one of the villas. He was leaning on a cane, stooped, eyes gazing into the distance. The sight felt inexplicably heartrending.

Ten minutes later, the three of them arrived at the front of the villa, and Grandfather Lin came to greet them.

"Xiao Lan, Hong'er, you're back," Grandfather Lin approached them, eyes turning to Situ Ya as tears suddenly overflowed, "Ya Ya, you are Ya Ya, right?"

Grandfather Lin tightly grasped Situ Ya's hand, sobbing uncontrollably.

"Dad, don't frighten the child," Lin Hong supported Grandfather Lin's shoulder, his eyes careful, fearing the old man's behavior might scare Situ Ya away.

"It's okay," Situ Ya glanced at Lin Hong, then held onto Grandfather Lin, "Grandpa, take it easy, watch your step."

Seeing this, a wave of relief swept through Lin Lan and Lin Hong's eyes.

"It's alright, I'm not that old yet. My dear granddaughter, it's good you're back. I thought I'd never see you again in this lifetime. You have no idea how happy I was when your parents told me about you," Grandfather Lin said.

Grandfather Lin had almost become bedridden from illness during the long absence of Lin Xiyuan, until he heard that his little granddaughter was still alive.

The family entered the house, and all along the way, Grandfather Lin never let go of Situ Ya's hand.

Lin Lan took Situ Ya through every corner of the Lin family home.

Upon reaching the second floor, Lin Lan opened the door to a room, "This is your sister's room, and next door is yours. Although you weren't with us, we never forgot about you. Over the years, whatever your sister had, we prepared the same for you."

As she spoke, Lin Lan opened a wardrobe door which was full of children's clothing and toys, all neatly arranged.

The clothes and toys were identical, the only difference being that one side was old and the other new.

These were clothes and toys from over twenty years ago, with styles that have since become outdated and can no longer be found on the market.

Situ Ya, seeing all this, was overwhelmed with emotion and suddenly felt a tinge of tears welling up, a lump in her throat making it very uncomfortable.

After looking for a while, Lin Lan led Situ Ya to another room, "This is your room, it's been empty all these years. I thought you might never have the chance to live here, but fortunately, we mother and daughter met in this life..."

The rest of her words stuck in Lin Lan's throat, unsaid.

The room was decorated very warmly, with an all-pink theme that felt very girly, clearly arranged with care and intention.

Situ Ya looked at all of this, her gaze slightly glazed.

From her childhood till now, no one had ever prepared a room just for her.

When Qin Ling was still alive, she always shared a room with Qin Ling. After Qin Ling passed away, she began a life without a fixed abode.

A fire had burned everything away.

It had been a long time since anyone had given her this kind of warmth.

"Ya Ya, do you like this room? If you think the pink color is not nice, I'll have someone change it right away." Lin Lan turned her gaze to Situ Ya, her eyes filled with nervousness.

"No need," Situ Ya said with a slight smile, "I really like it."

"Really?" Lin Lan smiled happily, and then said, "That's good. Oh, Ya Ya, don't live outside anymore, come back home, it's not convenient for a girl to live outside alone."

Situ Ya slightly lowered her gaze, "I'll think about it."

Lin Lan wasn't disappointed but smiled and said, "Alright, alright, take your time to consider. You're welcome to move in anytime, the door of this home is always open for you."

"Okay." Situ Ya nodded. She suddenly found that feeling at home was actually very nice.

Not yet very familiar with Mr. and Mrs. Lin, Situ Ya didn't talk much.

However, Mr. and Mrs. Lin and Grandfather Lin were already very satisfied with Situ Ya's behavior. After all, her presence meant she had started to accept everything here from the bottom of her heart.

That night, Situ Ya did not go back but stayed at the Lin family's home to rest.

Lin Lan spent the whole night chatting with Situ Ya, only returning to her room as dawn approached.

Through that night's interaction, Situ Ya had untied many of the knots in her heart.

She had started to accept the Lin family members, just that she hadn't yet started addressing Mr. and Mrs. Lin as Dad and Mom.

Imperial Palace.

At night, silver moonlight spread across the entire land.

Tong Qiaoqiao was wearing a pure white dress, walking towards the fifth floor of the main hall.

Her destination was the bedroom of Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin.

Right before she was about to reach the bedroom, Tong Qiaoqiao stopped in her tracks, took out a mirror and lipstick from her space, carefully touched up her makeup, and then continued forward.

At this time, Chu Jin should have gone to tell stories to Bao Bao and Bei Bei, not in the bedroom.

Tong Qiaoqiao timed her visit well. A gentle smile appeared on her face, and then she raised her hand and knocked on the door.

The door was quickly opened.

"Cousin, I..." The smile on Tong Qiaoqiao's face became stiff in that instant.

Why was Chu Jin the one opening the door?

Wasn't she not in the bedroom?

The servants had clearly told her that Chu Jin should be in the children's room at this time!

How could such a situation occur?

"What? Surprised to see me?" Chu Jin raised an eyebrow with a smile, her dimples shallow, and the emotion in her eyes somewhat inscrutable.

Tong Qiaoqiao quickly regained her composure, "Good evening Sister-in-law, I came to bring you something." Tong Qiaoqiao instantly reverted to a sweet younger sister persona, not revealing the slightest flaw.

"Come in," Chu Jin said, slightly raising her eyebrows.

"Okay." Tong Qiaoqiao nodded and followed Chu Jin inside.

She then realized that this bedroom was more than ten times bigger than the east wing room they were currently staying in, and the decorations inside were incredibly luxurious.

Tong Qiaoqiao had thought her own place was luxurious enough, but compared to this bedroom, her own dwelling seemed no better than a thatched hut...

If only she could oust Chu Jin and take her place here.

Envy was unmistakable in Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes.

Indeed, some are born with silver spoons, others with none.

"Who's there?" Mo Zhixuan, wearing a black robe, walked out of the bathroom. He had clearly just washed his hair, as the tips were still dripping wet.

Tong Qiaoqiao saw Mo Zhixuan like this for the first time.

He was always impeccably stern, and she hadn't expected him to wear pajamas and wash his own hair...

This more relaxed version of him was even more charming!

Tong Qiaoqiao's breathing became slightly erratic, her heart thumping wildly, her cheeks blushing as she looked up at Mo Zhixuan, "Cousin, it's me!"

Mo Zhixuan's gaze was cool as he glanced at her, then his eyes moved past her, warmly looking at Chu Jin, "Jin, I'm going to tell stories to Bao Bao and Bei Bei."

"Go ahead," Chu Jin nodded slightly.

As Mo Zhixuan left the bedroom, Tong Qiaoqiao felt a bit anxious but couldn't stop him; she could only watch helplessly as he walked away.

Chu Jin sat down at the dressing table to apply skincare. Her skin was naturally good, only requiring some hydrating lotion.

Despite not wearing makeup often, Chu Jin's dressing table was still filled with various cosmetics, from foundation to lipstick, everything top-of-the-line.

Just one item was worth more than six figures.

Looking at all these made Tong Qiaoqiao envious once more. Which girl doesn't love makeup? When could she, like Chu Jin, afford these luxuries? Indeed, it's a life above all, at the pinnacle of solitude.

Chu Jin's fate was too good!

Tong Qiaoqiao clenched her fists in discontent, but her face still maintained a faint smile, without revealing any of her dissatisfaction.

Of course, Chu Jin knew what Tong Qiaoqiao was after.

Yet, even though Mo Zhixuan was her cousin, she dared to harbor such thoughts towards someone related by blood. It was quite disgusting...

Chu Jin originally had a good impression of this cousin, but after learning the truth, her favorable impression turned into negative numbers, and she even began to have a prejudice against Li Xiangzhi as well, Tong Qiaoqiao must have been encouraged by Li Xiangzhi to have such thoughts.

If she didn't have someone behind her, Tong Qiaoqiao wouldn't dare to be so brazen.

Chapter 882:

"What do you want with me?" Chu Jin glanced back at Tong Qiaoqiao.

"Cousin-in-law, these are special fruits from my hometown, very beneficial for women. They can enhance beauty, nourish the skin, and even fight wrinkles," Tong Qiaoqiao said, smiling as she took out the brightly colored fruits from her space.

Chu Jin had never seen such fruits before and assumed they must indeed be local specialties. However, she really didn't dare accept anything from Tong Qiaoqiao...

Chu Jin spoke indifferently, "Take them back, those who are naturally beautiful have no need for such things." Her tone was incredibly narcissistic yet irresistibly flawless, and indeed, she had the right to say so.

Tong Qiaoqiao appeared somewhat aggrieved, "Cousin-in-law, your words... have I upset you somehow? If so, I apologize right here. Qiaoqiao had no intention to offend and begs for your magnanimity."

Chu Jin chuckled, her eyebrows raised in amusement, "So, you still remember I'm your cousin-in-law, do you? Then, do you also remember that Mo Zhixuan is your cousin?"

A flicker of unease and confusion crossed Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes as she failed to grasp Chu Jin's implication, "Of course I remember. Cousin is the only son of my aunt; how could I possibly forget?"

Chu Jin nodded, "Good that you remember. So, you'd better keep in mind that Mo Zhixuan is your cousin, someone you share blood with. Don't harbor inappropriate thoughts. Your own disgusting actions disgust others too! Take your fruits back. And remember, no matter how tempting, what belongs to others is theirs. You must learn to control yourself, not let your hands wander where they shouldn't, such behavior is truly shameful!"

"Cousin-in-law, you... have you misunderstood me?" Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes turned red in an instant, "I don't understand what you're talking about..."

Tong Qiaoqiao was indeed panicked and confused, but at this moment, she had to remain calm and not lose her composure.

It seemed that Chu Jin was aware of her feelings. It looked like she needed a new plan!

The corners of Chu Jin's mouth curved into a faint smile, tinged with mockery, "Not understanding is fine, as long as you know it in your heart. In life, you can lose anything but one thing you must guard carefully—do you know what that is?"

Tong Qiaoqiao still shook her head, feigning innocence, "I don't know..."

Chu Jin just looked at Tong Qiaoqiao and then spoke slowly, "It's—face. People live for their reputation, trees for their bark. Am I right?"

Chu Jin was indirectly accusing her of being shameless! How could Tong Qiaoqiao not understand the meaning behind her words!

After all, she was Mo Zhixuan's cousin, the only niece of the old Madam Mo. She hadn't expected Chu Jin to speak of her in such a way, not leaving her any dignity!

She was truly! Truly! Truly too much!

Tong Qiaoqiao burst into tears in an instant, "Cousin-in-law, I don't know where I've offended you! How could you say such things to me! I know I'm at a lower status living in someone else's home, but no matter what, I'm still my aunt's niece. Even she has accepted me, why do you prejudice against me? What exactly did I do wrong?"

Chu Jin's lips curved into a smile, her tone cool, "What's the matter? You do something shameful and don't want others to speak of it?" It had been a long time since she had so thoroughly enjoyed rebuking someone. Ever since the birth of Bao Bao and Bei Bei, it was the first time someone had dared to provoke Mo Zhixuan in front of her, harboring thoughts that should not be entertained.

In the next second, Tong Qiaoqiao knelt on the ground, giving herself a slap and crying out as if performing a one-woman play, "Ah! Cousin-in-law, how could you hit me! I came with good intentions to bring you a specialty, and you actually hit me..."

Chu Jin stood up high, looking down at Tong Qiaoqiao, her eyes twinkling with mockery, her mouth etched with a faint smile, watching the scene as if it were a play.

Seeing Chu Jin so composed, a shade of doubt swept through Tong Qiaoqiao's mind. This Chu Jin...

Was she too abnormal? She was being so blatantly wronged, yet Chu Jin didn't attempt to explain herself and wasn't afraid of getting the old Madam Mo involved?

There was no third person to testify for her, and with the slap mark on her face, there was no way for Chu Jin to defend herself!

Tong Qiaoqiao's goal was to force Chu Jin to apologize in front of the old Madam Mo and, in doing so, lower Chu Jin's esteem in the old lady's eyes. After all, she was the old Madam Mo's kin. Chu Jin slapping her was akin to slapping the old Madam's face!

This time, the old Madam Mo would surely take her side.

With that thought, Tong Qiaoqiao cried even louder.

Chu Jin's smile deepened, the live performance before her far more entertaining than any television drama.

"What are you laughing at?" Tong Qiaoqiao looked up at Chu Jin, her eyes slightly narrowed.

"I'm laughing at how foolish you are," Chu Jin said bluntly, without sugarcoating.

"Laugh all you want; soon you'll be crying," Tong Qiaoqiao's face still wet with tears, a sly look flashing in her eyes, "Tell me, who do you think my aunt will believe, you, an outsider, or me, her niece?"

Chu Jin responded with only a smile.

Somehow, Tong Qiaoqiao's heart felt a stir of panic and chaos.

She could feel that when Chu Jin looked at her, it was as if she was looking at a jumping clown!

How could this be?

Shouldn't Chu Jin be panicking? What makes her think that she can explain herself clearly in front of the Mo family's old madam later? Isn't she afraid?

Tong Qiaoqiao bit her lip, then looked at Chu Jin and, grinding her teeth, said, "Chu Jin, beg me now, and if you do, I'll let today's incident go. I won't tell auntie! Otherwise, if auntie comes, you'll be in big trouble!"

Chu Jin leaned in slightly, looked at Tong Qiaoqiao, her eyes smiling, and pointed up at the chandelier, speaking in an indifferent tone, "There's a camera up there."

The smile on Tong Qiaoqiao's face froze instantly, and she looked up at the chandelier, indeed spotting a hint of infrared light beneath it.

In an instant, Tong Qiaoqiao felt her heart turn cold...

No wonder! No wonder Chu Jin was so calm!

Tong Qiaoqiao immediately rose from the ground, and by this time, footsteps were already approaching from outside the door. If nothing unexpected, the owner of those footsteps was the Mo family's old madam.

Under Chu Jin's gaze, Tong Qiaoqiao hurried out of the door, her left hand tightly covering her face, and sure enough, as she exited, she encountered the old madam of the Mo family who had followed.

Upon seeing Tong Qiaoqiao, the old madam of the Mo family asked with concern, "Qiaoqiao, what's happened? I thought I heard crying just now, what occurred?"

"Auntie, I'm fine, I just took a fall," Tong Qiaoqiao said in a steady tone, with one hand covering her face.

"Are you sure you're alright?" the old madam of the Mo family asked with great concern.

Tong Qiaoqiao shook her head, "Auntie, don't worry, I'm really okay."

"That's good then. Since you're alright, go back and rest early. The lighting is poor at night, try to come out less after it gets dark," the old madam of the Mo family said, her words also contained a slight reprimand, but what she didn't know was that Tong Qiaoqiao, with great audacity, had set her sights on Mo Zhixuan.

The old madam of the Mo family merely thought that at this late hour, with Mo Zhixuan and his wife Chu Jin still upstairs, Tong Qiaoqiao's presence there might be somewhat disturbing to Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan.

"Mm, goodnight auntie, I'll be returning now," Tong Qiaoqiao quickly left.

Watching her retreat, the old madam of the Mo family's eyes showed a hint of puzzlement. She felt that something was off about Tong Qiaoqiao tonight.

But the old madam of the Mo family didn't dwell on it further and continued forward, entering her own bedroom.

After Tong Qiaoqiao left, Chu Jin closed the bedroom door, glanced at the fruit left behind by Tong Qiaoqiao, and pressed the intercom, calling a servant up.

"Madam Chu, do you have any instructions?" the servant asked very respectfully.

Chu Jin's gaze fell on the plate of fruit, and she said in an indifferent tone, "Take this plate of fruit to Tong Qiaoqiao."

"Yes, Madam Chu," the servant replied, taking the plate of fruit and leaving respectfully.

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The East Wing.

Fuming with anger, Tong Qiaoqiao entered the room and immediately locked the bedroom door behind her.

Li Xiangzhi was anxiously knocking from the outside, "Qiaoqiao, what's wrong with you, Qiaoqiao!"

"Stop knocking! I'm annoyed!" Tong Qiaoqiao's irritable voice came from inside.

Thinking back to the recent events, Tong Qiaoqiao was consumed with rage! It was bad enough that Chu Jin had insulted her, but how was it that she also had to endure that slap for nothing?

Now look! She had tried to steal a chicken only to end up losing her rice!

Not only did she fail to attract Mo Zhixuan's attention, but she also brought trouble upon herself!

How could Tong Qiaoqiao not be angry?

Not only had she lost face in front of Chu Jin, but now she was also seen through. How could she have the face to continue living in the Mo family residence after this?

Li Xiangzhi sighed outside the door, "Qiaoqiao, if there's something on your mind, you can just tell Mom directly, don't lock yourself in the room and harm your health!" Tong Qiaoqiao was now her cash cow, her future hope. At times like this, she couldn't afford Tong Qiaoqiao feeling aggrieved.

"It's all because of your lousy ideas! I'll never believe your nonsense again!" Tong Qiaoqiao grabbed a vase and hurled it at the door.

With a "bang," the vase shattered to pieces.

Li Xiangzhi, who was outside, also jumped with fright.

"Qiaoqiao, what on earth has happened? Calm down and tell me, stop throwing things! These items aren't ours, and if your aunt asks later, we won't be able to explain..." Li Xiangzhi knocked on the door, her tone full of worry.

She had no idea what had gotten into Tong Qiaoqiao!

Inside the room, Tong Qiaoqiao was about to smash a second vase, but upon hearing Li Xiangzhi's words, she sheepishly put the vase back. How could the imperial palace not belong to her? If the palace were hers, she wouldn't have to endure Chu Jin's ridicule and derision!

"Qiaoqiao, could you please open the door?" Li Xiangzhi continued to knock.

Biting her lip, Tong Qiaoqiao opened the door, "I told you to stop knocking, are you deaf?" Tong Qiaoqiao's tone was very unpleasant.

Li Xiangzhi didn't get angry, but smiled and said, "Qiaoqiao, what's wrong? Who has upset you so much?"

Xiao Jinzi silently cleaned up the broken vase pieces scattered on the floor; by his actions, it was evident he was used to doing such chores.

"You have the nerve to ask! It's all your fault! Anyway, I can't stay in the imperial palace any longer! Mark my words, I'm leaving here tomorrow!" Tong Qiaoqiao fumed with anger.

Only then did Li Xiangzhi notice the left side of Tong Qiaoqiao's face, and exclaimed in shock, "Qiaoqiao, what happened to your face?"

"You have the gall to ask! If you hadn't sent me to deliver specialties to Chu Jin, I wouldn't have ended up like this!" The more she spoke, the angrier Tong Qiaoqiao became.

Li Xiangzhi frowned deeply, incredulous, "Did Chu Jin do this to you?" Chu Jin didn't seem like the type to hit people. What happened today?

Tong Qiaoqiao bit her lip tightly, replying resentfully, "I did it to myself!"

Li Xiangzhi was even more surprised, "Silly child! Who would hurt themselves so severely? What really happened? Don't be so upset, that won't solve anything and will only harm your health. Come on, have some tea first." Li Xiangzhi handed Tong Qiaoqiao a cup of tea.

Tong Qiaoqiao calmed down a little and said bitterly, "Who would have thought that bitch Chu Jin had installed surveillance in her bedroom!" If not for that camera, her plan tonight would have been a complete success!

With that, Li Xiangzhi began to understand something, and she frowned, "Wasn't Mo Zhixuan in the room?"

Tong Qiaoqiao huffed, "As soon as I walked in, he left! He didn't even glance at me properly! I felt like a complete clown!"

"Silly child, that's no way to talk about yourself!" Li Xiangzhi said cheerfully, "As the saying goes, 'Familiarity breeds fondness.' You've only been here for a few days, right? You can't just give up over a little setback; you have more advantages than anyone else!"

"You make it sound as easy as eating sunflower seeds; why don't you go try it!" Tong Qiaoqiao snapped angrily, "Chu Jin already knows what I'm thinking. Anyway, I've completely burned bridges with her tonight. Tell me, how am I supposed to continue staying in the imperial palace now?"

Li Xiangzhi chuckled nonchalantly, "We were bound to confront her sooner or later; there's no difference between doing it now or later. For such a trifle..."

"A trifle? Do you think this is a trifle?" Tong Qiaoqiao continued, "What if she tells my aunt about this? Even if she doesn't tell, having to face her every day, where shall I put my dignity?"

In any case, Tong Qiaoqiao felt this had brought utter disgrace upon her!

If she had won, it would have been another matter, but she had lost - and in such an embarrassingly wretched fashion!

Li Xiangzhi smiled faintly and added, "Qiaoqiao, rest assured, she won't tell your aunt about this. If you encounter her later, just act as if nothing's wrong and call her 'cousin-in-law.' What's there to fret about? I have to tell you, your aunt already spoke with me today; she has found us a place to stay. In three days, we will be leaving here, so you must figure out a way to stay before that."

"Three days?" Tong Qiaoqiao was very surprised, "Why is my aunt in such a hurry? We've only been here for less than a week!"

During that week, Tong Qiaoqiao had come up with two plans to get close to Mo Zhixuan, but unfortunately, both had failed!

Li Xiangzhi gave a cold snort, very displeased, "This is someone else's turf; if they're unhappy with us, they can kick us out whenever they want!"

Tong Qiaoqiao sat down stubbornly, "Fine, let's go. I've wanted to leave this place for a long time!" After what had happened, even if Tong Qiaoqiao had no shame, she still felt she couldn't face Chu Jin.

Li Xiangzhi, frustrated, chided her, "Is that all the ambition you have? Let me tell you, you won't find a better place than this anywhere in the Three Realms. Are you really willing to leave?"

"What can I do if I'm unwilling? Haven't you said it yourself? This is their turf! If they want us to leave, should we just cling on and refuse to go?"

Li Xiangzhi smiled and said, "Silly child, come here, mom has something to tell you."

"What is it?" Tong Qiaoqiao narrowed her eyes suspiciously.

"Naturally, it's a way to make you stay." A calculating glint flashed in Li Xiangzhi's eyes.

Tong Qiaoqiao glared at Li Xiangzhi and said angrily, "Mom, I will never trust you again. It's precisely because I trusted you too much that I ended up getting slapped for nothing."

Li Xiangzhi immediately retorted, "My plan didn't include you slapping yourself. That was your own addition, so you can't blame me. If Mo Zhixuan hadn't been in the room, you could've found some pretext to leave. I told you to attract Mo Zhixuan's attention, not Chu Jin's. If you'd been more subtle about it, you wouldn't have had to get slapped."

Clearly, Tong Qiaoqiao had underestimated Chu Jin's fighting capacity.

She thought she could use this opportunity to bring down Chu Jin, but it backfired, and she ended up shooting herself in the foot.

Hearing this, Tong Qiaoqiao immediately fell silent. Li Xiangzhi was right; the slap was indeed the result of her own overacting.

Li Xiangzhi continued, "Qiaoqiao, trust mom, I would never harm you. I'm doing this for your sake, for the future of little Jinzi. Even if you don't think about yourself, think about little Jinzi. Do you have the heart to let him suffer at such a young age?"

Tong Qiaoqiao bit her lip and then said, "Will it really work this time?"

"Really!" Li Xiangzhi nodded firmly, "Success hinges on this one move!"

"Alright! Then I'll trust you one more time!" A glimmer of light flashed in Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes.

After all, who wouldn't want such immense wealth?

"That's the spirit, now come closer." Li Xiangzhi beckoned her.

Tong Qiaoqiao immediately leaned in.

Li Xiangzhi began to whisper.

A slow smile spread across Tong Qiaoqiao's lips.

After their secretive conversation, Tong Qiaoqiao looked at little Jinzi, who was sweeping up fragments, and said, "Little Jinzi, come here."

Little Jinzi dropped the shards into the trash and immediately walked over to Tong Qiaoqiao's side, "Mommy."

Tong Qiaoqiao smiled and said, "Good son, do you know what to tell your grandmother tomorrow?"

"I know." Little Jinzi nodded and then said, "I'll tell my aunt that I accidentally broke the vase while practicing my martial arts."

Tong Qiaoqiao patted little Jinzi's head with satisfaction and smiled, "You are truly mom's good son. Tell me, do you want to keep living here?"

"Yes!" Little Jinzi nodded emphatically, "I like it here."

Although he had only stayed here for a short week, little Jinzi had already come to think of it as his home.

Tong Qiaoqiao continued, "Mommy wants to live here forever too, but, after all, this isn't our home. There is a way that could allow us to live here forever, but it requires your help. Little Jinzi, are you willing to help mommy?"

Little Jinzi nodded, "Mommy, I'm willing. As long as I can continue living here, I'm willing to do anything, not only to stay but to be the master here. I want to inherit everything."

Although young, little Jinzi already had a strong desire for fame and fortune. He looked down on Bao Bao and Bei Bei but was extremely jealous of them. Why should such useless kids have so much while he, who was excellent, had nothing?

Tong Qiaoqiao's face was filled with satisfaction, "That's right, that's my good son with ambition!"

Li Xiangzhi's face, too, was filled with smiles. Her grandson hadn't let her down!

"Mommy, what do you need my help with?" Little Jinzi then asked.

"Good son, mom will tell you..." Tong Qiaoqiao whispered into little Jinzi's ear.

After listening, little Jinzi, ever so mature for his age, said, "Mommy, I understand everything. Don't worry, I'll follow your plan."

#### Chapter 883: The Little Match Girl (Part 1)

"Okay," Tong Qiaoqiao stood up, "then Mom will take you for a bath."

Li Xiangzhi stood up and said, "You two go get your clothes first, I'll get everything ready." With that, she headed to the bathroom.

Tong Qiaoqiao casually took two pieces of clothing from the cabinet and then led Little Jin into the bathroom.

In the bathroom, Li Xiangzhi had already filled the bathtub with water, and wisps of vapor floated above the surface.

If one looked carefully, they would realize that it wasn't steam, but frost!

Beneath the water's surface, there were all ice cubes.

Seeing this, Little Jin couldn't help but shiver.

That water, it looked bone-chillingly cold.

"Hurry and take off your clothes," Tong Qiaoqiao glanced at Little Jin.

Little Jin trembled as he undressed, looking at the frost on the water's surface and couldn't help but shudder...

That water must be very cold.

But for his mother, for his grandmother, and for himself as well, he had to get in!

"Come here quickly." Tong Qiaoqiao, with a towel in hand, beckoned to Little Jin.

Little Jin walked over and climbed into the bathtub.

Instantly, a bone-numbing coldness spread throughout his body.

Cold, very cold, so cold it hurt to the bone—Little Jin started shivering at once, his teeth chattering from the freezing cold.

Little Jin couldn't withstand such an ordeal and quickly stood up, "Mom, I'm cold! I'm cold..." Little Jin hugged his chest, his voice quivering as well.

He was truly very cold.

This kind of cold almost made his blood freeze together, making it hard to breathe... Utterly agonizing!

But Tong Qiaoqiao quickly pressed down on his shoulders, "Little Jin, you are Mom's only hope. Don't you want to become the master of this place? Do you want to endure those two good-for-nothings bullying you?"

There wasn't a trace of pity in Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes; in her eyes, her son was merely a tool to climb the ladder of power.

Besides, this cold water wouldn't kill Little Jin, at worst it would only give him a severe cold...

She's a mother, she knew limits.

Hearing this, Little Jin bit down hard on his teeth, his eyes bloodshot, and he sat back down in the bathtub.

The ice water turned his skin blue, and his lips, too, turned a dark shade of blue.

But Little Jin didn't utter a sound anymore.

Tong Qiaoqiao wiped Little Jin's body with the towel while speaking, "Little Jin, don't blame Mom for being cruel. Mom is doing this because there is no other way. People, if they want something, they must pay a price for it. I promise there won't be a next time."

By this time, Little Jin couldn't feel any temperature at all; his whole body trembled. Though it was only September, his heart had completely chilled!

He longed for warmth.

Before consciousness dissipated, the story "The Little Match Girl" suddenly came to his mind.

In the past, he could never understand just how cold it must have been to freeze the little girl to death...

Now...

He understood.

Such coldness was truly unbearable.

Little Jin slowly closed his eyes and plunged his head into the water, falling unconscious.

"Little Jin!" Tong Qiaoqiao shouted in panic, reaching to pull Little Jin out of the water.

"Wait!" Li Xiangzhi stopped Tong Qiaoqiao's movements with her hand.

"Mom, Little Jin has already passed out!" Tong Qiaoqiao looked at Li Xiangzhi, her tone urgent.

Regardless, Little Jin was her biological son, and in the end, Tong Qiaoqiao felt a bit of heartache.

Li Xiangzhi remained composed, slowly saying, "I know he has passed out! Little Jin is my only grandson. Do you think I don't feel sorry? I feel more sorry than you! But this is not the time for pity! If we don't succeed, we must be prepared for sacrifice! Little Jin's constitution has always been good; to avoid accidents, let him soak for another ten minutes."

Hearing Li Xiangzhi's reasoning, Tong Qiaoqiao hesitantly released her hold, somewhat uneasily saying, "Mom, you don't think anything will happen to Little Jin, do you?"

Li Xiangzhi confidently said, "It's just a case of freezing; nothing will happen. I have already prepared the quilts, just need to bundle him up later. So many people go winter swimming; I haven't seen anyone having accidents. Don't worry."

Reassured by these words, Tong Qiaoqiao finally exhaled in relief.

After ten minutes, Tong Qiaoqiao pulled Little Jin out of the water.

By that time, Little Jin had completely lost consciousness.

Tong Qiaoqiao turned on the air conditioning and placed Little Jin in the bed.

Sure enough, in the middle of the night, Little Jin developed a relentless fever and showed symptoms of a severe cold.

Only then did the mother and daughter feel at ease.

On the other side.

The Duanmu Family.

Mo Qingyi had been resting at home to care for her pregnancy these days; she was now a high-priority individual in the Duanmu Family.

To prevent accidents, Duanmu Zhe had even moved their bedroom to the first floor.

Mo Qingyi's pregnancy was hard-won, so the entire Duanmu Family took it very seriously.

"Time for your medicine." Duanmu Zhe carried a bowl of herbal medicine to Mo Qingyi.

Before Mo Qingyi had the chance to reach for the medicine, her stomach couldn't help but churn, and she immediately got up, rushing toward the bathroom.

"Slow down!" Duanmu Zhe put down the medicine bowl and immediately followed her.

Mo Qingyi leaned over the toilet, vomiting so intensely, she wished she could throw up her entire stomach.

Duanmu Zhe stood behind her, patting her shoulder with concern, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine, don't worry," Mo Qingyi waved her hand, indicating she was alright.

"You're vomiting so much... maybe, maybe we shouldn't keep this child?" Seeing Mo Qingyi like this, Duanmu Zhe truly couldn't bear it. Two months into the pregnancy, Mo Qingyi had not only failed to gain weight but had actually lost some.

In Duanmu Zhe's heart, the child was far less important than Mo Qingyi.

"What nonsense are you talking about! You're not allowed to say that again! Everyone who's pregnant goes through this. Before I was pregnant, I always envied those expectant mothers, even their morning sickness I envied greatly, so right now, I am happy. The baby's turmoil indicates that it's lively and healthy. I am happy to endure this trouble," Mo Qingyi spoke evenly, but her eyes shimmered with a mother's radiance.

Though women may be fragile, they become strong as mothers.

What's a little suffering if it means having a child?

Seeing Mo Qingyi like this, Duanmu Zhe could only compromise. He touched Mo Qingyi's belly with a tender look, "Little guy, your mom has suffered so much to carry you, you must honor her well in the future and not be naughty."

Mo Qingyi also had a full smile on her face.

Back in the living room, the medicine had cooled down. Mo Qingyi struggled to suppress the churning inside her, picked up the soup medicine, took a deep breath, and drank it down in one gulp.

"Quick, have a piece of preserved fruit," Duanmu Zhe immediately offered her one.

Just after finishing the medicine, Chu Jin arrived.

Ever since Mo Qingyi became pregnant, Chu Jin would come to check on her periodically.

"Jin, why are you alone, where are Bao Bao and Bei Bei?" Mo Qingyi looked up at Chu Jin.

Chu Jin smiled slightly, "Those two rascals are too mischievous. If they came along, they would definitely disturb you. You're at a crucial time right now, you can't afford any mishaps because of those two little guys."

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were two Huskies, extremely rowdy, and unless they were sleeping, there wasn't a minute of peace.

Mo Qingyi took the medical kit from Chu Jin's hand, "It's alright, they are very good and obedient. I'm almost bored to death at home, it would be more lively if they came."

"If you're bored, watch more prenatal education programs. By the way, have you taken your medicine today?" Chu Jin reached out to feel Mo Qingyi's pulse.

Mo Qingyi nodded, "I have, rest assured, I take that medicine every day, without missing a single day."

Chu Jin then said, "That's good. You must take care of yourself during these first three months, be careful in your movements, eat more fruit, and less fried food."

"By the way, Brother Nine, Qingyi is always throwing up. Is there anything we can do to stop her from vomiting?" Duanmu Zhe asked next.

Chu Jin shook his head, "There's really no way around it, but what an expectant mother needs most during this time is your companionship and care. Just spend more time with Qingyi, she's not like other pregnant women, you must be careful at all times, even a sneeze could lead to a miscarriage."

Chu Jin wasn't joking—the complications in Mo Qingyi's body were severe from the start, and it hadn't been easy for her to conceive. This wasn't a matter to be taken lightly.

"Okay, Brother Nine, rest assured, I know what's at stake," Duanmu Zhe nodded seriously.

Mo Qingyi continued to ask, "Jin, how's the baby?"

Chu Jin smiled faintly, releasing Mo Qingyi's wrist. "The baby is in much better condition than I expected. Just hold on for one more month. After a month, once the pregnancy is stable, you won't need to take anti-miscarriage medicine anymore."

"Good, thank you, Jin." Mo Qingyi was very happy.

Looking at Mo Qingyi, Chu Jin expressed his concern, "Qingyi, have you lost weight recently?"

Without speaking, Duanmu Zhe added, "Indeed, she's suffering from severe morning sickness and can't stomach anything. She's lost two pounds in the last few days alone!"

Chu Jin frowned slightly, "That won't do! If this goes on for too long, even if the baby is okay, your body won't be able to take it. You must eat, even if it means forcing yourself, so you can provide nutrients for your body. Your food intake must return to its normal state."

Mo Qingyi said with some difficulty, "But what if I really can't eat? Is there any other way, like nutritional injections or something?"

Chu Jin shook his head. "No, if you want the child, you must eat," he said earnestly.

"What if I eat and then throw up?" Mo Qingyi continued to ask.

Chu Jin replied gravely, "Then you keep eating until you've finished. I know it may be difficult at first, but you'll manage if you just persevere. Qingyi, we can't afford for you to lose any more weight." As he said this, Chu Jin took hold of Mo Qingyi's hands.

Mo Qingyi instantly understood the meaning in Chu Jin's eyes and nodded solemnly in agreement.

"Duanmu, it's your responsibility to supervise Qingyi. If I come back and find her still this thin, it means you haven't been taking good enough care of her," Chu Jin said, glancing at Duanmu Zhe.

Duanmu Zhe replied with a smile, "Don't worry, Ninth Sister-in-law, I've got this covered."

Chu Jin nodded with a smile in his eyes.

Duanmu Zhe then said, "By the way, Ninth Sister-in-law, there's something else I need to tell you."

"What is it?" Chu Jin raised his eyebrows slightly.

"It's about Xi He," Duanmu Zhe said, his expression becoming serious.

Chu Jin knitted his brows lightly. "Isn't she dead?" Chu Jin had personally examined Xi He's body and confirmed there was no issue.

Duanmu Zhe continued, "She did die, but she's also still alive. The reason Qingyi ended up like this is all her doing." Duanmu Zhe had uncovered everything. The reason Mo Qingyi had been infertile for so many years was because of the problematic fruits sent by Lin Xiyuan.

The virus hidden in her body wasn't directly causing her infertility.

Lin Xiyuan had pretended to get together with Zhou Yiheng, aiming for this very outcome.

As long as Zhou Yiheng was her shield, no one would suspect her.

"What do you mean by that?" Chu Jin narrowed his eyes slightly, a flicker of confusion in his gaze.

Duanmu Zhe explained further, "Lin Xiyuan is Xi He. She deliberately got close to my cousin to approach our family. All of this was premeditated by Xi He." Now, looking back, Duanmu Zhe had many regrets.

He should have realized something was wrong from the moment Lin Xiyuan insisted on having his child...

But he didn't...

He never imagined that Xi He would be reborn in Lin Xiyuan...

Chapter 884: genius and waste

"How can this be?" Chu Jin slightly furrowed her eyebrows.

No wonder she always felt a very strange sensation after every encounter with Lin Xiyuan; unexpectedly, this Lin Xiyuan turned out to be Xi He.

"Where is Xi He now? Take me to see her," Chu Jin said, standing up directly.

Duanmu Zhe sighed, "Xi He has done so many bad things; of course, I can't let her go. She has been wanted on the entire network for some time. But strangely, there's no trace of her in the Three Realms. It's like she has disappeared from this world." Reincarnation, if it could happen once, could definitely happen a second time. So this time, Duanmu Zhe mainly wanted Chu Jin's help.

"What do you mean?" Chu Jin lifted her gaze toward Duanmu Zhe.

"Sister-in-law, I would like to ask you to perform a divination to see where exactly Xi He is now. Is she alive or dead?" Duanmu Zhe continued.

"Okay, no problem," Chu Jin nodded, taking out the long-missed Tarot cards from her space.

The Tarot cards transformed into various shapes in her hands, and then she quickly laid out a spread.

Though it was not the first time Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi had seen Chu Jin handling Tarot cards, each time they found themselves deeply impressed by her.

There is, after all, a reason why one becomes a supreme ruler.

"Draw three cards," Chu Jin pointed to the spread.

Duanmu Zhe nodded earnestly and carefully drew three cards.

The first card, Upright Lovers: On the card, Adam and Eve are standing in the Garden of Eden, experiencing romantic and warm love under the blessing of an angel draped in purple robes, symbolizing faithful love.

The second card, Upright Ten of Cups: The card depicts a family of four in harmonious happiness, embracing each other, each reaching out a hand to welcome the cups, with two children dancing joyfully beside them, and a background of lush trees and rivers with a house.

The third card, Upright The World: The World represents the center of the universe, echoing the Major Arcana's tenth card, surrounded by guardian spirits—the lion, the eagle, the angel, and the maiden—with a young girl standing in the middle holding a magic wand, which also resembles two keys, cheering for those stepping into the world.

This is a card filled with hope and rebirth.

Chu Jin's gaze returned from the three cards, and she slightly knitted her brows; some images invisible to others were rapidly flashing before her eyes.

Seeing her not speaking for a while, Duanmu Zhe became anxious and hurriedly asked, "What's wrong, Sister-in-law? Is it something serious? Where is Xi He now?"

Mo Qingyi was equally nervous.

Xi He was hiding in the shadows while they were exposed.

Mo Qingyi was genuinely fearful of Xi He's potential schemes, especially now that she wasn't alone; she was pregnant.

She did not want her child to be inadvertently harmed.

Chu Jin slightly raised her eyes, and then she spoke in a calm tone, "From the cards, Xi He is already dead, and her spirit is gone too. There's no possibility of reincarnation. Moreover, your life as a couple will get better and better. Also, the cards indicate that you will have a second child." At this point, a touch of warmth had appeared in the depths of Chu Jin's eyes.

Indeed, Xi He was dead, but Chu Jin also discerned something else from the cards; Xi He had exchanged her own life for Mo Qingyi's survival.

No wonder the last operation was so successful.

"Jin Bro, is it true?" Mo Qingyi asked with utter surprise.

"Of course it's true. Could I possibly lie to you?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly.

Mo Qingyi hugged Chu Jin, "Jin Bro, you are my lucky star." With Chu Jin around, Mo Qingyi felt there was nothing to fear.

Meeting Chu Jin in this life was her greatest fortune.

Chu Jin gently patted Mo Qingyi's back, speaking softly, "Actually, your quick recovery this time isn't entirely because of me. Without someone else's help, I probably would have been powerless."

Upon hearing this, both Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi were slightly taken aback, "Another person? Who is that?"

Chu Jin spoke slowly, "It's Xi He." Her eyes and tone were serious, bearing no hint of jest.

Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi showed disbelief in their eyes.

After a moment, Mo Qingyi said, "How could it be her? Jin Bro, could you be mistaken?" Xi He would rather have died than help her, so why would she save her?

"I am not mistaken. According to the cards, it's indeed because of Xi He. She used her own body to sacrifice something, and that brought you a chance for survival," Chu Jin spoke slowly.

But exactly what Xi He had sacrificed, Chu Jin could not tell.

"That's what she owed Qingyi," Duanmu Zhe added, "Even if she hadn't chosen to die, I wouldn't have spared her. If it wasn't for her, Qingyi and I would have had both a son and a daughter long ago! Why wait until now?"

Even if Xi He were really dead, Duanmu Zhe found it impossible to forgive her.

The harm she brought to herself and Mo Qingyi was simply immeasurable.

Mo Qingyi sighed softly and said, "Let it be, the person is already dead."

Even though Xi He had hurt her, in the end, he paid with his life. Mo Qingyi didn't want to hold grudges against a dead person.

In this world, nothing is happier than birth, and nothing sadder than death.

Ever since she became pregnant, Mo Qingyi had seen through many truths of the world.

Chu Jin smiled slightly, "It's good that you can see it that way, but what Duanmu said is also true, that's what Xi He owed you. Just accept it with peace of mind without feeling any burden."

Mo Qingyi nodded slightly, "Yes, Jin-ge, I understand."

Chu Jin had lunch with Mo Qingyi before going back.

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were playing with a group of children under the big banyan tree, their laughter clear and tinkling, extremely pleasing to the ear.

Infected by this laughter, Chu Jin unconsciously walked towards them.

"Bao-gege, Bao-gege..." A pair of little girls were chasing Bao Bao around in play.

Though Bao Bao was tired and drenched in sweat, he was very happy.

Bei Bei was playing with Lin Yuze on the side, making mud figurines.

Chu Jin never restricted the children's choice of games. Besides, this was the age when their imaginations were richest, and Chu Jin didn't want to kill Bei Bei's imagination.

Interestingly, even though the house was full of clay and play dough, Bei Bei just didn't like to play with them. She preferred playing with mud...

So, she often returned home covered in dirt.

But still, happiness was what mattered most.

Chu Jin crouched to the side watching Bei Bei and asked, "Bei Bei, what are you making?"

Bei Bei lifted her little face, pointing at her creation, "Mommy, this is me, this is brother, this is you, this is daddy; this is a gift I made for you all. Do you like it?" A little bit of mud smeared on Bei Bei's small face made her look like a cute little kitten, irresistibly endearing.

A gentle smile graced the corners of Chu Jin's mouth as she pulled out a clean handkerchief from her pocket to wipe the mud off Bei Bei's face, her voice tinged with helplessness, "Look at how dirty you are."

"It's okay, Mommy, I can do it myself," Bei Bei responded, lifting her chubby little hand to smear across her face haphazardly...

Then, her whole face became even dirtier.

"You little silly!" Chu Jin smiled and tapped Bei Bei's forehead, her tenderness only surfacing when she was with Bao Bao and Bei Bei, hence they were often the objects of Mo Zhixuan's jealousy.

More than once, he had said he wanted to push Bao Bao and Bei Bei back into the womb.

"Mommy is also a little silly." Bei Bei too reached out to touch Chu Jin's face.

Before Chu Jin could react, a smudge appeared on her fair face, which didn't detract from her beauty; rather, it added a different charm to her appearance.

"Mommy, do you like the gift I made for you?" Bei Bei continued to ask.

As Chu Jin wiped the stain off her face, she asked, "What exactly did you make?" The pieces were all clumps and Chu Jin really couldn't tell what they were supposed to be...

Bei Bei continued, "This is milk-flavored candy, this is strawberry-flavored candied fruit on a stick, this is cotton candy... Mommy, do you like it?" Ah yes, those were all Bei Bei's favorites.

However, because these things had too much sugar, Chu Jin usually controlled the amount. This little tyke must be craving them again...

Chu Jin smiled and nodded, "I like them, very much."

Bei Bei then asked, "So, do you think I'm well-behaved?"

"Yes, our Bei Bei is the most well-behaved," Chu Jin replied in agreement, nodding her head.

Bei Bei smiled sweetly as if she could already see all kinds of candies waving at her, "Then, may I kiss Mommy?"

Chu Jin immediately leaned her face in, "Go ahead."

Bei Bei stood on tip-toe and planted a kiss on Chu Jin's face, imitating Chu Jin's usual manner, "Mommy's little face smells so good."

"You impish child!" Chu Jin reached out to pinch Bei Bei's little cheek.

"Mommy, do you know what 'courtesy demands reciprocity' means?" Bei Bei began her little scheme.

Chu Jin pretended not to understand, shaking her head, "I don't know."

Bei Bei then spoke up, "Let me explain it to Mommy, the meaning of 'courtesy demands reciprocity' is that it's important to observe etiquette, I give you something, and you should give me something in return. Do you understand now, Mommy?" Bei Bei looked up with her big, surprised eyes, her long lashes blinking and utterly heart-melting.

Chu Jin laughed softly, "What to do, Mommy still doesn't understand."

"Mommy is really silly, Daddy is much smarter than you," Bei Bei sighed helplessly before continuing, "In other words, I just gave Mommy a gift, and now Mommy needs to give me a gift in return. That's what 'courtesy demands reciprocity' means. Mommy, do you understand now?"

Chu Jin nodded, "Mm, Mommy understands now. My daughter is amazing to know even this; I must give you a kiss as a reward."

Bei Bei brought her face closer and said, "Mommy, if you want to thank me, you need to take some real action, considering 'courtesy demands reciprocity'..." As Bei Bei spoke, she smiled mischievously.

Chu Jin laughed, "You little rascal, tell me, what do you want?"

Since Bei Bei had put it that way, Chu Jin didn't have the heart to refuse the adorable request.

Upon hearing this, Bei Bei immediately jumped up excitedly, "Mommy, actually, my request is really simple. I just want to eat some candy. Could you please, please, give me one?" Bei Bei looked at Chu Jin with pleading eyes.

That little look was simply irresistible.

Chu Jin chuckled, "If only you could be this studious with your reading, what flavor candy do you want?"

"Strawberry flavor!" Bei Bei cheered instantly.

Chu Jin took out a piece of candy from her space and handed it to Bei Bei, "You can eat it after you wash your hands."

"Thank you, Mommy." Bei Bei tiptoed and gave Chu Jin a quick kiss.

"Lin Yuze, little friend, what flavor of candy would you like?" Chu Jin smiled as she turned to Lin Yuze who was nearby.

Ever since Bao Bao and Bei Bei came along, candy had become the most frequent item in Chu Jin's space.

Fortunately, the space had a preserving function, so Chu Jin didn't have to worry about the candy going bad.

Lin Yuze stopped what he was doing and looked at Chu Jin with surprised gratitude, "I... Can I have one too?" Unlike the other children, Lin Yuze knew Chu Jin's true identity and was thus somewhat fearful of her.

Chu Jin nodded and said gently, "Of course, you can."

With a faint smile, Chu Jin completely alleviated Lin Yuze's nervousness. He then said, "Um... I'd like lemon-flavored, is that alright?"

"Mm, that's fine." Chu Jin took out a lemon-flavored candy from her space and handed it to Lin Yuze, who accepted it cautiously.

Seeing Chu Jin distributing candy, Bao Bao immediately gathered the little girls around, "Mommy, we want candy too."

Chu Jin stood up, speaking softly, "Don't worry, there's enough for everyone." She grabbed a big handful of candy from her space and distributed one to each child without missing anyone.

After handing out the candy, Chu Jin looked at Bao Bao with a bit of curiosity, "Bao Bao, how come Xiao Jinzi isn't playing with you all? Did you and your sister bully him?"

It wasn't uncommon for little children to have little scrapes among themselves.

Despite Chu Jin's significant reservations about Tong Qiaoqiao, Xiao Jinzi was just a child, and the problems between adults should not be carried over to the children.

As Bao Bao peeled her candy, she responded, "Xiao Jinzi is practicing martial arts in the backyard. It's really pitiful, he's sick and still has to train. Ah... if talent isn't enough, effort must make up for it, Xiao Jinzi really isn't having an easy time." Bao Bao spoke with a sense of empathy.

"He's sick?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, "How do you know he's sick?"

Bao Bao patted her chest and said rather arrogantly, "Is there anything in this world that I, Brother Bao, don't know? Mommy, let me tell you, not only is Xiao Jinzi sick, but it's also quite serious. I saw his face and it was almost as red as a burnt apple. Auntie Bi doesn't seem to care about his suffering, ah..."

Toward the end, Bao Bao dramatically sighed...

Chu Jin nodded, "Alright, Mommy's got it. You all play nicely here and don't run around. In half an hour, come home with your sister, do you hear me?"

"Mm, okay Mommy, I know. I'll come home on time. Oh, by the way," Bao Bao seemed to suddenly remember something and continued, "Mommy, if you have time, go and save Xiao Jinzi. He looks like he's barely hanging on. He's really so pitiful..."

"Okay, go play." Chu Jin nodded again.

"Then I'm off to play, bye Mommy." Bao Bao waved to Chu Jin.

"Goodbye."

Chu Jin turned and headed to the Imperial Palace.

With the two little ones not at home, the house was noticeably quieter. Just as Chu Jin was about to head upstairs, she remembered Bao Bao's plea.

He had asked her to go see Xiao Jinzi.

With that thought, Chu Jin reversed her steps and walked towards the backyard.

Sure enough, there she saw Xiao Jinzi practicing his martial arts.

The little boy looked extremely weak, with lifeless eyes and an abnormal flush on his face. Beads of cold sweat formed on his forehead continuously, indicating he might faint at any moment.

"Little boy, how did you get so sick yet still practice martial arts?" Chu Jin walked over and spoke in a light tone.

Upon hearing this, the little boy immediately stopped his punching movements and looked at Chu Jin, politely saying, "Hello, Aunt, I'm fine, thank you for your concern."

Chu Jin smiled slightly, "Practicing martial arts isn't about just one day. Go back and rest properly. I will have a doctor come and check on you later. Continue your training once your health improves."

The little boy spoke feebly, "Aunt, I really am fine. You don't need to worry, and I don't need to rest."

"Your own son doesn't work hard, so do you want to stop someone else's son from working hard too? Sister-in-law, what exactly are you intending to do?" Tong Qiaoqiao came over and spoke sarcastically.

Chu Jin smiled lightly, "In front of effort, talent is also a kind of strength." She didn't want to speak too definitively in front of the little boy. As a child in his growth period, it wouldn't be beneficial for his development to get involved in adults' matters.

Therefore, she simply used a lighter touch.

At those words, a strong look of disdain flashed in Tong Qiaoqiao's eyes. Could Chu Jin even talk about talent in front of the little boy?

What a joke!

The little boy was many times more impressive than those two useless kids!

Tong Qiaoqiao held her chin up proudly and said, "Regarding talent, no one can indeed compare with our little boy. He's only six this year and is about to break through to the Second Level Superpower."

In both strength and talent, the little boy could beat those two useless kids in a matter of minutes!

Second Level?

Chu Jin slightly curled her lips. She really didn't understand why Tong Qiaoqiao felt so proud of merely surpassing the Second Level Superpower.

Bao Bao had broken through the Second Level at two years old and was about to reach Third Order now...

Ten levels make one order.

Although Bei Bei couldn't cultivate a superpower, his talent in ancient martial arts was extremely high. At his young age, he had already surpassed the Innate stage.

Seeing Chu Jin this way, Tong Qiaoqiao thought she had touched on Chu Jin's sore spot and continued, "That's why I say, people shouldn't be compared. Look how outstanding our little boy is. He's so young, and yet, he's about to surpass the Second Level..."

Chu Jin looked up indifferently, her lips carrying a faint smile, "Indeed, people shouldn't be compared. Since that's the case, congratulations to you."

If Tong Qiaoqiao was so proud, let her have her moment.

Chu Jin's reaction was too lukewarm - so much so that it surprised Tong Qiaoqiao. Wasn't she supposed to mock her? Had she gone mad? She even congratulated her! Yes! She must have been driven mad by jealousy!

After all, those two useless kids couldn't compete with the little boy.

The more Tong Qiaoqiao thought about it, the happier she became, and she said to the little boy, "Continue practicing your martial arts, little boy. Don't be influenced by others. They are just jealous of your talent."

Chu Jin smiled faintly, too lazy to bother with Tong Qiaoqiao anymore, and turned to walk towards the main hall.

If she kept meddling in this matter, it would seem like she was the one jealous of the little boy's talent. The mother was here too; insisting that the little boy rest would only earn her the reputation of being nosy, which wasn't good.

So, Chu Jin decided to mind her own business.

Watching Chu Jin's retreating figure, Tong Qiaoqiao's lips revealed a smug smile.

She had finally regained the upper hand in front of Chu Jin. It was such a joy, but unfortunately, no one else witnessed this moment.

Chu Jin returned to the main hall and entered the study to resume her routine writing.

Her book "The End Is the Real Beginning" had not been finished yet. It was a remarkable book that became popular throughout the three realms, all by itself, without relying on the hype of the Ninth Lady or the Empress's reincarnation. It was the true talent that made it successful.

Li Xiangzhi was accompanying Mrs. Mo on a walk.

Passing through the backyard, they happened to see the little boy practicing martial arts despite being sick.

Li Xiangzhi immediately expressed concern, "Little boy, are you sick? Your face looks red."

"Grandma, Auntie, I'm okay. It's just a bit of dizziness," the little boy turned around and spoke weakly.

"Child, are you really alright? Do you want to go back and rest? Do you have a fever?" Mrs. Mo extended her hand to touch the little boy's forehead and then said in surprise, "How can you be so hot?"

The child's temperature was like a small furnace, which even surprised Mrs. Mo.

Was the little boy being too eager for quick results?

#### Chapter 885: Unreasonable

"Little Grandma, I'm really fine, and I can continue training." Xiao Jin was a portrait of sweet sensibility.

Li Xiangzhi continued, "Sister, Xiao Jin has been sensible since he was young, and has never caused me or his mother any worry. He knows he doesn't have much talent. His special ability has only reached level two so far, which is why he needs to work much harder than other children."

In fact, Li Xiangzhi's words were deliberately spoken for the old Mrs. Mo to hear. Even Xiao Jin, such an outstanding child, knew the importance of hard work. But Bao Bao and Bei Bei, those two without talent, didn't know what hard work was. This was also a reminder to the old Mrs. Mo that, as it stood, the Mo family only had Xiao Jin as a promising seedling.

However, Li Xiangzhi never expected that Bao Bao and Bei Bei had even higher talents than anyone else! They just never showed off in front of others! And they didn't have as many schemes as Xiao Jin.

The old Mrs. Mo was even less likely to grasp the hidden meaning in Li Xiangzhi's words. She took it at face value, really thinking that Xiao Jin wasn't naturally gifted, rather than Li Xiangzhi boasting about him.

After all, if a child's special ability hadn't surpassed level two by the age of six, indeed, they had no significant talent.

Upon hearing this, the old Mrs. Mo sighed and added, "Life is a matter of fate and hard work. Xiaojin may not have great talent, but with his hard work, he will surely achieve something in the future. However, with such a severe fever, there's no need to let the child continue training. Send him back to rest immediately. Nothing is more important than his health."

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi's mouth twitched. The old Mrs. Mo had such gall — to actually say Xiaojin lacked talent!

If a child like Xiaojin wasn't considered talented, then the children that Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin would bear would be even less than trash...

Really...

Li Xiangzhi followed up, "Sister, it doesn't matter if one isn't naturally talented. As long as one is willing to work hard, it's enough. Xiaojin, did you hear what your Little Grandma just said? Go back and rest now. From now on, take good care of your health. You're already six years old, not a little child anymore."

"All right, Grandma, I understand. Little Grandma, I'll be going back first," Xiaojin politely bid farewell to the old Mrs. Mo.

"Go back," the old Mrs. Mo said with a loving nod.

Xiaojin heaved a sigh of relief. His steps wavered as he walked back. He had come down with a severe cold and now felt terribly dizzy. Had the old Mrs. Mo arrived any later, he feared he couldn't have held on.

He had caught such a serious illness, yet neither his mother nor his grandma noticed his condition.

All they wanted was to make a good impression on Mo Zhixuan, on the old Mrs. Mo...

But on second thought, if Grandma and Mother did all this for his sake, then Xiaojin found himself not hating them so much...

Seeing Xiaojin leaving all alone, the old Mrs. Mo told a servant, "Qinghe, escort Xiaojin and, by the way, please call for Dr. Zhang."

Li Xiangzhi's eyes danced, and she said with a smile, "Sister, calling a doctor is too much trouble. I've heard that Jin has very good medical skills. Why not let Jin check on Xiaojin?" Indeed, this was Li Xiangzhi's true purpose.

If Chu Jin came to treat Xiaojin, who was reputed to have excellent medical skills, it would embarrass the Mo family if she failed to cure a common cold.

If Xiaojin had any problems later, Chu Jin wouldn't be able to escape responsibility. To clear her name from this dirty water...

Difficult!

Very difficult!

Moreover, Xiaojin was the sole heir of the Tong family. If anything happened to Xiaojin, the first one to not let Chu Jin off the hook would be the old Mrs. Mo!

Then it wouldn't be difficult to pit mother-in-law and daughter-in-law against each other, and Chu Jin might even end up accused of intentional murder!

Li Xiangzhi had planned everything thoroughly; it was all within her calculations.

Upon hearing this, the old Mrs. Mo spoke slowly, "It's no trouble. Dr. Zhang is the Mo family's personal physician. For usual colds and coughs, we always ask Dr. Zhang to take a look."

What a joke! How could they let Chu Jin treat Xiaojin!

After all, Chu Jin was the Ninth Lady of the Three Realms, the reincarnation of the Empress!

If everyone with a slight ailment sought Chu Jin, wouldn't that diminish her status!

Even if it was her own family's nephew, the old Mrs. Mo wouldn't let Chu Jin treat him directly, not for something that wasn't life-threatening! Li Xiangzhi was making too much of a fuss. Did she think Chu Jin was their family doctor?

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi frowned slightly and then said, "But Sister, practicing medicine is all about healing and saving lives. With Jin's medical skills being so good, if we don't let her use them, wouldn't that be a waste of her great abilities? Besides, the Tong family only has Xiaojin as their sole seedling. I would feel more at ease if Jin came."

If the old Mrs. Mo blocked Chu Jin from this affair, wouldn't her entire scheme fall apart?

Li Xiangzhi couldn't allow such a thing to happen.

Upon hearing this, the old Mrs. Mo continued, "Rest assured, I've seen it myself, Xiaojin isn't seriously ill, just let Dr. Zhang take a look."

Li Xiangzhi spoke with a difficult tone, "But... Sister..."

The old Mrs. Mo frowned slightly, her tone carried a hint of displeasure, "No buts! Jin is the Ninth Lady of the Three Realms. She is not the Mo family's private doctor!"

In other words, no matter how precious Xiaojin was, he was not as valuable as Chu Jin!

Li Xiangzhi, of course, understood the meaning behind those words. Suddenly, she fell silent... it seemed she had overestimated Xiaojin's place in the old Mrs. Mo's heart.

Or perhaps, the relationship between Chu Jin and the old Mrs. Mo was nowhere near as bad as she imagined...

What to do now? If Chu Jin didn't intervene, wouldn't Xiaojin's illness be for naught?

For a moment, Li Xiangzhi was lost in a sea of thoughts.

The old Mrs. Mo continued, "Xiangzhi, the house outside is ready. In three days, your family of three can move there. Don't worry, I've arranged everything for you. Xiao Zhi even found Qiaoqiao a job. It's an easy job as a cashier at a restaurant, working just six hours a day, with plenty of time to accompany Xiaojin."

Tong Qiaoqiao had a child and couldn't have a normal nine-to-five job like everyone else. A cashier's job may not be as glamorous as those white-collar ones, but it offers short hours and higher pay, which really suits Tong Qiaoqiao's current situation.

Furthermore, Tong Qiaoqiao's educational level was not high; she used to live like a spoiled rich girl and never really went through proper education. Many places wouldn't hire her...

Moreover, the Mo family's matriarch had taken care of everything, providing them with a house, newly furnished and decorated, and a sum of money saved. Added to that, with Tong Qiaoqiao's job, it was more than enough for a family of three to live on.

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi was taken aback!

She never expected that the elder Mrs. Mo had silently prepared everything!

Even arranging a job for Tong Qiaoqiao! What sort of person was Tong Qiaoqiao? How could she work for others! And such a demeaning job at that!

Cashier?

Is being a cashier even a job for people?

The elder Mrs. Mo really was a loving aunt! To think she arranged such a "good" job for her own niece! Why didn't she ask Chu Jin to be a cashier?

Li Xiangzhi was almost infuriated to death by the elder Mrs. Mo!

How could she do this?

The Tong family might have fallen on hard times, but not to the point where Tong Qiaoqiao had to work to support the family!

Tong Qiaoqiao is the elder Mrs. Mo's own niece, it's only right for her to take care of Qiaoqiao! How could she drive Qiaoqiao out?

Although Li Xiangzhi was very angry inside, she didn't show it at all on the surface. She smiled and said, "Then I'll have to trouble you, sister. On behalf of Jin and Qiaoqiao, I thank you."

The elder Mrs. Mo continued, "We're all family, no need for thanks."

Family? A mocking light flickered in Li Xiangzhi's eyes. If the elder Mrs. Mo really thought of Tong Qiaoqiao as family, she wouldn't have gone so far!

This damned old hag, she has the nerve to talk about family!

No! She must think of a way to salvage this situation now! Li Xiangzhi narrowed her eyes, a sharp glint passing through them, and then said, "Sister, I'm a little worried about Jin because of his fever; I'm going to go back and check on him."

The elder Mrs. Mo nodded, "Go ahead." She was also heading to see her beloved grandson Bao Bao and granddaughter Bei Bei.

"Then I'll be leaving now." Li Xiangzhi smiled, turned around, and left, her heart filled with resentment! The elder Mrs. Mo was really something—Jin was sick like that, and she didn't seem anxious at all, nor did she think of visiting!

Li Xiangzhi walked briskly towards the east wing room.

By the time she returned to the east wing room, Dr. Zhang had already arrived.

After a series of examinations, Dr. Zhang said, "There is no need to worry, the child just has a common cold and fever. A shot and some medicine will do."

"Really, there's no problem?" Tong Qiaoqiao asked anxiously, "The child always seems to have no energy, and he barely eats."

Dr. Zhang continued, "Fever, fatigue, runny nose, cough, headache, these symptoms are all normal for a cold. There's nothing serious to worry about."

"That's good," Tong Qiaoqiao nodded, "then I'll trouble you, doctor."

"Of course." The doctor replied with a smile.

As the doctor prepared the medicine and the syringe to give Jin his shot, Li Xiangzhi abruptly halted his actions, "Dr. Zhang, it's not that we don't trust you, but Jin's illness came on so suddenly. He was still fine last night. Shouldn't there be some symptoms beforehand if it's a cold? But Jin didn't show any of them. So, Dr. Zhang, please go back. We will find a more skilled doctor to treat Jin."

Dr. Zhang frowned slightly, "Madam, I am a doctor, and I know very well whether the child has a cold or not. If you insist on stopping me from giving him the shot, it will only worsen the child's condition. Then it won't be just a simple cold anymore!"

As a doctor, he truly disliked parents like Li Xiangzhi who didn't understand reason!

Li Xiangzhi smiled faintly, "I am the child's guardian, and I have the right to decline the shot. Dr. Zhang, please, you may go." Li Xiangzhi gestured for him to leave.

"Unreasonable!" Dr. Zhang uttered coldly before he left.

Seeing this, Tong Qiaoqiao was puzzled, "Mom, why are you doing this! Chu Jin doesn't want to come, why did you send Dr. Zhang away? If we delay, what will we do if anything serious happens to Jin!"

Li Xiangzhi patted Tong Qiaoqiao's shoulder and smiled, "Since Chu Jin won't come, then I'll make her come! Just wait here for me." With that, Li Xiangzhi left the east wing room.

As a mother, Tong Qiaoqiao was still very concerned for Jin at this moment, applying a wet towel on Jin's forehead.

Li Xiangzhi meanwhile, with a tense face, went to the main hall, where a servant led her to the study.

"Madame Jiufu, the aunt from the Tong family is here," the servant respectfully knocked on the door of the study.

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin calmly closed her laptop and said in an indifferent tone, "Come in."

The servant led Li Xiangzhi inside.

"Jin!" Upon entering, Li Xiangzhi's eyes reddened as she looked at Chu Jin.

Chu Jin replied indifferently, a bit puzzled, "What's the matter, Aunt?" Chu Jin addressed Li Xiangzhi as 'Aunt' because of the familial hierarchy; no matter what, she was the younger sister of the elder Mrs. Mo.

"Jin, you must save your aunt this time," Li Xiangzhi walked over and grabbed Chu Jin's hand but Chu Jin subtly avoided her grasp.

Leaving Li Xiangzhi momentarily embarrassed.

### Chapter 886: Really Smart

Chu Jin looked at Li Xiangzhi with an indifferent gaze before speaking, "What's wrong with my aunt? Why is she in such a hurry?"

"It's Xiao Jinzi, something happened to Xiao Jinzi. Jin, I've heard that your medical skills are very good, please would you take a look at Xiao Jinzi?" Li Xiangzhi's face was streaked with tears, looking very sad and anxious.

Li Xiangzhi had long heard that Chu Jin was extremely kind-hearted, and if she personally begged her, crying pathetically, she would definitely agree to her request!

As long as she agreed, then things would be easy to handle!

"I just heard from my mother, who said that she had already asked Dr. Zhang to look at Xiao Jinzi. What happened? Did Dr. Zhang not go?" Chu Jin's eyes flickered with curiosity.

This Li Xiangzhi was trying every possible means to have me treat Xiao Jinzi; there must be some plot behind it.

As clever as Chu Jin, she certainly wasn't going to fall for such a trap without a reason.

These medical matters are hard to explain clearly. If Xiao Jinzi indeed encountered some issue through her treatment, wouldn't that play right into the hands of Li Xiangzhi and her daughter?

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi immediately said, "He did go, but Dr. Zhang insisted that Xiao Jinzi just has a common cold. But I feel that it's not just a cold, he must have some other illness. So, Jin, please, as your aunt I'm begging you, would you please examine Xiao Jinzi?"

Chu Jin curved her lips into a smile, "A feeling? Aunt, may I ask what you are basing this 'feeling' on? Or do you think you are more professional than even Dr. Zhang? If you believe that your medical expertise exceeds that of Dr. Zhang's, you are entirely welcome to treat Xiao Jinzi yourself. My place is neither a hospital nor a clinic. Aunt, it seems you might have come to the wrong place."

This Li Xiangzhi is really amusing, acting so blatantly as if nobody else can see through her.

If it weren't for the sake of the Mo family's old madam, Chu Jin wouldn't be talking so politely with her.

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi's smile stiffened for a moment, but then she quickly returned to normal, "Jin, what are you talking about? I came to you because I see you as family, I tell you these things for that reason. No matter what, you are Xiao Jinzi's maternal aunt, and I do trust you."

Chu Jin smiled faintly, tucking a stray lock of hair behind her ear before continuing, "Unfortunately, aunt, I am very distrustful of you."

Li Xiangzhi never expected Chu Jin to be so direct and frank with her words!

Distrustful of her?

What did she mean by distrustful?

Could it be that Chu Jin had been suspicious all along?

Chu Jin's lips curved slightly as she continued, "People should have some self-awareness. When I am regarding you as an elder, you'd better act the part a bit more convincingly and not make a fool of yourself."

With these words, Li Xiangzhi almost lost her footing! Chu Jin's words were like a series of loud slaps, fiercely striking her face.

She had thought that Chu Jin would be easy to manipulate! But as it turned out, that was not the case at all!

People may not show their abilities openly, but when they get serious, they can kill without a trace!

Seeing that Li Xiangzhi was speechless, Chu Jin lazily shifted her gaze away, her tone casual as she spoke, "Please take my aunt back to rest."

How uninteresting! Truly uninteresting! Previously, Li Xiangzhi's fighting spirit seemed just a bit stronger than Tong Qiaoqiao's, but unexpectedly, she couldn't even compare to Tong Qiaoqiao. Just a few words, and Li Xiangzhi was already overwhelmed...

Being invincible is so lonely...

Li Xiangzhi was taken by servants back to the east wing, her complexion ashen like withered wood through the entire way...

As excited as she had been on her way here, that's how disappointed she was now...

She never imagined that things would turn out this way...

When Tong Qiaoqiao saw her mother return like this, she was completely stunned and quickly took Li Xiangzhi from the servant, asking anxiously, "Mom, what happened to you? Where is Chu Jin? Why didn't she come back with you?"

Li Xiangzhi had been so confident when she went out...

To her surprise, she returned in such a swift and defeated manner...

Li Xiangzhi took a deep breath, "Qiaoqiao, we all underestimated Chu Jin, but I will let her know that 'the older the ginger, the spicier it gets!' " Saying this, a sly and sinister light appeared on Li Xiangzhi's face.

For glory and wealth, for fine clothes and gourmet food, she was willing to do anything.

The imperial palace, since she had come, she would not leave!

Seeing her mother like this, Tong Qiaoqiao sighed, "Mom, just let it go. If we can't have it, don't force it. How could cousin ever fancy someone like me with Chu Jin around?" She felt ashamed of herself in front of Chu Jin, and she couldn't understand why Li Xiangzhi thought Mo Zhixuan would end up in her bed...

"Let it go? We've come this far! How could we give up so easily?" Li Xiangzhi widened her eyes at Tong Qiaoqiao.

"Didn't aunt say she has already found a house for us outside? Since aunt picked it out, it definitely won't be bad. Mom, let's just live out the rest of our lives peacefully," Tong Qiaoqiao said. After so much experience, she had seen the light; Chu Jin was not to be trifled with. It was one thing for her to be repeatedly defeated by Chu Jin, but now even a cunning person like Li Xiangzhi was no match for her. This clearly showed that Chu Jin was not someone to be provoked!

Maybe in Chu Jin's eyes, she was just a clown, a source of amusement!

Now that the old Madam Mo was willing to take responsibility for them, they shouldn't be asking for too much...

As long as their future days didn't involve sleeping rough as before, it would be enough.

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi immediately bristled with anger, glaring at Tong Qiaoqiao, "Do you really think that old hag is some kind of saint? What kind of decent place do you think she would prepare for us? It's probably just a slum! You don't know yet, but that old hag has also prepared a job for you."

"A job?" Tong Qiaoqiao was slightly taken aback. "What job?"

Li Xiangzhi mocked with a sneer, "What job? I bet you couldn't even dream of what it is!"

Tong Qiaoqiao was also somewhat displeased. The Mo family had power and influence, so why couldn't the old Madam Mo give her enough money instead of making her work?

In her life, even in decline, she had never stooped so low as to work for others!

Li Xiangzhi went on to say, "Your dear aunt found you a job as a cashier! How is it she didn't just send you to sweep the streets?"

"A cashier?" Tong Qiaoqiao stood up immediately, surprised, "How could I possibly do cashier work? That's what the lower-class people do!" She was a miss born with a silver spoon in her mouth! How could she stoop to such a thing!

She had thought her aunt truly cared for her, but it turned out to be just a facade!

"Exactly! I think that old hag is deliberately humiliating us because your father is no longer here!" Li Xiangzhi's emotions calmed a bit as she continued, "So, Qiaoqiao, the good life is something we create for ourselves. We cannot be like meat on the chopping board, at the mercy of others!"

Tong Qiaoqiao's heart, which had been calm, was instantly agitated by Li Xiangzhi's words.

In the current situation, they really couldn't just sit and wait for doom! The only way out was to secure Mo Zhixuan!

Tong Qiaoqiao nodded firmly, "Mom, you're right! I'll listen to you!"

"That's good!" Li Xiangzhi showed a look of satisfaction, "Listen to me, tonight..."

Li Xiangzhi spelled out her plan word by word, and by the end, Tong Qiaoqiao's face also revealed a smug smile, as if they had already seen victory beckoning them.

A moment later, Tong Qiaoqiao looked at Li Xiangzhi, "Mom, do you think this will work?"

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi smiled and said, "Of course it will work. I got this medicine from 'Beauty of the World'. It's said that no matter who takes it, they won't be able to control themselves, even if divine immortals descend to earth, they will be at the mercy of the drug. When the time comes, we just need to add a bit of fragrance, and Mo Zhixuan will be at your mercy, Qiaoqiao. You must seize this opportunity."

As long as Mo Zhixuan couldn't control himself and slept with Tong Qiaoqiao, the rest would be easy to handle.

The mother and daughter exchanged a smile, both seeing a thick layer of smugness in each other's eyes.

Time passed quickly, and before they knew it, evening had arrived.

Dinner was delayed because they were waiting for Mo Zhixuan to return and eat together.

It wasn't until seven thirty that Mo Zhixuan finally came home.

As soon as he entered the house, Bao Bao and Bei Bei hugged his thigh, "Daddy daddy, you finally came back, we missed you so much..."

Mo Zhixuan, as if by magic, pulled out two candies from thin air and kissed the two little ones, smiling, "Daddy missed you too."

Because Chu Jin had a rule that they could only eat two candies a day, one in the morning and the second in the evening, which was when Mo Zhixuan came back, so as soon as it got dark, the two little ones eagerly awaited daddy's early return...

Looking at the two little ones with their fawning expressions, Chu Jin laughed and said, "I don't know if they really miss daddy or just want the candy."

The Mo family matriarch also said with a smile, "The two little ones are so smart, knowing how to make people happy."

"I don't know whom they take after with this personality. Mom, was Mo Zhixuan like this when he was a kid?" Chu Jin turned and looked at the Mo family matriarch.

The Mo family matriarch laughed and said, "Zhixuan was a somber child from a young age, and you couldn't get a peep out of him, not nearly as likable as Bao Bao and Bei Bei." Children are better off lively, only then does the home feel more like a home.

However, Mo Zhixuan's condition couldn't be entirely blamed on him.

Because he was a posthumous child, he had never seen his father, so he matured early.

Only if he was strong enough could he protect the people around him.

But all this, the Mo family matriarch and Mo Zhixuan had never mentioned to Chu Jin, who didn't know that Mo Zhixuan was a child who had never even seen his father's face.

After dinner, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan took Bao Bao and Bei Bei to take baths.

Although the children were only four years old, they already bathed separately—Chu Jin took care of Bei Bei, and Mo Zhixuan was responsible for Bao Bao.

The two had also started sleeping in separate rooms.

Though the children were young, they still needed to have their privacy.

Just after Bao Bao and Bei Bei finished their baths, Li Xiangzhi ran over in a panic, with tears streaking her face, "Zhixuan, there's something only you can help auntie with, please, you must help your auntie."

Li Xiangzhi's commotion was so loud that it even alarmed the Mo family matriarch.

"Xiangzhi, what's the matter? You're crying and sobbing in front of the children," the irritation flickered through the eyes of the Mo family matriarch.

This kind of scene was definitely inappropriate with the children around, so Chu Jin took Bao Bao and Bei Bei to their respective bedrooms.

Although the children now had separate rooms, the rooms were interconnected. There was even a door inside that connected the two bedrooms, which was convenient for the children to interact with each other. For privacy issues, they could simply close the door, which was lockable from both sides.

Outside, Li Xiangzhi cried out, "Sister, little Jin has a fever, and it's climbed to 39°, screaming and crying for father, but you know, his father has already... I was thinking, Mo Zhixuan does bear a resemblance to his dad, could you let Zhixuan take a look at him? Poor little Jin really has it tough. From the moment he was born, he didn't get a glimpse of his deadbeat dad, and now he's delirious with fever, still crying out for his father..."

Li Xiangzhi's words were so pitiable that even the Mo family matriarch felt her heart soften a bit.

Mo Zhixuan's expression remained unchanged, and he spoke in an indifferent tone, "Even a three-year-old child knows to look for a doctor when sick, what use is it for you to come to me?"

Is 'Dad' a title that can be so casually called upon?

Li Xiangzhi continued, "Dr. Zhang has already seen little Jin, but this is a heart sickness, and Dr. Zhang is also at a loss. Heart diseases require heart medicine, Zhixuan, please consider that little Jin is your nephew and grant him this wish. It's not like he had a choice in having no father. Little Jin is out of his mind with fever; he's fixated on you, otherwise, I would not have made this trip..."

As Li Xiangzhi spoke, she wiped away her tears, though inside, one could not tell what schemes were at play.

The Mo family matriarch sighed, "The child little Jin is indeed pitiable. Why don't you, Zhixuan, accompany your aunt for a visit?" The Mo family matriarch looked up at Mo Zhixuan.

As Mo Zhixuan was about to refuse, a clear voice filled the air, "Yes, Mo Zhixuan, please go with your aunt. It hasn't been easy for little Jin."

Chu Jin walked over with a smile.

She knew there was deceit in this matter, but the mother and daughter Li Xiangzhi were too bothersome, causing trouble out of nothing. Since they liked to play their games, then let them play it out to the fullest! This matter would be a good opportunity to deal with them.

Li Xiangzhi looked at Chu Jin in surprise, expressing gratitude, "Jin really understands reason; I thank you on behalf of little Jin."

Originally, Li Xiangzhi thought Chu Jin would interfere, but unexpectedly, Chu Jin turned into divine support! It seems Chu Jin was not as shrewd as Li Xiangzhi had imagined. A sharp gleam flickered and vanished in the depths of Li Xiangzhi's eyes.

Chu Jin smiled faintly, "You're welcome." Then, she turned to Mo Zhixuan, "You better go quickly, don't keep little Jin and Qiaoqiao waiting anxiously."

Mo Zhixuan, understanding the meaning in Chu Jin's eyes, nodded cooperatively, "Alright, I'll go now."

Mo Zhixuan followed Li Xiangzhi towards the eastern wing.

From a distance, one could hear little Jin crying and shouting for his dad.

Hearing little Jin's crying, Mo Zhixuan couldn't help but feel his heart soften. Ever since he had Bao Bao and Bei Bei, he had developed a compassionate father's heart.

The hearts of Li Xiangzhi and her daughter were indeed ruthless enough to use such a small child.

Children are like blank slates, learning both good and bad easily. Little Jin was no longer the innocent child he once was...

Tong Qiaoqiao, peering through the window at Mo Zhixuan's figure, was so moved that her heart fluttered with excitement. She hurriedly placed the sandalwood in the incense burner.

It wasn't long before Mo Zhixuan entered the room with Li Xiangzhi.

Tong Qiaoqiao immediately came forward, her eyes slightly red and swollen, "Cousin, you've come."

Mo Zhixuan nodded slightly, "Yes, where's little Jin?"

"Little Jin is inside, follow me." Tong Qiaoqiao led Mo Zhixuan into the room, while Li Xiangzhi quietly slipped away with tact.

A strangely scented sandalwood burned inside the room, and upon entering, Mo Zhixuan noticed it. He could have held his breath to avoid the scent, but he didn't, breathing normally with an unchanged expression.

"Daddy, daddy..." little Jin cried out, wanting Mo Zhixuan to hold him.

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Mo Zhixuan slightly furrowed his brow, extend his hand to pick up little Jin, and then told Tong Qiaoqiao, "I will take little Jin out for some fresh air."

Tong Qiaoqiao's cheeks flushed as she nodded.

Mo Zhixuan, holding little Jin, headed to the backyard. Tong Qiaoqiao watched his retreating figure, her heart rippling with emotion.

Less than a moment later, Mo Zhixuan returned, still carrying little Jin.

Little Jin's mood seemed much more normal, fast asleep on Mo Zhixuan's shoulder.

"Hand little Jin to me," Tong Qiaoqiao reached out to take little Jin, her hand accidentally brushing against the man's.

Tong Qiaoqiao withdrew her hand as if she had been electrocuted, her eyes full of bashful shyness.

"Qiaoqiao..." The man seemed like a different person, re-extending his hand to take hold of Tong Qiaoqiao's hand.

He carelessly set little Jin aside.

Upon hearing this, Tong Qiaoqiao was startled. It turned out that Mo Zhixuan had already taken notice of her!

So, their affection was mutual and in harmony!

The man laughed coarsely, a stark contrast to his usual demeanor.

Tong Qiaoqiao didn't dwell on it.

...

Listening to the noises from the next room, Li Xiangzhi's lips curled into a satisfied smile.

Good!

This was truly too good!

Tong Qiaoqiao had finally succeeded! From now on, she and her daughter would enjoy endless glory and riches!

Elsewhere.

Chu Jin was sitting at her desk writing in her diary.

Ever since the arrival of Bao Bao and Bei Bei, she had formed the habit of journaling, a practice she had maintained for a full four years.

Chu Jin was engrossed in her writing when suddenly, a dark shadow loomed over her and a familiar scent of tobacco rushed towards her.

Chu Jin, somewhat speechless, looked up, "Mo Zhixuan, you've been smoking in secret again! We agreed that you would quit!"

Chu Jin couldn't help but shiver, poking Mo Zhixuan's chest, "What's going on with you??"

Mo Zhixuan had changed quite a bit since he went out.

Seeing these symptoms, he must be somewhat confused.

This Tong Qiaoqiao really dared to make her move.

"Are you an idiot? You knew there was something wrong with the medicine and you didn't avoid it?" Chu Jin said, hitting Mo Zhixuan's head in disbelief.

Mo Zhixuan then said, "I was planning to smoke a few cigarettes to suppress the drug's effects, but even after two, it didn't seem to work."

"So, you have an excuse for smoking now, huh?" Chu Jin slightly raised an eyebrow, then instructed, "Stretch out your hand; I'll detoxify you."

Chu Jin continued, "Stretch out your hand, aren't you uncomfortable?"

Mo Zhixuan just looked at her.

...

The night hurried by.

Early in the morning, Li Xiangzhi hastily sought out Madam Mo.

"There's big trouble! Sister! Big trouble!" Li Xiangzhi ran over in a flurry.

Madam Mo had just gotten up and was sitting in front of her vanity getting ready. Hearing this, she slightly furrowed her brow, "What trouble? Why all this panic?"

"Sister, you must stand up for our Qiaoqiao this time!" Li Xiangzhi pleaded tearfully.

"What exactly happened? Speak clearly!" Madam Mo said sternly.

"It's Qiaoqiao, Qiaoqiao somehow got involved with... with..." Li Xiangzhi said hesitantly, "Ah! How could I possibly bring myself to say such a thing! Just come with me, and you'll see!"

Li Xiangzhi, pulling Madam Mo along, headed outside. Madam Mo was puzzled by her actions.

What was this all about so early in the morning?

As they passed by Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan's bedroom, Li Xiangzhi deliberately glanced inside but saw no one in the room.

Moreover, the bedroom door was open.

Madam Mo also looked askance at the servants nearby, "What's going on so early? Have you seen Zhixuan and Jin? Why isn't even the door closed?"

The servant immediately closed the bedroom door and respectfully said, "My lady, I have not seen the Ninth Master or the Ninth Lady."

Hearing this, Madam Mo furrowed her brow but didn't ask further.

In her heart, Li Xiangzhi smiled with satisfaction—the chance of seeing Mo Zhixuan was slim, since he had spent the whole night in Tong Qiaoqiao's room.

Of course, she couldn't let this thought show on her face.

Madam Mo then said, "Xiangzhi, what's the matter, you can't say it now? Why all this mystery?"

Chapter 888: Li Xiangzhi and her daughter's beautiful dream shatters

Li Xiangzhi said with great difficulty, "Sister, you'll know once you get there, sigh, I really can't bring myself to say it! Just please stand up for Qiaoqiao when the time comes! You are her aunt after all!"

Madame Mo slightly frowned, seemingly thinking of something, and continued to walk with Li Xiangzhi.

Within a few minutes, they arrived at the eastern chamber where Li Xiangzhi and her daughter lived.

The door to Qiaoqiao's room was ajar, and Li Xiangzhi, holding Madame Mo's hand, whispered, "Sister, come in with me, and you'll understand once you see."

Li Xiangzhi thought to herself, what kind of spectacular expression would appear on Madame Mo's face when she saw what kind of shameless thing her son had done?

After all, Tong Qiaoqiao is Madame Mo's only niece; surely, she would side with Qiaoqiao. With this family bond, the Tong family would become the Mo family.

And the little golden heir's succession to everything of the Mo family would follow logically.

The light in the room was dim, so visibility was not high.

At the same time, there was an abnormal scent wafting in the room. Madame Mo narrowed her eyes, seemingly thinking of something, her eyes full of suspicion.

When they passed by Mo Zhixuan's bedroom earlier, Mo Zhixuan was not in there, and Li Xiangzhi's expression had been so strange.

Piecing these together, a foreboding feeling arose in Madame Mo's heart.

Could it be...

No way?

At that thought, Madame Mo's pupils suddenly constricted.

Li Xiangzhi 'snap' turned on the light, and a white glow suddenly brightened the room.

"Ah!" Tong Qiaoqiao screamed out and immediately pulled clothes over herself, panicked, "Aunt... Aunt, why are you here?"

Li Xiangzhi immediately said, "Sister, you must stand up for our Qiaoqiao. She's such a good girl..."

Tong Qiaoqiao also said in a very flustered manner, "Aunt, aunt, aunt, I don't know how things got like this... I couldn't help it!" Tong Qiaoqiao insisted that it was Mo Zhixuan who had forced himself on her!

After all, since it was Mo Zhixuan who had initiated things last night, there was nothing wrong with her saying so.

Mother and daughter were crying and begging Madame Mo to make a decision!

Madame Mo, looking at this scene, felt her blood rush to her head and angrily said, "You both take a good look at who is on that bed! Accusing Zhixuan out of thin air! What are you mother and daughter plotting!"

Upon hearing this, Li Xiangzhi and Tong Qiaoqiao both showed surprised looks, exchanged glances, and then turned to look at the bed, only to realize that the man was not Mo Zhixuan at all!

But a stranger!

Tong Qiaoqiao, frightened, fell onto the bed, her face turning pale as she broke out in a cold sweat, muttering, "How could this be... How could this be... Who is he! I don't recognize him! I don't recognize him!"

Li Xiangzhi was also scared! She hadn't expected that the man on the bed would not be Mo Zhixuan! Who was this man? What on earth was going on?

"Shut up! If you speak nonsense, I will cut out your tongue!" Madame Mo slapped Li Xiangzhi's face with a resounding smack!

Li Xiangzhi was left dazed with her left cheek swelling up instantly!

Tong Qiaoqiao, crying, climbed off the bed and knelt at Madame Mo's feet, "Aunt, aunt, believe me, the man last night was really my cousin! It really was my cousin! I'm not lying!"

"You shut up too!" Madame Mo also gave Tong Qiaoqiao a slap, then turned to the servants behind her, "Go, splash some water on that wild man and wake him up!"

"Yes!"

At once, a servant came in with a basin of cold water and splashed it directly onto the unconscious man!

The man was immediately startled awake, still unaware of what had happened, his gaze dull as he looked around at everyone.

"How dare you! To defile Miss Tong like this! Do you no longer value your life?" A servant stepped up to the man and slapped him across the face.

The man, now fully woken by the slap, tumbled out of the bed and knelt beside Madame Mo, "Madame, I'm innocent! Last night it was Miss Tong who seduced me first! It really was Miss Tong, please see the truth, Madame!"

Tong Qiaoqiao, hearing this, immediately became incensed and lunged at the man, "What are you talking about! Why would I find you, a dog, appealing!"

The two immediately grappled with each other.

Li Xiangzhi also immediately said, "Sister, Qiaoqiao is your only niece, how could she ever do such a thing! This is all a misunderstanding! It's all lies from this dog!"

"You dog! Shut up! Our Qiaoqiao, with her noble birth, how could she ever fancy a revolting person like you!" Li Xiangzhi leaped forward, furiously slapping the man's face.

The battle of two quickly turned into a brawl of three, and it was fierce.

Madame Mo frowned in disgust, "Separate them!"

The servants immediately pulled Tong Qiaoqiao and the man apart.

Tong Qiaoqiao instantly clung to Madame Mo's legs, sobbing, "Aunt, please believe me, I really didn't seduce him, and furthermore, the man from last night was not him..."

Madame Mo slightly narrowed her eyes, meaning Tong Qiaoqiao's intention was to seduce... Mo Zhixuan?

The truth must be that the couple was baiting a trap for Tong Qiaoqiao!

Was Chu Jin someone to be trifled with?

"You shut up! Aren't you ashamed enough already!" Madame Mo scolded coldly and then turned her gaze to the man, "You tell me, what exactly happened last night?"

"Madame, I am in charge of the security for this eastern chamber. Last night, because the young master Tong would not stop crying, Nine Ye came over. When Nine Ye was taking the young master Tong to get some air in the garden, he received a call from Nine Ye's wife. So, Nine Ye left the young master Tong with me. But no sooner had I brought the young master back to the room than I sensed something off about the room's scent..."

The rest was left unsaid.

Taking into account what Tong Qiaoqiao said earlier and the man's story, things were quite clear and simple!

Old Mrs. Mo's face had turned a furious shade of green! She had kindly taken in Li Xiangzhi and her daughter! Little did she expect they would eventually harbor such filthy thoughts—to set their sights on Mo Zhixuan! Absolutely disgusting! Old Mrs. Mo shook all over with rage!

"You're talking nonsense! He's talking nonsense! Aunt! You absolutely mustn't listen to his driveline! It's not like this! Really, it's not!" Tong Qiaoqiao clung desperately to Old Mrs. Mo's legs, sobbing her heart out.

"Get away from me!" Old Mrs. Mo kicked Tong Qiaoqiao away, looking at her coldly, and spoke with disgust, "If he's lying, then what about those incense ashes! Have you no shame? How could our Tong family have produced something as disgraceful as you!"

Old Mrs. Mo's only hobby was perfume blending, and she naturally knew what ingredients those piles of incense ashes contained.

Tong Qiaoqiao had truly disappointed her! If her only brother Tong Yuan knew about this in the afterlife, he would not rest in peace.

"Sister, Qiaoqiao is a good child, she really wouldn't do something like this!" Li Xiangzhi, agitated, clung to Old Mrs. Mo, begging bitterly.

"A girl who is not taught is a mother's failure! You cannot absolve yourself from the blame for Tong Qiaoqiao turning out this way!" Old Mrs. Mo glared coldly at Li Xiangzhi, eyes brimming with loathing, "Don't think I don't know what you and your daughter are scheming!"

Old Mrs. Mo was filled with regret, wishing she had never taken in that troublemaking mother and daughter! A dog that couldn't stop eating its own excrement! Even the daughter they raised was so inherently worthless!

"Sister, you've really misunderstood! It's not like that! Listen to my explanation..." Li Xiangzhi still refused to admit it, as Old Mrs. Mo was now her only support! She could not afford to lose Old Mrs. Mo's protection, "I saw with my own eyes Zhixuan come in! The man who defiled Qiaoqiao is not him! Sister, please see the truth!"

Regardless of whether the man from last night was Mo Zhixuan, this incident had to be pinned on him—only Mo Zhixuan could grant Tong Qiaoqiao a lifetime of glory and wealth! What could a security guard offer Tong Qiaoqiao?

Tong Qiaoqiao's future absolutely could not be ruined by this security guard!

"Shut your mouth! If you keep babbling nonsense, watch your tongue!" Old Mrs. Mo reached out and grasped Li Xiangzhi's jaw, her eyes flashing with a severity unlike her usual demeanour, implying her words were no joke.

Li Xiangzhi was frightened into silence immediately.

"Contact Mrs. Tong, have her come here immediately, and then lock these few people up in the basement," Old Mrs. Mo commanded the servant by her side.

Regardless, Tong Qiaoqiao was still from the Tong family, and it was only right to inform Tong Zhi. Deciding how to deal with these two women would require consultation between her and Tong Zhi.

"Yes," the servant bowed in response.

"Aunt, please no, Aunt!" Tong Qiaoqiao clutched at Old Mrs. Mo's leg, refusing to let go.

"Get off!" At this moment, Old Mrs. Mo looked at Tong Qiaoqiao with nothing but loathing in her eyes, "From now on, our aunt-niece relationship is over! If we meet again, we will be strangers!"

She was originally the only remaining bloodline of the Tong family and could have lived a carefree life—if only she hadn't developed improper thoughts! From now on, she can't blame me for not caring about familial affection!

Upon hearing these words, Li Xiangzhi's face turned instantly pale; she cried as she grabbed Old Mrs. Mo's wrist, "Sister! Qiaoqiao is your only niece, also the sole bloodline of our Tong family, you can't treat Qiaoqiao like this! You can't bully us mother and daughter just because Tong Yuan passed away early!"

Li Xiangzhi brought up the deceased Tong Yuan once again, knowing that only this could tug at Old Mrs. Mo's heartstrings.

In the spirit of respecting the monk out of respect for Buddha, even if Old Mrs. Mo didn't want to acknowledge Tong Qiaoqiao, after all, she was Tong Yuan's daughter...

Old Mrs. Mo cherished her brother so much, she surely wouldn't truly abandon Tong Qiaoqiao!

"You still have the nerve to mention Yuan at this point!" Old Mrs. Mo glared at Li Xiangzhi, her voice harsh, "Yuan was really blinded back then! To end up fancying a woman like you! Corrupting the Tong

family's good name, now that Yuan is gone, I declare that your marriage is annulled, from now on, you are no longer part of the Tong family! A dog that can't change its habit of eating filth!"

"Sister, please, don't be so heartless! I'm born a Tong, I'll die a Tong ghost! You can't do this to us!" Li Xiangzhi clutched tightly to Old Mrs. Mo's leg, refusing to let go.

Li Xiangzhi could feel that the Mo family's old lady had truly made up her mind this time!

The old lady of the Mo family said coldly, "Take her out, and seal her mouth for me!"

The servant immediately complied.

Li Xiangzhi and her daughter Tong Qiaoqiao were dragged away, and the old lady of the Mo family sighed deeply, rubbing her temples with a headache.

It must be said, this mother and daughter really let her down! They also disgraced the Tong family!

Tong Zhi arrived soon after, alone. With this kind of incident, it was not appropriate to involve Xiangru and Yimo, as children should not witness such filthy events.

"Xiao Zhi, how do you think we should handle this matter?" the old lady of the Mo family asked Tong Zhi with a worried look.

Compared to the old lady's worry, Tong Zhi was the picture of calm, as if she were not Tong Qiaoqiao's aunt at all.

"What else can be done? Such a scandal has occurred; naturally, we can no longer allow them to remain in the Superpower World! Sister, I've said it long ago, that Li Xiangzhi is no good, but you wouldn't believe me! Do you see now? This, this is the classic story of The Farmer and the Viper. With all your good intentions, you reached out to help them, and this is how they repay you!" Tong Zhi spoke with an air of watching the fire from across the shore.

When the old lady of the Mo family took in Li Xiangzhi and her daughter, Tong Zhi had advised her against it, but the old lady wouldn't listen, insisting on learning her lesson the hard way.

"Sigh—," the old lady of the Mo family sighed deeply and then said, "Wasn't I doing it for the sake of Brother Yuan, only to find out that this mother and daughter are so ungrateful!" Were the members of the Tong family not known for their integrity and kindness? How did people like Tong Qiaoqiao and Li Xiangzhi ever emerge from it?

"Luckily, Zhixuan is a sensible child," Tong Zhi continued, "If Zhixuan had the slightest ulterior motive, or if it were someone else, Mo family would likely have become the butt of a joke today! I don't even understand what Li Xiangzhi was thinking to do such a disgusting thing; it embarrasses me on her behalf!"

Sharing a bed with a cousin; this news is too sensational!

When the time comes, it won't just be the Mo family losing face, but the whole Three Realms.

Hearing this, the old lady of the Mo family also felt a lingering fear! She hadn't taken in two people, but two wolves! If she had known something like this would happen today, she would never have taken them in!

"Xiao Zhi, at a time like this, don't make light of the situation, please say something constructive," the old lady of the Mo family continued.

Tong Zhi smiled and said, "Given the current circumstances, we can't let this mother and daughter stay in the Superpower World any longer. Send them away, the farther the better. She likes to entice men, doesn't she? Then let her have her way. Notify the civil affairs office, pair Tong Qiaoqiao with that security guard, and put an end to her future mischief-making!"

As far as Tong Zhi was concerned, it didn't matter if Tong Qiaoqiao was of Tong family blood; a piece of trash like her was better off cut off from the family!

"But..." the old lady of the Mo family hesitated, with a pang of pity, "Aren't we being too heartless? After all, they haven't actually done anything substantively bad..."

Tong Zhi chuckled lightly, somewhat speechless, "Sister, are you being silly? With things as they are, you're still considering them? Must they turn the Mo family upside down before you regret it?"

The old lady of the Mo family sighed and then said, "What about little Gold? Little Gold is still a child; surely, a child doesn't have to be involved in the affairs of adults, right?"

Tong Zhi glanced at the old lady of the Mo family, "Sister, from what you're saying, are you really thinking about adopting little Gold?"

The old lady of the Mo family didn't answer; in fact, that was what she was thinking.

Tong Zhi stood up in agitation, "Sister, I must tell you, you absolutely must not do such a foolish thing! Little Gold is already six years old, and as the saying goes, what kind of mother, what kind of child. Just look at Li Xiangzhi, then look at Tong Qiaoqiao, I don't think little Gold is any good seed either! Do you still remember the first night little Gold arrived here?"

#### Chapter 889: Female Clothing Tycoon Mo

The little gold child came here on the first day and snatched Bao Bao and Bei Bei's belongings. A child, if not instructed by an adult, would they dare to do this? Tong Zhi saw all of this clearly!

"Then what do you think should be done with the little gold child?" the Mo family matriarch looked at Tong Zhi.

Tong Zhi said irritably, "Of course, whoever raised him should take him away! I don't acknowledge such a nephew!"

The Mo family matriarch sighed helplessly, "At this point, there's no choice but to do as you say."

Tong Zhi stood up and continued, "Sister, leave this matter to me, don't interfere!" She was worried that the Mo family matriarch would be soft-hearted again and let Li Xiangzhi and her daughter off the hook.

"Fine," the Mo family matriarch massaged her temples, "I'll leave this matter to you to handle, I'm tired too."

Just then, Chu Jin returned from taking Bao Bao and Bei Bei to school.

"Mom, Aunt Tong, you're both here." Chu Jin greeted them with a smile.

"Jin, where have you been this early in the morning?" the Mo family matriarch stood up, slightly puzzled.

"It's Monday, I took Bao Bao and Bei Bei to school," Chu Jin said in a light tone.

The Mo family matriarch patted her own head and laughed, "Look at my memory, Bao Bao and Bei Bei have started school already and I forgot again! By the way, where's Zhixuan?"

"He went with me to take Bao Bao and Bei Bei to school; after dropping me off, he went to deal with government affairs. Why, do you need him for something?" Chu Jin's smile was gentle.

Mo Zhixuan had kept her up all night yesterday, and she had barely closed her eyes before she sent the two little ones off to school. Now, all she wanted was to find a place to sleep well...

Men and women are indeed different; Mo Zhixuan also hadn't slept all night, yet he was still refreshed and energetic, whereas she couldn't do it, her body ached all over...

Tong Zhi looked at Chu Jin with a half-smile then said, "Jin, seeing how diligently you and Zhixuan are going at it, could it be you're preparing for a second child?"

Chu Jin felt a bit embarrassed, "Aunt Tong, stop kidding, just the two little ones can tear the house apart, adding another one would surely be overwhelming. I won't chat anymore, I have to rush a draft. Mom, call me if you need anything." Chu Jin quickly walked upstairs.

The Mo family matriarch looked at Tong Zhi and scolded, "Look at you, shameless, scaring Jin like that."

Tong Zhi covered her mouth with a light laugh, then said, "Alright sister, you've also been tired all morning. Go rest, leave the rest to me, I'll make sure everything is handled perfectly."

The Mo family matriarch opened her mouth, wanting to say something, but then swallowed her words.

Sometimes a woman's kindness isn't a good thing! Leave this matter to Tong Zhi to handle! She didn't want to be involved anymore! Out of sight, out of mind!

Tong Zhi was absolutely decisive in her actions, without any dilly-dallying; it took her less than ten minutes to sort out the marriage certificate between Tong Qiaoqiao and the security guard.

After that was settled, Tong Zhi went to the basement.

Hearing the noise, Li Xiangzhi and Tong Qiaoqiao immediately stood up, grasping the iron bars and looking towards the entrance, wailing, "Sister! Sister! Please let me and Qiaoqiao go, we know we were wrong and we will never dare again!"

Tong Qiaoqiao also cried out, "Aunt, I was wrong! I was bewitched for a moment, I truly know my mistake now, aunt, please consider my late father's face and forgive me this time, I promise, there won't be a next time!"

At this time, Li Xiangzhi and Tong Qiaoqiao had no choice but to bow their heads! If they could just get through this ordeal, there would be a long road ahead. Learn from the past, and they would surely not make the same mistakes again! They had been careless this time!

As the footsteps grew nearer, and upon seeing the figure of the person arriving, Li Xiangzhi's face changed, "Why is it you! I want to see sister!"

She understood what kind of person Tong Zhi was; if she were in the hands of the Mo family matriarch, there might still be a glimmer of hope, but with Tong Zhi, she had none! Tong Zhi was clear about gratitude and grudges, decisive, and not as easy to influence as the Mo family matriarch.

"Sister, who is your sister?" Tong Zhi sneered coldly, her eyes filled with mockery, "Li Xiangzhi, you're no longer a member of the Tong family! You no longer have the right to call her that!"

"What are you! I don't see you! I want to see sister!" Li Xiangzhi said angrily.

What was Tong Zhi? What gave her the right to manage this situation!

Tong Qiaoqiao pleaded as she looked at Tong Zhi, "Little aunt, please be magnanimous and not mind my mother's ramblings, she's just senile. Please help us beg aunt for mercy, forgive us this once..."

Tong Zhi's expression changed briefly, then she spoke, "Don't worry, after all, you are a member of our Tong family. I've arranged all your past and future. From now on, live your life peacefully and don't think too much about other things. For you, this is the life you're destined for!"

Tong Qiaoqiao discerned another layer of meaning in Tong Zhi's words, her expression changing instantly, "Auntie, what do you mean by that?"

Tong Zhi smiled lightly, "It means exactly what it sounds like. From now on, don't call me auntie anymore. I, Tong Zhi, only acknowledge Mo Qingyi as my niece, as for everyone else, I don't recognize them!"

"You...you...you have such a cruel heart!" Li Xiangzhi was so angry that she spat blood.

Tong Zhi gently raised her hand, "Bring him over."

Before Tong Qiaoqiao and Li Xiangzhi could react, the guards brought a man over.

"Mrs. Tong." The man nodded and bowed to Tong Zhi.

Tong Zhi handed the man a chip, then said, "There, I've given you the item, treat her well in the future."

"Yes, yes, yes, of course," the man bowed deeply, clearly eager to please.

Only then did Tong Qiaoqiao recognize the man as the one she had shared her bed with the night before...

Seeing the chip in the man's hand, Tong Qiaoqiao felt a sense of ominous foreboding.

Tong Zhi continued, "This mother and daughter are no easy targets, so be careful with them in the future, and don't get sold without even realizing it."

"Mrs. Tong, rest assured, they're just a pair of women, I can keep them under control," the man said with full confidence.

Tong Zhi nodded with satisfaction, "Alright then, it's getting late, take them away."

Tong Qiaoqiao angrily said, "Tong Zhi! What do you mean by this?"

Tong Zhi curled her lips into a smile, "It's exactly what you see. Oh, and I haven't had the chance to congratulate you yet. You've found your ideal husband, so make sure you follow him closely from now on."

"I don't want this! I refuse! Tong Zhi! Who do you think you are! How dare you decide my life for me! I want to see my aunt, I want my aunt!" Tong Qiaoqiao's face was the picture of despair; now the only person who could save her was Madame Mo!

She never expected things to turn out this way! Nor did she expect the man from last night's affair to become the ordinary security guard before her eyes.

Especially since this security guard was leering at her! How could she marry such a person! She was meant to be a wealthy socialite! Even if she couldn't be with Mo Zhixuan, she shouldn't have to stoop to this level!

Tong Qiaoqiao truly felt aggrieved! Her life was supposed to be full of promise! When did it turn into the despair she was facing now?

"Since you schemed and slept with him, you should take responsibility!" Tong Zhi said with a smile in her eyes, "The young man doesn't even mind that you're already divorced, and here you are turning your nose up at him."

Tong Qiaoqiao said nothing more, but her resentful gaze towards Tong Zhi was as if she wanted to burn holes through her!

"Tong Zhi! May you not die a good death!" Li Xiangzhi clutched the iron railing tightly, her face filled with rage as she looked at Tong Zhi, "If you have an issue, come at me, why make it hard for Qiaoqiao? She's just a child! Aren't you afraid that Tong Yuan will be heartbroken if he knew about this from down below?"

Tong Zhi couldn't be bothered to waste more words with her, continuing, "What goes around comes around, Li Xiangzhi, watch your step. Someone, take them all away."

As soon as she finished speaking, a group of people came from outside and forcibly took Tong Qiaoqiao and Li Xiangzhi away.

Looking at the empty basement, Tong Zhi casually clapped her hands, "At last, it's clean here."

That evening, Madame Mo simply mentioned the situation of Li Xiangzhi and her daughter at the dinner table.

She only said that Tong Qiaoqiao had left with her fiancé and didn't elaborate on the reason.

Even though she didn't say it, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan knew the reason why.

Tong Qiaoqiao and Li Xiangzhi had committed such an ugly act; naturally, the Mo family could no longer accommodate them!

Bao Bao curiously said, "Will Brother Jin still come in the future?" Actually, Bao Bao wasn't very fond of Brother Jin, but now that Jin had left, he felt a little unused to it.

After all, he'd once called him brother.

Bei Bei also asked, "Where did Brother Jin and the rest go? I saw Brother Jin was sick yesterday, is he alright now?"

Madame Mo said with a smile, "Your Brother Jin has gone home with his parents, you don't need to worry."

Bao Bao and Bei Bei were then relieved.

As for Li Xiangzhi, Tong Qiaoqiao and her daughter, along with Brother Jin, they were taken to a deserted area in the desert.

Life in the desert was hard, and everything had to be relied on one's own hands.

In the beginning, Tong Qiaoqiao and Li Xiangzhi were not used to it at all, and constantly sought death, for they were accustomed to living a life of luxury. However, after a few days, they adapted and started to work with their own hands, after all, the feeling of hunger was even more unbearable than death itself.

Seeking death, yet they didn't have the courage to do it.

Just four months' time, Tong Qiaoqiao and Li Xiangzhi had completely transformed into laboring women, their skin becoming dark and dry, far from how they looked before.

And that security guard, he had completely become the head of the family, enslaving the mother and daughter every day.

"Mom, drink some water." Little Jinzi brought a bowl of water, handing it over to the working Tong Qiaoqiao.

Tong Qiaoqiao casually wiped the sweat with her sleeve, took the bowl, and guzzled down the water, feeling a bit bitter in her heart. She used to drink only imported mountain spring water, never imagining that she would fall to the point of drinking plain boiled water.

Looking at her hands, they were rough and pitch black, not the slightest hint of the once pampered young lady remained!

All of this was the Mo family's fault! It was the Mo family that made her this way.

Tong Qiaoqiao finished drinking, handing the bowl back to Little Jinzi, "Take it back, be careful not to break it!"

Little Jinzi nodded, carrying the bowl back. His transformation was also significant, not just in his darkened skin, but he also seemed much more mature, without the arrogance he once had.

"Son, bringing water to your mom?" Li Haoran walked over, putting his hand on Little Jinzi's shoulder with a kindly smile on his face.

Li Haoran was that security guard.

Little Jinzi obediently nodded, "Yes, dad."

After four months, Little Jinzi had become used to calling him dad. In fact, Little Jinzi found that his current life wasn't bad either, just like described in the books—he rose with the sun and rested with its setting; there was less scheming and more authenticity.

And Li Haoran was very good to him, treating him no different from his own child. If only Li Haoran could be kinder to his mom and grandma, that would be even better.

"My son is so sensible!" Li Haoran laughed heartily, satisfied. He crouched down and planted a kiss on Little Jinzi's cheek. "Come on, dad will take you to buy some candy." He picked up Little Jinzi, hoisting him onto his neck.

Little Jinzi was very happy; he had never enjoyed a father's love before. Although Li Haoran was not rich, he was good-natured and gave him something he had never even dared to dream of before.

Tong Qiaoqiao watched the father and son depart, biting her lip in frustration. Her Little Jinzi was supposed to enjoy the best material life, and now he had to be with such a person! To call such a person dad!

How could she be content with this!

But even if she was discontented, what could she do? She had been expelled from the Three Realms, and her name was also struck from the Tong family's genealogy; she could never return to her past! How could an ant shake an elephant?

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Superpower World.

Lately, Bao Bao and Bei Bei had started their winter break. Since the break began, the two little guys had been letting loose, acting wildly, almost to the point of tearing the house down. Their energy seemed boundless every day.

Faced with this, Chu Jin also felt helpless, but apart from that, she had no other solutions...

Being four years old, they were at an age to be active; one couldn't simply snuff out their childhood vitality.

Mo Qingyi was now already five months pregnant. A five-month belly was visibly large. Having weathered the first three months, Mo Qingyi finally felt at ease and no longer needed to drink those

bitter medicines. Since she stopped taking them, she fattened up, gaining 15 pounds more than before she was pregnant.

"Jin, do you think my stomach is growing too fast? If this goes on, will I end up as fat as a pig?" Mo Qingyi lay on the sofa, looking like she had lost all hope.

Pregnancy was beautiful, but it also came with pain.

Chu Jin smiled and said, "Of course not. The weight is going to the baby, not on you. If you didn't gain weight, that would be abnormal."

"It sounds like you're really comforting me!" Mo Qingyi's eyes brightened, then she continued, "I remember when you were pregnant with Bao Bao and Bei Bei, your stomach was also very big!"

But Mo Qingyi forgot that Chu Jin had been carrying twins back then, and her limbs hadn't grown fat at all; only her stomach had grown. But for Mo Qingyi... her entire body had grown rounder...

Chu Jin nodded, "Right, so you don't need to worry at all now. Eat what you should, drink what you should. The main thing is that the baby is healthy."

"Exactly, Jin, you're absolutely right!" Mo Qingyi nodded eagerly.

Chu Jin continued, "By the way, have you thought of a good name for the baby yet?"

"Of course I've chosen the names!" Mo Qingyi had settled on names the second day after she found out she was pregnant. After yearning for this child for so long, she had everything prepared well in advance.

Mo Qingyi went on, "I've prepared two names, Duanmu Yan and Duanmu Jun. 'Yan' as in the 'Yan' from 'beautiful as jade', and 'Jun' as in 'noble' Jun." One was a boy's name, and the other a girl's, both with very auspicious meanings. It's clear that Mo Qingyi put a lot of thought into them.

Chu Jin nodded slightly and teased, "Qingyi, seeing how carefree you usually are, I didn't expect you to be so secretive."

Mo Qingyi said somewhat embarrassedly, "Actually, it wasn't just me who chose them; Duanmu Xiaosi had a hand in it too." Then she touched her belly and continued, "Actually, I still hope I could have twins myself. Look how great Bao Bao and Bei Bei are."

Chu Jin laughed, "It's fine even if it's not twins. Just have a second one. Have you forgotten the reading from the Tarot cards last time? You're destined to have two children."

"Haha, Brother Jin, then I'll take your auspicious words!" Mo Qingyi laughed heartily. "By the way, where's my brother? How come I haven't seen him around?"

Chu Jin flipped through a few pages of the magazine in his hand, without lifting his head, "He's in the toy room upstairs playing with Bao Bao and Bei Bei. Those two little ones—they'd turn the sky upside down if someone wasn't watching them."

"I'm going to go up and take a look." Mo Qingyi supported herself up with the back of the sofa, fondness for Bao Bao and Bei Bei in her heart.

"I'll accompany you to prevent those two little ones from making trouble for you." Chu Jin stood up and supported Mo Qingyi's arm.

Mo Qingyi smiled and nodded in agreement.

As soon as they reached the second-floor playroom, they could hear laughter and a childishly sung song wafting over, "Little bunny, be good, open the door for me." That was Bao Bao's voice.

Then came Bei Bei's voice, "Won't open, won't open, I will not, until mommy's back."

The two little ones sang in an orderly and harmonious fashion, sounding quite convincing.

Mo Qingyi said with a smile, "Oh my, Bao Bao and Bei Bei are such great players, so well-behaved and cute."

Chu Jin also smiled with affection in his eyes, "It's only because Mo Zhixuan is with them today. Normally, they would've brought the house down by now. And this is just what's on the surface; who knows what chaos they've caused inside."

They entered the room and, as expected, it looked like it had been through a disaster.

The walls were plastered with colorful things, toys were scattered everywhere, and Mo Zhixuan sat amidst a sea of sponge balls—the most comical thing was, he had two cute little braids tied on top of his head.

His lips were smeared with lipstick, and his eyes were painted with dark green eyeshadow.

Looking like this, he was somewhat comical, and even resembled... Hua Hua.

Mo Qingyi couldn't hold back and burst into hearty laughter, "Brother, I never imagined you'd be a master of drag!"

Chu Jin also chuckled softly, then quickly took out his phone to take a picture as a keepsake.

Mo Zhixuan sat in the middle of the sponge balls, looking somewhat forlorn. He didn't raise a daughter; he raised a little empress...

If it had been a son, he would've spanked him until his butt bloomed flowers by now! But his daughter was precious; he couldn't hit or scold her. He had to pamper her dutifully and without regret, ever so cooperatively.

Bei Bei immediately came up to Chu Jin and Mo Qingyi, seeking praise, "Mommy, Auntie, do the braids I made for daddy look good?"

"Beautiful, beautiful, they really are gorgeous!" Mo Qingyi nodded eagerly, privately giving Bei Bei a thumbs-up in her mind.

Bei Bei was so brave, daring to touch the tiger's behind.

Unexpectedly, not only was Mo Zhixuan whipped by his wife, but he was also whipped by his daughter!

Chu Jin scooped up Bei Bei into his arms, beaming, "What do you plan to do after dressing daddy up so prettily?"

Bei Bei, tilting her head, said, "As the saying goes, 'Clothes make the man, Buddha is gilded.' I'm just practicing on daddy, after all, makeup should start from young, just like studying medicine."

Bei Bei spoke confidently.

Anyhow, Bei Bei dared not mess around on Chu Jin's face, so she could only bring havoc upon Mo Zhixuan's face instead...

Daddy was a good daddy, never bullying her.

Though Bei Bei was young, she knew sometimes, it was better to pick on the softer target.

Mommy was the tough persimmon, daddy the soft one.

Listening to Bei Bei's words, Mo Qingyi laughed so hard she couldn't straighten up. She pinched Bei Bei's little cheek and asked with a smile, "Bei Bei, you little cutie, who taught you to say these things?"

Chapter 890: when 1.6m meets 1.86m

Bei Bei looked up at Qingyi, smiling sweetly, "Auntie is so adorable, all these insights are my own, you know. Times have changed, in your eyes I'm still a child, but I'm not a kid anymore! I know so much more now!" With that, Bei Bei proudly tilted his cute little head up.

Qingyi couldn't help but be amused, then turned to Bao Bao, "Bao Bao, why don't you say hello to your auntie when you see her coming?"

Bao Bao looked up, puffing his cheeks, grumpily said, "Auntie, don't interrupt us! I'm angry right now!"

These two little guys, each one cuter than the other, Qingyi smiled and said, "What's Bao Bao mad about? Who has provoked you?"

Bao Bao pouted, "I'm mad at my sister! She is disobedient and really is a cause for concern!" With that, Bao Bao helplessly shook his head, looking every bit the little adult.

Qingyi continued, "So how did your sister make you angry?"

Before Bao Bao could speak, Bei Bei ran over and covered his mouth, "Brother, don't say it! I apologize to you!"

With that, Bei Bei walked in front of Bao Bao and bowed deeply, "I'm sorry, brother, my mistake!" The bow was full of sincerity.

Bao Bao generously waved his hand, "Forget it, forget it, who makes me so magnanimous? I forgive you!"

Bao Bao looked up at Qingyi and sweetly said, "Auntie, I'm not angry anymore."

It was apparent that both siblings had been brought up well.

Qingyi smiled warmly as she watched the siblings, her eyes filled with affection. She gently patted her belly and whispered, "Little one, you must be as obedient as your brother and sister."

Bao Bao huffed and puffed as he ran over, also touching Qingyi's belly, and then said, "Auntie, rest assured, the little brother will surely be as obedient as me, and in the future, he will be a good brother and take care of his sister."

Qingyi, smiling, asked, "Bao Bao, are you so certain that there's a little brother in auntie's belly?"

Bao Bao nodded and slowly said, "When Bao Bao speaks, it's always the truth, auntie. If you don't believe it, why don't we make a bet?"

Qingyi nodded, smiling, "Okay, how do you want to bet?"

Bao Bao, like a little adult, put his hands behind his back, pondered for a moment, then said, "Let's bet five lollipops? If there's a little brother in auntie's belly, you have to give me five lollipops, but if it's a little sister, I'll give auntie five lollipops."

Qingyi waggled one of her fingers and said, "No, no, auntie doesn't like lollipops. How about this, if auntie has a little sister, you come to auntie's house and be her son, okay? You'll have candy every day at auntie's house, and you can watch TV every day, how about that?"

"No, no," Bao Bao mimicked Qingyi, waggling a finger as well, and then said, "Auntie, even though the chances of you having a little sister are only 0.01 percent, I still can't agree to your condition. Papa and mama only have me as their son, I can't make them lose me. As the saying goes, 'A child does not shun his mother's ugliness, nor a dog his home's poverty.' How could I abandon my papa and mama just because I'm lacking sweets and TV watching? That's simply impossible!"

Bao Bao's little mouth jabbered on, instantly delighting Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan with laughter.

Qingyi too smiled broadly, tempting him further, "But auntie's house has a lot of candy, you know. Auntie can let you sleep on candy every night..."

"Still no!" Bao Bao shook his head, "Sleeping on candy isn't hygienic, and besides, mama has said that eating less candy as a kid means fewer cavities, mama is doing this for my good, right, mama?" With that, Bao Bao even threw an alluring look at Chu Jin.

Chu Jin giggled as she tapped Mo Zhixuan's forehead, "Who knows who your son takes after." That little mouth can turn directions on a dime.

Mo Zhixuan was a bit helpless as he said, "I don't know who this little brat takes after, I just know that Bei Bei must take after you, a little mischief maker." Twisting me around her finger like that!

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, "Do you think being a father is so easy?"

Mo Zhixuan touched the little braid on his head, his face beaming as he looked at Bei Bei and spoke softly, "Fairy Bei Bei, can papa untie the braid on his head now?"

Bei Bei shook her head, "Nope, grandma has to appreciate it first before you can untie it. Papa, you wouldn't let down my good intentions, right?"

Mo Zhixuan: "..." I surrender, I surrender!

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At the Lin family's house.

In Lin Yuze's room.

At this moment, Lin Yuze was sprawled across his desk doing his homework.

Qian Jiafeng tiptoed into the room from outside, handing Lin Yuze a cup of hot milk.

Lin Yuze looked up and thanked her politely, "Thank you, Mom."

"Good boy," Qian Jiafeng found a chair and sat down beside Lin Yuze, gently patting his head, then added, "Son, why didn't you play with Bei Bei today?"

Lin Yuze paused his writing, looked at Qian Jiafeng, and replied, "I have quite a bit of homework this winter break, and Bao Bao and Bei Bei have not been coming out to play much lately either."

Continuing, Qian Jiafeng said, "Have you asked them why they haven't been coming out to play recently?" If Bei Bei doesn't come out to play, how is she to foster a relationship with Lin Yuze? Originally, children don't have much time to play together once they start school, with only winter and summer breaks left. Now, to make matters worse, Bao Bao and Bei Bei suddenly aren't coming out to play at all.

Lin Yuze then said, "Because it's too cold, their mom won't let them come out and play."

Hearing this, Qian Jiafeng immediately looked up, only to see fine snow beginning to drift outside the window.

Unnoticed, the New Year was almost upon them.

This year, their New Year's celebrations were bound to be less pleasant with the presence of that mother and son.

Without a man to rely on, a woman is truly nothing.

Qian Jiafeng put aside her tumultuous thoughts and continued, "Son, isn't Bao Bao and Bei Bei's birthday coming up soon?"

Lin Yuze thought for a moment, then nodded, "It seems like it, I remember their birthday is after the New Year, still a while away."

Since heeding Qian Jiafeng's advice, Lin Yuze paid great attention to anything regarding Bao Bao and Bei Bei, after all, he was to marry Bei Bei in the future, so it was only right for him to be concerned.

"After the New Year, huh..." Qian Jiafeng narrowed her eyes, then said, "Son, you have such a good relationship with Bao Bao and Bei Bei, they will surely invite you to their birthday party, right?"

Lin Yuze bit his lip and then shook his head, "I can't guarantee that, and moreover, I always feel that Bao Bao doesn't see me as a good friend. He is guarded against me." Lin Yuze was two years older than Bao Bao and Bei Bei, so he was much more mature.

Perhaps it was related to the environment in which he grew up.

"That won't do!" Qian Jiafeng said anxiously, "Son, you need to make him let down his guard. It's not enough to only ingratiate yourself with Bei Bei; you need to also win over Bao Bao. If nothing unexpected happens, Bao Bao will be your future brother-in-law!"

Lin Yuze looked at Qian Jiafeng, "Mom, what if something unexpected does happen?"

"No accidents are allowed!" Qian Jiafeng's gaze was fixed on Lin Yuze as she continued, "If any accident occurs, we won't be able to stay in this house any longer! With that seductress bewitching your dad, he surely won't leave a penny of his estate for you. So, son, we need to make our own efforts, you must make your dad see you! Make him wary of you!"

"Okay, Mom, I understand," Lin Yuze nodded firmly, "I will try very hard."

Qian Jiafeng nodded with satisfaction, then said, "Son, the most important thing now is to find a way to attend Bao Bao and Bei Bei's birthday party. You need to make your dad notice you, to realize that he has a son like you!"

If Lin Yuze could attend Bao Bao and Bei Bei's birthday party, it would change the status of him and his mother within the family.

Lin Yuze sighed, "But if Bao Bao and Bei Bei don't invite me, I can't just show up at their birthday party..."

Qian Jiafeng narrowed her eyes and then suggested, "How about this: you send a gift to Bao Bao and Bei Bei, and you must choose the right moment to give it to them in front of their mom. That way, she will surely invite you to Bao Bao and Bei Bei's birthday party."

Lin Yuze added, "Bao Bao and Bei Bei already have all sorts of nice things, they won't care about anything I give them." Saying this, envy flashed in Lin Yuze's eyes.

How he envied Bao Bao and Bei Bei for having such wonderful parents and a grandmother who adores them...

Unlike his own home, where it seemed that no one cared for him besides his mother...

Thinking this, a touch of loneliness flashed through Lin Yuze's eyes.

When would he ever get to live a life like that?

As if she knew what Lin Yuze was thinking, Qian Jiafeng patted his head, "Stop dreaming. As long as you successfully win Bei Bei's favor, your dad and your grandparents will naturally start to notice you."

"Really?" Lin Yuze's eyes brightened as he looked at Qian Jiafeng.

Qian Jiafeng nodded, "Of course it's true. When have I ever lied to you?"

Bei Bei was the princess of all three realms, even if her talents were somewhat lacking, she was a princess in the truest sense! Once Lin Yuze won Bei Bei's favor, the Lin family members would surely come over to fawn on him!

Now, she could only rely on this move to attract the attention of the Lin family people.

"Mom, what kind of gift should I prepare for Bao Bao and Bei Bei? It seems like they lack nothing..." Lin Yuze continued.

Qian Jiafeng smiled, "Don't worry about it, Mom will take care of everything. You just need to deliver the gift, and Mom promises that the gift I prepare will definitely catch Bao Bao and Bei Bei's eyes."

Lin Yuze smiled and nodded, "Okay, Mom, I trust you."

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Bakery.

Lately, Zi's visits to the bakery had become quite frequent.

However, he didn't seem to come to eat, but rather... to wait for someone.

Sitting at the bar with his hands propping up his chin, Duanmu Sheng hesitated about whether to greet Zi or not, just when Zi suddenly stood up with a smile and waved towards the window.

He seemed to be greeting someone outside.

Duanmu Sheng looked up and out the window, only to see Situ Ya leisurely walking down the street with a milk tea in her embrace. She seemed to not have noticed Zi, as she continued to walk forward without raising her head.

At this time of day, Situ Ya was supposed to be on her way to work.

Sometimes when she felt like it, she would walk to work an hour early.

It was already winter, so Situ Ya was dressed very warmly, already donning a hat, a pink fluffy one with two cat ears on it. She looked quite small and absolutely adorable.

Seeing that Situ Ya ignored him, Zi couldn't sit still any longer. He pulled a banknote from his pocket, leaving behind his favorite cake, and hurriedly chased out the door.

"Shorty!" Zi ran up to her and unexpectedly snatched the hat from Situ Ya's head.

"Are you out of your mind?!" Situ Ya kicked back at him, irritably demanding, "Give me my hat back now!"

Situ Ya had gorgeous curly hair, and at this moment, under the sunlight, the seaweed-like curls shimmered darkly, making one eager to touch it...

Curly hair paired with her exquisite and adorable features, although she was a bit on the shorter side, she made up for it with her soft cuteness and didn't lack a unique charm. The number of men fallen for Situ Ya's enchantment was considerable.

Zi held the hat up high, teasing with a mischievous grin, "Come and get it, it's yours if you can reach it."

When one meter sixty meets one meter eighty-six...

The scene was somewhat comical yet unexpectedly... heartwarming.

"Damn it! Are you going to give it back to me or not!" Situ Ya stood on tiptoe, trying her hardest to reach the hat in Zi's hand, her eyes nearly shooting flames.

Zi held the hat up with ease while Situ Ya's reaching hand practically broke—she couldn't reach the hat at all!

So infuriating!

This is the difference between long legs and short legs.

What's more, Zi even shook the hat in her hand, a face full of pride saying, "Shortie, you can't reach it, can't reach it, can't reach it..."

Situ Ya kept jumping up, trying to grab Zi's sleeves to be able to put on the hat, but because of the significant height difference, she couldn't even touch the brim of the hat.

Situ Ya's attention was all on the hat, and Zi was full of smiles. He slightly lowered his gaze toward Situ Ya, and just at that moment, Situ Ya made a leap, trying hard to jump up... their lips connected, soft and smooth.

Like... jelly.

Time seemed to freeze at that second.

Both of them gaped at each other, unsure of how to react.

Zi had only intended to tease Situ Ya.

Now, this situation was purely accidental.

Taking advantage of the moment Zi was slightly stunned, Situ Ya grabbed his right hand, took the hat, and placed it on her head, immediately wiping her lips in disgust, "Fuck! Have you been vaccinated for rabies or not?"

It's a good thing she never really saw Zi as a man, otherwise today would have been so embarrassing...

Situ Ya's heart raced, but she still tried to act as if nothing had happened!

Dammit!

This was her first kiss!

In the past, her experiences with Shen Haoguang were just charades, all illusions from burning incense sticks; she had never actually been on a real battlefield!

Zi was also a bit dazed, but he quickly recovered, "This was my first kiss, shortie, you've scored big!" Through more than four months of getting to know each other, he had gained a deeper understanding of emotions between men and women.

He didn't know what he felt for Situ Ya, but seeing her made him really want to tease her.

Situ Ya threw the tissue she had used to wipe her lips into the trash can, and said blankly, "Who cares about your first kiss, you piece of charcoal. And I don't even know if you've been vaccinated for rabies!"

Zi extended an arm around Situ Ya's shoulder, "Alright, alright, I don't mind if you haven't been vaccinated for rabies, yet you're still picking on me?"

Situ Ya glared at Zi's arm and said in a dark tone, "Can you take your dirty paws off me?"

"You have no clue how many girls out there are lining up just waiting for me to glance their way! Only a silly person like you could be so foolishly blessed without knowing the fortune they're in," Zi said nonchalantly.

The once honest and down-to-earth Zi had turned into a slick-tongued young man...

"Would it kill you not to be so narcissistic?" Situ Ya arched an eyebrow slightly.

"Going for breakfast?" Zi asked, sidestepping the question.

Without a second thought, Situ Ya responded, "No, I'm in a hurry to get to the office."

"I know there's a new breakfast place up ahead, their spicy wontons are not bad, wanna try? I'll drive you to the office afterward," Zi continued.

After a brief contemplation, Situ Ya replied, "Okay, let's go take a look, lead the way."

Situ Ya was a hidden foodie too, otherwise, she wouldn't possess such unmatched culinary skills.

In this world, only food is not to be let down.