

## Regaining 511

### Chapter 511: The Three Uncles of the Ji Family

"Grandpa, Happy New Year," Xu Nianhua greeted Grandpa Ji Xinghua as soon as she entered the house, "wishing you health and happiness in everything in the new year." Compared to the last time they had met, Ji Xinghua looked much more energetic and had put on some weight.

"Good, good, good."

Ji Xinghua had known that they would come to pay a New Year's visit and had been waiting at home in the new clothes his daughter had bought for him. Seeing his daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren made him very happy.

"This must be Nianji's Zhuangzhuang, right? What a fine-looking boy, really sturdy," Ji Xinghua instantly took a liking to the plump child in Zhou He's arms.

Thanks to a good supply of breast milk, young Xu Yue had grown especially robust. Truly living up to his name, he was chubby and fair, which made everyone happy and fond of him.

"Yes, Grandpa, this is my son, Xu Yue, his nickname is Zhuangzhuang," Xu Nianji said with pride and self-satisfaction. Since he often worked as a delivery driver, he occasionally took on the role of a courier.

Whatever good things Ji Ying had, she would send to Ji Xinghua.

As Xu Nianji visited more frequently, his relationship with his grandfather grew closer. Before, Xu Nianji had shown Ji Xinghua photos of his son, but this was the first time he had brought the child to see Ji Xinghua.

"Hello, Zhuangzhuang." At Ji Xinghua's age, he cared for little else but doted on children, particularly when the whole family was gathered together joyously.

For lunch, they ate at Ji Lin's house, and in the evening, they had dinner at Ji Shuhong's. This was Xu Nianhua's first visit to the latter's home. Ji Shuhong's family all worked at the textile factory, and they lived in a house allocated by the factory. The house wasn't large but was tidy and well-organized.

Xu Nianhua also saw two of her cousins whom she had not met before.

Ji Shuyan and Ji Shuting were both attractive and had brought their husbands and children. Honestly, Xu Nianhua couldn't recognize everyone.

As for Ji Shuhong, who was about her own age and had only been admitted to South City Normal University, she looked down on him somewhat.

Night.

Xu Nianhua's family was staying in a hotel. Both Ji Lin and Ji Shuhong had their own families to accommodate, and it would be too cramped, given that there were seven people in her family, both young and old.

"Mom, can big uncle and his family come back tomorrow?" Xu Nianhua had assumed they could return home the next day, but she had received a call from Ningbei. Ji Shuhong's whole family was also coming.

Upon hearing this, Ji Xinghua immediately urged his daughter to stay. It had been a long time since the Ji family had had a reunion.

Especially Ji Ying, who had not seen her eldest brother Ji Lin for many years.

"There's not much to do at home; we might as well stay a couple more days," Ji Ying wanted to stay.

Xu Qinghe agreed.

Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an, both students, had nothing particular to do upon returning.

"Mom, Xiaohe and I tomorrow..." Xu Nianji didn't quite know what to say when Ji Ying interrupted, "You and your wife should go back first. Xiaohe should visit her parents' home for New Year's greetings soon."

"Mom, it's okay. Why don't we stay one more day? It won't matter," Zhou He felt it was rare to gather together, and Xu Nianji probably wanted to meet his big uncle too.

Previously, when discussing whether Zhou He, Xu Nianji, and Zhuangzhuang should visit South City, Ji Ying had mentioned they could go back to her parental home first.

But Zhou He decided to come to South City first.

To visit Grandpa's house for New Year's with the family was important, not to mention the little one had never met his great-grandfather.

Moreover, Zhou He knew that elderly people love to see their younger relatives.

"No, Xiaohe, we are already one day late. If we delay by another day, your parents will be unhappy," Xu Nianji couldn't bear to go home and have his wife scolded by her own mother.

Chapter 512: Meeting Zou Yaru Again

Zhou He said she wanted to stay, but Xu Nianji insisted on going home. In the end, under Ji Ying and Xu Nianhua's persuasion, the family of three went home first.

"Second brother, should we stroll around a bit?" Xu Nianhua couldn't stay put at home.

"Sure."

Xu Nian'an also wanted to see how South City and Ningbei were different.

As the warm sunlight shone down, siblings Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an took to the streets to roam around, finding the city much livelier compared to Gaoliang County.

"Wait a sec."

Xu Nian'an suddenly pulled his sister back.

"Hmm?" Xu Nianhua looked at Xu Nian'an, puzzled, not knowing what was going on. But soon, she understood what it was about.

They ran into Zou Yaru again.

Last year, in Gaoliang County, they met once, and again in South City during New Year. Unlike the time in Gaoliang County, when they looked blissfully in love, today they were arguing.

Xu Nianhua silently glanced around the street. They just happened to walk into a gift shop, intending to buy some stuff to take back. But soon after entering, they ran into them.

Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an wanted to leave, but they would meet them if they went out, so they pretended to look at items instead.

"Junhe, you promised me that you would come back to the county today to visit my grandma. How could you break your promise?" Zou Yaru looked at the dazzling array of gifts and didn't feel like picking anything.

"My second uncle invited us to dinner. How could we not go?" Gu Junhe didn't care and was wholeheartedly picking something Gu Hai would like.

Finally, he settled on a set of red agate chess pieces that looked festive.

"Yaru, how about this chess set?" Gu Junhe, after having visited many shops from last year until after the New Year, finally found it, and the smile on his face was particularly radiant.

"Gu Junhe!" Zou Yaru, frustrated over not being able to visit her grandma today, had reached her breaking point. Initially, she was supposed to spend New Year's at her grandma's place, but Gu Junhe insisted that since they got married recently, and they visited her family yesterday, they must go for dinner at his uncle's place today.

"What are you shouting about?" Gu Junhe's face darkened, annoyed by Zou Yaru's shouting. He spoke to the clerk to wrap it up and, pulling Zou Yaru aside, he whispered sternly, "Why are you making such a fuss? You are now Gu Junhe's wife. Aren't you ashamed? Because I am."

Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an, with their backs to them, were picking gifts. They kept their voices low, but the words were still clearly heard by them.

"What day can't you go see your grandma on? If we don't go to my second uncle's dinner, what will he think?"

"Do you know, if it weren't for my second uncle, wouldn't we have good days now?"

Gu Junhe knew early on that to have good days, he must ingratiate himself with his second uncle.

"You promised me."

Zou Yaru pursed her lips, disliking Gu Junhe's sycophantic demeanor.

"I also promised to fetch you the stars from the sky," Gu Junhe said nonchalantly, waving his hand, "Today you must go with me to my uncle's house, and talk more with my aunt, and since Mingzhu is pregnant, chat with her more and get close."

With that, Gu Junhe turned and walked away. The clerk had finished packing, and after Gu Junhe paid, he strode out without waiting for Zou Yaru.

Zou Yaru's eyes reddened little by little. She felt somewhat embarrassed, feeling as if everyone in the store was pointing and whispering about her.

Chapter 513: Listening Openly and Honorably

Zou Yaru felt so embarrassed that she immediately wanted to leave, but, with an inadvertent glance, when she saw Xu Nianhua and her brother, she suddenly restrained the tears that were about to burst forth and said resentfully, "Xu Nianhua, how can you eavesdrop on our private conversation?"

"What eavesdropping? We are listening openly and honestly," Xu Nian'an said with righteous indignation. His voice was neither loud nor soft, just loud enough for everyone in the store to hear him clearly.

He had originally wanted to spare Zou Yaru the embarrassment by pretending not to see her, so as to save her the awkwardness of running into an acquaintance during a fight with her husband.

Who would have thought that Zou Yaru would come up and accuse Xu Nianhua? The protective Xu Nian'an immediately exploded, saying, "This is a gift shop, not your house. How can you call it eavesdropping? Are all the customers and store clerks listening in on your conversation too?"

"What does your marital spat have to do with us? Don't take out the frustration you've got from your husband on us."

Xu Nian'an's words were clear and cogent, even bringing the other customers into the fold.

A customer immediately said, "What's there to eavesdrop on in your fight? I'm afraid it'll pollute my ears."

"Exactly."

The other customers echoed in agreement. During the festive period, everyone was in high spirits—who would want to listen to their trivial domestic issues?

Zou Yaru, already thin-skinned, couldn't bear it any longer after being scolded by Xu Nian'an and pointed at by other customers; she ran off.

Xu Nianhua stood there and, although she didn't say a word, Zou Yaru felt like she was laughing at her misfortune.

In the past, Cheng Hao had been extremely accommodating to her, prioritizing her in all matters. It was all but impossible for him to have an argument with her in public.

But, regrettably, she had let such a good man as Cheng Hao go.

Zou Yaru kept running, all the way to a deserted corner. Leaning against the wall, she slowly sat down, covered her face, and kept asking herself, "Did she make a mistake?"

No, she wasn't wrong. If she hadn't married Gu Junhe, her father wouldn't have been able to come back safely.

Thinking this, Zou Yaru wiped away her tears, looked at the crowd coming and going on the street, and decided not to return to the new home they had just established as a married couple. Instead, she went back to her parents' house.

The Zou Family home was a small western-style building. Although not large, it was still a western-style building. In the courtyard, there were green potted plants that looked lush and vibrant.

Zou Yaru stood at the entrance, deliberately dabbing her eyes and tidying her clothes, for fear her parents might notice something amiss and worry.

As soon as she entered the living room, she found that her mother's figure was not there. After thinking for a moment, she guessed that her parents might be in the study upstairs.

Zou Yaru gestured to the maid to keep quiet as she tiptoed over, wanting to surprise them.

"Feng, look at what our son-in-law has given me, isn't it something?" Zou's father bragged proudly, holding up a bottle of alcohol with a radiant smile. Although the alcohol wasn't worth much, Gu Junhe's thoughtfulness pleased Zou's father, especially this year when everyone who came to wish them a happy new year praised his daughter for marrying well.

"Yes, yes, yes," Luo Yufeng said, glancing at the alcohol with some concern. "I feel like Yaru isn't very happy. Junhe wouldn't be bullying her, right?"

At the entrance, Zou Yaru's eyes immediately reddened—it was her mother who was worried about her.

"You're overthinking it. Our daughter is so wonderful, Junhe is too fond of her to even think about bullying her," Zou's father said without hesitation. "If you ask me, I have a good eye for picking such a good son-in-law like Junhe."

Chapter 514: For Your Own Good

Zou Yaru was about to enter the house, her hand on the doorknob, when suddenly she heard Luo Yufeng's words and stopped.

"Alas, I have always been uneasy. You see, if she finds out about the lie we told her, she will blame us, won't she?" Although Luo Yufeng was always assertive and straightforward, never deceiving anyone.

Yet watching Zou Yaru reluctantly parting with the man who delivered goods by car, Luo Yufeng finally agreed to Father Zou's suggestion.

Lie to her?

Zou Yaru felt a hint of confusion. What had her parents lied to her about?

"What's there to blame? Blame us for making her marry into the Gu Family, to live a life of luxury?" Father Zou felt that Luo Yufeng was being overly compassionate and said, "You don't know how tough business is. Now that we're connected with the Gu family, our business has improved significantly. Relying on the coal mines of Ping City, it's enough to elevate the Zou Family from modest wealth to true affluence."

"In the future, what won't you have? And our son, he'll be a truly wealthy man too." Father Zou believed that Zou Yaru's marriage into the Gu Family was hugely beneficial.

What does that mean?

Zou Yaru's hand on the doorknob, a chill rose within her, as if she had heard a massive secret.

"I hope I am just overthinking it." Luo Yufeng truly loved her daughter, but to let her cherished daughter marry a man who delivered goods by car?

Luo Yufeng thought it would be better to marry Gu Junhe instead. Now, Yaru might resent her for a while, but later, she would be grateful.

"Dad, Mom, what did you just mean by that?" Unable to hear more, Zou Yaru recklessly charged in and anxiously demanded, "What exactly have you been hiding from me?"

She had some guesses at the bottom of her heart, yet she felt she dared not believe them.

"Yaru?" The couple, Father Zou, and Luo Yufeng in the study simply couldn't believe their eyes. She was supposed to be at the Gu Family; how had she come back now?

"Yaru, listen to me," Luo Yufeng pulled at Zou Yaru, instinctively trying to soothe her, but momentarily, as the lie was exposed, she didn't know what to say. The excuses she had prepared earlier completely slipped her mind at that moment.

"What is this attitude?" Father Zou, with a stern face, looked displeased as he said, "Is this how you question us?"

"Dad, Mom, you are the closest people to me, you..." Zou Yaru, feeling panicked, didn't know if she should continue asking.

"Good to know." Father Zou moved to sit behind the desk on a chair, his face serious as he said, "We are doing this for your good. By marrying Junhe, you are living glamorously. The better days are still ahead."

"No." Zou Yaru thought of Gu Junhe's sycophancy and attempts to please today, how he had not considered her at all, and she felt a surge of coldness. She insisted, "Dad, Mom, I want to know the truth."

"Yaru, there's no truth or untruth. We are all doing this for your good," Luo Yufeng soothed.

Zou Yaru stepped aside, unwilling to accept Luo Yufeng's comfort.

"Dad is very happy that you were willing to marry into the Gu Family for him," Father Zou, recalling Zou Yaru's anxiousness back then, softened his tone and said, "At the time, indeed something happened, but it wasn't as serious as said. Now, as you and Junhe are happily married, with us here, Gu Junhe will not bully you. Your days ahead will be better than others'."

Chapter 515: We Collaborate

"Heh heh~"

Zou Yaru staggered, and even though she had some suspicions, hearing the truth still hurt her deeply.

"For my sake?"

Zou Yaru's eyes carried a mocking smile.

It was all wrong, all of it.

Zou Yaru felt dizzy, and the next moment, she fainted.

"Yaru?" Luo Yufeng was startled, and the couple hurriedly took her to the hospital. When they found out that Zou Yaru was pregnant, their initial worries turned instantly into joy.

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"Such bad luck." Xu Nian'an came out of the gift shop, feeling upset whenever he thought about Zou Yaru's condition.

"Come on, stop being angry. She doesn't have anything to do with us anymore; don't get mad over someone insignificant."

Xu Nianhua coaxed him, "Second brother, let's go over there and check it out—it's really crowded and lively."

"Yes." Xu Nian'an didn't want to remain upset over Zou Yaru; after all, things between him and Cheng Hao were already in the past.

"Second Brother, we've run into someone familiar again." Xu Nianhua quietly pointed to a man selling dolls; wasn't it Ji Shuyuan, their cousin from the Ji family?

To Xu Nianhua, Ji Shuyuan was quite memorable— a future great lawyer, and filial to his maternal grandfather.

"Indeed, Shuyuan." Xu Nian'an said, pulling Xu Nianhua to go over and greet him. It was crowded here, and Xu Nian'an was worried about his younger sister getting lost.

"Nian'an, Nianhua, are you guys out shopping?" Ji Shuyuan was busy with his booth, and the cute dolls were especially popular among children.

"Yeah, is this a little business you're running by yourself?" Xu Nianhua noticed a small rabbit doll.

While selling, Ji Shuyuan replied, "No, I'm selling them for someone else."

Ji Shuyuan said, asking, "Nianhua, which one do you like? I'll give it to you."

"No, I'll buy it myself." Xu Nianhua shook his head, picked up the small rabbit, and Xu Nian'an immediately paid, saying, "Shuyuan, don't be so formal with us; we've got our New Year's money."

Xu Nian'an took out five yuan, paid for it, and then glanced at a nearby snack shop, saying, "When do you finish work? Come find us there."

"Okay."

Ji Shuyuan was busy and couldn't talk much with the siblings.

At the snack shop, Xu Nianhua hugged the rabbit doll, sipping a drink, and said, "Second Brother, do you think, letting Brother Shuyuan sell hairpins and scarves in South City might also be a good idea?"

"I was thinking the same thing," Xu Nian'an shared his thoughts, adding, "I was going to open a shop anyway... I can supply Shuyuan with goods, and we can collaborate."

"Brother Shuyuan even borrowed money for grandfather before, I heard that one summer, he was moving goods every single day, his shoulders were swollen from all the lifting," Xu Nianhua had long wanted to help Brother Shuyuan, but wasn't sure how.

Now, since Ji Shuyuan was willing to sell these items, if he sold them himself, he would definitely agree.

At 5:30, Ji Shuyuan arrived, sweaty.

"Here, have some food." Xu Nian'an had specially ordered a plate of stir-fried rice noodles for him.

The three siblings, each with a bowl, enjoyed the rice noodles of South City, particularly delicious, aromatic, and spicy.

After eating, Xu Nian'an said, "Shuyuan, how about we collaborate?"

Ji Shuyuan looked puzzled at Xu Nian'an; suddenly, why bring up collaboration?

"How much do you think I make a day selling dolls for others?" Xu Nian'an asked instead of answering.

## Chapter 516: What Kind of Peace of Mind?

"There's more money in the first lunar month, ten yuan a day," Ji Shuyuan replied. He had found this job of selling dolls through a stroke of luck.

"Then tell me, how much does the person who hired you to sell dolls make in a day?" Xu Nian'an asked again.

Ji Shuyuan was silent for a moment before saying, "Today, I sold 51 dolls, three yuan each, that's 153 yuan in revenue. Calculating with a cost of two yuan per doll, there's a profit of one yuan for each, so for 51 dolls, I made fifty-one yuan."

"You calculated that very accurately." Xu Nianhua wasn't bad at math but disliked calculating such things.

Especially before the New Year, the calculations had given him a headache.

"No, if it were in Ningbei, these dolls could be sourced for just over one yuan. If you buy in bulk, the price could be even lower." Xu Nian'an had visited that wholesale market, seen a lot, and liked to ask for prices to get a general idea.

Ji Shuyuan's eyes brightened. He had long wanted to go into business for himself but couldn't find a source for stock, and with small quantity purchases, he couldn't make much profit or risked being unable to sell them.

Take the dolls Ji Shuyuan was selling, for example. In fact, they were only sold for a few days during the first lunar month. The boss had hired several people, and in busier spots, each person carried dozens of dolls. Even if they made fifty-one yuan, after paying out a ten-yuan wage, the boss could still make forty-one yuan.

Forty-one yuan might not seem much for one person, but the profits add up with more people.

Of course, apart from them, the boss also had his own people to collect the money.

"Last year, before the New Year, I wholesale purchased a batch of hair clips and scarves and sold them near the school. In less than two months, I made over five hundred yuan."

Xu Nian'an didn't say one thousand yuan, because truthfully, he had spent a lot of time selling, enduring the wind and snow. In the coldest times, he would shiver uncontrollably.

Five hundred yuan in two months?

Xu Nian'an's words left Ji Shuyuan stunned.

Before, he had worn his shoulders raw just to earn a few dozen or a hundred yuan in wages.

"But right now, I only have thirty yuan saved up," Ji Shuyuan said with some difficulty. He didn't know how much stock thirty yuan could get and felt it was very little. Perhaps the wholesalers wouldn't even allow him to purchase.

"It's okay, I was planning to open a shop anyway. I'll get more stock and share some with you. For the first batch of goods, I can front them to you, and after you make a profit, you can pay me back."

Xu Nian'an wanted to help Ji Shuyuan, and by helping him, he could also please his grandfather.

"This, that doesn't seem right," Ji Shuyuan felt it was not proper. How could he take the goods without paying and then pay back after making money?

"Nian'an, I'll go home and discuss it with my dad first."

Ji Shuyuan didn't accept the offer right away. He always felt like he was taking advantage of Xu Nian'an.

Xu Nianhua whispered to Xu Nian'an, "Second Brother, Auntie will definitely not agree."

She might even think that Second Brother was trying to deceive Ji Shuyuan.

As expected.

Once Ji Shuyuan got home and brought up the topic, Deng Juan immediately disagreed, saying, "Shuyuan, have you lost your mind, or is Xu Nian'an trying to swindle you? I don't agree, I have no money."

Deng Juan spread her hands out, clearly stating her stance, "It sounds nice, 'pay for the goods later when you make money.' But if the goods don't sell, wouldn't that mean a loss? What's he really up to?"

"Mom, Nian'an sold in Ningbei himself and made five hundred yuan in just two months. How could he be trying to swindle me?" Ji Shuyuan felt that communicating with his mother was impossible.

Chapter 517: You haven't been hiding private money, have you?

"Juanjuan, Nian'an is Ji Ying's own son, how could he deceive Shuyuan?" Ji Shan didn't agree with Deng Juan's words, and Ji Ying was his own sister after all.

"Nian'an is studying in Ningbei and even selling hair clips, making five hundred? Those things cost a few dimes each, how did he make five hundred yuan? Really, as if five hundred yuan is blown in by the wind, or as if it's as easy to earn as five or fifty yuan?"

Without a second thought, Deng Juan rebutted, muttering, "Besides, you don't even make fifty yuan a month."

Ji Shan: "..."

"Mom, doing business can indeed be profitable," Ji Shuyuan tried to convince Deng Juan with the story of the doll-selling boss.

As soon as the topic began, Deng Juan interrupted, "Then why didn't you see those times when others lost money? If it was really so easy to make money, everyone would be doing it."

Ji Shuyuan: Doesn't everyone think the same as you?

Ji Shuyuan thought this in his heart but didn't dare to say it out loud. If he spoke his mind, a big argument would certainly erupt.

Night.

Ji Shan quietly handed over fifty yuan to him, saying, "Shuyuan, we don't have much money at home. This fifty yuan is what I've saved up in secret. If you want to do it, just go ahead."

"Dad." Ji Shuyuan held the cloth bag, filled with one and half-yuan notes, with hardly any five-yuan notes. It was evident that Ji Shan had saved it himself over time.

"Take it, I think it's good that you have this idea," Ji Shan patted his shoulder, signaling him to quickly put it away.

"Dad, when I make money, I'll pay you back double."

Keeping the money close to him, Ji Shuyuan spoke earnestly under the moonlight.

Ji Shan smiled and said, "It's the thought that counts. Now that I've given it to you, I'm not in a hurry to get it back."

"Ji Shan, what are you two up to?" Deng Juan saw the father and son talking and immediately asked, "You better not be hiding any private money, are you?"

"No, I'm just talking with Shuyuan. Where would I get any private money?" Ji Shan replied loudly and confidently, and with his simple and honest demeanor, his words did not incite suspicion.

Ji Shuyuan, touching the bulging pocket, felt warmth in the chilly breeze. He had always felt that his parents favored his elder brother, Ji Shuming, but now he realized that while his mother truly was partial, his father was quite fair.

That night, Ji Shuyuan's heart was aflame with passion. He had long wanted to start a small business, but time, money, and connections were against him. Now, Ji Shuyuan thought, if Xu Nian'an could find time to attend college, then he certainly could too.

The next day, early in the morning, Deng Juan repeatedly said to Ji Shuyuan, "Shuyuan, don't you be fooled by Xu Nian'an. I think this is unreliable."

Ji Shuyuan pursed his lips, saying nothing.

Deng Juan was busy attending to guests and going to buy groceries, having no time to spare.

Soon, Ji Ying arrived, bringing along several meat dishes.

"Ying, you've bought so much food, I really feel bad about it," Deng Juan said, though her hands were quick to grab the food, seemingly afraid that if she were too slow, the dishes might sprout legs and run away.

When Ji Ying had come over yesterday, he brought cured meat, sausages, and a box of chili sauce, and today, with these additional meat dishes, she only needed to prepare a few vegetable dishes.

Money saved!

Feeling pleased inside, Deng Juan quickly got busy in the kitchen.

"Grandpa, how do you like it? Does the clothes fit well?" Ji Shuyuan came to help Ji Xinghua put on new clothes that Ji Ying had just bought. The dark blue Tang suit Ji Xinghua wore looked particularly smart on him.

## Chapter 518: Easier Said Than Sung

"Comfortable, how is it, does it look good?" Ji Xinghua adjusted his clothes, his smile so wide that his lips wouldn't close.

Ji Shuyuan didn't just give a perfunctory glance but seriously looked him over before nodding and saying, "It looks good, Grandpa. You look especially vibrant, like you've shed a few years."

"You, always so sweet-talking." Ji Xinghua's eyes crinkled with his smile, and he secretly slipped a bag into Ji Shuyuan's pocket, saying, "Shuyuan, Grandpa supports you."

"Grandpa, I can't." Ji Shuyuan started to take it out.

Ji Xinghua hastily stopped him, "I'm not short on money. Your second uncle and aunt have given plenty before and after the New Year, especially your aunt's family; they really gave quite a lot. You use it first, pay me back when you've made some money."

"Don't worry, your aunt's family is doing well. They won't stop caring about us just because they're making money now," Ji Xinghua spoke earnestly and with deep feeling, "Nianji and Nian'an, those brothers are good ones. You, try to stay in touch with them more, it's always right."

Yesterday, Ji Xinghua hadn't spoken up because he didn't want to start an argument with his daughter-in-law. He was well aware of what his own daughter's family was like.

Why did Xu Nian'an want to partner with Ji Shuyuan?

Wasn't it because he wanted to help Shuyuan? He wanted to support their home.

"Grandpa, I understand," Ji Shuyuan said sensibly, nodding his head.

After taking the money, Ji Shuyuan found that Grandpa had contributed one hundred, Dad had given fifty, and he himself had thirty.

No, he had fifty.

Ji Shuyuan thought, he could still sell toys for a few more days.

Ji Shuyuan went out early, and at the same time, handed over all the money to Xu Nian'an saying, "Two hundred for the goods, whatever amount that gets us, let's take it."

"I'm still short twenty. When you go to Ningbei, I'll give it to you then," Ji Shuyuan said seriously.

Xu Nian'an looked at the stack of money, didn't count it, and just tucked it away.

"Aren't you going to count it?" Ji Shuyuan had already counted it himself. Loose change was too much trouble to count.

"You are my cousin, I trust you," Xu Nian'an said with a grin, "I should be going to Ningbei on the sixth. I'll find you then."

He didn't say anything about not wanting the money, because if he had, Ji Shuyuan definitely would have preferred not to stock up rather than agree.

"Alright."

Ji Shuyuan heaved a sigh of relief, worried Xu Nian'an might refuse to take the money.

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Uncle Ji Lin came with his whole family.

Aunt Cai Jianhong looked very shrewd, skilled in calculations, clad in a red fur coat as if afraid others wouldn't know she was wealthy.

As soon as the couple entered the house, they greeted Ji Xinghua very warmly and also greeted Ji Ying and the others.

"Yingzi, Nianhua and Nian'an are both studying in Ningbei, aren't they? You tell me, why so formal? We're in Ningbei too; why not let them come to us? I and their uncle can host them, save them from being strangers in a new place without somewhere to stay," Cai Jianhong rattled on.

Listening to this, Xu Nianhua couldn't help but purse his lips. This aunt really knew how to talk a good game; inviting people over while not even providing a phone number or address.

Ningbei is so big, was she expecting them to search house by house?

"They are there to study; finding the university is enough," Ji Ying responded with a smile. She used to be very easy to talk to, but that didn't mean she was foolish.

"Why didn't they stay in South City and instead went to university in Ningbei?" Cai Jianhong looked puzzledly at Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an. The siblings were extremely good-looking, and thinking of her own two sons who idled their days away, she felt uneasy by the comparison.

Chapter 519: Half True Half False

"Mingzhu, take good care of yourself, and if there's anything you want to eat, just tell Mom. I'll have someone make it for you," Jiang Jing's mother said joyfully as she gazed at Gu Mingzhu's belly. She was not only unangry on hearing the news of Gu Mingzhu's pregnancy but very pleased as well.

The Jiang Family would soon have a grandson.

Jiang Jing's mother spoke kindly to Gu Mingzhu, even placing great importance on discussing the dowry.

After seeing off the Jiang family, Fang Yue looked at the pile of nourishing gifts and said with a smile, "Our Mingzhu is going to get married soon and will also become a mother soon."

Fang Yue looked at Gu Mingzhu with loving eyes, thinking about the actions of the Jiang Family after Gu Mingzhu's pregnancy. She said, "Mingzhu, don't worry, my grandchild will definitely be born safely. As for the Panda Blood issue, your father has already gone to find the person with Panda Blood, ensuring your delivery will be safe and sound."

"Thank you, Mom." Gu Mingzhu's eyes and brows were brimming with a joyful smile.

"You're my daughter, I'm your real mom, there's nothing to thank me for." Fang Yue said this and told Gu Mingzhu to rest well.

Once she was left alone and quiet, Fang Yue thought again about the daughter she had abandoned.

They are real sisters, so they should have the same blood type.

Nothing must go wrong with Mingzhu's delivery.

Fang Yue calculated in her heart.

"Xiaoyue, what's been going on with you lately? You always seem hesitant,"

That night, Gu Hai was happy because he had just closed a big deal and was in a good mood.

"Hai, I..." Even though Fang Yue was in her forties, she maintained herself very well, still charming, especially with her almost-crying expression, which immediately softened Gu Hai's heart. He said, "What's wrong? Mingzhu got pregnant before marriage, I'm not happy, but the marriage with the Jiang family is already fixed, and there hasn't been anything else to be unhappy about lately, has there?"

"Hai." Fang Yue's tears swirled in her eyes but didn't fall; her voice was soft as she said, "I've been having nightmares recently and can't sleep, feeling like, I shouldn't keep hiding it from you, Hai."

"What's the matter?" Gu Hai gently patted Fang Yue's shoulder, comforting her, "Nightmares are just the opposite."

"But, I've been thinking about that daughter." Fang Yue tilted her head back slightly—she knew this angle made her look particularly pitiful. She said, "After I fought hard to give birth to her, even though she was a girl, she was still our child, and I loved her very much, but..."

"Sigh." Gu Hai knew about that child, which Fang Yue had given birth to while visiting her hometown. Unfortunately, the child had not survived childbirth.

"She didn't die," Fang Yue suddenly said.

Gu Hai was thinking about that daughter he had never met and was startled by Fang Yue's words.

"She was stolen by bad people. I had just given birth to her and didn't have any strength. By the time I came to my senses, a day had passed already," Fang Yue said, half truthfully, holding her head down, wiping her eyes, and chokingly said, "Hai, when you got there, you thought the child was gone, and I didn't dare tell you the truth."

"Hai, I'm sorry to you," Fang Yue kept apologizing, "I wanted to tell you, but during the confinement, my mom knew I had a daughter who was gone and thought it was bad luck, continuously scolding me. If she knew I'd lost the child, she would have scolded me to death, Hai, it's my fault."

Gu Hai watched her apologizing, maintaining silence without saying a word. Fang Yue grew anxious at the bottom of her heart; had she guessed wrong?

#### Chapter 520: What is Your Name

"Brother Hai, whether you want to hit or scold me, just aim it at me," Fang Yue said while wiping her eyes. "As long as you don't hit my face, so that Mingzhu doesn't lose face at her in-laws', that's fine."

Fang Yue's words also served as a reminder to Gu Hai that she, Fang Yue, had given birth to a fine daughter, Gu Mingzhu, who was truly the Gu Family's precious gem. Not only was she intelligent, but she had also solved several problems for Gu Hai.

Gu Hai often said that Gu Mingzhu was his proudest daughter and that if Gu Mingzhu had been born male, she would definitely have been the best successor to the Gu Family.

As for Gu Mingcheng, aside from painting, he cared for nothing else. To study painting, he even went to Hangzhou City for school, which infuriated Gu Hai until he was puffing and glaring.

"Alright, there's no need for apologies. You too are a victim. If anyone is to blame, it's only the person who stole the child." Gu Hai's voice was somewhat calm, unsettling Fang Yue a little.

Gu Hai said, "Although it has been twenty years and might be difficult to find her, we can always try."

Gu Hai naturally had no feelings for that unknown girl, but, if this daughter indeed had Panda Blood and could ensure that Gu Mingzhu had a safe childbirth, then Gu Hai wouldn't mind raising another daughter in the future.

Therefore, knowing well that not everything Fang Yue said was true, Gu Hai didn't care. He said, "Don't let it happen again."

After saying that, Gu Hai stood up and went into the study.

Fang Yue sat on the bed and breathed a long sigh of relief. She could imagine Gu Hai's anger, but since he had said "Don't let it happen again", this incident seemed to have been resolved.

Mingzhu, her daughter, would definitely give birth to her grandchild safely.

...

"Hey, wait a moment."

Gu Mingcheng was buying paints in the store and had just finished when he ran into a familiar face. He hurriedly gave chase.

"Girl in the pink dress, please wait a moment."

Gu Mingcheng strode quickly to catch up, forgetting to pick up the paints he had just bought. He rushed forward, blocking their path.

"Who are you?" Xu Nian'an protected Xu Nianhua behind him, looking at Gu Mingcheng with a hostile expression.

Gu Mingcheng's face flushed red instantly as he stammered at Xu Nianhua, unable to explain properly.

"Sister, do you know him?" Xu Nian'an asked Xu Nianhua. They had encountered Zou Yaru yesterday while out, which had disturbed their mood, and now they had come across a strange boy.

The eighteen-year-old Gu Mingcheng indeed looked very young and unripe.

"I don't know him."

Xu Nianhua shook her head. Although she knew he was Gu Mingcheng, at the moment, she still did not recognize him.

"Then let's go," Xu Nian'an said, protecting Xu Nianhua as he turned to leave.

"Last year, in the summer, at Huaming Lake, I was painting by the lakeside, and I saw you," Gu Mingcheng quickly said as they were about to leave. "I painted a picture, and it's still at my place now."

"Who gave you permission to just draw my sister?"

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian'an was immediately displeased. He was half a head taller than Gu Mingcheng and looked down at him, saying, "Let me tell you, my sister is not someone you can just draw as you please. A kid like you is not fit."

"I, you, she..." Gu Mingcheng faltered, unable to articulate his words.

"Brother," Xu Nianhua called out, stopping Xu Nian'an, who closed his mouth, but still looked at Gu Mingcheng with a guarded expression. Xu Nianhua asked, "You said you drew me?"

"Yeah," Gu Mingcheng nodded, then quickly added, "I drew a profile of you, it's really beautiful. Next time I'll bring it to you. What's your name?" Gu Mingcheng summoned his courage to ask.