

## **The Growth 221**

### Chapter 221 - 5: Warm Family (2/3)

Li Hao's adoptive parents in this life weren't exactly from a wealthy family.

His dad, Li Jian Country, lived up to his name—rigid, conservative, and quite chauvinistic.

But that doesn't mean Li Jian Country had a poor character.

On the contrary, Li Jian Country's temper has always been good, unbelievably so for someone who grew up as a rural kid without much schooling.

The reason Mom Jiang Xin took a fancy to Li Jian Country initially was that he fit her criteria for a partner in every way.

Low-born, yet responsible...

Good temper, but not a pushover...

Most importantly, he was handsome, famous as the most attractive guy in miles around.

Because of her unique experiences, Mom Jiang Xin valued Li Jian Country as a person more than wealth.

After getting married, it was unsurprising that Li Jian Country's attribute of spoiling his wife was brought out, and he could almost do whatever Jiang Xin wanted.

Of course, this also had to do with Jiang Xin being one of the rare university graduates of her time.

Due to her vision and knowledge, Jiang Xin was almost like Li Jian Country's mentor during the first half of his life, helping him move from the countryside to the city, from being a worker to having a proper job.

Unfortunately, it was this focus on his family that made Li Jian Country give up several opportunities for promotion, choosing to stay in this small city to accompany Jiang Xin throughout her life.

In Li Jian Country's own words, he grew up eating meals from various households, and his roots are in this city.

Rather than risking adventures elsewhere, he preferred enjoying the simple life of a warm home with wife and kids.

Despite feeling a bit disappointed, Jiang Xin was deeply touched.

After all, no one knew better than Jiang Xin that Li Jian Country, alone and without family, chose to stay in this small city largely because he didn't want to see Jiang Xin separated from her family.

—You sometimes overthink things, not at all how a young person should be.

This was Jiang Xin's evaluation of Li Jian Country the first time he refused a promotion.

Simple, genuine, yet full of love...

These were the traits Jiang Xin and Li Jian Country shared, which were also an important reason they chose to adopt Li Hao.

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"Dad! Mom! I'm back!"

Skillfully pushing open the home door, Li Hao arrived just in time for a meal.

Though it was just noon, looking at the table full of dishes, Li Hao could imagine how busy Mom had been all morning.

Suffice it to say, now sitting honestly at the side, Li Yun watched Li Hao with a resentful gaze.

When she came home, Mom didn't prepare such a sumptuous lunch.

This preferential treatment made Li Yun jealous, and naturally, she wouldn't show Li Hao a friendly face.

"You're back?"

Rushing out from the kitchen.

With an expression of surprise, Mom scrutinized Li Hao, whom she hadn't seen for a long time, and instantly her surprise turned into displeasure.

"You child, haven't you bought any clothes?"

"You wore this outfit when you left, and you're wearing it again when you return."

"I've told you not to save money; just call me if you don't have enough."

With three steps merging into two, Mom ignored Li Hao's resistance, grabbed him, and started nagging.

"Mom, I'm a student now, what else would I wear besides the uniform?"

Long accustomed to Mom's fiery personality, Li Hao corrected her with slight helplessness.

"That's not okay; we'll go out and buy you some clothes this afternoon. Otherwise, people might think your stepmother is neglecting you!"

Seeing this, Li Yun's resentment deepened.

"Mama, I haven't bought clothes in ages, too!"

Deliberately elongating her tone, Li Yun unavoidably received Jiang Xin's eye roll.

"Yes, you haven't bought clothes in ages, but your closet holds enough outfits to wear a different one each day for over a month."

Watching this play out, the pretending-to-read Li Jian Country finally couldn't hold back and burst into a laugh.

"Dad!"

"Old Li!"

Li Yun and Jiang Xin simultaneously raised their voices, startling Li Jian Country enough to almost drop his book.

Seeing this familiar, everyday scene, Li Hao couldn't help but smile.

These family members were the fundamental reason Li Hao wanted to maintain the current lifestyle.

What about extraordinary abilities?

What about Divine Spirits and the Creator?

If it means losing this kind of life, Li Hao would rather have nothing.

"Dad, next time when you pretend, remember to flip the page."

Strolling to the dining table, Li Hao was the first to sit down and said with a smile.

"What do you mean by pretending? This is the wisdom of a mature man."

Resignedly putting down his book, Li Jian Country promptly corrected Li Hao's statement.

"When you find a girlfriend, you'll understand. Sometimes looking the other way is the most important thing."

Also sitting down at the table, Li Jian Country ignored his wife's and daughter's fierce death stares, speaking in a leisurely tone.

"Dad! My ears aren't deaf!"

"Old Li, could you please go outside next time you badmouth me!"

Despite saying this, Li Yun and Jiang Xin also sat down at the table, the four of them rarely gathered together.

"Son, I made your favorite smoked sausage today, try it out."

Picking up the chopsticks already placed on the table, Jiang Xin's first action was to serve Li Hao food.

"Mom! Me too!"

Seeing this, the jealous Li Yun couldn't let such a good opportunity pass.

She instantly lifted her bowl and chopsticks, intercepting the smoked sausage Jiang Xin was picking up.

"You girl, so big yet still likes to snatch things like when you were little!"

Feeling the warm and harmonious atmosphere, Li Hao's complex thoughts and worries seemed to melt away at this moment.

"Mom, let me do it myself."

Picking up the rice bowl and extending his chopsticks...

Li Hao enjoyed this rare tranquility like before.

At this moment, Li Hao was no longer True God or the Creator, but just an ordinary human.

His childhood was nurtured in this family, and his future was destined to stay in this family.

Fear indeed, and worries too...

Those things have now entirely distanced from Li Hao, who now only wants to temporarily return to this refuge called "home."

"Yes, let's eat!"

"There's always time to lecture kids later, eating is more important now!"

His lips also turned up in a smile, Li Jian Country temporarily set aside all concerns and joined in with his chopsticks, amidst the noisy yet cozy atmosphere.