

Chapter 111: An Oath

As expected, the older the wiser.

The Ning family's flower baskets caused a huge commotion.

Everyone's attention shifted from Zhuang Ji's opening to the question of who was Zhuang Ji's owner. Moreover, a group of reporters was present as well.

This was because, prior to this, Mu Chen had organized a small press conference meant to introduce Zhuang Ji and to showcase Zhuang Ji's works.

When Mu Chen went on stage, he did not waste time and said, "Thank you, everyone, for coming today. Thank you for the love and care you've shown Zhuang Ji. Before anything else, I'd like to make an announcement on such a festive day!"

Under the reporters' anticipatory gazes, Mu Chen walked to the side of the stage and reached out to Song Ning. Then, he brought her to the center of the stage before he cleared his throat and said, "Let me introduce my wife, Song Ning, to everyone!"

The reporters were stunned by this reveal. As soon as they regained their senses, they began to click the shutters on their cameras in a frenzy..

Song Ning bowed before she said, "Hello, everyone! Thank you all for attending Zhuang Ji's opening."

At this moment, Mu Chen, who was still holding Song Ning's hand, took over. "I know there are many people who are curious about Mu Group's involvement with Zhuang Ji, especially when the Mu Group has no dealings in this industry. I want to clarify that Zhuang Ji isn't part of the Mu Group's business; it belongs to my wife. I'm only helping my wife to manage Zhuang Ji upon her request. So, in a way, you can say she's my boss. Whether Zhuang Ji does well in the future or not will affect my happiness. This is a test from my wife."

The reporters laughed at Mu Chen's playful words.

Song Ning was both happy and shy when she heard Mu Chen's words.

"President Mu, if the business doesn't do well, will Mrs. Mu make you kneel?" a reporter asked jokingly.

Mu Chen shook his head and said with a straight face, "There'd be no need for Mrs. Mu to make me kneel. I'll take the initiative to kneel and reflect on my mistake."

Mu Chen's words stunned the people who heard them.

"President Mu, you really have deep feelings for your wife!"

Mu Chen smiled and replied, "Of course. She's the one I chose so I'll definitely love her with all my heart. I made an oath in front of my grandmother; nothing can separate me and my wife except for death. I will only love Song Ning in this life. As for the next life, we'll have to see if I perform well in this life."

After Mu Chen finished speaking, he looked at Song Ning tenderly, causing her to blush.

“Mrs. Mu, President Mu is really good to you!”

Song Ning smiled shyly as she said, “I must’ve saved an entire planet in my previous life to have such blessings.”

The reporters laughed.

The atmosphere was very lively at this moment.

This was the first time the reporters saw Mu Chen being so approachable. These experienced reporters were naturally not going to let such a good opportunity to ask questions slip past them.

“President Mu, tell us about your love story.”

Mu Chen thought about it for a moment before he said, “My wife and I got married first before we fell in love with each other. From the moment I saw her, I knew she was the one. Therefore, I decided to marry her first to ensure she doesn’t run away before I begin to court her and make her fall in love with me!”

A female reporter with bright eyes said excitedly, “How romantic! However, how does one know if someone is the one for them with just a glance?”

This time, Song Ning answered the question. “I think it’s all fated. For example, I still remember the first time I saw him. At that time, the sun shone on him, and I remember thinking that my mother must have sent him to me...” She paused for a moment as she looked at the reporters before she continued to say, “My mother’s name is Zhuang Yi; she’s the founder of Zhuang Ji. The exhibits all of you saw are my mother’s works from when she was alive. Keeping Zhuang Ji alive is a promise I made my mother; it’s my mother’s legacy. I hope people will learn to love the art of Chinese embroidery...”

Mu Chen turned slightly and pulled Song Ning to the forefront of the stage. She was today’s main character, after all.

Although Song Ning had a habit of burning her head in the sand and was uncomfortable with being in the limelight, it did not mean she was not capable of holding her own. When she spoke, her voice held a soothing and quiet charm. One would involuntarily listen to her when she spoke. Who knew if she was born with this or if it was because she was a doctor.

At this moment, a reporter asked, “Mrs. Mu, I saw a few flower baskets outside that were sent by President Ning of the Ning Group. May I ask what’s your relationship with him?”

As soon as the reporter’s voice fell, the crowd immediately fell silent. Their eyes were all trained on Song Ning at this moment.

Chapter 112: Defense

Song Ning’s hands grew cold. Mu Chen was about to speak when she beat him to it. “The Ning family and I have had no connection since ten years ago. I hope everyone can focus on Zhuang Ji’s works in the future. I thank you on behalf of everyone from Zhuan Ji.”

Everyone was stunned. Indeed, there was a huge story behind this. It seemed like the new Mrs. Mu was Ning Zhe's daughter. Was she an illegitimate child?

"Mrs. Mu, we hope you can clarify your relationship with President Ning. With this, we'll no longer bother you about this matter in the future," a reporter tactfully said.

Many people nodded in agreement with the reporter..

Song Ning fell silent for a moment before she slowly said, "The family affairs from my youth had left a scar on me. However, since everyone wants to know, I'll say a few words. My surname is originally Ning. However, my mother and I left the Ning family ten years ago, and I have had nothing to do with them since then. Song is my mother's surname. I changed my surname after my grandmother passed away. From then on, my name is Song Ning. Song Ning has no relationship at all with the Ning family."

Although Song Ning had said quite a lot and the intimidating Mu Chen was standing next to her, they did little to tamp down the reporters' curiosity. They were reporters, after all. Curiosity was a requirement for their jobs.

Therefore, it was not surprising that someone asked, "Then, why did President Ning send so many flower baskets?"

Mu Chen wrapped his arm around Song Ning's shoulders before he replied, "We're very grateful to President Ning and our family friends for congratulating us on Zhuang Ji's opening. All I have to say is Song Ning is now my wife, and she's a member of the Mu family. Let me give you a small suggestion: instead of focusing on the past, why don't you focus on the present and the future? For example, look at how my grandmother treats me after I got married. It's as if Song Ning is her granddaughter, and I'm just her grandson-in-law."

The reporters below the stage laughed.

Mu Chen continued to say, "It's useless to dwell on the past, and Song Ning doesn't like to dwell on the past so I hope all of you will show mercy. Why don't we focus on Zhuang Ji or my loyalty to my wife?"

Since Mu Chen, the President of the Mu Group, had spoken so directly, how could the reporters not acquiesce to his request? Even if they were still curious, they would not ask any more questions now. It would be troublesome if they ended up offending him. At most, they would dig for information after they left.

With this, the topic shifted to Zhuang Ji and its products.

Song Ning sighed in relief inwardly. She did not dare to imagine the consequences if Mu Chen and Jiang Jin were not around.

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Meanwhile, in the reception area on the second floor.

Jiang Jin was still sitting with her good friends. She was no longer as cheerful as before.

Finally, one of Jiang Jin's friends could no longer hold back and asked, "Jiang Jin, we came to support you today. Why is your expression so gloomy? Do you think we're not doing enough to support you?"

“That’s right. You were still so cheerful earlier. Why do you look so gloomy after you came back from your talk?”

Jiang Jin sighed before she said, “We’re all good friends so I won’t hide this matter from you. I’m indeed a little unhappy.”

“Talk to us. Let’s see what we can do to help.”

“Why are you treating us like outsiders? If you have something on your mind, just say it? Where did the straightforwardness from your youth go?”

When Jiang Jin saw things were going as she had planned, she said, “It’s a long story. Do all of you remember the incident with the Ning family in Cloudy Peak ten years ago?”

“The Ning family in Cloudy Peak?”

“What happened? Since the Old Madam Ning died a few years ago, I have had no contact with the Ning family.”

“Ten years ago? I don’t know what happened. To begin with, we’re not close to the Ning family”

“Wait! I remember. Didn’t Ning Zhe get divorced ten years ago?”

“Now that you mentioned it, I remember something like that. If I’m not mistaken, it caused quite a commotion at that time.”

“That’s right! Ning Zhe brought his mistress back to the family house. For that reason, his wife decided to file for divorce. Didn’t the Ning family’s business suffer a lot at that time?”

“That’s right. His wife was rather capable. Otherwise, how could she have the courage to file for divorce? It takes great courage to do something like that. For example, my daughter is cowardly all her life and refuses to get a divorce. Instead, she rather let people bully her. Even if she can endure, I can’t!”

“Every family has its own difficulties. It’s amazing that the former Mrs. Ning left the Ning family so decisively!”

“That’s not all. I heard she even made some sort of pact with the family that’s unfavorable to the mistress. After she left the Ning family, Old Madam Ning even had to step forward to help the Ning family. After Old Madam Ning passed away, it seems as though the Ning family has no madam to represent them during social events.”

“Now that you mention it, I vaguely remember hearing about this matter back then.”

Chapter 113: The Story

A vague idea formed in Jiang Jin’s mind as she listened to her friends’ words. She waited until her friends were done before she sighed and said, “That’s right. The Ning family’s affairs really cause people to sigh...”

Someone asked curiously, “Hmm? Do you know something we don’t?”

Jiang Jin nodded. Then, she revealed the Ning family's private matters. She told them how Zhuang Yi and Ning Zhe built the Ning Group's clothing business together and how Ning Zhe brought his mistress and her seven-year-old son to the Ning family house. She told them Zhuang Yi refused to share her husband and insisted on a divorce; she wanted to split the family fortune and take her daughter away. She did not hold back and shared with her friends how at that time, in the midst of chaos, Zhuang Yi lost the son in her womb. In the end, to get custody of her daughter, she even gave up on the fortune she rightly deserved.

Everyone listened to Jiang Jin's story attentively. Curiosity, anger, and pity rose in their hearts. Some of them even shed tears.

"The former Madam of the Ning family was really pitiful.. In the end, not only did she lose her husband, but she lost her son as well. This is all the mistress' fault."

"What happened to her daughter after she left with her mother? Her life must be tough..."

"In my opinion, the former Madam of the Ning family shouldn't have let Ning Zhe and his mistress get away with all that. She should've taken both her daughter and the fortune she deserved."

"That's right! Why did she let that pair of bast*rd off the hook? She was too kindhearted."

"If it were me, I would spite them and refuse to divorce. I want to see what a mistress can do in such a situation!"

"Well, it seems like the former Mrs. Ning was someone who placed great importance on love. A woman like her doesn't fall in love easily, but when they do, they fall deeply. Her eyesight must be bad to fall for a bast*rd like Ning Zhe! What a pity!"

Someone sighed. "People's morals are really declining with time. It's all the fault of those cheap and shameless women. When they meet rich men, they'll try to cling onto the rich men and tie them down by getting pregnant! It doesn't matter to them if the men are married. They'll pretend like they don't want anything, but once you give in once, they're there the type that once you give an inch, they'd take a mile."

When Jiang Jin saw how furious her friends were, she continued to say, "Did you know after the former Mrs. Ning left the Ning family, her parents died one after another. At that time, her daughter was about to sit for the college entrance exam as well. For all these reasons, she later died of exhaustion..."

"What?"

"That's too pitiful!"

"Why did the heavens let the former Mrs. Ning die while the adulterous couple lives well?"

"Her daughter is really pitiful as well. She must have been a very good child. To think she was forced by circumstances to leave the Ning family..."

"That's right. In fact, she's innocent. She was only affected because of her parents' issue."

At this moment, someone finally asked, “Jiang Jin, how do you know so much? From what I know, your family doesn’t have any business dealings with the Ning family, right? Moreover, you have no interaction with the Ning family as well...”

“That’s right, Jiang Jin. You’ve never been one to gossip about other families’ private affairs. You’ve always been focused on your grandson. How do you know so much about the Ning family?”

Jiang Jin sighed again before she said, “Speaking about private family affairs, I have to thank all of you. Back then, there was also a commotion in my family. Not only did all of you not laugh at me, but all of you even comforted me. Truly, all of you have accompanied me through difficult times.”

“Is there a need to thank us for that matter? We’re good friends, after all.”

“That’s right, that’s right. Now, hurry up and tell us how you know so much about the Ning family!”

“Jiang Jin, why are you so sad all of a sudden? Moreover, the situation in your family back then is different from the Ning family. Back then, for the sake of your daughter-in-law and your grandson, you even chased your son out. Of course, you’d have our support for doing the right thing.”

“That’s right. We’re talking about the Ning family, how did it suddenly shift to your family? Your grandson is so capable and filial; your granddaughter-in-law is also obedient, filial, sensible, and capable. Is there a need for you to be sad?”

Everyone feigned anger in order to comfort Jiang Jin.

Jiang Jin smiled upon hearing these words before she lifted her hand, signaling everyone to be quiet. Then, she said, “Didn’t all of you want to know what happened to the Young Miss of the Ning family? Let me tell you, the unwanted daughter from the Ning family is my granddaughter-in-law, Song Ning.” Her eyes grew wet as she said again, “You heard me right. The Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family is Song Ning.”

Chapter 114: Embroidery

When Jiang Jin saw her friends’ dazed expression, she sighed again. “I hope all of you don’t think I’m deliberately trying to create suspense and gossip about this matter. If I don’t narrate this from the perspective of a bystander, I’m afraid I wouldn’t have been able to talk about this without losing my composure. When I first heard about this matter, I wanted to rush to the Ning family to give them a good scolding. My poor granddaughter-in-law. I can only imagine how much suffering she went through...”

As though affected by Jiang Jin, her friend’s eyes began to brim with tears as well.

“I’m sure you can guess by now that Zhuang Ji was left to Song Ning by her mother, Zhuang Yi. After leaving the Ning family, Zhuang Yi opened this small studio. She depended on herself to make a living and send her daughter to university. I feel distressed for her, but at the same time, I’m filled with respect as well. It’s a pity I didn’t know her well when she was alive,” Jiang Jin said, “Life really works in mysterious ways. Do you know my granddaughter-in-law knew Mu Chen’s mother? I feel her mother and Mu Chen’s mother is the one who brought Song Ning and Mu Chen together. This is fate. I hope

those two children's lives won't be so bitter anymore.. As long as they're happy, even if I pass, I'll be at peace..."

It was only at this time that Jiang Jin's friends finally recovered from their shock.

"Heavens! As it turns out, your granddaughter-in-law is the Eldest Young Miss from the Ning family? No wonder she has such an extraordinary bearing."

"Due to how outstanding she is, I really couldn't tell she suffered so many hardships in the past. Her medical skills are so amazing as well. To think she's still so young. Jiang Jin, she'll only grow more and more outstanding in the future."

"Jiang Jin, my heart really aches for Song Ning. You have to treat her well!"

"It's not just you. All of us feel distressed for her as well. Jiang Jin, you must give her more love..."

"Fortunately, she's married to Mu Chen. From now on, she won't suffer anymore."

"That child is really amazing. To grow up so well despite suffering so much. How rare!"

Jiang Jin smiled before she said, "There's another thing I'd like to tell all of you as well..."

Jiang Jin's friends fell silent immediately as soon as they heard her words. All their attention was focused on her at this moment.

"As all of you know, Mu Chen and Cheng Che are helping Ningning to manage Zhuang Ji. A few days ago, President Ning met Ningning and told her that he wanted her to return to the Ning family. However, Ningning is deeply scarred by the past so she doesn't want to return to the Ning family. For that reason, President Ning is really unhappy and caused a ruckus."

"How shameless! Song Ning has already made it clear she doesn't want to return!"

"That's right! What? Do they want her to return to the Ning family after seeing how promising she is?"

"I think they want to get closer to the Mu family and want to use Song Ning's marriage to Mu Chen as a means to that. Jiang Jin, don't associate with these people. They'll only disgust you!"

"That's right. Mu Chen and Song Ning are a match made in heaven, but it has nothing to do with the Ning family. When the two of them got married, where was the Ning family? It's clear they have bad intentions and only want to get close to the Mu family!"

Jiang Jin shook her head. "You're mistaken. Ning Zhe doesn't care about getting close to our Mu family. He wants Zhuang Ji."

"Huh? Zhuang Ji? Why does he want Zhuang Ji? What does Zhuang Ji have to do with him?"

"Ah, this is even worse than if he were trying to get close to the Mu family. Zhuang Ji was founded by Song Ning's mother and has nothing to do with the Ning family, and yet, they dare to covet it? Ning Zhe is really shameless!"

Jiang Jin nodded. "Like I said earlier, Zhuang Yi had a hand in building the Ning family's clothing business. However, it seems like the essence of the business had disappeared along with Zhuang Yi's departure

from the Ning family. Zhuang Yi used everything she had to open Zhuang Ji, and trademarked it under Song Ning's name. I'm sure what Ning Zhe is after is the right to the trademark."

Realization dawned on Jiang Jin's friends at this moment.

"No wonder. The clothes the Ning Group produced back then were really good. Not only were they famous domestically, but they were famous internationally as well. However, after a while, they gradually declined in quality. At that time, many people said the clothes had no creativity. As it turned out, it was because Zhuang Yi left..."

"Now I understand why Ning Zhe wants Zhuang Ji. He's really shameless. Based on this, it seems like the Ning Group's clothing business must have declined greatly. Otherwise, he won't be desperate. Life is really unpredictable and filled with changes. Serves that Ning Zhe right!"

Chapter 115: Trending News

Jiang Jin said, "I'm telling you all these things today because I have something to ask of you."

"Tell us what we can do to help."

"Do you want us to help with buying Zhuang Ji's shares? It's not a problem. Although we're old, it's not a problem for us to get Zhuang Ji listed."

"That's right! We can also bring down the Ning Group's clothing business. How about that?"

Jiang Jin shook her head slightly and solemnly said, "Save your energy for something else. Although I told all of you about this matter, I don't plan to interfere in this matter. This is Ningning and Mu Chen's matter after all; I want them to be able to solve their problems. No matter what their decision is, I'll support them unconditionally."

Jiang Jin continued to say, "If Ningning decides to return to the Ning family, I won't oppose becoming in-laws with the Ning family. If she refuses to acknowledge them, I'll treat her as an orphan.. Our Mu family can be both her family and her in-laws. We'll be her support for the rest of her life. I'll treat her like my biological granddaughter!"

Everyone was shocked by Jiang Jin's words.

Jiang Jin said with a sigh, "After today, I'm afraid all kinds of rumors about Ningning and the Ning family will spread. Earlier, Ning Zhen sent flower baskets under the identity of Ningning's father. Ningning was left with a scar due to the matter from the past. The moment she sees those from the Ning family, she'll tremble uncontrollably due to anger. However, Ning Zhe doesn't care about this at all. He wants to use public opinion to force Ningning to return to the Ning family. He's really not sparing any efforts to obtain Zhuang Ji." She paused for a moment before she continued to say, "All of you have met Ningning and acknowledged her capabilities before learning about her background. Now that you're aware of her background, I hope you'll be kinder to her. I'm already so old; if I leave first in the future, I hope all of you will be able to take care of her and Mu Chen on account of our friendship."

How could the old ladies remain unmoved when faced with such emotional words? Perhaps, due to their old age, they were even more susceptible to these kinds of emotional words that hit the softest

part of their hearts. These people were from influential and wealthy families and had experienced storms and waves. Even if they had given their power, if they worked together, even a company with strong foundations like the Ning Group could not stand up to them.

“Jiang Jin, you’re doing the right thing by letting the children handle this. We’ll just watch over them from the side. If someone intentionally makes trouble for them, we’ll definitely help them! We’ll show them how powerful old ladies like us can be!”

Jiang Jin smiled inwardly. ‘Ning Zhe, since you’re so ruthless, don’t blame me for being ruthless as well... She’s your biological daughter, but you used such a method to force her hand. Unfortunately, you forgot to take me and Mu Chen into account... You want to use public opinion to force her? I’ll let you have a taste of what it feels like to have the public turn against you!’

...

Zhuang Ji’s opening was a huge success and caused quite a commotion.

Whether it was old or new customers or even the reporters who attended the press conference, all of them were given a small unique gift. The gifts were, naturally, Chinese embroidery that was incredibly exquisite.

For a time, Zhuang Ji’s gifts even made it onto the hot searches.

Similarly, Mu Chen’s declaration of love to his wife topped the hot searches as well. Netizens who believed in love praised the golden couple to the heavens.

On the other hand, the flower baskets that Ning Zhe sent to Zhuang Ji that were supposed to show his fatherly love were barely mentioned.

Ning Zhe was very surprised by this. Apart from the publications that he had bought, no one reported this matter at all. He had thought he would be able to easily incite the public so he did not even pay close attention to the matter. He really did not expect that the public was not interested in the matter at all. After all, just the fact that the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family had married into the Mu family was huge news. Alas, there was no reaction at all! He wanted to create a splash, but there was not even a ripple to be seen.

He had banked on his daughter coming to the Ning family or the Ning Group’s building to make a scene. At that time, his plan would succeed.

Who would have thought that nothing went according to his plan? He was puzzled; he could not figure out what went wrong. Even if Mu Chen removed the hot searches from the Internet, it should still cause a sensation. Why was there nothing in the news at all above his relationship with his daughter?

It was just as Jiang Jin had expected. Ning Zhe did not account for Mu Chen and Jiang Jin at all. Moreover, Jiang Jin’s friends were highly influential and some of them were in the media industry. These people’s words held great power.

Ning Zhe was truly lacking compared to those experienced old ladies. Before he could even taste success, his plans had imploded.

Apart from his relationship with Song Ning failing to make the news, news of the Madam of the Ning family being a mistress and the Young Master of the Ning family causing the miscarriage of the former Madam spread like a wildfire.

For this reason, the mother and son, who rarely appeared in public, became the target of public criticism.

Chapter 116: Beaten Up

After school, Ning Dong returned to the house with his head lowered.

When Su Tong saw her son, she could tell something was amiss. Hence, she pulled her son over and asked, "What's wrong, son?"

Ning Dong tried his best to avoid Su Tong's probing gaze and shook her hand off impatiently.

At this time, Su Tong finally saw the bruise near her son's lips. She asked in shock, "What happened? Who did you fight with?"

Ning Dong pushed his mother's hand that was on his cheek away before he said irritably, "No one. I'm to blame for this."

"Nonsense! How's that possible? Tell me who did it? I won't let him off!" Su Tong said, clearly distressed.

Ning Dong smiled bitterly. "I've already said I'm to blame. After all, I'm the devil who caused a pregnant woman to miscarry.."

Su Tong was stunned into silence; she raised her hand and covered her mouth in shock. When she finally found her voice again, she asked, "Dongdong, what nonsense are you talking about?"

Ning Dong looked at Su Tong indifferently as he asked, "Mother, what can we do to atone for our sins?"

Su Tong's tears streamed down her face immediately. She reached out and hit her son's arm as she said, "Nonsense! You're speaking nonsense! What sins do we have to atone for? We've not sinned! We've not sinned!"

Ning Dong retreated two steps before he raised his face, trying to prevent his tears from falling. "We've not sinned? Mother, there's a ghost of a child here who's crying day and night saying that I killed him and that he wants me to return his life to him."

Su Tong reached out and touched Ning Dong's forehead with an uncertain expression on her face upon hearing Ning Dong's words.

Ning Dong avoided Su Tong's hand and made his way to the stairs. He said without looking at Su Tong, "There are so many men in the world; why did you have to choose a married man? Why did you put me in such an embarrassing situation?" A hint of despair could be heard in his voice when he spoke.

Su Tong hurriedly chased after her son. She grabbed her son's sleeve and asked, "Dongdong, tell me what's wrong. What happened?"

Ning Dong stood on the stairs and fiercely shook Su Tong's hand off before he said frostily, "Everyone now knows that you were a mistress who forced the former Madam of the Ning family out and took over the position of the Madam of the Ning family. They say that I, the illegitimate child, not only caused the miscarriage of the rightful Madam of the Ning family, resulting in the loss of a Young Master of the Ning family, but I also stole the position that originally belonged to the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family and became the heir of the Ning family!"

Ning Dong turned away as he said without looking back at his mother, "Let me ask you one thing: when has he ever treated me like his heir? He pushed all the blame to us to cover up his sin of abandoning his wife and daughter. Look at the kind of man you love! Is he worthy?"

Su Tong fell limply to the ground; she had no strength to get up. She could only sit on the ground and cry. Naturally, she understood her son's words, but what could she do? This was all clearly planned by Ning Zhe; he did even spare his innocent son! In order to get his daughter to return to the family, he spared no efforts at all.

Grim determination settled in Su Tong's heart as she slowly rose to her feet like that year when she rose to her feet when she was still a mistress begging to be accepted into the Ning family. Now that she was the Madam of the Ning family, she would not let anyone snatch the position away from her. She would not let Ning Zhe get what he wanted! Her son was the heir of the Ning family, and she would not let anyone change that! She thought to herself as she gritted her teeth, 'Ning Xia, let's fight to the death then!'

...

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in the Ye family was gloomy as well.

Ye Xin had already broken everything that could be broken in the house. Her eyes were red and swollen as she sulked in the living room.

'How can Song Ning be the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family?! Why is the heavens being so unfair to me?'

Ye Xin felt as though Song Ning was her natural enemy. She had debuted under the title of 'Little Ning Xia', causing her to live in Song Ning's shadow. Then, Song Ning snatched Mu Chen away from her. Now, it was even revealed that Song Ning's background was not inferior to hers!

'What else does she want? How can I let someone like her suppress me! I have to crush her! Whether it's love or career, I won't let her get what she wants!'

Meanwhile, Gao Wen's heart was aching when she looked at her daughter. She paced up and down, constantly asking where Ye Chen was and why he was not back yet. She thought to herself indignantly, "All the men in this family are really useless! My daughter is being bullied to this extent, and yet, my husband and my son don't even care!"

Gao Wen felt as though she was going to be angered to death whenever she thought about this matter.

Chapter 117: Arguments

Ye Cheng's mood was unusually bad. He did not expect that Song Ning and Ning Zhe were father and daughter. He had once thought Ning Zhe was fooling around outside and had taken a liking to Song Ning and was pestering her. In his heart, he had even disdained Ning Zhe at that time.

At this time, Ye Cheng's heart was filled with regret and jealousy when he thought about how lucky Mu Chen was! Song Ning was a young woman with a good education, and he had thought she was rather unique previously. He even had to admit that he was slightly moved by her. At that time, he was certain Mu Chen and Song Ning's marriage was fake so he was determined to win Song Ning over. As for what he would do after he won Song Ning over, that was a matter for the future. She was just a woman, after all.

Ye Cheng had grown even more determined to win Song Ning over when he discovered Mu Chen truly liked Song Ning. One of his joys in life was to snatch Mu Chen's things. After all, Mu Chen always had the very best things.

Now that it had been revealed that Song Ning was Ning Zhe's daughter, he felt incredibly vexed.. Why was Mu Chen always so lucky? Why was he always a step behind Mu Chen? It felt like he could not catch up to Mu Chen no matter how hard he tried. Perhaps, the only advantage he had over Mu Chen was that he was about to take over public office. Even then, there was a voice in the depths of his heart that told him he was only successful in this regard because Mu Chen had no interest in politics. Otherwise, he would not be able to compete with Mu Chen as well.

All these thoughts really made Ye Cheng feel like vomiting blood.

Ye Cheng sat in the car for a while to calm down before he finally exited from the car.

At the same time, a sports car suddenly came to a screeching halt next to Ye Cheng.

Ye Cheng frowned.

Ye He, Ye Cheng's father, began to shout as soon as he alighted the car, "Ye Cheng, what's going on? Your mother has been calling me non-stop? What kind of madness is this?!"

Ye Cheng took a deep breath before he said, "I don't know. As you can see, I haven't entered the house yet. Maybe it's about Ye Xin."

Ye He frowned. "What could be wrong with her? She's at the peak of her popularity."

Ye Cheng did not say anything and entered the house with his father.

Ye He said with a hint of delight, "I heard quite a few productions are looking to cast her in dramas recently. Moreover, the dramas are all helmed by famous directors. There's even a producer who came looking for me, hoping that I'll be able to convince your sister to join the cast."

"Dad, you didn't agree, right?" Ye Cheng asked, slightly alarmed.

"Of course not. How can I make this kind of decision for her?" Ye He said a little bit too quickly.

Ye Cheng felt uneasy when he saw his father's guilty actions. He decided to ask his assistant to speak to his father's secretary to inquire about his father's recent activities. He made a note to speak to Yang Li as well. With these thoughts in mind, he felt a headache coming on.

As soon as the father and son entered the house, Gao Wen said mockingly, "Oh, look at who's back! It seems like Master Ye and Young Master Ye finally remembered they have a home and that they have a daughter and a sister..."

Ye Cheng did not speak; he was already used to his mother's behavior.

Ye He did not respond to Gao Wen as well. Instead, he said to Ye Xin, "My darling princess, what's wrong? Who made you unhappy? Hurry up and tell daddy so daddy can vent your anger for you..."

Ye Xin turned her body to the side angrily, ignoring her father.

Ye He turned to the helper standing at the side and asked, "What's wrong with the Young Miss? Which one of you made her angry again? Let me tell you, no one's allowed to make my little princess unhappy!"

The helper lowered his head, not daring to speak.

At this moment, Gao Wen walked over and sat next to Ye Xin before she clicked her tongue and said, "Look at our Master Ye! How awe-inspiring and fierce! However, why don't you be fierce with outsiders instead?"

Ye He rolled his eyes. "What's wrong now? I'm just trying to find out why my daughter is so upset. You're so anxious and rushed Ye Cheng and me to come back, and yet, you refuse to tell us what's wrong. What do you want us to do? Ye Cheng and I are very busy. Look at your son. In the past six months, in order to assume public office, he worked himself to the bones. Have you ever cared about him?"

Upon hearing these words, Gao Wen looked at Ye Cheng guiltily. Nevertheless, she stubbornly said, "Fine. Ye Cheng is busy, but what about you? What are you busy with? Which unknown celebrity are you chasing now? Don't always use your son as an excuse. If you're a reliable father, would my son be so exhausted?"

Ye He said impatiently, "Must you always say such unpleasant words? Hurry up and tell us what's going on so Ye Cheng and I can come up with a solution. What's the point of arguing? How pointless!"

Gao Wen said pointedly, "Pointless? Ye He, how dare you!"

Ye Cheng felt his headache worsen when he watched his parents argue with each other again.

Chapter 118: Inner Demon

Ye Cheng ignored his parents' pointless questioning and directly asked Ye Xin, "Are the reporters making things difficult for you?"

Ye Xin, who was similarly disappointed by her parents' useless bickering, sobbed upon hearing her brother's direct question. She said through her tears, "I've been pestered by the reporters the entire morning. They kept asking me how I feel; how do they think I feel?"

Ye Cheng's heart softened when he saw the tears streaming down Ye Xin's face. He said in an attempt to coax her, "Don't worry. I'll arrange for two media outlets to do an exclusive interview with you tomorrow. We'll find a team to shoot the magazine covers for you as well, and we'll address this matter."

Ye Xin's tears did not stop as she asked, "Brother, why does Mu Chen treat me this way?"

Ye Cheng did not respond to Ye Xin's question. As a man, he knew Mu Chen had never been in love with Ye Xin. From the very beginning, Mu Chen had no romantic intentions toward Ye Xin at all. However, since he was Ye Xin's brother, he would naturally take his sister's side and put the blame on Mu Chen. In his opinion, if Mu Chen did not like his sister, Mu Chen should not have led his sister on. He was not certain he could help his sister with obtaining Mu Chen's heart so he could only comfort her.. "Ye Xin, you deserve a much better man."

"No, brother! I want Mu Chen! Get rid of that woman! Can't you think of a way to make her disappear?" Ye Xin said venomously.

Ye Cheng was stunned by Ye Xin's vicious words.

Ye Xin said through gritted teeth, "Brother, I don't care what method you use, but you have to make her disappear. I want Song Ning to disappear from M City. Mu Chen is mine. I don't care whose daughter she is. No one can take Mu Chen away from me!"

Upon hearing these words, Ye He, who had not been paying attention to the start of the conversation, interjected, "Who took Mu Chen away? Who's so capable?"

Gao Wen said indignantly, "Are you even listening at all?"

Ye He ignored his wife and directed his question to Ye Cheng and Ye Xin instead. "When did such a thing happen? Why didn't I know about it? My precious daughter, tell daddy why did Mu Chen break up with you? Why is it so difficult for you to hold onto a man? I've been telling you to settle down and get married, but you refused to listen. Look, now the chicken has flown the coop!"

Ye Xin who was filled with grievances with nowhere to vent them felt even more aggrieved when she heard these words. She stomped her feet and cried out before she ran back into her room, "I don't care! If Song Ning doesn't die, then I'll die instead!"

The three people in the living room were stunned upon hearing these words.

Gao Wen glared at Ye He fiercely before she asked Ye Cheng, "Son, did you hear that? What should we do now? In the past, we could've made a move on Song Ning. However, what can we do now that she's been revealed to be the Eldest Young Miss of the Ning family? How did the good relationship between Ye Xin and Mu Chen turn out this way?"

Ye Cheng sighed. "Mom, things are already like this, what else can we do? You should speak to your sister and advise her to give up on Mu Chen."

Gao Wen's expression changed to one that was brimming with dissatisfaction when she heard Ye Cheng's words. "How can I do that? Ye Cheng, why aren't you helping your sister? How can you utter such heartless words? Previously, I asked you to invite Mu Chen out so we can have a proper discussion with him, but you didn't even do anything. You couldn't even do your sister such a small favor. Is this how a brother should act?"

Ye Cheng's face paled slightly upon hearing his mother's accusatory words.

Ye He stepped forward and gently pushed Ye Cheng to the side before he said, "How can you blame your son for this matter? Don't tell me you want him to kidnap Mu Chen? If you ask me, I'd say this is all your fault. You're always trying to put on airs. I told you to establish a good relationship with the old lady from the Mu family, but you're not willing. Isn't it all your fault that the old lady has taken a fancy to a girl from another family?"

Gao Wen was so angered by her husband's words that she had difficulty breathing for a moment.

Meanwhile, Ye Cheng grabbed his coat that he had thrown on the couch earlier and turned around to leave without saying another word.

Upon seeing this, Gao Wen shrieked, "Where are you going?"

Without turning back, Ye Cheng said, "I'm going to look for Mu Chen."

...

After Ye Cheng got into the car, he sat in a daze with his hands on the steering wheel. Naturally, he could not go look for Mu Chen. The Ye family was not so influential where they could force Mu Chen into giving up on the person he loved.

After a moment, he brought his phone out and played the video of the press conference to watch it again. He was disappointed that Mu Chen and Song Ning's marriage had been cemented so firmly. Moreover, the two of them were clearly so in love that it would be impossible to separate them.

Jealousy welled up in his heart as he looked at Song Ning who was standing next to Mu Chen's side obediently. Why did the heavens give everything good to Mu Chen? It was so unfair. How could only one misstep bring these two people together?

Ye Cheng slammed his hands against the steering wheel in frustration, causing the horn to sound loudly just like how he was roaring in his heart.

Since he was young, he had always been compared to Mu Chen. Ever since they attended kindergarten, he had always been inferior to Mu Chen. His desire to defeat Mu Chen was like a poisonous seed that had taken root in his heart and was impossible to remove. It had become his inner demon.

Chapter 119: Befriending

At this moment, Ye Cheng's phone began to vibrate. When the call connected, he heard Chen Chen's panicked voice.

“Young Master Chen, someone tampered with our plan regarding Song Ning. I’m sorry, this is all my fault. I...”

Ye Cheng interjected, “Forget it. This is probably Cheng Che’s work. It’s not your fault.”

Chen Chen remained silent, too afraid to speak.

Ye Cheng sensed something was amiss so he asked, “What is it? Tell me..”

“Young Master Cheng, I found out that the Ning Group’s clothing orders in Europe had fallen drastically. Apparently, the reason given was their clothes are too old-fashioned and that they show no signs of keeping with the time. Apart from that, many of their recent designs resembled those from international brands. For that reason, those designs have pulled off the shelves since they could be accused of plagiarism.”

Upon hearing this, realization dawned on Ye Cheng. “So that’s why Ning Zhe is so anxious to recognize Song Ning as his daughter. His target is Zhuang Ji...”

“That’s what I think as well. Otherwise, why would he suddenly take an interest in the daughter he had ignored for so many years? I also found Ning Zhe had met Mu Chen in private a few times now...”

Ye Cheng could not help but feel alarmed when he heard these words. “They plan to cooperate?”

“It doesn’t seem like it. If they’re going to cooperate, Ning Zhe wouldn’t have resorted to such a method to acknowledge his daughter,” Chen Chen said albeit with slight uncertainty.

“You have a point.” Ye Cheng nodded. “Chen Chen, investigate everything about divorce in the Ning family ten years ago. Investigate the Fu family as well. I want to know apart from the trademark, what other treasure is Zhuang Ji hiding...”

“Understood!”

“We need to evaluate everything and see which side will bring us the most benefit,” Ye Cheng muttered.

“Yes, Young Master Cheng,” Chen Chen replied.

After Ye Cheng disconnected the call, he drove away from the Ye family house. He decided to go to a bar so he could have a drink and relax. He did not want to think about his mother and his sister anymore. It was better to leave them to his father.

In the end, Ye Cheng decided to go to Cloud Bar. The bar was popular among second-generation rich kids.

Ye Cheng had just parked his car and alighted the car when he heard a commotion from the alley next to him. His heart raced in his chest as he slowly walked toward the alley. As he drew closer, the conversation grew clearer and clearer.

“So what if you’re a rich kid? Aren’t you just an illegitimate child? You’re nothing but a bast*rd!”

“Aren’t you embarrassed to use the surname Ning?”

"I heard you caused a pregnant woman to miscarry when you were six or seven years old. How vicious! Hey, get up and fight me!"

"Big brother, look! This coward is crying!"

"How embarrassing for the Ning family! Is he really a member of the Ning family?"

"In my opinion, the Ning family is done for if this coward is the heir!"

At this moment, Ye Cheng said in a deep voice from the entrance of the alley, "Stop! What are you doing? The police are here!"

"Brother, let's go! Let's not dirty our hands by touching this coward!"

Someone spat and said, "Don't let me see you again. Otherwise, I'll beat you up every time I see you!"

The group of people scattered like the birds and the beasts.

Following that, Ye Cheng slowly approached the person who was curled up on the ground. He squatted down and said gently, "Get up. They're gone."

Ning Dong, who was curled up on the ground, held his head and whimpered.

"Can you move? Are you hurt badly? Do you want to see a doctor?" Ye Cheng reached out and patted Ning Dong.

Ning Dong finally removed his hands from his head before he slowly got up.

Ye Cheng reached out to support him. "I'll take you to the hospital to check for injuries..."

Ye Cheng's warm voice made Ning Dong feel at ease. He did not refuse Ye Cheng and followed Ye Cheng into the car.

Ning Dong, who was sitting in the passenger seat, turned to look out the window at the streets as tears fell uncontrollably down his face.

Upon seeing this, when the car pulled to a stop at a red light, Ye Cheng handed Ning Dong a piece of tissue paper before he said with a smile, "Look at you. You're a young man now; why are you crying? It's okay. I was beaten up a lot when I was young as well. Once you learn how to fight back, you won't be afraid anymore. If you're interested, I can help you look for a martial arts coach. What do you think?"

Ning Dong turned around and looked at Ye Cheng with red eyes as he said sincerely, "Thank you, brother."

Ye Cheng was slightly stunned by the frail and gloomy young man's sincerity. After a beat, he smiled and said, "You're welcome. Let's be friends. My name is Ye Cheng. You can treat me like a brother. From now on, I'll protect you."

Upon hearing Ye Cheng's words, Ning Dong's face flushed. Then, he hurriedly said, "Big brother, my name is Ning Dong..."

"Nice to meet you, Ning Dong!" Ye Cheng smiled. He knew Ning Dong was the Young Master of the Ning family and the heir to the Ning Group. Naturally, that was before Song Ning's identity was revealed.

Chapter 120: Daily Life

Song Ning struggled to open her eyes as she reached for her phone to see what time it was. However, her hand was caught halfway before she was pulled into a warm embrace.

“Baby, let’s sleep for a while more.” Mu Chen’s voice that carried a hint of sleepiness and laziness was rather charming.

Song Ning had no choice but to give up. Since the alarm had not rung, it should still be quite early. She knew the consequences of provoking him early in the morning so she obediently let him hug her, not daring to move. However, his body was so warm that it did not take long before she began to feel hot. She struggled to escape from his embrace, but in the end, he only tightened his hold around her.

Mu Chen said in a seductive voice, “Don’t move. Let’s sleep for a while more.”

Song Ning said helplessly, “Mu Chen, I have to get up.. I have to go to the hospital a little earlier today..”

Mu Chen remained unmoved by her words.

“Mu Chen, it’s really hot. Can you let go of me?”

Mu Chen still showed no signs of moving.

Finally, Song Ning inhaled deeply before she asked, “Hubby, can we get up now?”

Mu Chen chuckled and finally released his hold on her.

Song Ning rolled her eyes. ‘How childish!’

However, before Song Ning had time to react, she felt Mu Chen’s hands roaming around her body. Startled, she quickly grabbed his hands and said, “Hubby, it’s time to get up. Can you send me to work?”

“Okay, but I want a morning kiss,” Mu Chen said as he lowered his head to look at her.

Song Ning sighed inwardly. What would she do if her child was as clingy as Mu Chen in the future? She decided she would have to spank her child’s bottom if he or she were like Mu Chen. All of a sudden, her face heated up. Why did she suddenly think of a child? She was frightened by her line of thoughts.

At this moment, Mu Chen pressed his lips against Song Ning’s lips. The lingering kiss lit a fire in Mu Chen’s body that he was almost unable to restrain himself.

Song Ning begged and threatened him to stop. In the end, she resorted to making all sorts of promises and allowed him to leave two hickeys near her collarbone before he finally relented and went to take a cold shower.

For the umpteenth time, she swore to sleep in a separate bed! However, she knew it was impossible. Mu Chen looked like an aloof gentleman outwardly, but he was a different person in bed. In order to get what he wanted, he had no qualms about acting shamelessly like a child. She had a headache when she thought about this.

When the sound of running water from the bathroom stopped, Song Ning hurriedly got off the bed. She covered herself with the quilt before she grabbed her clothes. If Mu Chen saw her lying in her bed, his cold shower would have been in vain.

When Mu Chen came out from the bathroom and saw Song Ning's flustered actions, he could not help but smile. No one but him would be able to see this adorable side of her. Despite her usually calm and indifferent appearance, in private, she was conservative, shy, innocent, and cute.

Mu Chen sighed in contentment. He truly believed God had sent Song Ning to him. His love and desire seemed endless when it came to her. Sometimes, he thought it was worth it waiting all these years for her.

...

Jiang Jin, who was already sitting at the dining table, looked at her grandson and her granddaughter-in-law. She could not conceal the happiness on her face at all.

After Song Ning took a seat, she asked, "Grandma, did you sleep well last night?"

Jiang Jin smiled. "I did."

Before they ate, Song Ning checked Jiang Jin's pulse and the coating of her tongue.

After that, Jiang Jin said to Mu Chen, "I feel like it's not going to be a problem for me to live to 100 years old."

Mu Chen looked at his happy and healthy grandmother and thought about the last few months. It was all thanks to Song Ning's care that his grandmother's condition, both physically and mentally, improved so much. After a beat, he said, "Grandma, you better keep your promise. I still need you to help me to take care of my child."

Jiang Jin laughed happily. "Of course! When the time comes, you better don't forget these words. Otherwise, should we draw up an agreement?"

"Alright, I'm also afraid you'll regret your words! If you don't help me take care of the child, what would I do? Ningning will definitely focus all her attention on the child at that time and neglect me. This thought is too scary. Grandma, you better help me. Otherwise, you'll see my face every day!"

"Brat, are you threatening me?!" Jiang Jin laughed and hit Mu Chen playfully on his arm.

Yu could not help but laugh when she watched the interaction between the pair of grandmother and grandson.

Meanwhile, Song Ning handed a bowl of porridge to Jiang Jin with a blush on her face. "Grandma..."

Jiang Jin smiled and said, "Since I have Ningning taking care of me, it definitely won't be a problem for me to live to 100!"

Mu Chen picked up a small steamed bun and placed it on Song Ning's plate. Following that, he pushed a glass of milk to her. "You've been exhausted lately. You have to eat more to gain strength..."

Song Ning's face flushed red immediately. 'How annoying! Why do you think I'm so tired? Isn't it because of you?'

Jiang Jin and Yu exchanged a look. Both of them were filled with delight when they looked at the couple.