

Chapter 211: Chess Piece

Mu Chen did not expect Song Ning would accept this so calmly. He was finally able to relax. Nevertheless, he felt rather suspicious about the way Song Ning had found out about this matter. Therefore, he asked Sister Yu to secretly find out if the doctor had unintentionally leaked this matter or if someone had deliberately leaked this matter.

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Liang Zhou silently observed the situation for a few days. The news had already silently spread throughout the VIP ward so she could not help but feel anxious when she discovered there was no movement from Song Ning's side.

In her opinion, it was impossible for Song Ning not to be upset. There was no way Song Ning could remain unaffected once she heard about the matter. Moreover, Song Ning was injured and was not very stable.

Liang Zhou racked her brains but could not understand it no matter what. She truly did not want to let such a good opportunity go to waste.

Liang Zhou was still mulling over the matter when Mu Lan came to visit Mu Qing.

Mu Lan was not like the other members of the Mu family who snuck around when they came to see Mu Qing. Instead, she openly visited Mu Qing, her cousin.

"Brother Qing, I really can't stand those people. Why are they so cowardly? They're so afraid of Mu Chen; they're like mice in front of a cat." Mu Lan sighed. "However, I can't blame them. Mu Chen is really ruthless after all. During the new year's eve banquet, none of the members who spoke up for you had a good ending." A hint of blame could be heard in her voice in the latter part of her words.

Liang Zhou was slightly annoyed, but she did not dare to say anything.

On the other hand, Mu Qing said apologetically, "I'm the one who caused trouble for everyone..."

Mu Lan softened immediately upon hearing those words. She said, "Brother Qing, what are you talking about? There's no need for you to say such words. We grew up together; we're like brother and sister. There's no need for you to feel apologetic..." Then, she looked at Liang Zhou before she sighed and continued to say, "I really pity sister-in-law. She's been wronged for as long as she's married to you..."

'This Mu Lan has such low EQ! It's a wonder she managed to survive in the Mu family for so long without being beaten to death! She should probably thank the Mu family ancestors!' Upon hearing Mu Lan's 'sympathetic' words, the fire in Liang Zhou's heart surged.

However, after thinking about it for a moment, Liang Zhou felt that Mu Lan could be of help to them in the future. Therefore, she brought a gift box from the cabinet and handed it to Mu Lan. "Sister, you came at the right time. If you didn't come today, I would've called to ask you out to meet me outside in case you don't like coming to the hospital. I wanted to give this to you."

Mu Lan held the gift box and asked, "What is it?"

Mu Qing looked at Liang Zhou approvingly before he said to Mu Lan with a smile, "Open it and see. Your sister-in-law personally picked it out for you. No one else has it..."

When Mu Lan opened the box and saw the jade bangle lying quietly inside, her heart was moved. She looked at Mu Qing and Liang Zhou and asked, "This... This is for me?"

Liang Zhou smiled and nodded. She stepped forward and helped Mu Lan put the jade bangle on her left hand. "I still remember the first year I entered the Mu family; I saw you wearing a dark green Qipao with gold details. I remember you have very beautiful hands as well. Previously, when I went shopping with your brother, I saw this bangle and thought about you immediately. This bangle is rather unique so I bought it with the intention to give it to you..."

Liang Zhou's words sounded incredibly pleasing to Mu Lan's ears; she was touched. "Sister-in-law, you remember such a thing?"

Liang Zhou smiled and replied, "How could I forget seeing such an outstanding person on such an important day?"

Liang Zhou deliberately sighed and said, "I originally wanted to buy one for Song Ning as well, but I don't know if it's a good idea. She's a really good girl, and the Old Madam treats her so well that everything good is given to her. I'm just afraid that she or the Old Madam will despise my gift..."

These words successfully stoked Mu Lan's anger.. She said indignantly, "Sister-in-law, you praise her too much! How could she dare to despise your gift? Does she think her position as the Young Madam of the Mu family is stable?"

Chapter 212: Manipulation

Liang Zhou hastily stopped Mu Lan. "Sister, please don't say such words. Song Ning is the Old Madam's precious. If she hears about this, it'll be terrible."

Mu Lan instinctively looked behind herself. Then, she turned back to Liang Zhou and sneered. "Sister-in-law, you are too cautious and timid. That's why you're being bullied by your daughter-in-law. Sister-in-law, you and Brother Qing have been together for so many years; we've all seen the way you conduct yourself. Now that you've returned, you should deal with Song Ning. If you can deal with her, Mu Chen will naturally listen to you. After all, Mu Chen treasures Song Ning like his life now."

Liang Zhou nodded. "It's only natural. Look at how Song Ning is pregnant only after a few months of marriage. It's no wonder the Old Madam and Mu Chen treasure her so much. Now that she's going to have a great-grandchild, she'll no doubt give her great-grandchild the moon and the stars. "

"Song... Song Ning is pregnant?" Mu Lan was shocked.

Liang Zhou feigned a guilty expression. Then, she said with a hint of pleading, "Ah, I shouldn't have said that. This matter is a secret. The Old Madam is afraid of jinxing it so she doesn't want to announce the pregnancy until the first trimester is over. Do you see how much importance the Old Madam places on

this matter? Fortunately, Sister isn't an outsider. Now that you know, don't tell anyone about this, okay?"

An unnatural smile appeared on Mu Lan's face as she said, "The time from one gets pregnant to giving birth isn't short. Who knows what kind of accident will happen during that time? That's probably why the old lady is afraid of announcing it, right?" She covered her mouth and laughed. She could not describe her feelings at this moment.

Liang Zhou hastily said, "Sister, your words are too scary. It's said that a woman giving birth is like knocking on the doors of hell. No matter how advanced medical technology is, no one can say it's 100% safe. However, I've never given birth so I don't know much about these things. Nevertheless, I think Song Ning will be able to deliver safely since the Old Madam is taking care of her."

Mu Lan sneered.

At the same time, Mu Qing and Liang Zhou exchanged a subtle look before Mu Qing said, "Liang Zhou, accompany Mu Lan to visit Song Ning later." Then, he turned to Mu Lan and said, "You're an aunt so you have to act like one. You're 40 years old now; how can you still act like a child? How can you choose who you like and ignore those you dislike?"

Mu Lan was slightly embarrassed when she heard Mu Qing's words. "Brother, how can you bluntly expose my shortcomings just like that?"

Mu Qing laughed heartily. Then, he said affectionately and gently, "You really haven't changed at all. Listen to me, alright? Accompany your sister-in-law to visit Song Ning. Don't make things tense. After all, Mu Chen is the head of the family now. You have to control your temper for the sake of the family, okay?"

Mu Lan nodded obediently. "Alright, I'll listen to Brother Qing."

At this time, a nurse entered the room to check Mu Qing's blood pressure.

Liang Zhou pulled Mu Lan out of the room as she said, "Let's wait outside. These examinations will take some time before they're completed."

Mu Lan, who treated this couple like her closest kin, was obedient and followed Liang Zhou out.

Liang Zhou had brought the kettle out of the room as well to refill the water while they waited.

Coincidentally, while the duo was refilling the water, they overheard the conversation between two cleaners.

"Did you hear? Miss Ye Xin who's in the ICU now is Dr. Song Ning's half-sister!"

"What? Is it true? If it's true then their lives are really too messy!"

"Of course, it's true!"

Chapter 213: Excited

Liang Zhou wanted to walk away as though she did not hear anything, but Mu Lan stopped her.

Mu Lan placed her index finger against her lips, gesturing to Liang Zhou to stay silent. She quietly pointed at the cleaners and asked Liang Zhou to listen to the cleaners.

"I heard that Dr. Song Ning used to be an actress; her stage name is Ning Xia. Coincidentally, because Ye Xin looks like Ning Xia, she debuted with the title Little Ning Xia. Ye Xin was thoroughly defeated by Dr. Song Ning in every aspect. Due to her anger and embarrassment, she finally ran her car into Dr. Song Ning. In the end, she ended up in the ICU instead. People have been saying that Dr. Song Ning is blessed by God. She's so blessed that those who harmed her don't have a good ending at all..."

The cleaners continued chatting as they walked away.

At the same time, Liang Zhou pulled Mu Lan away as she said, "Don't listen to their nonsense. This rumor has spread like a wildfire over the past few days. Fortunately, no one took it seriously."

"Why doesn't anyone take it seriously?" Mu Lan asked excitedly, "Sister-in-law, Song Ning and Ye Xin really look alike. Why don't you believe the rumor?"

Liang Zhou shook his head and said, "Since the Young Madam hasn't said anything, why should we believe it?"

Mu Lan rolled her eyes and said, "I think the Young Madam is unaware of it, right? If she finds out about this, she'll definitely be shocked."

Following that, Mu Lan tugged on Liang Zhou's sleeve and eagerly said, "Which room is the Young Madam staying in? Bring me there!"

Liang Zhou revealed Song Ning's room number to Mu Lan before she raised the kettle in her hand and said, "You go ahead first. I'll be right there after I put return the kettle to the room."

Mu Lan did not object and hurriedly made her way to Song Ning's room.

When Liang Zhou turned around and Mu Lan could no longer see her face, her lips curled up into a disdainful smirk.

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At this time, Song Ning was practicing walking with her crutches next to her bed. It would take a while for her ankle to fully heal. Since it was not convenient to use a wheelchair all the time, she thought it was best she got used to walking with crutches.

She had always been decisive and determined. Since she had put her mind to it, in just two days, she had gotten much more proficient in walking with the crutches.

At this time, Jiahui said with a sigh, "Student Song Ning, can you not set the bar so high and be so outstanding? You make the rest of us look bad!"

Song Ning smiled and did not reply. Jiahui would only complain, but Jiahui was not a bad learner herself.

At this moment, Mu Lan pushed the door open. She saw Song Ning walking with her crutches while Jiahui, who was wearing a white coat, stood at the side watching. Seeing that a doctor was present, she

rushed forward to support Song Ning as she said, “Young Madam, why are you walking on your crutches alone? Aren’t you pregnant? You need to be careful; what if you hurt yourself?”

Mu Lan who assumed Jiahui was just a doctor said reproachfully, “Isn’t this a VIP ward? How can you disregard your patient? Let me tell you, our Young Madam is really precious. If anything happens to her, we won’t let the hospital go!”

Song Ning and Jiahui were stunned speechless by Mu Lan’s sudden interruption and incessant blabberings.

Song Ning quickly searched her mind for information regarding Mu Chen’s relatives. It took her a moment to recall the person in front of her. After Jiahui helped her back to the bed and took her crutches away, she asked, “Aunty... Why are you here?”

At the same time, Jiahui did not correct Mu Lan’s mistake and let Mu Lan think she was just a doctor.

Mu Lan held Song Ning’s hand affectionately before she said, “I heard you’re pregnant so I quickly came to congratulate you! I wanted to be the first to congratulate you! Tell me, am I the first to congratulate you?”

Song Ning smiled slightly. “Yes.”

Mu Lan raised her eyebrows and continued to say, “You’re really lucky. You’ve only been in the Mu family for a few months, and you’re already pregnant. This is the eldest grandson of the Mu family’s eldest son. The Old Madam must be delighted, right? Oh, by the way, I heard Ye Xin is your half-sister. Although she’s your half-sister, she’s really inferior to you in every way. You’re like her nemesis, defeating her in every aspect...” After she finished speaking, she raised her hand and covered the smile that bloomed on her face..

Chapter 214: Stimulate

Song Ning asked, confused, “What are you talking about? How did you know I’m pregnant? Did Grandma tell you? Half-sister? What are you talking about?”

Mu Lan feigned surprise. “Don’t you know you have a half-sister?” She did not wait for Song Ning to reply before she continued to say, “Your half-sister is Ye Xin. You know, the one who ran her car into you. Everyone in the hospital has long known about this. Not only do you look alike, but both of you have the same blood type as well... “

Mu Lan showed no sign of stopping. She said with a sigh, “The fates of you two sisters are really connected. Ye Xin was the only girl Mu Chen had ever been linked to. We all thought she would definitely be our family’s Young Madam. Who would’ve thought you would suddenly appear out of nowhere and marry Mu Chen? To think both of you are biological sisters...” She clicked her tongue after she finished speaking.

Song Ning’s expression was very unsightly at this moment as she placed her hand on her lower abdomen.

Mu Lan noticed Song Ning's actions and immediately asked, "What's wrong? Does your stomach feel uncomfortable? Do you want to call a doctor over? Let me call a doctor for you..." She turned to look at Jiahui, who was standing at the side, and chided, "What are you standing there for? Quickly call for an attending doctor? Can't you see the patient is uncomfortable?"

Jiahui glanced at Song Ning before she slowly walked out.

Following that, Mu Lan leaned closer and said, "Song Ning, I'm saying this for your own good. It's best to keep calm and not get angry. It's good that you and Ye Xin are sisters. After all, although the Ye family isn't as good as the Mu family and the Ning family, the Ye family is still pretty good." As she spoke, her eyes were greedily trained on Song Ning's face, waiting to see the slightest change in Song Ning's expression.

Song Ning's face was pale, and she seemed to be trying her best to hold back her emotions.

When Mu Lan saw Song Ning did not lose control, her gaze gradually turned cold and her words turned pointed. "Being a Young Madam of a noble family like ours isn't easy. If you don't suffer a little, you won't learn. Song Ning, don't blame me for my words, but you can only rise to the top after you suffer a little. Do you understand?"

At this time, the door to the room opened. However, it was not a doctor, but Mu Chen.

Upon seeing Mu Chen, Mu Lan's expression changed drastically. She hastily said, "Mu Chen, why are you here? I'm just chatting with your wife..."

Mu Chen did not even spare Mu Lan a glance and rushed to Song Ning's side immediately.

Song Ning placed one hand on her lower abdomen and reached out to grab Mu Chen's arm with her other hand. "Mu Chen, my stomach hurts..."

Mu Chen grew anxious immediately. "Why does it hurt?" Then, he picked up the phone at the bedside that connected him to the nurse station. "Where's the doctor? Get the doctor here immediately!"

After putting down the receiver, he looked at Song Ning helplessly. He wanted to hold her but was afraid of further hurting her. He said anxiously, "Song Ning, relax, okay? The doctor will be here soon..."

Mu Lan found the sight of Mu Chen's caring for Song Ning displeasing and could not help but say, "Mu Chen, why are you panicking? Isn't she just pregnant? Is there a need for you to be anxious? There are plenty of women who get pregnant every day; why are you treating her as though she's so delicate? Men really know nothing. Why don't you wait outside; you'll only be a hindrance here..."

At this moment, Mu Chen looked up and asked slowly, "Who told you Song Ning's pregnant?"

Chills ran up Mu Lan's spine immediately. She took a step back guiltily and said, "This... Doesn't everyone know about this? It's such big news; it's natural that everyone knows about it..."

Mu Chen sneered..

Chapter 215: Instigation

“You know very well where you heard the news from. I hope you can shoulder the consequences for this,” Mu Chen said frostily.

The doctors and nurses entered the room at this time.

The doctor in the lead frowned. “What’s wrong? Why are you so careless? Didn’t I tell you that the fetus is unstable? You have to take good care of yourself and not get angry? How are your family members looking after you? Those who have no business being here, leave. Xiao Zhang, quickly get the head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department here!”

Following that, Mu Lan was ushered out of the room by a young nurse. As she walked, she turned around to look at Song Ning, who was surrounded by doctors and nurses, as though she was hoping to see something.

When Mu Lan walked out of the door, the young nurse said with a sigh, “You should hurry up and leave. Don’t look anymore. That’s the eldest grandchild of the Mu family; he’s very precious. Our entire year’s bonus is dependent on this young lady here.”

Mu Lan grabbed the young nurse’s hand and asked, “Young lady, is it... is it so serious? I think she looks fine. Why is the fetus unstable?”

The young nurse seemed to have a lot of pent-up emotions. She looked behind her with a hint of resentment before she said, “It’s been unstable from the start. She was injured in a car accident. Old Madam Mu is extremely concerned about this pregnancy because the Young Madam’s health isn’t good. If she can’t keep this pregnancy, it’ll be difficult for her to get pregnant in the future. That’s why everyone’s so nervous.”

After the nurse finished speaking, she hurriedly entered the ward and closed the door behind.

Mu Lan felt as though she had been given a glass of ice water on a hot day after listening to the nurse’s words. ‘That’s right. How can all the good things be given to only one person? Didn’t everyone say Song Ning’s blessed? Look, isn’t it karma?’

Mu Lan took a last look through the window; it was still busy in the room. Her lips curled into a smile as she left.

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Mu Qing was sleeping when Mu Lan returned.

Upon seeing Mu Lan, Liang Zhou made a silent gesture and quietly left the room.

As they stood outside the room, Mu Lan excitedly recounted what had happened earlier.

Liang Zhou suppressed the delight that welled up in her heart and sighed. “What a poor child!”

Mu Lan scoffed. “A person’s fortune is predestined. What right does she have to monopolize all the good things in the world? She’s from a wealthy family, was once a famous actress, and now, a highly-educated elite. She quietly married into our Mu family and is spoiled to the heavens by the old lady and Mu Chen. See? Now she can’t have a child! This is karma!”

Liang Zhou hastily stopped Mu Lan. "Mu Lan, you can't say such words. She's still so young; if she can't have children, isn't it too pitiful? Who knows if the Old Madam will still dote on her then?"

Mu Lan sneered. "Pitiful? Sister-in-law, you don't know this, but that girl isn't someone to be trifled with. When she and Mu Chen first got married, she made Second Aunt and the others suffered. She's very powerful. If you ask me, the situation you're in now is all caused by her!"

These words were not particularly offensive, but they made Liang Zhou incredibly uncomfortable. Nevertheless, her expression did not change as she said, "I don't think she's like that. She's refined and highly educated. Moreover, look at how well Zhuang Ji is doing. I think she's very capable."

Upon hearing the words 'Zhuang Ji', Mu Lan grew even more energetic. "Sister-in-law, you know about Zhuang Ji? Speaking of which, isn't it thanks to Mu Chen that it's doing so well? Previously, Zhuang Ji was half-dead. It was Mu Chen and Cheng Che who gave it life again. Therefore, Zhuang Ji should be considered our Mu family's property. Moreover, since she's married into our family, her assets should also be part of the Mu family's assets. Don't you agree, sister-in-law?"

Liang Zhou smiled and nodded. "You have a point.."

Chapter 216: Ambition

After sending Mu Lan away, Liang Zhou entered Mu Qing's ward.

Mu Qing was already awake. He was leaning against the headboard and flipping through a book.

"Is it done?" Mu Qing asked.

Liang Zhou nodded. "Mu Lan saw with her own eyes that Song Ning had a stomachache. The doctors and nurses were treating her when Mu Lan left. Mu Lan heard the doctor say the fetus is unstable. It's like she'll lose the child. Moreover..." She paused for a moment before she said with a hint of glee, "The nurse said Song Ning's health isn't good so it's unlikely for her to have children in the future..."

Mu Qing's grip tightened in his book.

Liang Zhou could barely suppress the smile on her face. Words could not describe how happy she was at this moment. If Mu Chen wanted children, he would have to marry another woman; if Mu Chen loved Song Ning, then he would have to accept not having any children. She felt as though the heavens were smiling down on her at this moment when she thought about Mu Chen and Song Ning suffering the same pains as everyone.

At this moment, Mu Qing put his book down before he called someone on his phone. He only said two words before he disconnected the call. "Let's start."

Upon hearing these two words, Liang Zhou sighed in relief. She asked excitedly, "Are you planning to get discharged from the hospital?"

Mu Qing stretched lazily as he replied, "Yes, we've stayed here long enough..."

In Mu Qing's life, his success and his failure were inextricably linked to women. When his father was still alive, his father had arranged for his marriage with the Liang family's daughter. This was because the Old Master Yu of the Liang family had saved his father's life in the past. He knew that marrying the daughter of the Liang family would pave the way for him to inherit the family business. The truth was he did not care which daughter of the Liang family he had to marry. At that time, he was unaware that the Liang family had originally intended to marry off the eldest daughter of their family, but the eldest daughter of the Liang family rebelled and ran away to escape the marriage. Therefore, the Liang family had no other choice but to send the second daughter of their family to be married into the Mu family; at that time, the Liang family had apologized profusely. When he found out about the matter, he had felt slightly uncomfortable. Although he did not care who he had to marry, he still felt as though he had been slighted. For this reason, he became slightly interested in the eldest daughter of the Liang family.

Although the second daughter of the Liang family was gentle and understanding, she was stubborn. After experiencing the novelty of a new marriage, he grew bored and lost interest. Fortunately, his wife had a good relationship with his mother, which saved him a lot of worries. Moreover, after his son was born, his parents finally paid less attention to him, greatly increasing his freedom. In hindsight, he thought that was the happiest time in his life.

All that came to a halt when he met Liang Zhou. He felt that Liang Zhou was the bane of his existence. In the beginning, he fell in love with her when he first met her. He felt what he had with Liang Zhou was love whereas he and Liang Zhen only became a family after they had a son. Nevertheless, he had no intention of divorcing Liang Zhen. After all, a stable marriage was incredibly important to him; it helped cement his status and position in the Mu family. Unfortunately, Liang Zhou had no intention of playing second fiddle.

He had also misjudged Liang Zhen. He had assumed Liang Zhen would be unwilling to part everything she possessed at that time. Liang Zhen placed huge importance on love. The humiliation of being a substitute was deeply engraved in her heart, and she severed all ties with her family. However, his mother's love and kindness managed to warm her heart, allowing her to restart her career after marriage. The peaceful years were broken when his betrayal was made public. When Liang Zhou found out he had cheated and that person he had cheated with was her sister who was originally supposed to marry him, she broke down completely. The way Liang Zhen had punished him was too extreme; she used her death to exchange for his future. He lost all support and had no choice but to leave the Mu family. It was better for him to voluntarily leave before he was expelled from the Mu family after all. Since he chose to leave with Liang Zhou before he was expelled, everyone, including the silly woman standing in front of him now, thought he had forsaken wealth for love. No one knew the truth except for his mother.

Liang Zhou, the silly woman, thought he had sacrificed his future for her. She had always felt that she had won his love and triumphed over her sister.

He did not disabuse her of that notion; he let her think as she wished. If this made her happy, then so be it. After all, it was beneficial to him. Let people think he had left the Mu family, ostensibly for the sake of this woman, and that his ambition was overshadowed by love..

Chapter 217: United Hearts

Liang Zhou happily busied herself with the process of getting Mu Qing discharged. She was immersed in her dream of returning to the Mu family with Mu Qing and becoming the matriarch of the Mu family.

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At this time, Mu Chen carefully helped Song Ning lie on the hospital bed. He asked gently, "Are you tired?"

Song Ning shook her head. "Will your method work?"

Mu Chen held her hand as he softly said, "In fact, I hope it doesn't work. I hope people will be kind; I hope that familial love isn't just a fairy tale. Nevertheless, hope is just that; hope. People are greedy, after all. Song Ning, to be honest, I'm not in a good mood..."

Song Ning tightened her grip around Mu Chen's hand and said, "I understand what you mean. You've given them a chance to choose; how they choose is out of your control. Don't be sad, Mu Chen. This time, the big wave that's coming will be good for you and the Mu family. Look at Grandma; she has suffered more than you, but she's still so strong. Since you're the head of the Mu family, you'll have more to bear on your shoulders compared to others..."

Mu Chen held Song Ning's hand against his cheek and said, "Fortunately, I have you by my side."

Song Ning only smiled warmly at him.

"In the next few days, people might come and disturb you. I'm afraid the rumors out there aren't that good either," Mu Chen said. He sighed. "I'm sorry it's been so hard on you..."

Song Ning smiled and shook her head. "I've been lying here every day, just eating, drinking, sleeping, and writing my thesis without any distractions. What's so hard about that? You have to thank Professor and Jiahui; they helped me with a lot of things..."

Mu Chen smiled and nodded. "Don't worry, I won't mistreat them. Those who treat us well will be rewarded. This is what Grandma taught me."

Song Ning stopped smiling. "You have to look after Grandma. The person who's most upset should be Grandma. However, she suppressed all her emotions for you; this is very harmful to her health. I can't be by her side all the time now so you have to keep an eye on her..."

Mu Chen nodded, upset. This was what hurt him the most, seeing his Grandma do so much for his sake.

In fact, the current situation was the last thing he wanted to see. If possible, he wished he could push this day to 100 years from now. He had no choice but to clean up the Mu family. He could do nothing and his grandmother could do nothing, but those ghosts and demons in the Mu family could not wait and began to act, forcing him to move his hand.

Before his father returned, he had already mobilized his hidden support in the Mu family and began to prepare in different small ways.

In the beginning, he had Cheng Che monitoring his father's movements. However, it was too tiring to deal with the matter that way.

He did not expect his father could no longer endure it and return to the country. It was destined that the war without smoke had begun ahead of time with his father's sudden return.

His father knew that his grandmother was his weakness so his father used his grandmother as a shield. Mu Chen knew this and so did his grandmother.

To his grandmother, both her son and grandson were important. Regardless of the outcome, her heart was already riddled with wounds when her son used her to attack her grandson.

His father did not care, but he cared. Because he cared, the price he had to pay was destined to be higher than his father's.

He hoped that he would be able to solve all his problems in one go this time because he did not want to hurt his grandmother anymore. With her age and her health, she could not continue to exhaust herself both physically and mentally.

After a while, Mu Chen straightened his back and tried to regain his spirit, dismissing all distracting thoughts. Now, he not only had his grandmother, but he also had Song Ning and their child. He also had his brother, Cheng Che. He was their armor, and it was his responsibility to protect them. The heavier the burden on his shoulders, the more it would stimulate his potential. Moreover, with his mother watching over him in heaven, he was even more determined not to let her down..

Chapter 218: Crisis

An earth-shattering event had happened in the Mu Group.

A serious leak had occurred in the Mu Group's subsidiary companies, resulting in many patents and trademarks being snatched by rival companies. If the sales of the patents and trademarks were successful, the Mu Group would lose half of its territory, which was equivalent to shaking the foundation of the Mu Group that had been around for generations.

Everyone in the Mu Group was panicking. However, their domineering President, Mu Chen, was staying by his wife's side day and night because she was hospitalized and pregnant.

Mu Chen and Song Ning's love story had long been known by everyone; after all, Mu Chen had publicly expressed his deep love for Song Ning many times. They were like an enviable immortal couple.

Alas, fate did not act according to one's wish. Song Ning unexpectedly met with a car accident and was discovered to be pregnant. She had even almost lost her child. It was said that Song Ning's health was not very good and that if she lost her child, it would be almost impossible for the couple to have another child in the future.

For a time, the young couple was a topic of discussion for many people in the city.

There were many women who burned incense and prayed to Buddha, hoping Mu Chen and Song Ning's child could not be saved. If she lost the child and the ability to get pregnant again in the future, the

wealthy family she married into will abandon her. With this, they would have a chance to marry Mu Chen. If they could marry him, it did not even matter if they became a child-bearing machine. They wished they could send their photos to him with the message, 'I can give birth'.

There were also those who eagerly waited for misfortune to befall wealthy families like the Mu family. They wanted to see the high and mighty Mu family being kicked down to the mortal world. In this world, there was no shortage of people who took pleasure from other people's misfortune and were eager to watch a show, after all.

On the other hand, those who were most worried were the members of the Mu family. When they saw Mu Chen did not care about the company's affairs and only cared about his wife, many of them began to show their true colors. In their opinion, the young Cheng Che would not be able to do much to them. Some of them decided to watch from the sidelines; some of them added insult to injury; some of them spread nasty rumors; some of them took advantage of the situation to reap benefits. In less than a month, the Mu family and the Mu Group were in chaos; the situation was made worse by the family's internal strife. With all these problems, the Mu Group fell into a passive position, constantly attacked by their rivals. The company's stocks fluctuated greatly as well, stirring up panic among the shareholders.

As time went on, the elders of the Mu family could no longer sit still and asked Mu Qing to take charge of the situation.

Upon hearing the elders' request, Mu Qing had humbly said he believed in his son's ability. Moreover, he had to obey his mother. He would only take charge if his mother allowed him to do so; if his mother did not wish for him to interfere, he would not go against his mother's wish.

Everyone was anxious and angry. They were pressed for time; the current situation did not allow them to dally. Therefore, they had no choice but to look for Jiang Jin.

During this time, Jiang Jin had been living in seclusion, withdrawing from the public's eye, because she was not feeling well. Although many people wanted to speak to her, they were not able to meet her in person. She was the anchor of the Mu family, after all.

After failing to meet Jiang Jin, those people finally brought Mu Qing along so they would be able to see her. As soon as they saw her, they demanded she allowed Mu Qing to return to the Mu family and the Mu Group.

Jiang Jin looked at her son who was being put in a difficult position. His expression was calm, without any ripples.

As Mu Qing poured a cup of tea for his mother, he calmly said, "Mother, my uncles came because they're anxious. You should at least reassure them and give them peace of mind. You have to vouch for Mu Chen and let them know we'll be able to get past this difficult time..."

Jiang Jin took a sip of the tea before she asked, "Mu Qing, do you still remember why you left the Mu family?"

Mu Qing paled slightly. He quickly kneeled next to Jiang Jin before he said, "Mother, it doesn't matter if I'm allowed to return to the Mu family. I only hope you can forgive me for my foolishness back then. I'd embarrassed you back then with my mistakes. I've learned my lesson..."

With these words, everyone was reminded of that incident during spring many years ago..

Chapter 219: War of Words

Second Granduncle Mu said with a sigh, “Jiang Jin, there’s no need to make such a big fuss over that matter. Moreover, he’s your biological son. He has apologized so many times and admitted to his mistakes, why can’t you forgive him?” He continued to say, “It’s just a small matter regarding a man and a woman’s relationship. Liang Zhou has been by his side for so many years, and their relationship is stable; this proves that Mu Qing did not misjudge her. Let bygones be bygones. Liang Zhen is being worshipped in the Mu family’s ancestral hall, giving her the respect she deserved. What more needs to be done? Don’t tell me Mu Qing is prohibited from getting married for the rest of his life after her death?”

Third Granduncle Mu chimed in, “We need more people to help deal with the Mu Group’s affairs. Mu Chen is too young; moreover, all his attention is on his wife now. We’re all family; it does no one good for family members to fight each other. We should give Mu Qing a chance and let him help with the Mu Group. You can also consider it as him atoning for his mistakes. Why must you be so ruthless to your own flesh and blood?”

“Because he swore in front of my mother’s tablet back then. If he breaks his oath, he’ll be struck by lightning. Uncles, you just said we’re all family. In that case, why are you pushing him to get struck by lightning?!”

Shocked, everyone turned to look in the direction of the voice and saw Mu Chen walking in with big strides.

Mu Chen did not even spare a glance for his father who was kneeling by his grandmother’s side. He only stared at the elders sitting on the couch intently.

Second Granduncle Mu could no longer endure it; he roared, “Mu Chen! No matter what, he’s your father! Being unfilial is a huge sin. Moreover, how dare you get angry at your father when you’re disregarding the Mu family’s interest for your wife’s sake? At the very least, he admitted his mistakes and is willing to make sacrifices for the Mu family! What about you?! You didn’t even return to the company during this time of crisis and allow that outsider, Cheng Che, to order your family around!”

Third Granduncle Mu echoed Second Granduncle Mu’s sentiments. “That’s right! The Mu Group is facing such a huge crisis, but you still have the mood to be affectionate with your wife every day! How are you any different from your father back then who chose a woman over the family? What right do you have to stop your father from returning to the family and the company?!”

Mu Chen looked at the agitated crowd in front of him with an indifferent gaze before he shifted his attention to his father who was now sitting by his grandmother’s side. Then, he asked in a deep voice, “How do you know I’ve not done anything for the family or the company during this time?”

Fourth Uncle Mu scoffed. “Is there anyone who doesn’t know you’ve been guarding your wife every day, afraid that the child will be lost, and thus, losing the title of the eldest grandchild of the Mu family? Mu Chen, the elders are all here today. Let me make it clear to you: if the Mu Group suffers losses this time,

you must give up your position as the head of the family to someone more capable. Our Mu family doesn't adhere to outdated traditions; just because you're the eldest grandson of the Mu family, don't think you can occupy this position!"

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Upon hearing these words, Mu Chen said with a sneer, "Fourth Uncle, you must be speaking everyone's minds. Apart from worrying about the Mu family, it seems like everyone's also dissatisfied with me being the head of the family, right? Are all of you waiting for the right time to replace me with another virtuous person?"

Although nobody answered Mu Chen's questions, their expressions clearly said, "Of course!"

Mu Chen said, "I'm afraid that virtuous person you want to replace me with is also here, waiting for me to give up my position, right?"

At this time, Second Granduncle Mu cleared his throat and said, "Mu Chen, there's no need for these sarcastic words. We're talking about the Mu family's future right now. The company's situation had fallen to this state, as the head of the family, you have to shoulder the responsibility. You can't deny this point. During this time of crisis, you've done nothing at all; it's only right that we replace you with someone who's capable of leading us out of this crisis. For the entire family's interest, there's nothing wrong with what we're doing."

Second Granduncle Mu's words roused another chorus of agreement..

Chapter 220: Showdown

Mu Chen laughed coldly. "Second Granduncle, your words are very reasonable. Then, let me ask you: what should we do if we have a traitor in the family?"

Second Granduncle Mu was stunned. "What do you mean?"

"What if this crisis is caused by a traitor in our midst? Second Granduncle, what do you think we should do?" Mu Chen asked as his eyes glinted coldly.

Fourth Uncle Mu jumped up and said, "Don't change the topic! We're talking about you giving up your position as head of the family to someone more capable!"

Mu Chen did not bother looking at Fourth Uncle Mu; his eyes were trained on Second Granduncle Mu.

Second Granduncle Mu thought for a moment before he slowly said, "If it's as you said, and there's a traitor in the family, that person's name will naturally be removed from the Mu family's registry. This is the old rule."

Mu Chen had been waiting for these words. From the corners of his eyes, he could already see the drastic change in some people's expressions. Following that, he brought his phone out in a leisurely manner and dialed Cheng Che's number.

In just a few moments, Cheng Che rushed into the room with a bag filled with documents. After he wordlessly passed the documents to Mu Chen.

Mu Chen swept his gaze across the people in the room.

Many people were frightened out of their wits by this gaze.

Second Granduncle Mu said unhappily, "Mu Chen, what are you trying to do now? Shouldn't you focus on resolving the company's problems now? Why are you trying to intimidate your uncles now?"

Mu Chen shook the bag of documents in his hand and calmly said, "There's a list of traitors in here who are involved with the company's leak. Along with the list, the evidence is in here as well. Don't worry; I won't make baseless accusations or accuse anyone wrongly..."

Before anyone could speak up, Mu Chen continued to say, "Apart from that, there's something I want everyone to know. Despite the leak, we did not lose the patents or trademarks. This is because I've made sufficient preparations beforehand and had already registered the trademarks and bought the patents a month in advance. Of course, only Cheng Che and I are privy to this matter..."

Mu Chen paused for a moment as he looked at the expressions of the people in front of him with an icy smile on his face. Then, he slowly said, "In case you're too slow to understand, let me explain this to you. The 'crisis' is just a trap. My goal is to catch the traitor in the family. Second Granduncle, I hope you understand that I was forced to do this..."

Second Granduncle Mu was shocked. "Mu Chen, are you telling the truth?"

Mu Chen nodded.

"Our Mu Group's patents and trademarks aren't leaked?"

Mu Chen nodded.

"You set this up beforehand?"

Mu Chen nodded.

At this time, Second Granduncle Mu's voice changed. "Is there really a traitor mole in the family?"

Mu Chen nodded again and waved the documents in his hand. "Second Granduncle, the evidence is here. I wonder if what you said about removing traitors' names from the family registry stands true?"

Second Granduncle Mu was still in shock. When he regained his senses, he slowly nodded. He said, clearly disappointed, "How can someone betray their family?"

Mu Chen asked again, "Second Granduncle, do you think we should only remove the name of the culprit from the family registry or should we remove the names of everyone involved in this matter?"

Second Granduncle Mu looked at Mu Chen's unyielding gaze and slowly said, "Mu Chen, since you're the head of the family, the decision lies with you..."

Mu Chen looked at Second Granduncle Mu silently.

Meanwhile, everyone was in an uproar.

“Impossible! How could we have a traitor in the family? Show us the evidence!”

“It’s not possible! How could someone from the family try to ruin the company?”

“Mu Chen, stop trying to act mysterious! What kind of evidence do you have? Show us! It can’t be fake, right?”

“The company’s situation is so bad now, but you said it’s just a trap? Who’d believe you?”

Mu Chen looked at the people in front of him indifferently. Those who were clamoring were not involved while those who were involved had already turned pale in fright. Naturally, there were also those who looked tough on the outside but were trembling inside..