

**Chapter 221: Admission of Guilt**

Everyone gradually quieted down under Mu Chen's frosty gaze.

When everyone was finally silent, Mu Chen brought the documents out and began to read them out loud.

His words were roughly the same with only a few changes here and there: A certain person, at a certain time and day, did this and did that, resulting in what kind of consequences, and said person will be removed from their position, effective immediately.

The list of names and charges was very long. Every time a name was mentioned, there would be another ashen face in the room. Those who were named were fired or demoted; their crimes were listed clearly with sufficient evidence to back the claims.

Mu Chen did not leave the culprits a chance to refute or fight back at all.

After Mu Chen was done, he handed the documents to Second Granduncle Mu.

Not only were Second Granduncle Mu's hands trembling when he held the documents, but his voice was trembling as well as he asked, "Mu Chen, did you really arrange all this? Everything is just a trap to catch the traitors in the family?"

Mu Chen said in a deep voice, "Second Granduncle, this purge is necessary. The loss incurred from this trap is worth it. If we don't do this, the family and the company will only continue to degenerate. At that time, let alone calculate our losses, we won't even have a company. Do you really think I went too far?"

Second Granduncle Mu looked at the list of names. His chest heaved up and down. He said furiously, "Sinners! You unfilial descendants! How dare you set foot in our ancestral home today! I'm already so old, and yet, you dare to use me to ruin the family! Useless! You..." He could not finish his sentence and began to cough violently.

Mu Chen hurriedly strode forward and patted Second Granduncle Mu's back to help ease his discomfort. Then, to soothe Second Granduncle Mu's anger, he said in a low and gentle voice, "Please calm down, Second Granduncle. It's my fault for not informing you of this in advance. Please forgive me."

Despite Mu Chen's low volume, everyone heard his words clearly. At this time, everyone had different expressions on their faces.

Thud!

At this time, someone had kneeled in front of Mu Chen and Second Granduncle Mu.

"Second Granduncle, I know I'm wrong! I was deceived! Someone tricked me!"

Then, another person kneeled.

“Brother Chen, I was wrong! I was wrong! Please give me another chance. I was deceived by that lowly person’s slanderous words. Brother Chen, please give me a chance to turn over a new leaf!”

“Second Granduncle, we were wrong. Please don’t be angry! Please intercede on our behalf. We were wrong, but we were deceived!”

“Mu Chen, what will the Mu family be without its members? Please give us another chance! We were wrong; we promise to do well in the future!”

Mu Chen, we were wrong; we won’t deny it. We’re willing to bear the losses. Just give us another chance. Please don’t remove our names from the family registry. Please give us another chance!”

“Second Granduncle, please speak on our behalf! We were wrong! We know we were wrong!”

Those who were involved fell to their knees one after another, pleading with Second Granduncle Mu and Mu Chen. All of them cried out loudly, admitting their mistakes and promising to represent. It was over; they lost! No one expected Mu Chen had orchestrated the entire thing, luring them into a trap. How ruthless! Billions were lost just for this trap; he did all these things just to catch the traitors. Indeed, he was worthy of being the head of the Mu family. No one in the family would be able to emulate his boldness and decisiveness.

The traitors felt sick with regret. Why did they not sit back and enjoy what was given to them but decide to switch allegiance? Why could they not see that the person whom they wanted to remove was the reason they were able to enjoy the things they had today? Just because of a few sweet words, their greed overwhelmed them and caused them to do such a stupid thing. However, who could they blame for their stupidity? They could only beg Mu Chen for forgiveness now..

## **Chapter 222: Resignation**

Alas, Mu Chen was not a very forgiving person. After such a long time, he had not even forgiven his father. In his eyes, since those people had betrayed the family once, there would be a second or even third time.

There was nothing the traitors could do at this moment but beg for mercy even if they knew the kind of person Mu Chen was.

Even Second Granduncle Mu did not dare to hope Mu Chen would let the group of unfilial people off. He looked at the gloomy Mu Chen before he shifted his eyes to the group of people kneeling on the ground. Finally, his gaze settled on Jiang Jin; Jiang Jin was the Chairman of the Mu Group, after all.

When the group of traitors followed the direction of Second Granduncle Mu’s gaze, they finally remembered the key figure in the family.

From the beginning until now, Jiang Jin only sat on the couch wordlessly as she watched the farce in front of her.

The expression of Mu Qing, who was sitting next to Jiang Jin, grew more and more unsightly.

At this time, Second Granduncle Mu finally said to Jiang Jin, "Niece, they've admitted their mistakes and promised to repent; can we show mercy? Although they're unfilial, they're sons of the Mu family..."

Jiang Jin sighed softly. "Second Uncle, I didn't think the matter would end up like this..."

Second Granduncle Mu nodded. "If it weren't for Mu Chen, the Mu family would've been nailed to the pillar of shame! Our family is really unfortunate to have such descendants..."

Jiang Jin said at a speed that was neither slow nor fast, "As the Chairman, I have to shoulder some responsibility as well for failing to notice the problem in time and causing the company to suffer a loss..."

Everyone looked at Jiang Jin as she continued to speak.

"Back then, the Jiang family and the Mu family were united by marriage; everyone was happy. After Mu Nan's passing, thanks to the elders and family's support, I, a woman, was able to shoulder the heavy burden of the Mu family. After so many years, I was fortunate that I didn't fail. Although I gave birth to a disappointing son, fortunately, I raised a sensible grandson. I think it's time for a change in the Mu family. It's a rare occasion for everyone to gather; I'd like everyone to bear witness that from today onward, I'll resign from my position as Chairman and let my grandson, Mu Chen, take over. I wonder if there's any objection?" Her voice was calm, and her words were impeccable. She swept her gaze across everyone before it finally rested on the highly respected Second Granduncle Mu.

"Grandmother!" Mu Chen cried out. He did not expect his grandmother to do this.

At the same time, there were already people nodding in agreement.

Second Granduncle mulled over Jiang Jin's words for a moment before he said, "This matter isn't your fault. There's no need to blame yourself. All these years, you and Mu Chen have worked hard for the family; all of us can attest to it."

But there were already people who nodded in agreement.

Someone echoed, "Yes, sister-in-law. Second Uncle is right."

"First Aunt, you don't have to blame yourself."

"First Grandaunt, it's not your fault."

The crowd spoke up one after another.

Jiang Jin raised her hand, signaling for everyone to be quiet.

"The Mu family is not mine alone nor does it belong to the main branch of the Mu family alone. The Mu family belongs to all of us. I, Jiang Jin, have never forgotten this. I can't shirk responsibility for what happened today. Second Uncle and I face the same dilemma..." Jiang Jin said, "You're all children of the Mu family first before you're the employees of the Mu Group. However, every family has its laws. With such a huge mistake, it's impossible to escape punishment..."

The atmosphere and everyone's expressions were solemn.

Jiang Jin sighed softly before she said, "However, even if you made such a huge mistake, you can't be punished too heavily. After all, it's the fault of us elders for not educating the younger generation well, causing you to betray the family. If we don't punish the traitors, it'll be difficult to convince the masses; if we punish the traitors, it'll inevitably cause people's hearts to turn cold. Therefore, I'll bear the heaviest punishment and resign from my position as Chairman of the Mu Group.."

### **Chapter 223: Convincing the Masses**

Everyone was dumbstruck.

Jiang Jin looked at Mu Chen, and her voice softened slightly as she said, "Mu Chen, from now on, you'll be the Chairman of the Mu Group. This matter will be the first thing you'll deal with as the new Chairman of the Mu Group. Grandma knows you're someone who can't even tolerate the slightest mistake. This will be the last lesson Grandma teaches you. You must remember the most precious thing in the world is family. The people standing in this room now are all your blood relatives. Grandma will bear part of their mistakes so when you deal with them, can you remember that they're only employees of the Mu Group but family as well? Mu Chen, can you do that?"

Mu Chen had kneeled down as soon as Jiang Jian said the word, 'last lesson'. He called out as though he had something else to say, "Grandma..."

Before Mu Chen could speak, Second Granduncle Mu placed his hand on Mu Chen's back and said, "Mu Chen, listen to your grandmother. Be filial and obedient!"

Second Granduncle Mu's hand seemed to be forcing Mu Chen to lower his head.

In the end, Mu Chen said, "Grandma, I'll remember your words."

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief immediately; some of them sighed heavily, and some of them sighed softly.

All of them looked at Jiang Jin gratefully. They knew if it were not for Jiang Jin and Second Granduncle Mu, with Mu Chen's personality, he would not let the traitors off so easily. Betrayal was a huge crime after all. However, Jiang Jin's words alone, which reminded Mu Chen that they were not only employees but family as well, halved their punishment immediately.

Mu Chen had saved the Mu Group while Jiang Jin had saved the traitors of the Mu family.

Regardless, no one had any objections; they could only submit.

Indeed, the main branch of the family was truly different. Mu Chen's boldness and decisiveness were unparalleled while Jiang Jin's magnanimity moved everyone's hearts.

Thud!

The sound of something heavy falling to the ground rang in the air.

Mu Qing lay on the ground with one hand pressed against his chest. An expression of pain twisted his face.

“Qing’er!” Jiang Jin cried out.

When Jiang Jin anxiously reached out to support Mu Qing, Mu Chen had already rushed over and reached into Mu Qing’s pocket to rummage through it. As expected, he found a bottle of pills. After stuffing a pill into Mu Qing’s mouth, he shouted, “Call the ambulance!”

Jiang Jin, who was sitting near Mu Qing, collapsed onto the couch.

With that, chaos descended again, sweeping away the calm that had just only settled on the Mu family.

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When Mu Qing regained consciousness, he saw four familiar white walls, equipment, and furniture. He had returned to the hospital again. He cleared his throat and was about to speak when he heard a rustling noise. He looked in the direction of the noise and saw Mu Chen sitting on the couch across from the bed.

Mu Chen put the documents in his hands down and looked at Mu Qing silently.

Mu Qing forced a smile on his face and said, “Sorry to have troubled you...”

Mu Chen crossed his arms and bluntly said, “I’m sorry, but as long as I’m around, you won’t be able to return to the Mu family.”

Mu Qing’s smile grew even more unnatural.

Mu Chen continued to say, “Those traitors won’t have their names struck out of the family registry, but they’ll definitely be fired from the company. Nevertheless, they’ll still feel grateful since Grandma pleaded on their behalf. No matter if they’re fired or demoted, they won’t have any complaints. Thank you for deceiving them. With this lesson, they’ll be loyal to the Mu Group for the rest of their lives and will no longer dare to have any covetous thoughts...”

Mu Qing forced a smile and asked, “You... What do you mean by this?”

“There’s no meaning to it. I only say those words out loud to frustrate you,” Mu Chen replied indifferently, but every word was piercing..

## **Chapter 224: Father and Son**

Mu Qing inhaled deeply and tried to calm down.

Mu Chen looked at Mu Qing and said indifferently, “Don’t worry. The doctor said there’s no big issue with your heart. Otherwise, I wouldn’t dare to sit here and provoke you and expose your thoughts. Although I don’t care, I don’t want to bear the charge of murdering my father.”

Mu Qing looked at his son and asked with a hint of pleading, “Mu Chen, do you really hate me so much?”

Mu Chen nodded without any hesitation.

Mu Qing felt suffocated. After a moment, he said, "Mu Chen, do you still remember the time when you won first place in a Taekwondo competition when you were young? You rode on my shoulders and held onto the sides of my head, asking me to bring you to eat something delicious..." A hint of nostalgia could be seen on Mu Qing's face as though he was immersed in a beautiful memory.

Mu Chen continued his father's words. "Mother was standing at the side at that time, frightened. She was worried I would fall. She'd always been worried about me, afraid that I would hurt myself. If Grandma didn't voice her support, Mother wouldn't have let learn Taekwondo."

Mu Qing fell silent immediately.

"Do you feel good reminiscing the warm memories between us? Don't forget all our warm memories have Mother in them. We don't have any warm memories that belong to just the two of us; all of our memories include Mother. Is that funny or sad?" Mu Chen's voice was brimming with mockery as he said, "Even if you want to use tender feelings to move me, there's no way to get around my mother. Hence, when you try to use these memories to soften me, I'll be reminded of Mother and why she died..."

Mu Qing closed his eyes for a moment as though he was in great pain. When he opened his eyes again, he said pleadingly, "Fine, let's talk about your mother. I know she's the biggest reason for the distance between us. We might not be able to close the distance between us in this lifetime, but why don't we try to understand each other's thoughts?"

Mu Chen nodded with a rare show of good temper. "Alright, go ahead."

Mu Qing did not expect Mu Chen to agree so easily. He was sure both of them would never be able to talk calmly about Liang Zhen in their entire lives. After a moment, he said, "Mu Chen, your mother and I were a mistake right from the start..."

Mu Chen scoffed; a layer of frost seemed to have formed on his face immediately.

Upon seeing this, Mu Chen hastily added, "Your mother is mostly innocent; it was all my fault..."

Mu Chen's expression eased slightly.

Seeing this, Mu Qing continued to say, briefly recounting his relationship with Liang Zhen, "When Liang Zhou ran away from the marriage, it dealt a blow to my self-esteem. I couldn't help but vent my anger on your mother. However, your mother's sincerity moved me. Initially, she suggested that we only stay husband and wife in name. After a year, we would decide if we want to continue the marriage. I was attracted by her unique personality, and she was beautiful as well; I gradually fell in love with her. Although the marriage started as a mistake, it turned out well. During our marriage, your mother got along very well with your grandmother as well. At that time, there were many troubles in the Mu family, and I was in a terrible state; however, your mother and grandmother supported me and gave me a lot of warmth. Despite the Mu family's state at that time, I was happy. Our happiness reached its peak when we had you, the heir of the Mu family. My life was complete. At that time, I really felt like God was watching over me..."

Mu Qing sighed and paused for a moment before he continued to say, "However, Mu Chen, you're an adult now so you'd understand this. As men, in our lives, we'll encounter many temptations. We get

exhausted, and we can also get distracted. You and Song Ning are newlyweds so you might not understand what I'm saying now... Wait until your child is born,

But, Mu Chen, you are also an adult man. You know, in our lives, we will encounter a lot of temptations. We will also be tired, and we will also be distracted. You and Song Ning are newly married, so naturally, you won't be able to understand what I'm saying. Wait until your child is born, and your life is in pieces... At that time, you'll be able to understand my feelings...."

## **Chapter 225: Memories**

Mu Qing raised his hand and covered his face, sighing emotionally. After a moment, he continued to say, "At that time, I discovered how unyielding and stubborn your mother was. She could not and would not tolerate my... actions outside the marriage at all. However, I'm a man; a man with a successful career. There are some things that couldn't be helped; which man in the city isn't like me? Do you understand?"

Mu Qing looked at Mu Chen hopefully after he finished speaking as though he hoped his son would understand him.

Mu Chen said directly, "I don't understand; I didn't understand before; I won't understand in the future. I am, and will be, faithful to my wife."

Mu Qing did not comment on Mu Chen's words. He continued to say with a hint of resentment, "At that time, a rift had already formed between us, but we kept it from your grandmother. You were young so she focused most of her energy on you, and her remaining energy was poured into her work. I was happy since the pressure only me had lightened considerably with her attention elsewhere. It was at that time that Liang Zhou appeared."

Mu Qing finally got to the point. "Initially, I didn't know she was Liang Zhou; she had used an English name. At that time, she was the PR manager for a supplier. Due to our business relationship, we had many interactions, and from there, we slowly got to know each other. I didn't have any intentions toward her, but intentionally or not, she kept approaching me. As a normal man, how could I resist? Most importantly, she resembled your mother slightly, but she was much more passionate. That... That's how we came together..."

Mu Chen sneered. "Following that, she revealed she was Liang Zhou?"

Mu Qing nodded. "Mu Chen, you have to believe me. I'm innocent. From the beginning to the end, the entire thing was a game between the two sisters. I was just a pawn to both of them. At that time, Liang Zhou said she was pregnant and gave me an ultimatum; she asked me to choose between her and your mother. Not choosing her was no different from leaving her to her death. I had no choice..."

Mu Chen only chuckled coldly at these words.

Mu Qing sighed. "At that time, Liang Zhen's career was flourishing, and the Mu family liked her very much. Her achievements had brought a lot of glory to the Mu family, after all. It would be unwise for me to admit to my extramarital affair. Liang Zhou is different from your mother. I had thought your mother would swallow her anger for your grandmother and the Mu family's sake. Even if I wronged you and her, she would still care about the Mu family. However, Liang Zhou is different. She had always been

straightforward and fiery. Moreover, she was pregnant at that time, making her even more temperamental. When she was I was hesitating for a long time, unable to choose, she looked for your mother..."

"In any case, I was wrong in my judgment of your mother. I assumed she would swallow her anger for the sake of the Mu family, your grandmother, and you. I didn't know after all those years, she was already on the verge of breaking down. I had no idea her depression was so bad. In the end, the matter with Liang Zhou became the straw that broke the camel's back..." Mu Qing said, "Your mother felt like everyone had let her down. However, don't you think the Liang family were the ones to blame? They felt sorry for their eldest daughter so they forced their younger daughter to marry on their eldest daughter's behalf. Our family was dragged into this matter because of them. How could Liang Zhen hate our family so much in the end and blame us?"

Mu Qing sighed. "Mu Chen, I've buried this matter in the depths of my heart for so many years that they've grown as heavy as a mountain. I had no one to talk to, and no one would understand. I truly didn't expect Liang Zhen to be so ruthless; she used her death to nail all of us to the pillar of shame.. In the end, Liang Zhou also lost her child... Following that, things escalated to where it is now..."

#### **Chapter 226: Blow the Cover**

"How did she lose her child?" Mu Chen asked quietly.

Mu Qing had been surprised earlier that Mu Chen was willing to listen to him; he was further surprised by his calmness. For these reasons, he continued telling Mu Chen about the past.

"Liang Zhen had achieved a lot at that time, causing Liang Zhou to feel jealous. Spurred by her jealousy, she grew agitated and emotional, insisting that I get a divorce. She threatened to jump into a river to commit suicide if I didn't. I had to coax her; after all, this involved a person's life or death..." Mu Qing said, "When your grandmother found out about the affair, she scolded me. However, there was nothing much could do; after all, Liang Zhou was from the Liang family as well. If it were another woman, she could be scolded or beaten, but Liang Zhou was from the Liang family so your grandmother was in a dilemma..."

"Liang Zhou made a huge fuss at home. She said the marriage was originally hers and that her sister robbed her of her marriage. She said her sister had been happy for so many years and it was time to return the marriage to her. She insisted that she would not allow her child to be born as an illegitimate child. Otherwise, she would die along with her child."

"When your mother heard those words, she was crying and smiling bitterly. After that, she drank a lot and returned drunk. Your grandmother was incredibly distressed when she saw your mother..."

"Your mother kneeled on the ground and said she agreed to leave and let me and Liang Zhou be together. She said she'd consider that a final act of sisterly affection. She kowtowed thrice to your grandmother and thanked your grandmother for taking care of her over the years. She said she wanted to continue taking care of you... Your grandmother was incredibly sad, but there was nothing she could do. After all, the child in Liang Zhou's stomach was as much her grandchild as you are..." As Mu Qing spoke, his eyes reddened, and his expression was one of grief and self-blame.



Mu Chen looked at Mu Qing emotionlessly.

Mu Qing wiped his tears off his face and blew his nose. His voice grew even more sorrowful as he continued to say, "Your mother said her entire life was a joke. She was born into a family with no love and was treated as a tool. She felt she was born to repay her debts to the Liang family. Although her heart hurt, she said she didn't blame anyone. She only hoped there would be justice and fairness in the world and that those who hurt her would receive the punishment they deserved..."

"And then?" Mu Chen asked lightly.

"And then, she left. She left without looking back..." Mu Qing wiped his tears again. He said sorrowfully, "Three days later, Liang Zhou had a sudden abdominal pain at night. When she arrived at the hospital, the child was already lost. It was a girl. She and I were both very sad. It was also at that time that I received news from the police that Liang Zhen ran her car into the bridge railing the night before and drowned."

Silence sat between the father and son for a long time.

In the end, Mu Qing broke the silence first and said in a voice brimming with grief, "Mu Chen, do you think God exists? Is it retribution that Liang Zhen and Liang Zhou's child died at almost the same time? Since Liang Zhou and I owe Liang Zhen, did she take our child away?"

"Don't flatter yourself. My mother wouldn't care about taking your child away. She was disgusted with you when she was alive, and she didn't want to have anything to do with you after she died," Mu Chen said icily.

Mu Qing froze.

"After so many years, I finally mustered up enough patience to listen to your story. I wanted to listen to what you have to say. As expected, from the beginning to the end, you've been shirking your responsibility; you're innocent, and everything is my mother and that woman's fault. Are you sure you're a man? You have no sense of responsibility at all," Mu Chen said, "Perhaps, I would have admired you if your relationship with that woman were sincere and as strong as gold and you were responsible to my mother even after the divorce. However, look at yourself. You clearly only love yourself and have never loved any of them. You only used them for their value. I really feel ashamed of you...."

## **Chapter 227: Ultimatum**

The colors drained from Mu Qing's face. He looked as though someone had slapped him twice.

Mu Chen rose to his feet and said, "Are you going to say you chose to leave the Mu family with that woman due to your guilt toward my mother and to soothe that woman's injured heart?"

Mu Qing remained silent.

Mu Chen sneered. He looked at his father contemptuously and said, "For so many years, everyone thought those were the reasons you gave up the Mu Group and left the Mu family. At the same time, I bore the crime of being so vicious to the point that I wouldn't even let my biological father off. People thought you were loyal and romantic, giving up a fortune for love. I guess apart from you and Grandma,

I'm the only person who knows what you left behind was the loss of 500 million from the company funds, right?"

Mu Qing widened his eyes in shock.

Mu Chen said derisively, "Like I said, as long as I'm around, don't even think about returning to the Mu family. I think Grandma already knew you're the mastermind behind the leak, but she just couldn't bear to say it out loud. You must know this so you thought you had nothing to fear, right?"

"Alas, you didn't know I've been keeping an eye on you since the day you returned. I know all the little tricks you played behind my back. You should thank God that your woman is brainless. If she had hurt Song Ning, both of you would not have an easy life. You really don't deserve my mother at all. I hope you and that woman will torment each other for the rest of your lives. This can be considered your punishment and retribution."

"Whether it's the misappropriation of company funds in the past or the leak now, they've become evidence in my hands. To be honest, the only reason I haven't exposed you is Grandma. I don't want her to watch us father and son killing each other. She's your only protection. From now on, you better pray Grandma lives a long and healthy life and keep a leash on your woman. Don't even think of touching Grandma and my wife. If anything happens to them, I'll let you have a taste of what I'm capable of. I don't care if you want to commit crimes outside; you can do whatever you want. However, you can give up on returning to the Mu family."

Mu Qing's eyes were still widened in shock as he watched Mu Chen sneer and walk away.

When Mu Chen placed his hand on the door handle, he added coldly, "By the way, your heart is very healthy. Act better next time..."

Following that, Mu Chen left.

Mu Qing's heaved up and down. He threw a pillow at the door and roared, "Unfilial son! Beast! Are you trying to anger me to death?"

Alas, Mu Chen had already left, unable to hear his words.

Mu Qing was so furious that his body began to tremble. Fortunately, there was no problem with his heart. Otherwise, he would have gotten a heart attack and died because of his unfilial son.

How was Mu Chen his son? Clearly, Mu Chen was acting like his ancestor. Mu Chen had decisively blocked all his paths. This was Liang Zhen's revenge, pitting their son against him!

Mu Qing wished he could rip the bedsheet under him to pieces to extinguish the fire in his heart.

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After Song Ning carefully placed Jiang Jin's hand under the blanket, she took the seat next to the bed and said angrily, "Grandma, how can you do this? You promised you'd take care of your health. You said you'd help me look after my child and support me in my career. Is this what you consider supporting me? You even got hospitalized and have to stay here for a while. Did you treat me as a child and lie to me?"

Jiang Jin leaned slightly to the side and reached out from under the blanket. Her hand trembled as she reached out for Song Ning's smooth and tender cheek. "I've made you worry, my child..."

Song Ning hurriedly held Jiang Jin's hand against her cheek and said coquettishly, "Grandma, you're really disobedient, but I can't bear to stay angry with such a cute and lovable grandmother.. What should I do?"

## **Chapter 228: Education**

Jiang Jin smiled and looked at Song Ning dotingly.

Song Ning held Jiang Jin's hand and said, "Grandma's health is fine. My teacher came to check on Grandma and said I've taken good care of Grandma during this period of time..." She tried her best to cheer Jiang Jin up.

As expected, Jiang Jin smiled. "Let Mu Chen reward you on my behalf."

Song Ning nodded. "With the imperial edict from grandmother, it'll be easier for me to ask for a reward."

Jiang Jin pinched Song Ning's cheek gently as she said to Sister Yu, "This girl is too mischievous. How could Mu Chen not reward her without my words? I'm afraid Mu Chen would give all the good things to her to please her. Don't you think she's just trying to get a reward from me?"

Sister Yu smiled. "Well, a reward from Old Madam is different from Young Master's..."

Song Ning laughed. "That's right, that's right."

The trio laughed happily.

Jiang Jin felt slightly better as well.

After a while, Song Ning asked Sister Yu to raise the head of the bed so Jiang Jin would feel more comfortable. After that, she stood up and turned in a circle twice as she said, "Grandma, Sister Yu said my belly isn't showing much so she's convinced the baby is a girl. What do you think of a great-granddaughter, Grandma?"

Jiang Jin looked at Song Ning's still slender figure and said with a smile, "I think it's great. A great-granddaughter is good and lovable. Just thinking about how soft and cuddly she's going to be, melts my heart..."

Song Ning walked to the bedside and placed Jiang Jin's hand on her stomach. "Then Grandma has to listen to me in the future and take care of your health. I still need your help to take care of my child."

Jiang Jin nodded. "I will, I will."

After Jiang Jin's emotions stabilized, Song Ning finally said, "There's no problem with Mr. Mu's health; he just needs to rest. So don't worry, Grandma. Mu Chen said the matter has a lot to do with Mr. Mu so his illness..." She trailed off, not knowing if she continued to speak.

“He’s faking it. I know. He’s just looking for a way out...” Jiang Jin said lightly.

“Grandma, don’t be angry. After all, it didn’t cause any major loss. Mu Chen has said the losses incurred are all within his expectations and control,” Song Ning said. She did not know how to comfort the astute old woman in front of her.

Jiang Jin sighed. “It’s the family’s misfortune... Without the traitors, would outsiders have a chance to act?”

Song Ning said softly and tentatively, “Grandma, Mu Chen and Cheng Che don’t dare to visit you. They’re outside.”

“Why?” Jiang Jin asked.

“They said the method they used was vicious. Although it’s for the good of the Mu family, they’re family members after all. They’re afraid you’ll blame them for being too ruthless...” Song Ning said on behalf of the brothers.

Jiang Jin sighed and patted Song Ning’s hand. “Tell them to come. I have something to say to them...”

“Alright,” Song Ning said happily before she went to look for the two brothers.

“Slow down, slow down. Song Ning, don’t forget that you’re pregnant! Walk slowly!” Jiang Jin said worriedly.

Song Ning slowed down and opened the door of the ward.

The two brothers were right in front of the door, clearly eavesdropping, when Song Ning opened the door. They smiled sheepishly.

Song Ning motioned for them to come in.

Jiang Jin waved at them, asking them to sit in front of her. She asked Mu Chen calmly, “Has everything been dealt with?”

Mu Chen hurriedly nodded.

Jiang Jin said, “Mu Chen, you can’t be too ruthless and force people to a dead end. Both of you must remember that a cornered dog will attack you. The gains won’t be able to make up for the losses at that time. You have to wield your authority with the right balance between kindness and harshness...”

Mu Chen and Cheng Che listened carefully with earnest and respectful expressions on their faces, looking like primary school students..

## **Chapter 229: Gratitude**

Finally, the matter with the Mu family and the Mu Group had been dealt with.

Fear lingered in the hearts of those who were not involved when they thought about Mu Chen’s brilliant trap. With such a family head, the Mu family’s future would definitely be bright. All of them came to visit Jiang Jin. They knew Jiang Jin’s resignation had pushed the Mu family to a new peak. Moreover, for so

many years, she had raised and nurtured Mu Chen, giving him time and space to grow up into such a capable person.

As for those who were involved, they felt as though they had been on a rollercoaster ride from heaven to hell and back to heaven again. They were exposed and were on the brink of being disowned before they were finally able to stay in the family with demotion and termination in the company as a punishment. They lined up to visit Jiang Jin as well with tears streaming down their faces as they kneeled and kowtowed to her. After all, they, and everyone else in the Mu family, were aware that their light punishment was exchanged with Jiang Jin's resignation. They knew Mu Chen had no choice but to obey his grandmother's orders and only punished them lightly. From now on, they had to live quietly with their tails between their legs. Nevertheless, living with their tails between their legs was far preferable compared to being disowned. After all, with their betrayal, they would not be able to survive if they had to leave the Mu family. Was there anyone stupid enough to trust a known traitor? Mu Chen would definitely publicize their betrayal. The Mu Group has many businesses all over the world. In the future, with their stained reputation, how were they going to advance in the world?

Everyone in the Mu family, guilty or not, was filled with gratitude toward Jiang Jin. They came in groups to visit her. With her age, they knew her illness was serious. Perhaps, this was the first time the Mu family was so sincere and united in praying for Jiang Jin to live a long and healthy life.

Sister Yu followed Song Ning's instructions and set a time limit for the visitors. However, no one complained since it was for the sake of Jiang Jin's health.

Jiang Jin's health aside, they knew they had to bear with Song Ning, the Young Madam of the Mu family. Was there anyone who dared to oppose her when Jiang Jin and Mu Chen treasured her so much? Moreover, she was from a prestigious family herself and had outstanding achievements; with her family background, she was qualified to be the Young Madam of the Mu family.

Furthermore, Song Ning did not treat them coldly and patiently arranged their visits.

There were some in the family who even thought Song Ning was capable of shouldering the heavy responsibility that came with the position of the matriarch of the Mu family in the future.

As for Jiang Jin, she did not refuse to see those who came to visit her. She would speak to elders affectionately and reminisce about the past. Almost everyone who visited would leave with red-rimmed eyes. They even repeatedly promised her that they would cherish and protect the Mu family's status and reputation for generations to come.

Naturally, there were smart people who knew Jiang Jin was helping her grandson to stabilize his position and to get through the critical period safely. Nevertheless, they were still impressed and grateful.

After the Mu family's crisis, there was unprecedented peace and harmony in the family. As for the losses the Mu Group incurred during the crisis, it was projected the company would regain double the profit before the new year.

As the saying went, 'When the people are united, they can even move Mount Tai'.

Many people predicted that after surviving the crisis, the Mu Group would steadily rise for at least ten years. For a time, the company stocks soared, garnering everyone's attention.

Meanwhile, Song Ning ended her act as 'bait' and returned to her work and studies. She had almost completed her thesis and was just waiting for a few things.

Mu Chen was, needless to say, grateful for her hard work during the difficult time. He wished he could give his wife all the good things in the world..

### **Chapter 230: Hinting**

Ye Cheng did not expect the Mu Group's crisis would be so easily resolved. The stocks that dropped had rebounded at an unbelievable speed. Every subsidiary company saw a large number of new orders and contracts. For a time, the Mu Group's popularity was unrivaled.

Ye Cheng, who planned to reap benefits from the Mu Group's misfortune, was caught off guard. He had used a large amount of reserve funds, but he did not gain an advantage at all during the chaotic time. Not only that but he was caught fishing in troubled water by Mu Chen. Although the loss was not big, the long-standing relationship, reputation, and favorability he had maintained with Mu Chen had taken quite a hit.

What was even more unexpected was that Mu Chen took the initiative to report the cause of the rapid rise and fall of the Mu Group's shares to the Securities Regulatory Commission.

The Mu Group's openness shocked everyone. Everyone did not expect Mu Chen would do such a thing. They thought Jiang Jin, the strong and independent woman, had truly raised her grandson well. He was a rare business genius.

With this commotion, no one paid attention to the Mu family's internal strife. No one cared or knew about Mu Qing's matter.

Mu Qing's heart problem was not serious. He had only played his illness up to get away from a disadvantageous situation. Although he had thought his plan was flawless previously, he had always been a cautious person so he had also made plans for the possibility of things going south. This path of retreat he had thought up really saved him from disaster this time.

Although Mu Chen had already seen through Mu Qing's thoughts, Mu Qing was not bothered. He knew Jiang Jin and Mu Chen's weaknesses were their emotions. He knew their bottom lines, and as long as he did not cross their bottom lines, no matter what he did, they would eventually swallow their anger.

On the other hand, Liang Zhou could not understand how their plan had failed. Her dreams of becoming the matriarch of the Mu family were shattered, and she was understandably disappointed.

There was nothing she could do to rectify the situation at all. She was not like Liang Zhen who was favored by Jiang Jin nor did she give birth to a child who could have contended with Mu Chen. No matter how unwilling or resentful she felt, she could only accept it.

Due to this matter, there was also a hint of unspoken tension between Liang Zhou and Mu Qing. Neither one of them wanted to speak about the matter despite the tension between them until Sister Yu came looking for them.

Sister Yu said respectfully to Mu Qing, "The Old Madam invites you and Ms. Liang to the house after dinner. She wants to have a heart-to-heart talk with the two of you..."

Liang Zhou looked at Mu Qing in surprise, waiting for his decision.

Mu Chen nodded calmly. "Alright, we'll go over after dinner."

Sister Yu nodded.

When Sister Yu was about to leave, Mu Qing asked tentatively, "Will anyone else be there?"

Sister Yu smiled politely and shook her head. "No. The Old Madam has been tired recently. When you're chatting with the Old Madam, you should also pay more attention to her health. Showing filial piety will definitely lighten her mood. She has missed you over the years; she just doesn't say it out loud. If you want to stay, it's best if you're modest. Old Madam will definitely be happy with that..."

Mu Qing nodded and said gratefully, "Thank you for your advice, Sister Yu. Don't worry, I'll definitely pay attention to Mother's health when I talk to her..."

Sister Yu smiled and nodded before leaving.

Liang Zhou was confused. "What did she mean? What's she hinting at?"

Mu Qing looked at the door, lost in his thoughts. After a while, he said indifferently, "It seems like Mother's health isn't good. Sister Yu doesn't want me to agitate Mother and wants me to be careful with my words when I speak to her."

Liang Zhou's eyes widened in surprise. "Is her condition that serious?"

Mu Qing looked at her and said, "Put your evil thoughts away. It's beneficial to us that she's around. Without her, Mu Chen won't show us any mercy.. She's our protective shield now..."