

**Chapter 301: Labor**

Mu Chen's face paled immediately. "Breakfast? What breakfast? How can we still eat? Cheng Che, go get the car! We're leaving right now!"

Jiahui smiled. "It's okay. Song Ning won't go into labor just yet. Everything is on time. Moreover, she'll only have the strength to give birth after eating."

Mu Chen shook his head. "No, no, we have to leave now. Just pack the food and bring it to the hospital. If the food isn't ready yet, we'll send her to the hospital before I get something for her to eat. No matter what, we have to go to the hospital now!"

Cheng Chen said, equally anxious, "That's right, Jiahui. Let's go to the hospital first. After all, there are many people at the hospital, and we only have you here. I don't feel assured..."

"Hey, are you doubting my medical skills?" Jiahui glared at Cheng Che.

Cheng Che hastily shook his head. "No, no, no, that's not what I mean. I'm just worried. Look at Brother Chen; he's about to go crazy. Have mercy on him and bring my sister-in-law to the hospital."

In the end, Jiahui had no choice but to consult Song Ning about this matter.

Meanwhile, Mu Chen looked at Song Ning's belly worriedly. The baby had grown rather slowly. In the beginning, Song Ning was not showing much of her pregnancy even at four months. He did not know how time flew, the days and the nights grew longer until Song Ning's belly grew so much that she could not even see her toes.

Upon seeing Mu Chen's worried expression, Song Ning smiled and held Mu Chen's hand. "I'm really fine. You have to believe in me and Jiahui. Don't panic and scare Grandma and Sister Yu."

However, how could Mu Chen listen to her at a time like this? All he knew was Song Ning's safety was the top priority. After all, this was Song Ning's first time giving birth, and Jiahui was unmarried. Even if they were doctors, they lacked the experience.

Meanwhile, when Jiang Jin and Sister Yu received the news, they were relatively calm. Nevertheless, they agreed with Mu Chen and insisted on going to the hospital immediately.

Sister Yu hurriedly packed the food into containers of various sizes and the things they had prepared.

The driver would drive Jiang Jin and Sister Yu to the hospital later while Cheng Che drove Song Ning, Mu Chen, and Jiahui to the hospital first.

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In the car.

Jiahui accompanied Song Ning while Song Ning ate to distract Song Ning.

Mu Chen remained silent, only focusing on Song Ning's belly.

Jiahui waved a small bun in front of Mu Chen's face and said, "Chairman Mu, can you please relax a little? Song Ning will be nervous if you continue to act like that. If Song Ning's nervous, it'll affect the child and..."

Mu Chen hurriedly interjected, "Then, what should I do?"

Jiahui was slightly taken aback. Feeling helpless, she pointed at the food and said, "Eat something. Save your strength. I don't know how long it'll take. Knowing you, even if you're starving, you'll continue to wait outside of the delivery room. Why don't you eat your fill now so you'll have more strength later?"

Mu Chen nodded obediently and grabbed a bun to eat.

Song Ning smiled with a helpless expression on her face. "Relax. I'll be fine. The baby will be fine as well. Do you understand?"

Mu Chen nodded and held Song Ning's hand. "Are you sure you don't want me to go in with you? I can't bear to leave you alone..."

Song Ning shook her head. She bluntly said, "There's no need for that. Jiahui can accompany me. I'm afraid if you come in, you won't like our baby anymore."

Mu Chen thought about it; Song Ning had a point. Fortunately, the baby was a girl. If it was a boy, he might be angry at his son for causing his wife so much pain.

At the same time, Cheng Che, who was driving, found the scene scary. He briefly thought that perhaps he and Jiahui should not have children in the future. In any case, he had no other family members. What did it matter if he had children to continue the bloodline or not? It was fine as long as he and Jiahui were happy. He wondered if Jiahui would agree to this..

## **Chapter 302: Emotions**

Mu Chen and Cheng Chen waited outside of the delivery room.

After a while, Cheng Che said, "Brother, I'll return to the company first while you wait here."

Mu Chen, who was burning with anxiety, grabbed Cheng Che's arm and said, "No, there's nothing important to attend to at the company. Stay with me."

Cheng Che pointed at the delivery room and said, "Jiahui is in there, and Grandma will be here soon. It's best if I return to the company. There are many things to deal with in the company."

Mu Chen refused to let Cheng Che go. "No, you can't go! The company won't collapse if you stay. Stand here; don't move."

Cheng Che looked at Mu Chen helplessly. Mu Chen's unreasonable streak was showing again. He had never seen Mu Chen so nervous before. Perhaps, it was contagious, he felt himself growing nervous as well. After a moment, he forced a smile on his face and said, "Brother, it'll be fine. Medicine is so advanced these days. Giving birth isn't a big deal. Moreover, Jiahui has said sister-in-law won't have problems giving birth naturally."

Mu Chen retorted, "What do you know? I've done some research online. No matter what era it is, giving birth is a very dangerous matter. Look, look."

As he spoke, Mu Chen brought his phone and showed Cheng Che the results of his 'research'. Although Song Ning and Jiahui had reassured him that everything would be fine, there were many things that could go wrong as well. Although the probability was one in tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even tens of millions, it was not 100% certain that nothing would go wrong.

"Uhh..." Cheng Che felt that Mu Chen had a point... somewhat. He briefly looked at the article again before he handed the phone back to Mu Chen. Then, he said, "Brother, you can't have negative thoughts at this time. You have to think positive thoughts to attract good things. Think... Think about having fun with my little nephew in the future. Think happy things!"

"Little niece..." Mu Chen instantly corrected Cheng Che.

"Yes, yes, I meant to say my little niece," Cheng Che said in an attempt to coax Mu Chen into relaxing, "Think about happy things like places you can bring her to play... or what kind of boyfriend she would have in the future. You'll relax when you think about happy things..."

Mu Chen frowned. "Boyfriend? What boyfriend? Even if she doesn't find a boyfriend or husband, it's fine. It's not like our family can't afford to support her."

Cheng Che was rendered speechless by Mu Chen's words. He thought to himself, 'What does our family being able to support her have to do with finding a boyfriend or getting married?'

Apart from that, Cheng Che also felt very thankful that Jiahui's father did not think like Mu Chen. He sighed; his little niece had yet to be born, but her father was already a daughter-loving maniac.

...

When Jiang Jin and Sister Yu arrived and discovered that the baby had yet to be born, they sighed in relief before taking a seat in the waiting room.

Jiang Jin called the two men over to have the food that Sister Yu packed for them.

Unfortunately, Mu Chen still did not have an appetite.

Cheng Che moved to stand in front of Mu Chen and said, "Brother, you need to eat so you have energy. That's what sister-in-law always says."

Mu Chen turned to look away, still refusing to eat.

Jiang Jin smiled before she said with a sigh, "Back when you were born, your father was also so nervous..."

Mu Chen's eyebrows twitched upon hearing these words.

Jiang Jin said to Sister Yu, "New parents are always excited and nervous. They don't know what to do."

Sister Yu said with a smile, "I'm so happy thinking about the arrival of a new baby in our family..."

Jiang Jin nodded and said to her grandson, "Women risk their lives giving birth since ancient times. In the future, you have to treat Song Ning even better, do you understand?"

Mu Chen nodded vigorously.

Cheng Che hastily said, "Grandma, please don't say such words. My brother's heart won't be able to take it. He's worried sick as it is."

Jiang Jin and Sister Yu looked at the two men, amused.

Nevertheless, Jiang Jin was satisfied. This showed that Mu Chen cherished her granddaughter-in-law.

At this moment, two people walked into the waiting room. They were Mu Qing and Liang Zhou.

Mu Qing glanced at his son briefly before he walked toward Jiang Jin. "Mother, I heard that my daughter-in-law went into labor so I came to have a look.."

### **Chapter 303: Giving Birth**

Under everyone's watchful gaze, Mu Qing said unhurriedly, "I wanted to visit you. However, when we arrived at the house, the helpers told me you're at the hospital. That's why we came..."

Jiang Jin nodded and gestured for the couple to take a seat.

Liang Zhou asked tentatively, "How long has she been in there?"

Sister Yu replied, "Song Ning hasn't gone into labor yet. Young Master was anxious so he insisted on bringing her to the hospital first."

Liang Zhou's question was just perfunctory; she did not really care. Needless to say, she did not dare to show it outwardly.

At this time, Mu Qing looked at his son before he said to Jiang Jin, "I remember being nervous, excited, and happy as well when I was about to become a father. Mother, do you still remember? When Mu Chen was born, he didn't cry at all, and I was so worried."

With these words, Jiang Jin and Sister Yu were flooded with memories. Following that, they began to reminisce about the times when Mu Chen was young.

Cheng Che listened with great interest while Mu Chen's expression grew darker and darker.

Jiang Jin was satisfied and happy when he saw the affection on Mu Qing's face when speaking about Mu Chen.

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From the morning until the time when the sky darkened, there was still no news.

Mu Qing accompanied Jiang Jin and Sister Yu to eat and chat.

Since Mu Chen prohibited Cheng Che from leaving, Cheng Che could only order food to the hospital.

Liang Zhou grew more and more impatient. She would occasionally go outside to ask about the situation and report back to the others. She sighed. "Why is it so difficult to give birth to a child? She went in in the morning, but she has yet to give birth..."

Mu Chen walked out of the waiting room expressionlessly. He felt more at ease standing in the corridor.

Mu Qing glanced at Liang Zhou before he said, "How can you say that? Can't you see that Mu Chen is worried?"

Liang Zhou regretted her blunder, but she could not bring herself to admit it. She whispered, "I'm just stating facts. It's been so long. What if something's wrong?"

At this time, Jiang Jin said icily, "Shut up."

Shocked, Liang Zhou shrank back in fear.

...

Meanwhile, Song Ning was enduring the pain of the contractions and was sweating profusely.

Jiahui carefully wiped the sweat off Song Ning's face and gently said, "You can do this, Ningning. You're already four fingers dilated..."

Song Ning panted and asked, "Is Mu Chen still waiting outside?"

Jiahui raised an eyebrow and said, "Of course! Where else would he be? I heard Cheng Che wanted to leave, but he refused to let Cheng Che leave. Apparently, he wants Cheng Che to witness the birth of the little princess as well. Grandma and Sister Yu are here as well..." Then, she hesitated for a moment before she added, "Mu Chen's father and stepmother are here as well."

Song Ning nodded slightly as she sighed. "I find it difficult to see through his father's thoughts. I don't know if he's good or not..."

Jiahui said, "Who cares? It has nothing to do with us whether he's good or not. When the baby is born, we'll concentrate on raising him. We'll watch him grow up and marry a wife..."

As Jiahui spoke, she administered needles to the acupuncture points on Song Ning's hand to relieve pain and help induce labor.

When the pain hit, Song Ning gritted her teeth to endure it. However, the pain continued to intensify, and she could not help but cry out. She was in so much pain that she felt as though she was going to faint.

The nurse next to her helped her with her breathing while Jiahui continued to administer needles to her acupuncture points.

Why did mothers love their children with their lives? It was because mothers risked their lives to bring their children into the world.

'Baby, I'll love you with everything I have. I can't wait to meet you..'

**Chapter 304: Safe and Sound**

A loud baby's cry resounded in the delivery room.

Everyone's spirits lifted immediately.

The obstetrician smiled and said, "The baby is really energetic!"

Jiahui wiped away Song Ning's sweat and said happily, "It's a boy! You can tell from his cries that he's very strong and healthy..."

Song Ning smiled as she thought to herself, 'Mom, Grandpa, Grandma, I have a son now.'

...

The nurse carried the baby out briefly to show it to the family. "Mother and son are both healthy..."

Mu Chen did not even look at the baby as he asked anxiously, "Where's my wife?"

The nurse replied, "She'll be out in a while."

Mu Chen asked again, "Is she okay?"

The nurse was moved by Mu Chen's affections. She smiled and replied, "Don't worry, she's fine. She'll be out in about half an hour."

Mu Chen nodded. "Alright, alright, I'll wait for her."

Then, the young nurse said, "Alright, we'll bring the baby to the nursery first before bringing him to the ward. You can come along if you want..."

Mu Chen turned to Jiang Jin and said, "Grandma, I'll leave the baby to you for now..."

Jiang Jin beamed. "Alright, alright. Leave it to me."

...

When Song Ning was pushed out of the delivery room, Mu Chen immediately rushed to her side and held her hand. "Song Ning, are you okay?"

Song Ning smiled weakly. "I'm fine."

Jiahui said from the side, "You must have been worried out of your mind, right?"

Mu Chen did not say anything.

Jiahui said with a smile, "Song Ning really married the right person..."

Mu Chen felt distressed when he saw how weak Song Ning looked. He said gently, "Ningning, it's been hard on you."

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After Song Ning was pushed back to the VIP ward, everyone helped her to settle down.

After making herself comfortable, Song Ning said, "Where's the baby? Let me have a look..."

Sister Yu hurriedly carried the baby over before she said with a smile, "Young Madam, our Little Master is really handsome."

"W-what do you mean by Little Master?" Mu Chen was stunned. He looked at the baby in Sister Yu's arms before he turned around to look at Cheng Che.

Cheng Che shrugged and spread his arms helplessly. "Brother, it seems like you'll have to work harder in the future."

Mu Chen glared at him. "What do you mean? Where's my little princess?"

Cheng Che said with a helpless expression on his face, "I've already said you have to work harder. Sister-in-law gave you a son, and she'll give birth to a little princess for you in the future. In any case, I have a little nephew now."

Mu Chen was still stunned.

Song Ning looked at Mu Chen with a smile. He had wanted a daughter from the very beginning. Throughout the entire pregnancy, he had been confident he would have a daughter. Even when he spoke to the baby in her stomach, he would speak as though he was speaking to his daughter. Although she had reminded him several times that the gender of the baby might not be what he expected, he firmly believed he would have a daughter who resembled Song Ning. However, now, he had a son.

Sister Yu carried the baby to Mu Chen.

Mu Chen looked at the wrinkly baby who was sleeping soundly before he reached out to touch the baby's face tentatively. "Son?"

Sister Yu smiled and nodded. "Yes. A son."

Everyone knew how much Mu Chen wanted a daughter and how confident he was about having a daughter. Seeing how Song Ning did not disabuse him of that notion, nobody said anything to him. Now that they saw his dejected and confused expression, they could not help but feel amused.

At this moment, the baby cried out loudly, as though he was unhappy with Mu Chen poking his face.

Mu Chen was so frightened that he almost jumped back. He retreated next to Song Ning, showing a rare panicked expression on his face as he held Song Ning's hand.

Everyone burst out laughing when they saw this scene.

Song Ning looked at the somewhat silly Mu Chen and felt a little helpless.. She held his hand and asked in a soft voice, "Are you disappointed?"

### **Chapter 305: Promise**

Mu Chen shook his head. "No, it's not that. He's too tiny. How are we going to raise him?"

Jiang Jin reached out and gently swatted Mu Chen's arm. "Why are you so silly? You were this size as well when you were born. If you don't believe me, you can ask your father. What do you mean by how are we going to raise him? We raise him just like everybody else."

Mu Chen, who was muddle-headed today, did not react to Jiang Jin mentioning his father.

Mu Qing said in a timely manner, "Children will grow up naturally. There's no need to worry needlessly."

Mu Chen held Song Ning's hand and asked, "Ningning, are you tired? Are you hungry? Do you want to eat something?"

Mu Chen focused all his attention on Song Ning for now. He needed time to process the matter regarding his child.

Song Ning's gaze fell on the baby. He had stopped crying after Sister Yu changed his diaper. Then, remembering how the baby had frightened Mu Chen earlier, she explained to him, "He was crying because he peed."

Mu Chen nodded perfunctorily. "What do you want to eat? I'll get someone to make it for you!"

In Mu Chen's opinion, only his wife was the most reliable. He still could not accept that his daughter had turned into a son.

After Mu Chen finished speaking, Jiang Jin said to everyone, "Let's go outside and let Ningning rest. Mu Chen, you accompany Ningning. Ningning, try to get some sleep and rest. You must be exhausted after giving birth so you have to take good care of yourself."

Before anyone could leave, Mu Chen hastily said, "Jiahui, quickly check Ningning's pulse to see if she's okay before you leave."

Jiahui smiled and said, "Don't worry. We've already done a full check on her. Everything is normal. She just needs to rest."

With this Mu Chen sighed in relief.

At the same time, Song Ning looked at her son, reluctant to part with him for even a second.

Song Ning's reaction did not escape Jiang Jin's notice. She said, "Rest well. You have plenty of time to look at him in the future. Even if you don't want to look at him, you have no choice but to look at him at that time..."

After Jiang Jin finished speaking, she smiled tenderly and patted Song Ning's hand.

When everyone left and it was finally quiet, Mu Chen let out a long sigh of relief.

Song Ning smiled and asked him, "Honestly, are you disappointed?"

Mu Chen nodded with a hint of resentment on his face. "A little."

Song Ning said angrily, "Don't say it in front of our son. He'll be sad."

Mu Chen quickly nodded. "Alright, alright, I won't upset him."



Song Ning smiled with satisfaction as she looked at Mu Chen and said, “Mu Chen, I feel very surreal right now...”

“Why? What’s wrong?” Mu Chen hurriedly asked.

“We’re now a family of three. It still doesn’t feel real to me. I’m so happy that it doesn’t seem real. At the same time, I’m a little afraid that I’m so happy...”

Mu Chen held Song Ning’s hand and softly said, “Silly, what’s there to be afraid of? I’m right by your side. Our son and Grandma are also with you. I want you to be happy for the rest of your life. Our son better listen to you in the future. If he doesn’t, I’ll teach him a lesson.”

Song Ning smiled when she heard how gentle Mu Chen’s voice was. She said softly, “My mother, Grandpa, and Grandma must be watching over me. They led me to you and this happy life I have now. Mu Chen, do you think I’m too greedy? I really hope I can continue being so happy for the rest of my life. I want to be with you forever...”

Mu Chen could tell Song Ning was more emotional than usual. Jiahui had told him before that a woman might be more emotional after childbirth due to the changes in the hormone levels. In the worst scenario, some women even developed postpartum depression. Naturally, he did not want Song Ning to be depressed.

Mu Chen kissed the back of Song Ning’s hand gently before he said, “Trust me, Ningning. We’ll be together for the rest of our lives. We won’t ever be separated. I swear one my life that I’ll only love you for the rest of our lives until my dying breath...”

Song Ning nodded gently as tears silently rolled down her face after she listened to Mu Chen’s words..

### **Chapter 306: Burns**

Mu Chen sat by Song Ning’s bed and rested his head near Song Ning’s hand. He patted her gently like how she did when she consoled him.

Song Ning finally relaxed and fell into a deep sleep; she was exhausted. Her happy life was just about to begin.

...

When Song Ning woke up, she felt pain all over her body. She knew something was amiss. She had already given birth, how could it still be so painful? Moreover, this was not the pain of giving birth; it was a sharp and searing pain all over her skin and flesh.

Song Ning opened her eyes and saw four white walls. She was still in the hospital, but this was not her ward. Her ward was a VIP ward, which was the best in the hospital. It was exclusively reserved for the Mu family. Jiang Jin and her had stayed there a few times so the ward was very familiar to her. On the other hand, she was completely unfamiliar with the ward she was in now. Even the most ordinary ward in the hospital was not as crude as the one she was in now.

Song Ning moved gingerly. The piercing pain intensified, and she could not help but moan in pain. However, this pain helped her to clear her mind. She was shocked and confused to find that she had been burned. Her burns were most concentrated on her limbs and face.

'How's this possible? What happened?'

She was stunned. She had just given birth to a son, and Mu Chen was just by her bedside, promising to love her forever and to give her a lifetime of happiness. Where was Mu Chen? Where was her son?

Song Ning tried to move her head but discovered that she could not move it. She could only move her eyes, and all she saw was the white walls and ceiling of the ward.

'When did I suffer burns? Why am I here? Where's Jiahui and Grandma?' Song Ning felt unprecedented panic.

Finally, she cried, "Is anyone there?"

The moment she heard her voice, she was shocked again. It was rough and hoarse. Her heart sank immediately as various thoughts flashed in her mind.

'What happened? Where am I? Don't tell me I've transmigrated?'

She tried her best to call out, "Is anyone there?"

Her voice sounded a little better than earlier. It was so rough earlier likely because she had not spoken in a long time. Another possibility was that she had inhaled too much smoke.

Song Ning tried her best to calm down and suppress the panic rising in her heart. Based on the pain she felt, she determined she had suffered severe burns on her body.

'Where's Mu Chen, Grandma, and Sister Yu? Where are they? Are they okay? What happened?'

Song Ning mustered up her energy and called out as loud as she could, "Is anyone there?"

Perhaps, she strained herself, she began to cough violently. The movement when she coughed sent a jolt of excruciating pain throughout her body immediately causing her to cry out in pain as tears gathered in her eyes.

At this time, the door suddenly slammed open.

"She's awake, she's awake!"

A young round-faced nurse rushed in like a gust of wind. "Patient on bed 15 is awake."

After saying that, the young nurse ran out without saying anything else.

Song Ning could not help but close her eyes, trying to endure the pain.

Five minutes later, the young nurse returned with a doctor in tow.

It was a female doctor who looked to be in her forties. She looked at Song Ning coldly before glancing at Song Ning's injuries. Then, she said to the nurse, "Inform her family members. Let them transfer her to another hospital. She's passed the critical period."

“Alright.” The young nurse left in a hurry.

As the doctor was about to leave as well, Song Ning called out, “Doctor!”

The female doctor turned around and looked at Song Ning impatiently.

Song Ning decided to pick a safe question to ask. “Where am I?”

“N County’s Third Hospital,” the female doctor said.

Song Ning’s mind buzzed. N County was a rural county 300 kilometers away from M City.. Why was she here?

### **Chapter 307: Discharged from the Hospital**

“How did I get injured?” Song Ning asked the female doctor.

The female doctor raised an eyebrow. A trace of surprise finally appeared on her expressionless face. She looked as though she was looking at a mental patient. “You don’t know how you got injured? I know you suffered burns, but don’t tell me you burned your brains as well? Did you lose your memory?”

Song Ning continued to ask, “Where are my family members?”

The female doctor said impatiently, “I’ve already asked the nurse to inform your family members that you’re awake...”

Song Ning watched helplessly as the female doctor left. She did not manage to obtain any useful information out of the doctor at all. She wanted to ask what year or month was it to see if she had traveled through time or something.

After a long time, the young nurse finally returned to the ward. She shook her head and said with a sigh, “Your mother is here to pick you up. She said your family is poor and can’t afford to transfer you to another hospital. Hence, she’s planning to bring you home directly. You’re really pitiful...”

‘My mother?’ Song Ning was shocked.

As soon as the nurse finished speaking, two women dressed in plain clothes entered the room. One of them nodded at the nurse and said, “Thank you for your hard work..”

Then, the two women came to Song Ning’s bed and began to help Song Ning change.

Song Ning cried out in pain immediately when the fabric touched the wound on her body.

The woman sighed. She winked as she said, “Daughter, bear with it. I’ll try to be gentler.”

Song Ning was shocked. When she saw the young nurse standing at the side with no intention of helping, she gritted her teeth and endured the pain wordlessly.

By the time they were done, Song Ning was already sweating profusely from the pain.

With their help, she managed to stand up. Every step she took felt like she was walking on a bed of knives. She was in so much pain that tears involuntarily fell down her face. Nevertheless, she did not say a word. She had to leave this place so she could find out what happened.

At this time, one of the women asked the nurse for a wheelchair to push Song Ning out.

Meanwhile, Song Ning checked her pulse. She was in a terrible state. Her body was incredibly weak from suffering such serious injuries. She was lucky to be alive. She calmed down and let the strangers move her.

Her mind was racing. She was sure she did not lose her memory. After giving birth, Mu Chen had coaxed her to sleep. Following that, she did not remember what happened.

At this time, the women had already pushed the wheelchair to the entrance of the hospital so they had no choice but to stop. One of them lowered her head and whispered in Song Ning's ears, "Bear with it a little longer. Let's walk to the car first..."

Song Ning could feel the people around her did not have ill intentions so she stood up obediently and endured the pain. She allowed them to help her to a very old gray car. It was a long and painful process

When she got into the car, she discovered the driver was a middle-aged man. Based on his clothes, it seemed like he came from the countryside.

When the car finally pulled away from the hospital, the three people's relief was palpable.

Song Ning asked, "Who are you?"

One of the women averted her eyes and said, "Don't ask for now. Bear with it for a while. When we get home and everything is dealt with, someone will come to pick you up."

Song Ning's gaze turned cold immediately.

Upon seeing Song Ning's expression, the other woman hastily said, "We're not bad people. You're in some trouble now. In order to avoid being seen, we have to do this. Bear with it for now. Trust us, we're not bad people."

Song Ning looked at the three people.

The other two people nodded solemnly while tears were already brimming in one of the women's eyes..

### **Chapter 308: Old Friend**

Song Ning gritted her teeth to endure the pain as doubts welled up in her heart. At this moment, she had no choice but to resign to her fate. She could only take it one step at a time and see what would happen next.

The car gradually pulled further and further away from the city to the countryside.

Song Ning could not help but feel uneasy. Was she being kidnapped? She looked down at her injuries. Although she could not see her face, based on the pain, her face injuries should not be any less than what she could see on her body. Who would kidnap and sell a woman with such injuries? With such a weak body and serious injuries, it would not take much for her to die.

Song Ning looked at the time on the dashboard. After more than an hour, the car finally drove into a village.

The pedestrians on the road slowed down and watched from the sides.

One of the women said in a low voice, "I'll have to trouble you to close your eyes and pretend as though you're on your last breath. When we get home, we'll carry you in. Remember to feign unconsciousness. Don't worry. We're really not bad people. After the villagers have seen you, someone will come and pick you up in the middle of the night. Then, the following morning, we'll spread the news that you've passed away and hold a funeral for you.

Song Ning was confused. She asked in a trembling voice, "W-who... Who am I?"

The woman was hit by a realization. "Oh, that's right. I'm sorry, I forgot to tell you. You're taking on my niece's identity. You're here to recuperate from your serious injuries. We didn't have money to treat you so we brought you home. Like I said earlier, we'll then fake your death and hold a simple funeral for you. This way, even if someone investigates, there won't be anything suspicious."

"Who? Who will investigate this matter?" Song Ning asked, growing more and more confused. Was the police looking for her?

The woman shook her head. "I don't know. All these things were told to me by my niece. It's best you do as she said. She told me you're her best friend and that you've helped her a lot. We're helping her to return your favor. We hope that you'll remember her kindness in the future and watch over her. That child's life is really tough, after all."

As the woman spoke, she lifted her hand and wiped the corners of her eyes with her sleeve.

Song Ning asked, "Your niece? What's her name?"

The woman replied, "Her name is Yang Li."

Song Ning was taken aback. "Yang Li?"

Ever since the film festival, Song Ning had not seen Yang Li. She assumed that with Director Pan around, Yang Li would have no problem leaving Ye Xin. Since she had no intention of returning to the entertainment industry, she rarely asked about the others' news. She assumed they were all doing well in their respective fields.

The woman nodded and said with a sigh, "This is her hometown. She lived here with her grandfather since she was young. Her parents came to pick her up later on, and she never returned. She told us you're her benefactor. Since you're in trouble, she asked us to help you. So believe us, we're not bad people."

This time, Song Ning nodded. She believed in Yang Li's character.

At this time, the car began to slow down.

The two women gestured for Song Ning to lean on their shoulders.

Song Ning closed her eyes as she was told. There was no need to pretend much with her current appearance. Anyone looking at her now would think she was on her deathbed.

When the car finally pulled to a stop, everyone stopped to watch just as expected.

As Song Ning feigned unconsciousness, she heard the sighs and discussions of the people in Yang Li's hometown. Many things were said.

At this time, the two women wore sorrowful expressions on their faces. One of them said, "The doctor in the city said there's no hope and to bring her home. This child's life is really tough. I'll have to trouble everyone in the coming days; she might need everyone's help.."

### **Chapter 309: Moving Places**

The villagers nodded and agreed before they finally dispersed.

The woman gave Song Ning water before she went to work.

...

In the middle of the night, a car drove into the village. A woman disembarked from the car and started crying silently.

When Song Ning saw the woman, she thought the woman looked familiar.

"Sister Ning Xia, I'm Xiao Peng. I'm Sister Yang Li's assistant." Xiao Peng stepped forward and held Song Ning's hand.

At this moment, Song Ning's eyes reddened. She finally had some connection to her original world. "Xiao Peng, why am I here? Why am I hurt? Where's my family? Where's my child? Do you know anything? Can you tell me?"

Song Ning's voice was hoarse, but it was much better than before.

Xiao Peng stood by the window, surveying the surroundings before she returned to Song Ning's side again. She said softly, "It's a long story. Let's talk about it later. This is Sister Yang Li's hometown. She's being targeted by Ye Xin's brother. Since her grandfather died, she sent his ashes back here for burial. It just so happens that something happened to you at this time. I've brought the necessary things in the car. Tomorrow morning, word will spread that Sister Yang Li has passed away and will be buried. Apart from that, Sister Yang Li and Director Pan have arranged for you to be treated at a hospital. What's most important is treating your injuries. We can talk about the rest later..."

Fortunately, Xiao Peng's words were not too vague. The most important thing that Song Ning managed to glean from Xiao Peng's words was that she was still in her original world. She had been an impatient person. Moreover, in this kind of situation, it was important that she remained level-headed.

Xiao Peng was indeed an experienced person from the entertainment industry. Her words and actions were top-notch.

In just a short moment, despite how late it was, word had spread to half of the villagers that Yang Li was on her last breath and her best friend from the city had come to send her off.

After preparing the funeral items for Yang Li's relatives, Song Ning was brought to Xiao Peng's car. The car had been modified to accommodate Song Ning so she could lie down and not feel too uncomfortable.

"Sister, bear with this for a while. We'll leave after I put on a show for them," Xiao Peng said softly after she helped Song Ning settle down in the car.

Song Ning heard the commotion outside and regretted not asking Xiao Peng for a phone. Then, she could have called Mu Chen, Grandma, or Jiahui. She wondered if they were okay and if her child was okay.

After Song Ning confirmed she was still living in her original world, she could not help the worries that surged up in her heart.

...

It was not until the sky began to brighten that Xiao Peng returned to the car and drove away under the villagers' eyes.

When the car finally pulled away from the village, Xiao Peng let out a huge sigh of relief. Then, she said, "Sister Ning Xia, the journey will take more than two hours. Try to bear with it and get some rest first. When we arrive at L City, we'll be safe."

"Why are we going to L City? Why aren't we going back to M City? Xiao Peng, tell me. What happened to my family? Why am I here? How did I get here? I don't know anything at all. Please tell me. How's my family? Are they okay?" Song Ning said in a trembling voice.

Xiao Peng sighed softly. "Sister Ning Xia, your family is fine. They're all fine. However, you... someone harmed you so you can't return for now. You have to recover first. Only when you're healthy can you return to M City."

Song Ning was stunned and confused. "Pengpeng, I don't understand what you're saying."

Xiao Peng rubbed her temples before she said, "Sister Ning Xia, don't ask. It's not something that can be explained in a few words. You don't have to worry about your family. They're all fine. I'm not lying to you.. The only person who isn't fine is you..."

### **Chapter 310: Disfigured**

Song Ning echoed Xiao Peng's words, "Only I'm not fine?" After a while, she added in a soft voice, "That's good..."

Song Ning comforted herself that her family was fine and gradually fell into a deep sleep. She was so weak that she could fall asleep despite the pain that assaulted her body. Moreover, she felt more at ease with Xiao Peng around.

...

When the car came to a stop, Song Ning did not wake up immediately. She only regained consciousness when she heard the familiar noises that the wheels of the hospital bed made. When she opened her eyes, she saw four nurses in masks carefully helping her onto the hospital bed before wheeling her away. She cried out instinctively, "Xiao Peng!"

Xiao Peng immediately rushed to Song Ning's side. "Sister, I'm here. Don't worry. We need to examine your injuries first. Don't think about anything else for now and focus on healing..."

Once again, Song Ning was at the mercy of others. Fortunately, this time, it was the doctors and nurses. When her clothes were cut open, she heard the nurses gasping. She said calmly in her hoarse voice, "Is it very serious? If there's anything just tell me. I'm a Chinese medicine doctor."

She turned to look at the doctor standing next to her and said, "My injuries are very bad, right? It's fine. If there's anything, you can just tell me."

The doctor looked at her and said, "Your limbs and face are badly burned. Some of the burns on your body are infected. The treatment will be very painful so you have to be mentally prepared."

Song Ning nodded weakly.

...

When Song Ning woke up again, she was already in the ward. Her entire body was wrapped in bandages. The searing pain was gone, but she could feel pressure on her body. She knew that the feeling was from the compression garment she had to wear for her burns. She could not help but feel relieved; at least the doctors here were reliable in their treatment.

She looked around her ward. It was much better than the one in N County. She looked out the window and saw a lush and verdant tree outside. The colors of nature made her feel slightly at ease.

Song Ning turned to look at the door when she heard the sounds of light footsteps and saw Xiao Peng's childish face.

Xiao Peng was overjoyed. "Sister Ning Xia, you're awake!"

Song Ning smiled, "Thank you, Xiao Peng."

Xiao Peng's eyes reddened as she shook her head and said, "Sister, the most important thing is to live and be healthy. If you're healthy, you can do whatever you want. Hence, no matter what happens, you have to focus on healing. There's no need to rush regarding other matters. We can solve them bit by bit as long as you focus on getting better. Can you promise me that, Sister Ning Xia?"

Song Ning could tell something was amiss based on Xiao Peng's grave tone. Nevertheless, she smiled and said, "Pengpeng, you said that my family is fine, right? As long as they're fine, I'll be fine. Don't worry."



Tears rolled down Xiao Peng's face at this moment. She said, "In fact, Sister Yang Li is here as well. She also narrowly escaped death. Both of you can talk. I'll keep a lookout..."

Xiao Peng turned around and left. When she returned, she was pushing a wheelchair into the room.

The woman sitting in the wheelchair was wearing a veil; only her eyes were exposed. However, Song Ning had no trouble recognizing Yang Li.

Xiao Peng gently pushed Yang Li to Song Ning's side before she silently left.

The two women looked at each other.

After a moment, Song Ning called out softly, "Yang Li? Sister Li?"

Yang Li's eyes reddened before tears brimmed in her eyes. She hurriedly raised her head to prevent the tears from rolling down her face.

Song Ning looked at Yang Li, patiently waiting for Yang Li to calm down.

Yang Li inhaled deeply before she finally said, "Ning Xia, my face is disfigured. Don't be afraid.."

### **Chapter 311: Bullying**

Song Ning reached up to touch her face as she smiled bitterly. "What's there to be afraid of? Isn't my face disfigured as well?"

Yang Ning did not speak and gently removed the veil on her face.

Although Song Ning was mentally prepared, she was still shocked. Apart from Yang Li's eyes, everything was so badly scarred that Yang Li was no longer recognizable. She could not help but ask, "What happened, Sister Li?"

Yang Li scoffed lightly.

Song Ning instinctively reached up to touch her face again.

Yang Li said with a hint of sorrow, "Only the left side of your face was burned, and the burns aren't too serious. As for the burns on your limbs, you might need a skin graft... In any case, your injuries aren't as serious as mine..."

Song Ning asked in a trembling voice, "S-sister Li, what happened? Why am I here? I... I just gave birth to a son! I don't know... I don't remember how I got here..."

Song Ning finally found someone to ask the questions that had been burning in her mind since she had woken up. She knew Xiao Peng knew what had happened but wanted to let Yang Li speak to her instead.

Yang Li reached out and held Song Ning's hand; her palm was very warm. "Ning Xia, listen to me. You have to promise me you won't get agitated. With your current condition, you can't afford to get agitated. There are things I have to tell you now because we have a lot to do next..."

Song Ning nodded. "I promise, Sister Li."

Song Ning knew something big must have happened, and it was important for her to remain calm.

Yang Li slowly said, "Let me tell you what happened to me first. I was assigned to be Ye Xin's manager by the company. It was not what I wanted, but the company insisted because they wanted to create a Little Ning Xia, and in the company, there was no one more familiar with Ning Xia than me. In the eyes of the fans, with an 'experienced' manager like me by Ye Xin's side, they were more or less more accepting of the title Little Ning Xia. Ye Xin demanded her manager to be prohibited from managing other artistes except for her. To make up for that, she doubled my salary."

"At that time, my grandfather, who raised me, was diagnosed with cancer so I really needed money. Hence, I accepted Ye Xin's demand. Rather than saying I'm Ye Xin's manager, it's more accurate to say I'm her senior assistant. I didn't have a say in anything at all; she made her own decisions without consulting me. However, when there's a mistake, she would vent her anger on me before asking me to deal with it. Fortunately, whenever I deal with her problems, her brother, Ye Cheng, would give me a sum of money. For my grandfather's sake, I had been enduring..."

"The scandal with Mu Chen was created on her own initiative. The company didn't dare to offend her so they went along with her wish. In the end, when it backfired, they wanted me to deal with it. At that time, I already had the intention of resigning. However, Ye Cheng moved my grandfather to a sanatorium under the guise of giving him better treatment to keep me in line."

"However, I really couldn't cope with the series of things that the brother and sister did. The scandal with Mu Chen had yet to be resolved, there was another incident of her losing the award. When she wasn't able to marry Mu Chen, her temper grew even more perverse. You know what happened after that. The things their family asked me to do had long exceeded the scope of a manager and also exceeded the scope of my ability. Ye Cheng looked for me a few times to discuss a raise, saying he'll take care of my grandfather. He tried to use both kindness and force on me. In the end, I compromised."

"In Ye Xin's eyes, I compromised because of money. Hence, she tortured me even more, thinking I wouldn't leave as long as money was involved. An example was when she slapped me during the film festival.. I lost my reputation in the entertainment industry, and I'm no longer the golden manager..."

### **Chapter 312: Threats**

Yang Li paused for a moment to calm down. After all, the incident during the film festival was one of the darkest moments in her life. Even with Ning Xia, Director Pan, and the cast of Yi Yao supporting her, they could not wash away the humiliation.

Song Ning understood Yang Li's feelings.

"After that, Ye Xin became even crazier. She confronted you and made me an accessory. When her confrontation ended in failure, Xiao Peng and I were applauding inwardly. We knew you weren't deliberately targeting her..."

"When Ye Cheng saw the situation wasn't good, he wanted me to plan for the worst-case scenario. This time, I refused him. I'm human, not God. How could I remove those things from the Internet? How could I change the public opinion? How could erase the fans and the public's memories? Furthermore, Ye Xin

had always been unaware of herself. You're an actress, she was just a celebrity. How could she compare to you? Ye Cheng threatened me using my grandfather and forced me to think of a way..."

"I tried to stall for time and told him I would think of a way. After that, I went to visit my grandfather at the sanatorium. He was already on his deathbed and I couldn't bear to see him suffer. In the end, I decided to compromise again. However, before I could speak to Ye Cheng, my grandfather was evicted from the sanatorium. This was Ye Xin's doing."

"That night, after I brought my grandfather home, the house caught fire. The doors and the windows were sealed shut..."

Yang Li finally stopped speaking.

Song Ning felt her heart sink.

At this moment, nary a ripple could be seen in Yang Li's eyes; they were calm and indifferent. She said, "Coincidentally, Xiao Peng came to see at that time. She was implicated because of me and lost her job. Fortunately, her family's financial situation isn't bad. She only joined the entertainment industry because she was fascinated with celebrities. She knew how powerful the Ye family was so she looked for me secretly. She's the one who saved me. When I woke up in the hospital, my grandfather had already passed away..." Her voice trembled slightly when she spoke.

Yang Li tried to hold back her tears. The wounds on her face would not be able to withstand the tears. She was also growing close to running out of tears at this point. After a moment, she laughed and asked mockingly, "Do you think this is the end?"

"No. After that, I moved from the ICU to a normal ward. In the middle of the night, I was almost strangled to death by a fake nurse. If it weren't for the real nurse doing her rounds, I would've died like my grandfather..."

"They really want my life. I didn't call the police because Ye Cheng is currently in the Public Security Department. If I reported the matter to the police, it would be no different from walking into the tiger's mouth. In the end, I decided to fake my death. Pengpeng found a doctor she used to know, and he used his connections to send me back to the ICU. Originally, he was going to announce my death..." Yang Li suddenly trailed off and looked at Song Ning.

"Did something happen to me?" Song Ning asked, staring at Yang Li intently.

Yang Li nodded. "The hospital caught fire that day..."

"The hospital caught fire?" Song Ning cried out.

Yang Li nodded.

Song Ning said anxiously, "How's that possible? There are so many patients, doctors, and nurses. What should we do? What happened?"

Yang Li looked at Song Ning with a deep gaze. Even at this point, Song Ning was not thinking about herself at all. Song Ning was in this state, and yet, she worried for the people in the hospital who had nothing to do with her. The difference between humans was too great. There were some who were not worthy of being human at all.

However, why were good people not rewarded? In this world, good and evil were reversed. There was no distinction between right and wrong.

Song Ning's tears began to roll down her face as she continued to say anxiously, "Sister Li, I just gave birth that day. I gave birth at 5:30 in the afternoon. When I fell asleep, the whole family was there.. I was so seriously injured, then what about them? Where's Mu Chen? Grandma? Where's Sister Yu, Jiahui, and the others?"

### **Chapter 313: Fire**

Yang Li held Song Ning's hand tightly. "You promised me. Don't get agitated. Don't worry. Your family, including your child, is completely unharmed. Nothing happened."

Song Ning was stunned. She could not describe her feelings at the moment. This was the second time she had heard these words. The first time, it was said by Xiao Peng. Her family, including her child, was unharmed, but why did she become like this? How did she appear in N County? In the end, she looked at Yang Li fearfully and asked, "Sister Li, what happened exactly?"

Yang Li inhaled deeply and tried to calm down before she said, "Pengpeng snuck in to see me that day. She said there were many suspicious people lingering around outside, and they were likely looking for me. She had found a passage in the VIP ward so we decided to escape from there when no one was watching. When we passed by the VIP ward, we saw you curled up on the ground, unconscious. You were already burned at that time, but you were completely unconscious. We suspect that you'd been drugged."

Song Ning felt a chill run down her spine.

"We brought you with us and decided to return to my hometown. However, we weren't sure if Ye Cheng's people were still following after us so we had to think of a way to distract them. As a result of the delay, your injuries were infected. We had no choice. After all, our survival is the most important," Yang Li said apologetically.

Song Ning nodded and tightened her grip around Yang Li's hand. "Sister Li, thank you."

Yang Li shook her head gently. "I asked Pengpeng to steal a sample of your blood for analysis. Traces of some drug was found in your blood, but I don't know what drug it was. It must be the reason why you did not even wake up even when you were being burned."

Song Ning thought for a moment. "It must have been injected directly into my body after I gave birth. No one knew. We were all immersed in the joy of the birth of the child."

Song Ning looked up. "What about Mu Chen, Grandma, and the others? And my child!"

If there had been a fire, based on the time, her family should have been at the hospital as well. What happened to Mu Chen and the others? Why was Yang Li so sure they were unharmed?

Yang Li looked at Song Ning with a complicated gaze. She gripped Song Ning's hand and said, "Ning Xia, they're all fine... including you. The Mu family just celebrated your son's full moon. It was an extremely grand occasion."

“W-what do you mean?!” Song Ning was confused.

Yang Li slowly brought her phone and pulled up a photo before showing it to Song Ning.

In the photos, Mu Chen was carrying a baby with a cold expression on his face. On his left, Jiang Jin was smiling kindly and happily. And on Mu Chen’s right was... her! Song Ning!

Song Ning lost her grip on the phone, and Yang Li quickly caught the phone. Then, she said softly, “Ning Xia, calm down.”

Song Ning glanced at the photo on Yang Li’s phone and murmured, “Am I seeing things?”

Yang Li shook her head gently as she handed the phone to Song Ning. “You’re not seeing things. The person beside Mu Chen is you. At least, that’s what the Mu family thinks. Therefore, everything is fine in the Mu family. Although the hospital caught fire the day your child was born due to an accident and many patients and staff died, the Young Master and the Young Madam of the Mu family were blessed with good fortune and survived. Everyone’s also saying that Mu Chen was the one who saved the mother and the child. The full moon banquet was incredibly grand. Look at the person standing next to your husband, smiling so happily. I’ve never seen you smile like that before..”

#### **Chapter 314: Replacement**

Yang Li stared at Song Ning, watching for her reaction.

Song Ning looked at the photo again. To be precise, she was looking at the woman standing next to Mu Chen. It was as Yang Li had said, she had never smiled in this manner before. A vague idea appeared in her mind before she looked at Yang Li and asked in a trembling voice, “Ye Xin?”

Yang Li nodded. “Ning Xia, if you hadn’t been by Xiao Peng and my side, we would’ve thought the person in the picture is you. To be honest, even I doubted myself when I saw this photo.”

Although Song Ning and Ye Xin resembled each other before, it was not to this extent.

Song Ning was still shocked. “She... She had plastic surgery?”

Yang Li nodded. “Obviously.”

“Why? Why would she make herself look like me?” Song Ning’s eyes widened in disbelief.

Yang Li stared at Song Ning as she slowly said, “To replace you.”

Song Ning was speechless. She felt an emptiness in her heart at this moment. ‘Mu Chen, can’t you tell that person next to you isn’t Song Ning? Jiahui, what about you?’

Song Ning felt a stabbing pain in her heart, making it difficult for her to breathe. She instinctively curled up.

“Ning Xia, you promise me you won’t get agitated. You need to calm down. Calm down!” Yang Li hurriedly said when she saw Song Ning’s reaction. She anxiously held Song Ning’s hand to calm Song Ning down.

Song Ning gasped for breath as tears rolled down her face continuously. Her brain felt like mush, and her ears were ringing. The excruciating pain was intolerable.

“Ning Xia! Listen to me carefully. You have to accept this fact. Only by accepting it will you be able to face it and do something about it,” Yang Li said each word slowly.

Song Ning continued to sob uncontrollably.

Yang Li pointed at the photo on her phone and said, “Ning Xia, think about it calmly. Ye Xin would need time to complete the plastic surgery. She was supposed to be in the mental hospital. When and how did she get out?”

“She changed her appearance to look like you so that she could enter the Mu family and replace you. Leaving you to die in the hospital isn’t something she can come up with alone. With her brain capacity, there’s no way she could’ve come up with this elaborate plan alone. What’s the purpose of the person who’s pulling the strings behind the scene? Who is it that helped Ye Xin to fulfill her wish of becoming Mrs. Mu?”

Upon hearing these words, Song Ning’s sobs died down. She looked at Yang Li with tears in her eyes.

Yang Li sighed in relief before she said in a low voice, “Ning Xia, I’m afraid this is an elaborate plot. However, we don’t know who’s the mastermind for now. What’s the use of crying now? Your son and your husband are in danger now. Are you going to sit back and watch?”

Yang Li’s words sobered Song Ning up. She took the piece of tissue Yang Li handed her and wiped her tears away before she picked up the phone and looked at the photo again. After a moment, she closed her eyes.

Yang Li looked at Song Ning, perplexed, wondering what Song Ning was doing.

At the same time, scenes of her daily life flashed in Song Ning’s mind. After a while, she asked, “Sister Li, is this the only photo?”

Although Yang Li did not understand Song Ning’s purpose, she picked up her phone and swiped it a few times before showing them to Song Ning. “There aren’t many photos. We only have about five or six photos. Xiao Peng downloaded them from the Internet. After all, Mu Chen doesn’t like appearing in the media..”

### **Chapter 315: Superfluous**

Song Ning knew Mu Chen did not like being in the news. After thinking about it for a moment, she found a few incongruences. Their wedding banquet had not been held yet so why would Mu Chen hold a full moon banquet? Moreover, knowing Jiang Jin, Jiang Jin would have insisted on having a wedding banquet and a full moon banquet at the same time. It was impossible for them to neglect her and to only hold a full moon banquet.

Looking at Ye Xin smiling happily in the photos, Song Ning thought Ye Xin must be feeling very satisfied with herself.

Song Ning continued studying the photos until she eventually found something strange. Photos were still and unable to convey emotions. However, she could see the strangeness in her loved ones' expressions.

For example, in the photos, she saw Jiang Jin exchanging pleasantries and entertaining the guests with a polite smile on her face. However, Song Ning had seen this smile before. It was Jiang Jin's default smile as the former Chairman of Mu Corporation, a figure who could shake M City with a stomp of her foot. However, in front of her family, Jiang Jin's smile was unrestrained, and when Jiang Jin smiled, her eyes would shine with a hint of mischievousness. What was strange was that in the photos, even when Jiang Jin was faced with Mu Chen and Ye Xin, Jiang Jin's smile still seemed perfunctory.

Apart from that, there was Mu Chen as well. To others, he might seem aloof, but he was not like that with his family. At home, everyone 'bullied' him, even the helpers were not afraid of him. However, in the photos, his expression was cold even when faced with his family.

As Song Ning continued to study the pictures, she continued to find many abnormalities. Her baby was only held by Jiang Jin or Sister Yu. There was no picture of Ye Xin holding the baby, even her gaze did not linger on the baby at all.

It was just a few photos, but Song Ning felt as though she had become a superfluous person in the family. It was as though she was no longer in this world. She could not help but cry again when she thought about her current predicament.

When Yang Li saw the change in Song Ning's mood, she said gently, "Ning Xia, don't cry. Listen to me. If I'm not mistaken, everyone in the Mu family is in danger now..."

Song Ning looked at Yang Li with tears in her eyes.

Yang Li continued to say, "Think about it. Even if Ye Xin wants to become Mrs. Mu, don't you think this is going too far? Moreover, with Ye Xin's personality, she won't be able to tolerate being someone's substitute. If anything, she would rather kill you first before she continued to pester Mu Chen. She's very confident in her charms and has never understood the difference between you and her. Ning Xia, do you understand what I'm trying to say?"

Song Ning was stunned. "You're saying this is just a means to an end? Her goal is to harm the Mu family?"

Yang Li nodded with a grim expression on her face.

Song Ning muttered, "If she assumes my identity and stays by Mu Chen's side, she'll be able to control him and slowly take the Mu family down..."

Yang Li sighed in relief when she saw Song Ning had understood her words. She asked with a sigh, "Do you think her plan will work?"

"Yes!" Song Ning said confidently. Although she did not participate in the Mu family's affairs, she was very aware of the Mu family relatives' greed for the position of the head of the family. Previously, Mu Chen's father had almost destroyed the Mu family. If it were not for Mu Chen's foresight and Jiang Jin's prestige, those relatives would have eaten the Mu family whole. In the end, all of them were punished; some of them were grateful the punishment was lenient and some were unresigned. There was no lack

of those with ill intentions in the family. With this, Ye Xin would have chances to take the Mu family down from the inside..

### **Chapter 316: Making a Decision**

Song Ning knew Mu Chen and Cheng Che were like an impenetrable iron wall. One of them was skilled in offense while the other was skilled in defense. What else could those who harbored ill intentions do when such an intricate and meticulous plan failed? They could only start with the people closest to Mu Chen: Song Ning or Jiang Jin.

Jiang Jin had lived a long life and was experienced. With just a look, she would be able to see through those people's thoughts. Therefore, they could only start with Song Ning.

With all these thoughts in her mind, Song Ning grew restless and anxious. "Sister Li, I have to return!"

Yang Li shook her head gently and did not say anything.

"Sister Li, please help me. I have to return to the Mu family. I can't let Ye Xin have her way. I can't let the mastermind destroy the Mu family," Song Ning pleaded. She had never felt so anxious before.

Yang Li held Song Ning's hand and patiently said, "Ning Xia, don't be anxious. Listen to me. You can't return now because it'd be even more dangerous..."

Song Ning was stunned.

Yang Li continued to say, "Think about how ruthless the Ye family had acted toward me. What do you think they'll do to you? If you return to M City now, you'll be dead before you can even return to the Mu family. Why do you think I told you about my harrowing experience? I wanted you to know how dangerous things are now. You need to calm down so we can plan..."

Song Ning looked at Yang Li in a daze as fear overwhelmed her heart. Yang Li was right. She had to calm down. What could she do now? Ye Xin had taken over her identity. In the eyes of the world, Ye Xin was her now. Moreover, her body and face were riddled with wounds now. Even if she managed to return to the Mu family, who would believe she was Song Ning and that Ye Xin was a fake?

Yang Li said softly, "We're now in L City. I've already made arrangements for both our funerals. As long as we don't show up, I think the other party won't suspect anything. Our top priority now is to treat our injuries before carrying out our plan. Our health is the most important thing now..."

Yang Li's tone grew more determined as she spoke.

Song Ning's heart jolted when she saw the grim determination on Yang Li's face.

Yang Li told Song Ning that she needed plastic surgery while Song Ning needed a skin graft. Their treatment would require time, money, and perseverance.

Song Ning took one last look at the photo on Yang Li's phone as she took a deep breath to calm herself down. 'Mu Chen, my baby, wait for me...'

...



At the Mu family house.

Ye Xin, who was dressed in a glamorous outfit, was descending the stairs at this moment.

Mu Chen did not return last night, making her extremely unhappy.

When she was halfway down the stairs, she overheard the ongoing conversation downstairs.

“The Little Master is so obedient. He doesn’t cry incessantly, and his schedule is regular. He’s really easy to take care of.”

Sister Yu said with a smile, “Young Master was like Little Master when he was young as well. It seems like the father and son are made from the same mold...”

Jiang Jin chimed in, “He’s a very good child. He’s determined to grow up well...”

Upon hearing these words, Ye Xin’s mood worsened.

At this moment, the helper looked up and noticed Ye Xin. She quickly smiled and asked, “Young Madam, you’re awake. Breakfast has been prepared for you.”

Ye Xin ignored the helper and made her way to Jiang Jin instead. She asked with a smile, “Grandma, have you eaten?”

Jiang Jin replied with a smile, “I’ve already eaten. Since I’m old, I have to have my meals in a timely manner. You were the one who set this rule for me..”

### **Chapter 317: Abnormality**

Jiang Jin looked at Ye Xin.

Ye Xin paused for a moment before she said with a sigh, “It’s said that one changes after giving birth. I really believe it now. After giving birth, I feel like a different person. Grandma, you have to look after me...”

After Ye Xin finished speaking, she leaned over to Jiang Jin in a coquettish manner.

Jiang Jin quietly shifted her body and reached out to take the baby from Sister Yu. Then, she smiled and said, “The baby is awake. He’s been playing by himself earlier. You should go and have breakfast. After breakfast, you should accompany him...”

Ye Xin moved to look at the baby but did not reach out to carry him. In the end, she said with a smile, “Alright, I’ll listen to Grandma. I’ll go and have breakfast first.”

As Ye Xin walked away, Jiang Jin and Sister Yu looked at her back before they exchanged a glance and returned their attention to the baby.

It was very tiring to take care of a two-month-old baby. ‘Song Ning’ had handed the task of looking after the baby to Sister Yu and the helpers when she returned to the hospital. She seemed disinterested in the baby and was only focused on Mu Chen.

Mu Chen had been very busy recently. He was rarely at home, and there were nights where he did not return.

Jiang Jin could sense her grandson was behaving abnormally so she had asked him about it. However, her grandson assured her that nothing was wrong. She received the same answer when she spoke to Cheng Che as well. Following that, she had met the company's CFO privately. He was someone she trusted greatly and personally promoted so she knew he would never lie to her. After speaking to him, she still could not find anything wrong.

In the end, Jiang Jin figured out there was something wrong between her grandson and her granddaughter-in-law. 'Song Ning' was still 'Song Ning', but after giving birth, it was like she had changed into a completely different person. She recalled Jiahui had said that a woman might be different before and after giving birth due to the changes in the hormone levels. Jiahui had reminded them to take care of Song Ning to avoid Song Ning from getting postpartum depression.

Jiahui had gone abroad with her professor. Initially, the spot was supposed to be Song Ning's. However, since Song Ning had just given birth, Jiahui took over the job instead. Before she left, she had urged everyone to take good care of Song Ning. She had wanted to check Song Ning's pulse as well, but Song Ning refused and told her not to worry. Song Ning assured her that she would take care of herself. She did not insist on the matter since she knew Song Ning's medical skills were superior to hers.

Song Ning was not fussy when taking care of her health. In fact, she would do as Sister Yu had arranged. She had said that she trusted Jiang Jin and Sister Yu and that some old folk remedies were more useful than modern medicine.

Jiang Jin and Sister Yu were rather happy when they heard these words. They were originally worried that Song Ning would insist on following modern medicine and refused to accept old folk remedies. Who knew Song Ning would be so cooperative? Song Ning ate whatever Sister Yu cooked without any objections. The only thing was Song Ning ate very little, claiming she wanted to lose weight. They were surprised when they heard this.

Apart from that, Song Ning had trouble producing milk so the baby had to be given infant formula.

Jiang Jin and Sister Yu blamed this on the fire. Perhaps, Song Ning had been so frightened that it affected her milk production.

Jiang Jin felt rather regretful about this and could not help but sigh whenever she thought about this. Perhaps, Song Ning did not nurse the baby, the mother and son were not very close. In fact, every time Song Ning carried the baby, the baby would cry non-stop..

### **Chapter 318: Acting Coquettish**

Song Ning's lack of intimacy with the child made everyone confused and gave them a headache.

However, Song Ning did not seem unhappy that the child did not want her. Instead, she focused all of her attention on Mu Chen and clung to him.

What was strange was Mu Chen was not as affectionate with Song Ning as he used to be. Even Jiang Jin and Sister Yu noticed this.

In the past, Mu Chen would try his best to please Song Ning, and he would listen to Song Ning. He could not even take his eyes off Song Ning. On the contrary, Song Ning was usually very calm. Who knew the roles would be completely reversed? Now, Song Ning would try her best to please Mu Chen. When Mu Chen came home, her eyes would only be glued to Mu Chen. On the other hand, Mu Chen seemed rather cold when faced with Song Ning's affection.

Jiang Jin was puzzled by this change. If their family was a family that valued sons over daughters, and Song Ning had given birth to a daughter, perhaps, that might cause a rift between Song Ning and Mu Chen. However, their family valued sons and daughters equally, and Song Ning had even given birth to a son. What was wrong then?

Sister Yu had speculated that Mu Chen's change in behavior could be due to his expectation of having a little princess. Perhaps, this was the reason he was unhappy.

At that time, Jiang Jin said, "Do you think that's possible? Based on his feelings for Song Ning, even if Song Ning gave birth to a dinosaur, Mu Chen would not even blink. To him, the most important person is his wife."

After listening to Jiang Jin's words, Sister Yu thought that Jiang Jin had a point.

In the end, both of them kept their suspicions in their hearts and decided to find a suitable time to ask Mu Chen about the matter.

Jiang Jin even wondered if Mu Chen had a lover outside. She was prepared to break Mu Chen's leg if that was the case.

At this time, while Jiang Jin was still lost in her thoughts, Song Ning walked into the room after she finished her breakfast.

Upon seeing this, Jiang Jin handed the baby to Song Ning. "Carry the baby for a while. He'll be asleep for another hour or so..."

Song Ning subconsciously took a step back before she forced herself to reach out and carry the child. She said, "Grandma, it's better if you carry him. When I carry him..."

Before Song Ning could finish her words, the baby began to cry. In simple words, his voice was simply earth-shattering.

Song Ning's expression changed, and she hurriedly stuffed the child into Sister Yu's arms without thinking. "Does the baby have a grudge against me? Why does he start crying as soon as I hold him?"

Sister Yu held the baby and gently rocked and patted him as she coaxed him. "Baby, be good. Don't cry."

Jiang Jin reached out and carried the baby in her arms. She looked distressed as she said, "What's wrong? Why won't the baby let his biological mother hold him?"

Upon hearing these words, Song Ning's expression changed immediately.

Jiang Jin looked down at the baby who was swaddled in cloth.

His big eyes were shiny from the tears and looked very bright. He waved his little fists and pouted.

Jiang Jin's heart was overwhelmed with love when she looked at the baby. She said softly, "Baby, be good. Don't cry. What's there to cry about?"

Song Ning stepped forward at this moment and said, "Grandma, you can't spoil him too much. I heard that crying is good for babies. It can train his lung capacity."

Jiang Jin said angrily, "What are you talking about? How can a mother say such things? What training are you talking about? That's torturing the baby!"

Song Ning smiled sheepishly. Then, she leaned down and acted coquettishly as she said, "Grandma, I'm really bored. The baby doesn't want me, and Mu Chen isn't home. Grandma, why don't you speak to Mu Chen? He always says he's busy.. What's he so busy with? Why don't you tell him to reduce his workload to accompany me and the baby?"

### **Chapter 319: Questions**

She seemed to have forgotten the baby was still in Jiang Jin's arm as she held onto Jiang Jin's arm and shook it.

As a result, Jiang Jin almost lost control of her grip and almost dropped the baby/

Both Jiang Jin and Sister Yu were so frightened that they cried out in shock.

Fortunately, Sister Yu had quick reflexes and stepped forward to support the child.

Jiang Jin's heart did not stop racing for a long time.

Meanwhile, the baby who had been frightened began to cry again.

At this time, a tall figure strode away and took the baby from Sister Yu's arms, patting the baby gently. It was none other than Mu Chen who had just returned.

Jiang Jin's legs were weak, and she slumped against the couch.

Sister Yu hurriedly went forward to help Jiang Jin.

Song Ning had been frightened as well, and she did not know what to do. She instinctively took two steps back. When she turned around and saw Mu Chen, her eyes lit up immediately. She said happily, "Mu Chen, you're back! Aren't you working today?"

As Song Ning spoke, she moved closer to Mu Chen.

The baby who had just fallen silent after being comforted by Mu Chen burst into tears again as soon as Song Ning approached.

Mu Chen took two steps backward and avoided Song Ning. He said icily, "Why are you wearing such a strong perfume? The baby's sense of smell is very sensitive. You're a doctor. Why do I need to remind you of this?"

Song Ning was stunned. Her expression turned unsightly for a moment before she hurriedly replaced them with an aggrieved expression and said, "I... I only sprayed a little of the perfume. Grandma and Sister Yu didn't even notice it. Hubby, don't you think you're making a mountain out of a molehill?"

Mu Chen's expression seemed to ease slightly.

Upon seeing this, Song Ning took two steps forward again. She was about to act coquettishly to him again when she heard him say icily, "Go and change your clothes..."

Song Ning felt incredibly aggrieved. She turned to look at Jiang Jin and called out, "Grandma..."

Jiang Jin looked at the couple in front of her with a complex gaze. After a moment, she said, "Song Ning, go and take a shower and change. Yu, instruct the helpers to put away the Young Madam's cosmetics with a strong fragrance. The Little Master is too young. It's indeed unsuitable for him to be exposed to such strong fragrances..."

Sister Yu hurriedly said, "Alright. Young Madam, let's go."

Song Ning felt extremely wronged. However, when she saw Mu Chen's cold expression and the smile that had vanished from Jiang Jin's face, she did not dare to speak anymore. She reluctantly followed Sister Yu upstairs.

After Song Ning left, the grandson and grandmother looked at each other.

Finally, Jiang Jin motioned for Mu Chen to sit next to her.

Mu Chen carefully carried his son over and took a seat.

Jiang Jin leaned over to look at her great-grandson. She sighed and reached out to carry him.

Mu Chen carefully placed the baby in his grandmother's arms.

Jiang Jin felt her heart melt when she looked down at her great-grandson who was looking at her with bright and shiny eyes. Then, she asked in a low voice, "Song Ning has changed. You've noticed this for a while now, right?"

Mu Chen inhaled deeply before he said, "Grandma, I entrust the baby to you. You have to protect him no matter what..."

Jiang Jin looked at Mu Chen with a piercing gaze. "Mu Chen, you have to tell me what's wrong. You can't hide things from me."

Mu Chen shook his head gently. He massaged his temples, looking exhausted, before he said, "Grandma, it's nothing. I just feel like... something's wrong. However, I still can't figure it out..."

Jiang Jin lowered her voice and asked, "You should be most familiar with the person who shares a bed with you. Can't you tell what's wrong?"

Mu Chen covered his face with his hands and shook his head slightly. "I don't know. Nothing is right..."

At this time, the baby suddenly made a small noise.

Both grandmother and grandson looked at the baby and saw the baby smiling.

Jiang Jin exclaimed, "He's smiling! The baby smiled!"

### **Chapter 320: Probing**

Mu Chen looked at the fleeting smile on his son's face, and his heart was filled with mixed feelings.

Jiang Jin smiled at her great-grandson and said, "Baby, are you happy to see Daddy? Do you like Daddy?"

The baby gurgled in response.

Jiang Jin's heart melted again upon seeing this. "My precious grandson!"

When Song Ning, who had changed into a white silk dress, saw this scene, she could not help but frown. Mu Chen only had eyes for his son; no one else could fit in his heart. She walked gracefully toward Mu Chen and Jiang Jin before she said with a pout, "Grandma, Hubby, I was wrong..."

Jiang Jin looked up at Song Ning. A smile appeared on her face instinctually, but she did not say anything.

On the other hand, although Mu Chen did not say anything as well, he did not continue to rebuke her.

Song Ning's mood brightened immediately. She squeezed into the seat next to Mu Chen and hugged his arm before she asked, "Do you think this dress looks good on me?"

Her smile was so bright and beautiful that even Jiang Jin and Mu Chen felt it was incredibly dazzling. Nevertheless, it did not escape the duo's notice that since she came downstairs, she did not even spare a glance for the baby.

Jiang Jin gestured at the baby and said softly, "Baby, your Mommy didn't see you smile earlier... He looks really good when he smiled..."

Song Ning looked at the baby for a moment before she said, "Is that so? Anyway, he should be able to smile at this age; it's nothing special. Grandma, don't you think the baby's development is a little slow? Why don't I bring him to see a pediatrician tomorrow to get a checkup? He has been eating and sleeping every day. Don't you think his brain might be underdeveloped?"

Jiang Jin and Mu Chen looked at her in shock.

Mu Chen frowned before he said angrily, "Is there a mother like you who speaks about her child in this manner? Song Ning, is he your child? Why do I feel like you really despise him?"

These words hit a little close to home for Ye Xin who was pretending to be Song Ning. She shrank back under Mu Chen's fierce gaze. Then, she hurriedly forced a smile on her face and patted Mu Chen's arm as she said, "What are you talking about? I was just joking. It's precisely because I gave birth to the baby that I dared to say such words. Since I'm his mother, there shouldn't be any taboos, right? Grandma?"

At the end of her words, she looked at Jiang Jin for help.

Jiang Jin knew Mu Chen was furious. She smiled and tried to smooth things over. "Mu Chen, if things aren't going well at work, you shouldn't vent your anger at home. Have you forgotten your promise to Ningning in the past? You promised that you won't vent your frustrations at work on her."

Song Ning, who had found support, immediately said, "That's right. Mu Chen, you promised you won't vent your anger on me if you're frustrated at work. Fortunately, Grandma can testify for me." Then, she moved to sit next to Jiang Jin and hugged Jiang Jin's arm as she said, "Grandma, look at him! He's always bullying me."

There was an imperceptible change in the expressions of both the grandmother and grandson as they exchanged a look and saw the shock in each other's eyes.

Mu Chen felt his body trembling at this moment.

Jiang Jin mustered up all her strength to keep her voice steady as she said solemnly, "Mu Chen, I think it's best you stay home. Go to the study and reflect on yourself. Go now."

Mu Chen looked at Jiang Jin and called out, "Grandma..."

Jiang Jin waved her hand dismissively. "Go now. Don't make me repeat myself."

Mu Chen stood up. His legs were weak. Before he left, he turned to look at the baby again.

Upon seeing this, Jiang Jin said,

The expressions of the grandfather and grandson were unnoticeable.

The two of them looked at each other and saw the shock in each other's eyes.

Mu Chen felt like his entire body was trembling.

Jiang Jin used all her strength to steady her voice and said solemnly, "Mu Chen, I think you shouldn't go anywhere this morning. Go to the study and think about it! Go Now!"

Mu Chen looked at Jiang Jin and muttered, "Grandma -"

Jiang Jin waved her hand. "Go quickly! Don't let me say it again!"

Mu Chen stood up. He felt that his legs were weak.

Mu Chen turned to look at the baby. Jiang Jin said in a deep voice, "I know you're his father, but my precious great-grandson won't leave my side."

Upon hearing these words, Mu Chen did not even spare a glance at Song Ning and made his way upstairs.

Song Ning was slightly stunned.. She said timidly, "Grandma, I... It seems like I made Mu Chen angry again..."