

BOOT CAMP 2101

### **Chapter 2101: Winning Over**

Realizing that the problem would not end with the illegal Chinese businessman being caught, the major general glanced at Xia Jinyuan and asked the military doctor, "Can his injuries be treated a few hours later?"

"There's no sign of fever. He can be treated a few hours later." The military doctor packed up the medical supplies he'd taken out and saluted.

It was already 8:30 in the evening. The military office building was brightly lit and heavily guarded outside. The uniformed soldiers inside were working at their desks, quietly minding their own business.

Staff Officer Du came out of the General Staff Office building and took a car to Wang Fu Hotel. After a whole day of meetings, he was a little tired. He sat in the back and closed his eyes to rest.

Director Ye from the Southern Province had brought his daughter to report to the capital city's political regiment. In the end, his wife insisted that he go over to meet with Director Ye.

He had said what he needed to say, and he had helped out with what was necessary. Why did he still need to meet the other party?

Staff Officer Du, who did not want to come, waited for the waiter to push open the door of the private room. His face was filled with a happy smile as he strode over and laughed. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry. The general staff called for an emergency meeting, so I had to keep Director Ye waiting."

Ye Zhifan didn't dare to accept these words. He had been paying attention to the commotion at the door and spotted a military green shirt. Before Staff Officer Du walked over, he had already stood up to welcome him.

"No, I'm the one who's disrupting your schedule. Please forgive me." As he spoke, he reminded Ye Ying to get up quickly.

Madam Li liked the father and daughter's sense of awareness. One had to be self-aware. Otherwise, one would seem clumsy.

"Okay, okay, stop exchanging pleasantries now. Old Du, get the waiter to serve the dishes. Director Ye saw that you hadn't come and insisted on waiting. I couldn't dissuade him, so I had to order a few desserts to fill Ye Ying's stomach first."

Madam Li, who was wearing a cheongsam with vivid peony flowers embroidered on the collar, smiled and asked the two of them to sit down. She personally poured a cup of nourishing tea for her husband, who was sitting at the side. Then, she said elegantly, "Our two children haven't arrived yet. The new year has just passed. I really don't know what they're busy with. I don't even have anyone to accompany me when I want to find someone to eat with."

“Ye Ying is still the best. She’s obedient and sensible. She knows that I want to talk and chat. Look, before you came, it was this child who accompanied me to relieve my boredom.”

Hearing this, Staff Officer Du laughed even louder. He looked at the young lady sitting beside his wife and nodded in approval. “She’s indeed obedient. Director Ye, you’ve taught her well. If it were Jiayi, tsk, tsk. She would have only sat for ten minutes at most.”

Ye Ying tried her best to suppress the smile on her face. She lowered her head shyly as if she was overwhelmed by the praise. Her voice was a little soft, but she didn’t sound petty. “You’re flattering me. Madam is knowledgeable. It’s my blessing to be able to accompany her.”

“You’re simply adorable! If Jiayi was half as obedient as you, half of my hair wouldn’t be white.” Madam Li’s smile warmed up. She was naturally more satisfied with Ye Ying.

Someone pushed the door open and said unhappily, “Mom, can you lower your voice a little when you’re talking behind my back? I was outside and could hear you through the thick door.”

The person who spoke was Du Jiayi. She came in wearing a proper military uniform. There was a look of arrogance between her eyebrows that Ye Ying envied. It was the arrogance of someone who was quite confident.

### **Chapter 2102: Past Life Trajectory**

Before she met Du Jiayi, Ye Ying had long been envious. Now that she saw her in person, she was not only envious but also jealous.

If... If she had grown up in the Du family, she wouldn’t be any worse than Du Jiayi!

She remembered a quote from one of the books she read—‘Birth determines everything’.

In the past, she didn’t really believe it, but when she saw Jiayi... she really believed it!

Birth really decided everything!

In terms of looks, she was definitely not inferior to Du Jiayi! However, she did not have Du Jiayi’s arrogance!

In terms of temperament, she and Du Jiayi had their own merits. One was arrogant, while the other was gentle. However, she did not have Du Jiayi’s confidence! Moreover, she did not have the temperament that made her look elegant even if she was just doing something as simple as carrying water!

Ye Ying was jealous of Du Jiayi the moment she appeared, but she didn’t dare to show it as she was afraid that Madam Li would notice.

Ever since Madam Li came in, she couldn’t care less about Ye Ying, who had just flattered her. She revealed a dotting smile and teased, “Even if I talk behind your back for three days and three nights, I’d still have more to say. I dare to talk about you in front of you, what more behind your back?”

“Your mother is right. You’re the most disobedient. If your mother and I don’t say bad things about you, who else will we say bad things about?” Compared to his eldest daughter, Staff Officer Du doted on his

naughty but considerate younger daughter. After teasing her, he introduced her to Ye Zhifan. "Director Ye, this is my younger daughter, Jiayi. Jiayi, come and greet Uncle Ye."

Then, he pretended to criticize, "Look at you. You don't know any manners at all. You didn't even greet me when you came in."

Du Jiayi was on her home ground. She took off her military cap and placed it on the dining table. She smiled mischievously and said, "You didn't even introduce me, so how would I know who's this uncle?"

She stretched out her hand and shook hands with Ye Zhifan. "Hello, Uncle Ye. I'm Du Jiayi. The bad things my parents said just now are all untrue. Don't believe them."

Generous, decent, and experienced. Ye Zhifan could tell at a glance that Ye Ying was inferior to her.

He had been an official in the Southern Province for too long, and he had never met a young lady who was around the same age as his daughter among the children of his superior. As for the daughters of those who were at a lower rank than him, they were certainly inferior to his daughter. In comparison, he felt that his daughter had an outstanding temperament.

Compared to Staff Officer Du's daughter, Ye Zhifan couldn't help but say to Madam Li and Staff Officer Du, "Seeing Du Jiayi, I really understand what the saying 'a dragon gives birth to a dragon, a phoenix gives birth to a phoenix' means."

With just this one sentence, the three family members of the Du family were praised. Du Jiayi thought to herself, 'Interesting.' Then, she took the initiative to speak to Ye Ying. "You're indeed very obedient. I don't even dare to speak loudly anymore. Moreover, you're even prettier than what my mother said."

Ye Ying was flattered and quickly stood up. Her anxious tone was filled with admiration. "Miss Du, you're prettier and very cool."

"You're quite honest. That's right. Although you're beautiful, you're indeed a little inferior to me," Du Jiayi said deliberately with a smile. Her eyes were as bright as diamonds as she looked at Ye Ying.

Her gaze held an obvious appraisal. It was impudent and blunt.

Ye Ying was already nervous because of her words. Now that she was being sized up, she became even more nervous.

Besides, her instincts as a girl told her that despite the way she was smiling at her, there was an unkindness in her gaze that made her gut clench. Du Jiayi didn't like her.

### **Chapter 2103: Something Has Happened! Something Big Has Happened!**

This discovery made Ye Ying break out in a cold sweat. Her phone kept vibrating in her bag, but she didn't notice it.

Ye Ying's intuition was correct. Du Jiayi did not like Ye Ying.

Obedient, honest, and beautiful. Ha, another person who wanted to build a relationship with the Du family. If her father hadn't saved her brother's life, she wouldn't have come over to socialize with a father and daughter who came out of nowhere.

Madam Li didn't step forward and just let her daughter size up Ye Ying. She wanted to find an obedient daughter-in-law for herself. If the future sister-in-law couldn't stand the girl, she wouldn't want such a daughter-in-law.

[The daughter-in-law Madam Li chose this time is indeed pretty. You can come over now.] Du Jiayi didn't care about Ye Ying's mood. She sent a message to her younger brother, Li Yuan, who was a year younger than her. Under Madam Li's understanding gaze, she chatted with Ye Ying enthusiastically.

Li Yuan took Madam Li's surname. After he was born, Madam Li was the one who made the decision. The Du family did not say anything, so Madam Li went ahead with the decision.

When Li Yuan came over, he would really be the 'main character'.

Li Yuan, who had just turned 23 years old, was tall and handsome. He had studied abroad for a year and had a wild, unruly aura.

However, Madam Li was well-educated. She was very tall and had the noble aura of a descendant of an aristocratic family.

Seeing her youngest son, Madam Li became more talkative than before. She said, "My son has never had a girlfriend. Director Ye, why don't we be in-laws? What do you think?"

Ye Ying's heart skipped a beat. Li Yuan smiled and said, "Miss Ye is very suitable to become my girlfriend." Ye Ying's cheeks were so red that Li Yuan couldn't help but look at her.

Ye Zhifan knew that Madam Li wouldn't say things without thinking. That was why she said that. Even someone as calm as him was a little excited.

Both father and daughter were too excited to care about the phone that was vibrating desperately in their bags.

After three rounds of drinking and chatting, the vibrating cell phones in the father's and daughter's bags were also turned off.

When Sun Dongqing heard that both phones were switched off, she felt weak and slumped on the sofa.

It was over. It was over! Their hopeful days were over!

Her disappointing daughter! This time, she was really going to die of anger!

They sent her overseas so that she could study hard and start from scratch, but what did she do? Just what did she do? Ahh... she was so angry!

Ye Ying actually hung out with those blonde guys from overseas. She even... She even let others reach their hands into her clothes and touch her! She... She even snuggled up to two men on the sofa and kissed them!

Sun Dongqing was so angry!

Ye Ying didn't look like a student at all. She looked just like a... (sl\*t)!

Sun Dongqing, who was shocked by the contents of the videotape, was really angry. Although she usually defended Ye Ying for everything, as a woman from the countryside, she couldn't bear to let this slide!

The things she could not bear to see... Her daughter had done it all! All!

'Jesus Christ!'

Their entire family had lost face!

Sun Dongqing, who couldn't get through to her husband, wailed. It was too embarrassing.

How embarrassing! After such an embarrassing incident, she wanted to strangle herself with a rope so that she wouldn't be humiliated in public!

Sun Dongqing, who was so angry that she screamed and jumped, suddenly rushed back to her room and started rummaging through her things.

She was going to the capital city!

#### **Chapter 2104: Competing**

Sun Dongqing did not think about anything else. She only wanted to bring her daughter back from the capital city as soon as possible. It was fine if she embarrassed herself at home, but she must not embarrass herself outside!

That was all she could think of. The most important thing now was to bring Ye Ying back from the capital city. She didn't think about the fact that Ye Ying was a military arts soldier who was about to report for enlistment, nor did she consider that the videotape might have been sent to more people.

Sun Dongqing who had found her ID card only brought her wallet, phone, and no other luggage. She locked the door and headed to the airport in a sorry state.

She did not dare ask the driver to take her, for fear that he would get some clues from seeing her face. Even when she took a taxi, she covered her face with a thick plaid scarf.

From her home to the airport, she was so anxious that she kept calling the father's and daughter's phone numbers, hoping that one of them would pick up.

Ye Zhifan, who was chatting happily with Staff Officer Du, didn't even think about looking at his phone until he returned to his room. Needless to say, Ye Ying's heart was pounding when facing Li Yuan, who came from a good family and was handsome and rich.

She was not tempted by Li Yuan himself but by the Du family's background and wealth.

She didn't expect her mother's angry words to come true. She would find a husband who could become a general in the future! No, no, Li Yuan said that he had no intention of joining the army. She was not looking for a general to be her husband but a father-in-law who was a general! And a mother-in-law who came from a famous family!

As for whether Li Yuan was ugly or handsome, it did not matter anymore. Of course, she would feel better if he was handsome.

Although Ye Ying was excited the entire night, she was not impetuous when facing others. She pretended as though Madam Li was just joking. After a short moment of shyness, she returned to normal.

Madam Li was getting more and more satisfied with her. Before she left, she held Ye Ying's hand and smiled. "Tomorrow is Jiayi's birthday. We'll be holding a birthday party for her at home. Remember to come over with your father."

Not only did she have to be obedient, but Madam Li also had to see how well she could communicate with the others.

Then, she said to Ye Zhifan, "Director Ye, remember to visit tomorrow. Don't forget."

Ye Zhifan was stunned for a few seconds by the sudden good news. When he regained his senses, he patted his forehead and said apologetically, "I didn't expect Miss Du's birthday to be tomorrow. I wasn't prepared at all. It'll be too rude of me to rush over."

How could Ye Zhifan forget about such a good opportunity that could allow his daughter to integrate into the upper-class society as soon as possible? He had to be 120% focused. However, he still had to say some polite words.

Ye Ying naturally heard her father's words. She said to Jiayi Du in embarrassment, "I'm sorry, Jiayi. I didn't know it was your birthday tomorrow. I didn't even prepare a birthday gift."

How could Ye Ying compare to Du Jiayi? Du Jiayi, who secretly curled her lips in disdain, smiled brightly. "Do I lack a gift from you? It's fine as long as you're there. When the time comes, I'll introduce a few friends who are about your age to you. In the future, you can hang out with them when you're out on vacation."

How could Ye Ying not hear the hidden meaning in Du Jiayi's words? She despised her for not being able to give her a gift that made her think highly of her.

She had never done anything to make her angry, but she kept saying harsh things all night. However, she made herself seem magnanimous and polite.

Ha, wasn't she just afraid that she would take away Madam Li's favor?

**Chapter 2105: A Noblewoman? Bah!**

A noblewoman?

Bah!

She was so narrow-minded. If her surname wasn't Du, who would care about her?!

Ye Ying continued to pretend that she didn't understand Jiayi's sarcasm. She maintained her sweet smile and said, "No, no. I'm already very satisfied to be able to attend your birthday party. I really don't have to trouble you to introduce friends to me. I... I'll take my time with this."

Madam Li had been paying attention to their conversation the entire time. Seeing that Ye Ying was polite and answering her daughter determinedly, she nodded in satisfaction.

That was right, she didn't just accept everything. She even knew how to counterattack when she was forced too much. It could be seen that there was strength in her gentleness. She wouldn't be too weak and let others bully her.

Tonight's observation was almost complete. Overall, she was satisfactory.

"Jiayi, you can be mean just because Ye Ying is docile. I've seen everything tonight. You're almost crossing the line here." Madam Li, who had let Ye Ying pass another round, finally spoke up and stopped her daughter from continuing to suppress Ye Ying.

The moment she spoke, Du Jiayi instantly became a different person. She held Ye Ying's arm affectionately and said in relief, "Ah, I'm exhausted. Mom, don't ask me to do such things again! I didn't know it was so tiring to be a bad person for a day!

"Ah, that tired me out. I don't want to be a bad person anymore!"

Ye Ying was stunned. She didn't understand what was going on.

"I'm sorry, Ye Ying. It was all my mother's idea tonight. It really has nothing to do with me." Du Jiayi winked playfully and explained, "When my mother told me about it, I was put in a really difficult position. When I saw you, I almost wanted to leave.

"But there's no choice. She's my mother, after all. As long as my mother gives out an order in the family, it's an imperial edict. Even my father doesn't dare to resist. As a daughter, what can I do?"

The more she spoke, the lower her voice became. In the end, she whispered into Ye Ying's ear and giggled. "Let me tell you a secret. My mother is quite satisfied with you. As for you, you just have to keep coaxing my mother in the future. As long as my mother is happy, the entire family will be happy!"

Ye Ying, who now understood what was going on, actually wanted to avoid Du Jiayi. Her body stiffened from the contact with Du Jiayi. The hand that was holding her arm did not make her feel the other party's passion. Instead, she felt uncomfortable.

“Alright, I’ll see you tomorrow. Sleep early tonight and come over early tomorrow to help me receive the guests.” Du Jiayi had always been domineering and didn’t care whether or not Ye Ying wanted to come over early.

To her, it was a huge honor for the daughter of a mere police chief to come over early to help her. She could only rush over and eagerly make an appearance. How could she refuse?

Madam Li, who was also strong-headed, didn’t think that her daughter was strong. Instead, she thought that her daughter’s arrangements were good. She smiled at Ye Ying and said, “Alright, I’ll send a chauffeur to pick you up early tomorrow. There’s no need to prepare a gift. Jiayi doesn’t lack anything.

“Don’t even worry about dressing up. You can get your makeup done by Jiayi’s makeup artist. You’ll definitely look more beautiful and classier.”

They were getting a chauffeur to pick her up again tomorrow?

Ye Ying, who was unhappy with Du Jiayi’s sarcastic words, was happy again. That was right, Madam Li was in charge of the Du family. As long as she could make Madam Li happy and marry into the Li family, why would she need to be afraid of Du Jiayi?

### **Chapter 2106: Daydreaming**

Du Jiayi was just an outsider. How could she compare to Li Yuan? Li Yuan even followed Madam Li’s surname. It could be seen how high his status in Madam Li’s heart was!

Glancing at the handsome figure standing in front of her on his phone, Ye Ying’s smile became tamer.

A trace of contempt flashed across Du Jiayi’s eyes as she silently took in all of Ye Ying’s expressions and actions. The smile on her face remained as she continued to hold Ye Ying’s arm tightly. She pouted and acted playfully. “Mom, you’re so biased. My friends have never received any praise from you. And you haven’t praised me in a long time.”

Did she really think that Ye Ying could marry into the Du family after coaxing her mother? Heh, she really knew how to daydream.

For some reason, Du Jiayi didn’t like Ye Ying. She had been biased from the beginning.

Madam Li glared at her daughter, who had started to act mischievously again. Although it was said that she was glaring, her eyes were filled with love. “If you were half as good as Ye Ying, I’d dote on you every day.”

Even Staff Officer Du got involved and laughed. “Your mother is right. If you were half as obedient as Ye Ying, I’d dote on you too.”

One should just listen to their polite words, not take them seriously. Ye Zhifan quickly flattered them. The atmosphere was so happy that everyone smiled.



Du Jiayi looked at Ye Ying, who was getting more and more uncomfortable. She sighed with a smile. "Ye Ying, your arrival has made my status plummet. I don't care anymore. I'll leave the heavy responsibility of coaxing my mother to you in the future."

The affectionate and witty words made the laughter of the three adults present louder and louder.

Ye Ying couldn't figure out what was going on in Du Jiayi's heart. She tried her best to smile naturally and said gently, "You've made me happy. It's my blessing to be able to make Madam Li happy."

Du Jiayi was cold and hot at the same time. Her words and actions were different. Her words were clearly sarcastic, but they made the adults laugh. Ye Ying couldn't help but be afraid and envious.

In the face of power, Ye Ying was not as arrogant as she was toward Ye Jian. No matter how rude Du Jiayi was to her, she could endure it willingly.

When the Du family of four got into the car and left, Ye Ying gritted her teeth and clenched the corner of her shirt tightly to vent her anger.

Ye Zhifan, who had walked over, looked at his daughter's fingers that were gripping her clothes. His eyes were dark as he said calmly, "That's how confident Du Jiayi is. She dares to do this because she has the ability to despise you.

"The reason why you don't dare to talk back is that she has enough power to despise your status. Ye Ying, what's superiority? It's daring to say what you want and do what you want. No matter how uncomfortable others are, they can only accept it obediently."

Ye Ying bit her lower lip tightly. She looked up at her father and put down her pride unwillingly. She gritted her teeth and said, "I know. So for now, I can only endure it until I can marry into the Li family."

"Madam Li was just joking. Did you take it seriously?" Ye Zhifan interrupted Ye Ying's dream. "What kind of family is the Du family? Do you think that they can't find a daughter-in-law from a famous family?"

"Ye Ying, don't dream about these. You should think about how to make use of Madam Li's liking to fight for a place in the military. See if it's possible to transfer to military school and become an officer with a military rank."

### **Chapter 2107: Annoying**

Her dream had just started. Before she could get a step closer, Ye Zhifan had poured cold water on her. Ye Ying almost cried.

Although she didn't think it was impossible, she didn't dare say it out loud again. She could only think about it silently.

"Go back to your room and rest. Get up early tomorrow and wait for the chauffeur sent by Madam Li. It's good to go to the Li family early. I'm sure Madam Li will introduce you to the wife of a high-ranking official who's on good terms with her. As long as you get close to the Du family, Ye Ying, your marriage won't be too bad either." Ye Zhifan didn't dare to think about his daughter marrying into the Du family. He just wanted to get Madam Li's help.

Thinking that Madam Li would send a chauffeur to fetch her to the Du family tomorrow, Ye Ying felt better.

After returning to her room, she took a bubble bath. Before she went to bed, Ye Ying realized that her phone was out of battery. She plugged it in and fell asleep without turning it on.

Ye Zhifan was worried that something would happen at the bureau. He charged his phone for a while and turned it on. Just as he turned on his phone, countless text messages sounded. It was either his home phone or Sun Dongqing's phone. There were nearly 30 messages!

Ye Zhifan, who was rarely called by Sun Dongqing, called home with a calm expression. No one picked up the phone. The phone was switched off. He, who had no patience with his wife, ignored her. He turned his phone to silent mode and fell asleep.

At this moment, Sun Dongqing was flying straight to the capital city in a luxurious cabin. The other passengers were already asleep, but she was not sleepy at all. Her eyes were wide open. She was hoping to get off the plane as soon as possible.

In the car, Madam Li was asking Li Yuan what his impression of Ye Ying was.

Li Yuan did not think too much about it and was not very interested. He said calmly to please Madam Li, "She's alright. At least she looks more pleasing to the eyes. She's not like the women I've seen in the past who think they're so impressive. As for her, she looks like she has a good personality and doesn't look like she would cause trouble."

"Mom, it's useless to ask Li Yuan. As long as the woman is beautiful, he'll think that she's good." Du Jiayi smiled coldly. She couldn't hide her disdain for Ye Ying. "She's indeed good-looking, but I really don't see anything good about her personality."

"Biting dogs don't bark. That's what people like her do. They don't cause trouble because she doesn't have the balls to mess with our family right now."

Madam Li had long seen that her daughter was targeting Ye Ying. Just because she didn't say it didn't mean that she didn't know. When she heard this, she smiled at her daughter, who had always had a sharp eye. She praised, "Your judgment of people is indeed better than Li Yuan's. Just because Ye Ying isn't causing trouble now doesn't mean that she's truly weak. But her personality is still considered gentle. I admire her forbearance."

"She also has a sweet tongue. She's as good with words as her father. She doesn't give the impression of flattery. She just seems to have some enthusiasm. As for handling matters, she's quite tactful for her age. She's much better than the women your brother was in contact with before."

When Staff Officer Du, who was sitting in the front, heard this, he turned his head and said to his children, "Your mother is very satisfied with her. The two of you can just go along with what she says. You don't have to bring up anything else."

“Dad, you’ve always been on Mom’s side. Look ahead and don’t talk. Don’t interrupt us!” Du Jiayi leaned forward and raised her bare hand to cover the side of Staff Officer Du’s face. She then pushed it. “We’ll say our piece. Just listen.”

“Fine, fine, fine. I won’t talk about it. You guys keep talking.” Staff Officer Du, who had his face pushed by his daughter, laughed out loud. He had always left the family alone. Having his wife manage the family was enough.

If she said it was good, then it was good. If she said it wasn’t, then it wasn’t.

### **Chapter 2108: Just Annoying**

Amused, Madam Li patted her daughter’s arm. “How rude. Sit up straight. Don’t affect the guard’s driving.”

“I’m not done yet.” Du Jiayi sat back with a grin and continued to talk about what she didn’t like about Ye Ying. “I don’t like her much. It feels like she’s putting on an act. She was blushing and acting all shy throughout the night. It made me look thick-skinned. That’s what I don’t like about it.”

“Also, Mom, didn’t you notice that her gaze was a little frivolous? As soon as Li Yuan came in, she quickly glanced at him and lowered her head. At that time, I really thought that she was shy, but in the end, you said that you wanted her to be Li Yuan’s girlfriend. Ha...” Du Jiayi snorted softly with a mocking expression. “She started to stare at Li Yuan from time to time. It was not an embarrassed look. She was completely sizing him up. She wanted to see if Li Yuan was worthy of her.

“She’s just the daughter of a small chief. What right does she have to ponder over whether Li Yuan is worthy of her?”

Du Jiayi’s words had a great impact on Madam Li. After a long time, she nodded and said, “You’re young as well, so you look at other young people from a different perspective. Sometimes, you can indeed see through things more clearly than adults.

“From what you said, it’s indeed possible that Ye Ying deliberately acted well to leave a good impression on me. However...”

Although she agreed with her daughter, Madam Li didn’t deny her adoration for Ye Ying. “However, she’s indeed gentle and filial. You can tell from how she served tea for Ye Zhifan from time to time.”

He turned to ask Li Yuan, who was full of interest, “What about you? What do you think?”

Her daughter’s thoughts were important, but everything still depended on her son.

“I have no objections as long as the person can get past you and sister.” Li Yuan shrugged indifferently. Ye Ying’s beautiful face flashed across his mind, and his eyes shone with slightly more interest. “Her father isn’t bad. The Southern Province is a good province. I want to develop in the Southern Province. If Ye Zhifan gives me pointers, everything should go smoothly.”

Du Jiayi rolled her eyes at Li Yuan. "Do you still need Ye Zhifan's guidance to develop in the Southern Province? Isn't it enough with Uncle's guidance? Uncle, Second Uncle, and Third Uncle can also help. Do you still need Ye Zhifan?"

"Sister, you're dreaming. Uncle will only help Li Jinnian. How would he help Mom? It's already good enough that he doesn't go against Mom. I don't want to rely on Third Uncle either. He's been overseas for so many years. He doesn't have anything in the country. How can he help me?"

At the mention of his maternal relatives, Li Yuan's eyes darkened. "With Eldest Uncle and Second Uncle around, ha, what can we possibly hope to do?"

"If you don't fight for it, how do you know whether or not you can do anything? Third Uncle was forced to leave the country by Eldest Uncle back then. Now, can't you join forces with him? And Eldest Aunt is a stepmother. She hates Li Jinnian so much but can't get rid of him. Can't you join forces with Eldest Aunt?"

Li Yuan glanced at Du Jiayi coldly. "No matter how much Aunt wants to get rid of Li Jinnian, she won't help me as I also want to split the Li family..."

"What are you arguing about?! Shut up!" Madam Li, who was furious, glanced at her son and daughter. Her eyes, which had been smiling just now, were already filled with dark clouds. "Your second uncle will come over tomorrow. Don't mention his past. Also, spend more time with your grandmother! She dotes on you and your sister the most."

### **Chapter 2109: Complicated Relationship**

Since Madam Li was angry, Du Jiayi did not dare to say anything else. She secretly glared at Li Yuan who had caused her to be criticized and felt depressed.

Thinking of the complexity of her maternal grandfather's family, Du Jiayi pursed her lips and gently held Madam Li's arm. She said softly, "Mom, don't be angry. Brother and I know what to do. We won't embarrass you and Third Uncle in front of Eldest Uncle and Second Uncle."

Why did she say that her daughter was a caring little girl? Actually, she meant that she was meticulous.

Her daughter could tell that she was angry and immediately came to coax her. Her son, on the other hand, would not. Men were not so meticulous. Men only cared about personal gains and losses.

Sighing, Madam Li patted her daughter's shoulder. "I'm relieved that you're sensible. Don't tell your brother that he can't rely on your uncle in the future. Your eldest uncle and your grandmother are like fire and water. It's good that your second uncle doesn't take care of things. It saves your grandma from having to worry. Your third uncle has just returned to the country. How can he help your brother?"

"Besides, there's still Li Jinnian. He alone is enough for your grandmother and third uncle to worry about. Let's settle our own matters and not trouble your grandmother."

At the mention of her family, Madam Li was no longer in a good mood.

Seeing her frown and her reluctance to talk about it, Du Jiayi nodded obediently. She hid the complexity in her eyes.

Her maternal family was wealthy, but their relationship with each other was extraordinarily complicated.

Her grandfather had been a playboy all his life. He married her eldest grandmother and gave birth to her eldest and second uncles. However, it was later found out that he had a mistress outside of the house, who was her eldest grandmother's sister. They gave birth to her third uncle and mother.

What surprised her even more was that... Little Granny and Big Granny were actually not related by blood. Little Granny was the adopted daughter of Big Granny's family.

Later on, her maternal grandfather's affair with his sister-in-law was exposed. Her stubborn grandmother directly slapped her twice, and the two sisters turned against each other.

It was not until Big Granny died of an illness that Little Granny was able to enter the Li family and become the wife of her grandfather.

The two elderly women had fought for her maternal grandfather for a lifetime, allowing the grudges of the older generation to continue to the next generation.

Du Jiayi couldn't help but let out a long sigh when she thought about how her maternal grandfather's family clearly had a prominent family background, but the grudges of the older generation still affected their generation.

It was quiet in the car, so her heavy sigh was especially obvious.

Madam Li, who was in a bad mood, found it funny. "Why are you sighing for no reason? Why? Is there anything you need to worry about at home?"

"Mom, I'm thinking about Little Granny." Adjusting her sitting position, she whispered, "Mom, just tell me what happened to my maternal family back then.

"Why did First Aunt unexpectedly die in an accident and why was Third Uncle forced to leave the army and go to a foreign country? Just tell me about it. I really want to know."

Back then, something had happened to the Li family and they almost collapsed. From then on, Uncle and Grandma were even more incompatible. Until now, Uncle had never called Little Granny 'Mom'.

Hearing this, Madam Li's face turned cold again. She said in a low voice, "Don't ask about things you shouldn't know!"

"Why—"

Staff Officer Du interrupted Du Jiayi to ask another question. He chuckled and said, "Jiayi, that's all old history. We have to move on. What's a young lady like you doing, digging through old history?"

It was still as secretive as before. As long as it was mentioned, their expressions would change.

“Oh,” Du Jiayi said reluctantly. She thought for a moment, then asked, “Didn’t Li Jinnian say he was back? Mom, do you think he’ll come to our house tomorrow?”

### **Chapter 2110: Scheme**

“That depends on your aunt’s mood and his mood.” At the mention of Li Jinnian, Madam Li’s attitude was rather cold. “It’s better if neither of them comes.”

She had no feelings for her brother, let alone the fact that he did not get along with the current Matriarch Li.

Li Yuan, who was resting with his eyes closed, said with a faint smile, “Li Jinnian won’t come. But the other cousins will definitely come because the two of them like anything that Li Jinnian hates.”

“That’s true. Li Jinnian definitely won’t come.” Du Jiayi nodded thoughtfully.

Her uncle’s family was not complicated. It was mainly because her aunt did not like Li Jinnian, who was born to the first wife. She only wanted to fight for her son and daughters’ inheritance.

It was not that Li Jinnian was insensible. It was just that his aunt could not tolerate the son left behind by the first wife. From time to time, she would cause trouble, so Li Jinnian’s relationship with his uncle was quite bad.

Fortunately, Li Jinnian had joined the army and was stationed at the seaside all year round. He couldn’t even return home once a year, so his uncle’s family had been quite peaceful thus far.

As if thinking of something, Madam Li’s gaze suddenly turned serious. She said in a low voice, “Li Jinnian is back. Li Yuan, go to your maternal grandfather’s house more often in the next few days. Your maternal grandfather loves his eldest grandson, Li Jinnian, the most. Don’t let him take all the benefits!”

Li Yuan’s lips twitched as he refused. “No, it’s meaningless. Let Sister go over. She likes the treasures in Grandpa’s hands.”

“If you’re not going, I’ll go! It just so happens that I still have four days off. I can go over and accompany Grandpa and Little Granny.” Du Jiayi agreed immediately. She was also thinking about the treasures in her grandfather’s hands. Those were all antiques. It was said that many of them were treasures from the palace that her great-grandfather had swept up when he was a warlord!

Little Granny, who wanted to take the treasures in her maternal grandfather’s hands, would definitely be happy if she went over!

Madam Li nodded. “Alright, don’t provoke Li Jinnian in the future! Although your grandfather also wishes to leave the things to me and your third uncle, Li Jinnian is still the eldest grandson of the Li family. Although your grandfather dotes on you, he’ll never love you more than his eldest grandson!”

The family whispered from time to time in the car. The conversation only ended when they reached home.

After returning home, Li Jinnian sat on the yellow rosewood sofa and chatted with the two elderly with a cold expression.

Although he was supposed to accompany them, he was just sitting at the side and listening quietly.

“Tomorrow is Jiayi’s birthday. Old Master, look, Third Brother’s child is back now. I’ll ask Hunnian to bring a few of them over. Let Third Brother’s child meet them. It’ll be too rude if he can’t even recognize who they are in the future.”

Old Madam Li, who was speaking, had her hair combed in an old style. She was 15 years younger than Old Master Li and had taken good care of herself. Her hair was still black, and she looked exceptionally elegant and dignified in the improved cheongsam.

She spoke unhurriedly with a soft accent. It was obvious that she had a good voice when she was young.

Li Jinnian, who had been silent, raised his eyes and said indifferently, “My vacation days are limited. I still have a meeting tomorrow. Sorry, I don’t have time.”

“I see. I didn’t think it through,” Old Madam Li said in disappointment. She looked at the old man and deliberated for a moment before saying, “Then I’ll go over. There’s no need to trouble you.”

“As for the gift, Old Master, why don’t you give the portrait our second son drew of a lady to Jiayi? That girl has liked it for a long time. I haven’t been able to bear to give it to her in the past.”