

Chapter 1501: Guests At Home

"If you promise not to be angry, I won't talk nonsense anymore. If you're still mad, then I'll bug you until you're not mad!" The child remained stubborn. Then, he even smiled at Jiang Yao.

Jiang Yao was so angry that her teeth hurt. She had probably never seen such a difficult child.

"Let's go. Ignore him." Jiang Yao pulled Lu Xingzhi to hail a taxi and quickly got into it. She hurriedly told the driver to drive.

Cheng Jinnian chased after them with his short legs. After running for a few meters, the driver could not bear to see that. He turned to look at the couple in the backseat and asked, "Are you so heartless to leave your son behind? Aren't you going to wait for him?"

"Do I look like someone who would have such a son that age? I am only 18 years old this year! I've only been married for two days!" Jiang Yao's face had darkened. "I don't even know him!"

Lu Xingzhi glanced at Jiang Yao. Was she so angry that she had started to lie?

He looked back and saw that Cheng Jinnian had stopped chasing them for a while. Lu Xingzhi thought that the Cheng family would not let Cheng Jinnian wander around alone, so someone must have followed him. Therefore, he was not too worried that Cheng Jinnian would be in any danger.

Furthermore, with Cheng Jinnian's level of shrewdness, not many people would be able to get anything out of him. Plus, that kid had a gun with him.

Since Cheng Jinnian had suddenly appeared, Jiang Yao and Wen Xuehui no longer had the mood to have a good chat. After calling Wen Xuehui in the taxi, Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi went straight to the airport and rushed back to their hometown.

They did not inform their families in advance when they went back to their hometown. When they arrived at the airport, Lu Xingzhi chartered a car to drive them back to town. It was evening when the two of them arrived home.

There were two strange bicycles at the door of their home. Both were covered in rust. It seemed like they were old bicycles.

"They are having guests?"

Jiang Yao looked away from the two bicycles and then walked in with Lu Xingzhi.

There was a huge difference between people who had lived in the countryside for a long time and people who lived in the city—the former were used to speaking loudly.

Therefore, before Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi reached the door, they heard an unfamiliar voice mentioning Jiang Yao's name.

"Your daughter-in-law's name is Jiang Yao, right? Everyone in the town knows that your daughter-in-law doesn't study properly. She's always going somewhere without telling anyone. You said that she's not at school? But she's alone in the city, so where can she go? She must have run away with another man!"

How long has it been since you've been in contact? Didn't she like that she and her teacher went to the countryside to help those people there? But everyone knows that your daughter-in-law has lied to you!

"When I heard that your son was marrying such a girl, I felt a little unhappy about it. Didn't I tell you that back then? You must get a daughter-in-law who's honest and dutiful. They can stay at home with the children and help with housework. If you get a girl who wants to go to the university, it will cost you money. She must be ambitious too; how can a small family like ours keep her? You're regretting your decision, right? You didn't listen to me back then, so now your daughter-in-law has run away, and this has cost you a lot of money, right?"

Chapter 1502: Second Aunt

"That's right. I heard that you bought many expensive clothes for her and paid for her studies. Take a look at what kind of person she turned out to be."

Another woman said the last sentence; she sounded younger.

Jiang Yao frowned and looked at Lu Xingzhi. Her heart was filled with anger. Which relative would try to sow discord with their parents with such nonsense?

"It's my second aunt and her daughter."

Lu Xingzhi held Jiang Yao's hand and walked into the house. When the two of them changed their shoes at the door, Lu Xingzhi deliberately made a noise and shouted, "Dad, Mom, Yaoyao and I are back."

Mr. and Mrs. Lu were angry at their unexpected guests, and they were shocked when they suddenly heard their son's voice.

"Why are you suddenly back? Is Yaoyao home too?" When Mr. Lu turned around and saw Lu Xingzhi holding hands with Jiang Yao, his face lit up with joy. Then, he nudged his wife and said, "Yaoyao and Xingzhi are back. If there's anything, we can just ask them."

"Of course, it's not like I will believe the words of an outsider and not my own family." Mrs. Lu felt that Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao's timing was excellent. If they had arrived a little earlier, it would have been meaningless. If it had been a little later, she would have turned hostile and chased her second sister-in-law and niece out of the door.

"Dad, Mom."

Jiang Yao walked into the room and glanced at the mother and daughter sitting inside. Pretending that she did not know who those two were, she asked, "We have guests? Who are they? Why didn't you introduce them, Mom? They look unfamiliar. They haven't been here before, right? Are they your new friends?"

Jiang Yao implied that those two people were outsiders, people she had not met before.

Mrs. Lu felt that Jiang Yao's question had hit the nail on the head, but she still had to give a proper explanation. "It's no surprise that you don't know them. After all, your second aunt and cousin usually don't come to our house for no reason at all. I don't know why they're here today; it's a rare occasion."

Mrs. Lu noticed that Lu Xingzhi was carrying a lot of luggage when he entered the house. She was a little surprised. "Are you guys staying?"

"I'm going back to the army tomorrow. Yaoyao will stay at home for a while," Lu Xingzhi explained. Then, he took the luggage upstairs.

The young girl was Mrs. Lu's second sister-in-law's daughter. Her name was Li Qing. When she saw the two newcomers, her face darkened. She knew that they had heard what she and her mother had said.

"Shouldn't you be in school? Why are you back before the summer holidays? Did you do something bad and get expelled from school? Many people in town are saying that you ran away with another man. Do you still have the dignity to come back here? You think my aunt and uncle are so easy to deceive?"

Since her words had already offended those two people, she did not hold back.

Anyway, she felt that she was in the right. Everyone in the town knew that Jiang Yao had pretended to go to the countryside to provide support, but in fact, she had already taken an extended leave of absence from school. Furthermore, ever since Jiang Yao went to school, she had often taken multiple leaves of absence. She had even taken a leave of absence for more than a month before she returned to school.

Li Qing did not mind offending such a woman. That was her aunt's house, and Jiang Yao was an outsider. She was home, but Li Qing was sure her aunt would chase her out.

Chapter 1503: Am I Wrong?

"Did you say that your cousin is the other man?" Jiang Yao rolled her eyes at Lu Xingzhi's cousin.

Jiang Yao was not familiar with Mrs. Lu's relatives, as she did not seem to have much contact with the relatives of her family. However, Jiang Yao knew a little about Li Qing, but it was because of Li Qing's name.

It was taboo to marry someone with the same surname, especially among relatives. None of them liked to have the same name too. When Lu Yuqing was born, Mrs. Lu named her daughter because she had read a poem that she liked very much.

It was about 20 years ago, and not many families named their daughter with such a refined and elegant name.

Many people praised Lu Yuqing's name. They said that the parents were knowledgeable, so they could give such lovely names to their children.

Later, Mrs. Lu's second sister-in-law also gave birth to a daughter and insisted on giving her the name Li Yuqing. When Mrs. Lu found out about it, she was so angry that she went back to her mother's house and caused an uproar. Later, her second sister-in-law changed the name to Li Qing, but Mrs. Lu was still furious.

Her second sister-in-law even said that her daughter's name came from a poem she had read. She even recited the poem to them.

The naming incident caused Mrs. Lu to hold a grudge against her second brother and second sister-in-law. If she had not registered Lu Yuqing's name, she would have changed her daughter's name!

"Jiang Yao, who do you think you are talking to?"

Mrs. Li immediately stood up to protect her daughter.

"What? Am I wrong? She has to call me Cousin-in-law. Do I have to use honorifics with her? She's also very rude. How did she speak to her aunt just now?" Jiang Yao's temper flared; she was not a gentle person anyway. She did not think she needed to be polite to people she did not like.

Furthermore, the other party had slandered her. Did they think they could bully her?

"Did Xiao Qing say something wrong? Are you saying that you did nothing wrong? Didn't you lie to your family? Are you still saying that you followed your teacher to the countryside?" Mrs. Li spat shamelessly.

"Forget it; no one wants to hear your lies. Your grandmother went to your school to look for you, but she couldn't find you. Instead, she found out that you hadn't been to school at all this semester, and no teachers went to the countryside! If you weren't with another man, where were you?"

"Since when is it someone else's turn to teach my wife a lesson?"

Lu Xingzhi had put down their luggage and came downstairs with a gloomy face. Then, he turned to Mr. Lu and Mrs. Lu. "Dad, Mom, Yaoyao have been with me all this while. As for why we lied to you and what we did, we'll explain it to you alone when there are no outsiders."

Lu Xingzhi emphasized the word outsiders. When he said that, his gaze fell on the mother-and-daughter duo.

He sneered.

Lu Xingzhi knew from a young age that his family did not like those two people. It was not only because of his sister's name but also because of what happened after that.

Chapter 1504: Mrs. Lu's Family

When Lu Xingzhi was still very young, the living conditions of the Lu family were not good. At that time, Mr. Lu and his brother were still on a fixed salary, and since the two brothers had been dependent on each other since they were young, it was tough for them to repay the money they owed.

Later, Lu Xingzhi's second uncle left his job to start his own business. At that time, the family was not wealthy, and Second Uncle Lu also put Lu Xiaoxiao in his eldest brother's care.

As soon as Second Uncle Lu left, people from the Li family came after hearing the news. They asked Mrs. Lu why she would help someone else raise their daughter? They even scolded Mrs. Lu for being silly because she treated her niece as if she were her own daughter! Why did she not give that money to her brothers and sisters-in-law?

Mrs. Lu's mother did not say those words; it was her two sisters-in-law. They thought it was their job to persuade her. When they could not do it, they encouraged their husbands and mother-in-law to say something too.

Since Mrs. Lu ignored their words and did not give them much money, the Li family did not see them for a few years.

Later, Lu Yuqing had chickenpox. Since she wanted to be close to their younger siblings, Lu Xingzhi and Lu Xiaoxiao caught it too. Three children suddenly fell ill.

Mrs. Lu was anxious because the three children ran a high fever. She wanted to send the three children to the hospital for treatment. The family did not have money, so Mrs. Lu went to her parents' house to borrow money. However, her brother and sister-in-law said they did not have any money, and they did not lend Mrs. Lu a single cent. They even said that not every child would get chickenpox. If the children did not survive, then it was their fate to die.

The Li family had just refused to lend money to Mrs. Lu when they bought a brand-new bicycle. It was so grand that even Mrs. Lu heard the news in town.

Since then, Mrs. Lu had never returned to her parents' house. She still bought them gifts, but she would immediately leave whenever she dropped the gifts at their home.

No one from the Li family had ever visited the Lu family in all those years, so the two families maintained minimal contact.

It was not until the work of Mr. and Mrs. Lu became the teachers that everyone envied and respected. Second Uncle Lu was also successful in business. After earning his first bucket of gold, he went home to build two magnificent villas for his eldest brother and him. Then, he built a factory and became a big boss. It was then that the Li family shamelessly went to them again.

How did Mrs. Lu feel about that?

They had refused her help when she desperately needed it. She did not need them fussing over her after that.

During those years, Mrs. Lu still maintained a polite appearance with her family. No matter how rich the Lu family got, she still gave them gifts like the other ordinary people.

So, her two sisters-in-law often said that Mrs. Lu was a stingy sister-in-law.

Mrs. Lu knew about that, but she treated it as if she did not know. She still maintained a neutral relationship with her family. She did not even go home to her family during the New Year.

When the Lu family was poor, no one expected her to return home. Later, she was not tempted to go back when they were rich either.

The Lu family and the Li family only resumed their relationship when Lu Yuqing got married. According to the town's custom, when a girl got married, a maternal uncle had to escort her to her wedding. Mrs. Lu had no choice but to resume her relationship with her brother and sister-in-law.

Chapter 1505: Too Ashamed

"Xingzhi, although your wife is good-looking, don't be deceived by her!" Mrs. Li saw the displeasure on Lu Xingzhi's face and was a little worried. She was most afraid of Lu Xingzhi, who was quick to anger since he was young. However, Mrs. Li did not give up even when Lu Xingzhi protected Jiang Yao. She mustered up her courage and advised him earnestly.

"The Lu family's matters have nothing to do with the Li family."

As the head of the family, Mr. Lu was the most confident when he said those words.

He trusted Jiang Yao and his son.

He had not believed it when he heard that Jiang Yao had run away with another man. Even though Jiang Yao did not go to school after her classes had started, Jiang Yao had come back with Lu Xingzhi. Therefore, Mr. Lu felt that Lu Xingzhi must have known about Jiang Yao's matter. Otherwise, the couple would not have come back together last time.

At that moment, the couple had returned together. They were on good terms. Therefore, Mr. Lu believed Jiang Yao when she said that she had been with Lu Xingzhi all that time.

"Okay, my son and daughter-in-law are home. I am busy, so I can't entertain you two. It's getting late; you should go back early." Mrs. Lu did not even have the mood to cook dinner for the past two days, so she immediately asked them to leave.

"What? I haven't finished my business yet! Why are you asking me to leave?" Mrs. Li shook her head.

Mrs. Lu sneered and said, "I thought you came here today to tell me those brainless rumors. You have business here? Then say it. After you finish your business, it's safer to go home early before it gets dark."

In any case, she did not invite them to stay for a meal.

Mrs. Li gritted her teeth. However, she could not do anything about it, so she could only endure it and state her intentions.

"Xiao Qing used to work in a department store in the county town. But it was too hard to work there. She had to endure the customers' moods all day long. Some customers would bully her. Furthermore, the work is hard, and the salary is low. In terms of ability, there's no one better than the Lu family in this town, so I wanted to ask you to arrange a decent job for Xiao Qing."

Mrs. Li smiled as she finished her sentence. "Xiao Qing is getting old, and she still needs to marry. You know a lot of people. Perhaps you know of any young talented men you can introduce to Xiao Qing? I'm sure you want Xiao Qing to marry a good man, don't you? Maybe you can ask Xiaoxiao's father. He's a boss; perhaps he knows any good businessmen."

"Xiaoxiao should be married by now. If there's a good man out there, I'm sure Second Brother won't leave him to an outsider, right? As for the job, we can't arrange it. I don't have that kind of ability," Mrs. Lu said with a fake smile.

"You don't have it, but Xingzhi's second uncle does! He can't just leave everyone to his daughter, right?" Mrs. Li was anxious.

“When he placed his daughter with us, you guys told me to send her back. She was so sick, but I couldn’t even send her to the hospital. I was even too ashamed to mention that to her father. If you are not ashamed, you can speak to him yourself... It’s not something I can do.”

Chapter 1506: Forget It

Mrs. Lu ignored the mother and daughter duo. Instead, she turned toward Jiang Yao and pulled her affectionately to have another look at her. Then, she scolded her a little. “Why did you lose so much weight? Did you study too hard and forget to take good care of yourself? Look at how much weight you’ve lost!”

Mrs. Lu’s attitude toward Jiang Yao did not change because of the rumors in town. She even noticed that Jiang Yao had lost a lot of weight. Furthermore, her complexion was not too good; it was as if she had just recovered from a serious illness even though she had always looked a little frail.

“She did lose some weight,” Mr. Lu chimed in. “Didn’t Xingzhi say that Yaoyao is going to stay at home for a while? That’s great. She can stay at home, and we can take care of her.”

“Yes, Mom. I will have to trouble you to care for my wife.” Lu Xingzhi’s tone became much softer when he turned around to talk to his family, especially when he spoke to Jiang Yao. His eyes were filled with tenderness.

Mrs. Li looked at the loving family and knew that she would not get the answer she wanted that day. She thought for a moment and felt that it was probably because her sister-in-law was anxious to know about Jiang Yao. She probably did not have the mood to pay attention to her, so she tactfully left with her daughter.

The mother and daughter rode the two rusted bicycles at the door. One was borrowed, and the other was their own.

The two bicycles were more than 20 years old. When the Li brothers bought the two bicycles, their names were popular in the entire county.

At that time, the Li family’s conditions were not bad, but that had changed. The Li family’s bicycles had been in the family for more than 20 years. Then, the neighbors who used to be envious of them had newer ones, and it was the Li family’s turn to be jealous.

Li Qing got on the bicycle and looked at it. She was not happy. “Mom, our family has had this bicycle for more than 20 years. No matter how well we keep it, it is almost broken. I would have thrown it away a long time ago. The chain keeps dropping from time to time. It is always embarrassing to stop to repair the bicycle!”

It was as if her words had come true; the bike’s chain loosened just as she mentioned it. Li Qing almost fell to the ground.

Mrs. Li rolled her eyes at her daughter. “Why did you say that? Why would you say that that bike could break down?”

“Do you think it won’t happen just because I didn’t mention it?” Li Qing was so angry that she glared at her mother and stomped her feet. She immediately pushed the bike onto the ground. “I’m not riding this broken bike anymore. Give me back my salary. I want to buy a new one myself!”

“Stupid child! Who told you to smash the bicycle like that?” Mrs. Li’s heart ached when she saw that. She hurriedly repaired it. “It’s still fine. I will keep your salary for you and give it to you when you get married.”

“Forget it! Do you think I’m stupid? You think I don’t know that you’ve given my salary to my brother?” Li Qing was in a bad mood. She could not control her temper and spoke the words she had hidden in her heart. “When I get married, I want to see how much of my salary you’ve kept for me!”

Li Qing had known that her parents valued sons over daughters, so she never reported how much salary she received each month. Every month, she would give her mother only half of her salary. Sometimes, she only gave her one-third of that. For example, she would complain about how her salary had been deducted because her customers had complained about her. Or she had been late, which was why her salary was deducted. She also had to spend some on currying favors with other people.

Chapter 1507: Full Disclosure

Fortunately, she was smart enough to save the money in her own savings account!

“You only earn so little every month, and it’s not even enough for our family. Your brother and sister-in-law are in a difficult situation now, so what if I lend them some money first?” Mrs. Li knew that she could not pretend anymore. “Since you already know, then I’ll tell you directly. There’s no way I’d let you buy a new bike! There’s no money at home either! If you want to buy it, you can work and earn it yourself!”

“You treat me so well, Mother!”

Li Qing’s eyes turned red with anger. “Look at the Jiang Family! Jiang Yao isn’t even their biological child! When Jiang Yao got married, how much was her dowry? How many people in the county had as many dowries as hers? I’m your biological child. You only know how to take money from me to give to my brother and his wife! I’d rather live life as someone else’s adopted daughter!”

The Lu family had given a lot of betrothal gifts to the Jiang family back then. The Jiang family had exchanged everything they could for something else. When Jiang Yao got married, they let Jiang Yao take those as her dowry.

The Jiang family gave Jiang Yao the watch and radio that the Lu family had sent them. They had sold the sewing machine and bicycle for some money and gave them to Jiang Yao as dowry.

Jiang Yao had so many dowries when she got married that all the women in the village were envious of her. However, at the same time, many people were secretly laughing at the Jiang family for being silly and raising a daughter for nothing. They did not even know to keep some of the dowries for themselves.

Mrs. Li did not feel guilty at all after being criticized by her daughter. In her opinion, the Jiang family was stupid, and what she had done was justified.

Mrs. Li sneered. "If you're envious of the Jiang family's daughter, then it's too bad that you're my daughter."

Then, Mrs. Li's eyes suddenly lit up. "Oh, right! How could we forget that Jiang Yao's dowry included a bicycle? Your aunt and uncle have their own bicycles. Why would they use their daughter-in-law's dowry? Then wouldn't Jiang Yao's bicycle be left at home without anyone to use it? We'll come back tomorrow and ask your aunt to lend you Jiang Yao's bicycle!"

Li Qing was delighted, but she was a little doubtful. "Will Auntie lend it to us? Even if she agrees, Jiang Yao might now! That's her dowry!"

"It's not like we're asking them to give it away for free! It's our business how long we'd want to keep it for. Even if it's Jiang Yao's dowry, since she has already married into the Lu family, won't the dowry become the Lu family's? Do you think your aunt would dare to disagree? Just wait and see!" Mrs. Li was very confident about it.

Mr. and Mrs. Lu were lecturing their son and daughter-in-law. They had no idea other people were discussing their family's dowry.

Mrs. Lu was so angry that her fingers kept tapping on Jiang Yao's head. "So, you didn't go to class when school started because you went on a mission with Xingzhi? You must be competent! You've deceived your family to be a heroine. Why don't you just risk your life? Why would you come home to recuperate after getting injured so severely?"

Mrs. Lu was so angry that she did not know what to say. After scolding Jiang Yao, she turned around to scold Lu Xingzhi. She raised her hand and hit Lu Xingzhi's head. "You're impressive too. You performed meritorious deeds on your own and even brought your wife with you. Are you still a man? You want to bring her along? You can't even protect your wife well. Are you two trying to kill us with these stunts?"

Chapter 1508: Learned My Lesson

Mrs. Lu cried as she spoke. Besides being angry, she was more concerned about Jiang Yao's injuries and suffering. She could not help but feel sorry for her. 'No wonder she's so thin.' She thought that Jiang Yao's biological parents had made her so unhappy that she lost weight.

It turned out she did not have time to think about her family; she had to be a heroine.

"Mom, I'm sorry. I won't do it again. Mom, please don't be angry." Jiang Yao lowered her head and admitted her mistake.

"I'm not angry."

Mrs. Lu's tears fell. "I'm worried. I feel sorry for you, silly girl! A man should go out and make a living. Why would a girl like you want to join in the fun? You're lucky to be alive this time. What if you died? Are you trying to make us worry?"

When she saw Mrs. Lu cry so fiercely, Jiang Yao was glad that she did not tell them that a plane crash had caused her injury. Otherwise, it would have scared Mr. and Mrs. Lu even more.

“What happened in the first month of school?” Mr. Lu suddenly remembered that. “Not long after you left, the old woman from the Lin family had looked for you. We said that you went back to the university. We didn’t expect her to look for you there. After that, she came back and spread the news about that. That was how we found out that you did not go to school.”

“At that time—”

Jiang Yao was hesitant; she did not know what to say. Lu Xingzhi reached out to hold her hand. Then, he said, “Before the National Day, I had a mission. I was seriously injured. Yaoyao got some time off to go to Jindo City to take care of me. I was afraid that you would worry, so I told her to hide it from you.”

Mrs. Lu began to cry again. She could no longer hold her tears back.

“Seriously injured? How serious were your injuries?” It must have been pretty serious if Jiang Yao had to take care of him in Jindo City for a month.

Mr. Lu was a grown man, and even he was frightened when he heard about Lu Xingzhi’s serious injury. If his son had used the words serious injury to describe his wounds, then it must have been life-threatening.

He understood his son; he would not complain even if he had broken a bone or leg. So, he must have been in some danger due to the injuries.

“It doesn’t matter; it’s all over. I’m fine now.” Lu Xingzhi did not want to explain more about it. “It won’t happen again. Mom, Dad, I’m sorry for worrying you.”

“It’s fine. As long as you’re okay. It’s good that you know you’re wrong anyway.” Mr. Lu did not ask further questions as he knew it was useless.

Mrs. Lu sobbed as she led Jiang Yao to the sofa to sit down. At the same time, she scolded Lu Xingzhi. “You said that Jiang Yao is home to heal. Yes, you forgot to let her sit down or take her upstairs to rest.”

“Mom, I’ve been sitting on the bus anyway. Even though I have to recuperate, I can’t stay still. Otherwise, I can’t take it. I had no idea the town would spread such rumors about me,” Jiang Yao said as she wiped the tears from Mrs. Lu’s cheeks. “You must have felt very aggrieved because of that, Mom, Dad.”

“Of course not. I never believed that my daughter-in-law would do such a thing. See, they were wrong. My daughter-in-law is a heroine. Oh, right! You mentioned a medal? Come on, show it to us!”

Jiang Yao’s hands were soft and warm. Mrs... Lu’s mood calmed when Jiang Yao comforted her.

Chapter 1509: Old Cat

Mrs. Lu had a very strong personality. She had never cried except for the time when she could not borrow money from her parents to bring her three sick children to the hospital. She had cried as she held on to those children. Besides her husband, Jiang Yao was the only other person to have wiped her tears away. That little act softened Mrs. Lu’s heart; she was unable to say more reproachful words.

Jiang Yao hummed in acknowledgment. She took the two medals from her backpack and handed them to Mr. and Mrs. Lu. Then, she took Moe out of her backpack and said, “Mom, look at Moe. He also has a medal. He made a significant contribution to that operation too. So, the army also gave him a medal.”

Jiang Yao had taken Moe’s medal, but he was unwilling to accept that. Later, he stole it back and put it around his neck. Jiang Yao decided to leave it when she realized how much Moe had liked that medal.

Mrs. Lu knew that Jiang Yao had two cats. One of them was called Mimi, and the other was named Moe. Mrs. Lu’s heart was hooked when Jiang Yao showed off her treasures. She carried the cat that had been wearing the medal. Mrs. Lu’s heart softened when she saw the tiny cat.

“He’s so cute. Let me hug him.” Mrs. Lu took Moe from Jiang Yao. She thought that he looked strange. “He’s so small. Has he just weaned? How did he help in the mission?”

“He’s an old cat; he’s from a small breed. It may be small, but it can be pretty fierce,” Jiang Yao said.

“Meow! Meow! You’re the old one!” Moe rolled his eyes at Jiang Yao, not very happy to pay attention to the person who commented that he was old. Then, he acted coquettishly with Mrs. Lu. He knew that Mrs. Lu had excellent cooking skills, especially her braised pork belly, the love of his life.

Moe rubbed her head against Mrs. Lu’s palm. The older woman laughed. “This cat is so smart! It can understand human language. I think I saw him roll his eyes at you.”

That made Mrs. Lu feel very curious. It was rare for an animal to understand and respond to simple human language. He even rolled his eyes at his owner to show that he was unhappy.

Jiang Yao smiled. “Yes, he can understand me. He’s very smart. That’s why I brought him with me to the mission. He’s like a military dog. He can understand commands and some human words. Our mission was successful because of his help.”

He had gone through the gates of hell with her.

However, Jiang Yao did not say that. She patted Moe’s head, preparing to reward him. “Mom, he likes meat. You can cook some braised meat for him tonight.”

“Okay!”

Other people might not believe that sentence. Most people could not afford meat in their homes, yet they fed the cat with meat.

A wealthy family’s car would always be more comfortable than a poor family’s cat.

Moe wagged his tail happily. He continued to look at Mrs. Lu and Jiang Yao, pretending to be obedient and happy.

Mrs. Lu placed the two medals on her lap and looked at them. Even though she felt sorry for Jiang Yao and was angry at her for going on missions with Lu Xingzhi without caring about her own safety, Mrs. Lu was still proud when she saw the two medals.

“Put those two medals in your father’s study. If anyone asks, we’ll tell them that you and Xingzhi fought for our country together and won that honor. We’re very proud of you both!”

Chapter 1510: Opportunity

Mrs. Lu's smile grew wider. "Let's see who still dares to say anything bad about my daughter-in-law! Even our country has given her a medal. I think there are very few people in our country to have such an honor!"

Every woman would want to feel proud of their family. When Mrs. Lu had just gotten married to Mr. Lu, the two of them had lived in poverty. Other people often look down upon them; their life was pretty difficult back then.

At that moment, she could hold her head high. However, after Lu Xingzhi married Jiang Yao, those ignorant people said she was crazy. She even allowed her daughter-in-law to go to university when she should have let her stay at home to care for the two elders.

Even though Mrs. Lu did not agree with those people, she was still angry when she heard them badmouthed her daughter-in-law. She did not like what they said about Jiang Yao.

Since Jiang Yao had a Medal of Merit, she wanted to see who would dare say anything bad about her in the future!

Then, Mr. Lu gave Lu Xingzhi a look and asked him to go to the study room upstairs with him.

"Close the door."

Mr. Lu said after he entered the room. After Lu Xingzhi closed the door, he asked, "I didn't want to ask in front of your mother. Can you tell me what happened on National Day now? Yaoyao took care of you for more than a month. Are your injuries very serious?"

Before Lu Xingzhi could say anything, Mr. Lu said, "I am a man. I can handle it, so tell me the truth."

Lu Xingzhi was speechless. He nodded after a few seconds. "Yes, one of the bullets grazed my body. If the Divine Doctor did not perform a surgery to save my life, I probably wouldn't have survived."

Lu Xingzhi could not tell his family that Jiang Yao had performed the surgery on him. It was different for Jiang Yao. It would be better if he alone knew about it.

After all, it was too unbelievable—the fewer people who know about it, the better.

"The Divine Doctor?"

Mr. Lu was puzzled.

"The Divine Doctor has outstanding medical skills. No one knows her real name, so they call her the Divine Doctor. However, she is also Yaoyao's teacher. Yaoyao learned a lot from her and improved very quickly." Lu Xingzhi told his father about how Jiang Yao had studied under the Divine Doctor, and her medical skills would improve significantly in the future.

After all, Jiang Yao was preparing to graduate early. Her family would find out eventually.

"That's Yaoyao's chance. Let her learn well from her teacher." Mr. Lu did not say that he wanted to invite the Divine Doctor to their home for a meal. The doctor did not even reveal her name to outsiders. Mr. Lu thought she must be an expert with a strange personality.

“This incident can’t happen again. You are a man, and you have your ambition. Your mother and I understand that and won’t hinder you. However, you should understand that your mother and I worry about you every day while you are in the army. When you go out on missions, your mother is so worried that she can’t sleep until she receives word that you have returned safely. You are a soldier, and you have served your country. As your family members, we are proud of you, but we worry about you too.”

Mr. Lu let out a long sigh and patted Lu Xingzhi on the shoulder. “Your mother did not say anything when you joined the special forces, but she was actually very opposed to it. We wanted you to leave the army, but we knew that you would not have agreed to that. Your mother knows your temper, so she did not say anything about it. To others, you’re a soldier and a guardian of our country, but to your mother and me, you’re our son. It’s that simple.”