

Chapter 421: The Reason

Growing up, Lu Xingzhi's life was smooth sailing; whatever he wanted, he would get it. It was the same for him even after attending university, thus he did not know how to meander his way to get what he wanted.

"Come on, say it!" Jiang Yao gave him a little push, adamant for an answer.

"They were probably convinced by my perseverance and dedication." Lu Xingzhi shrugged.

Jiang Yao was indifferent to his reply. Maybe that was how it was.

"My parents loved me dearly, but the mentality of the elders is always the same. To them, no matter how well-educated or how successful a girl is, she must marry a man ultimately. My mum used to tell me how she was a little unwilling for me to marry at eighteen years old, she felt that it was too early. Yet, she considered you a good person. It does not matter when I marry, as long as I live a happy life after."

Jiang Yao remembered back when she was against the marriage, that was what her mother told her. A woman would be much happier if she married a person who loved her instead of a person she loved.

A better account of Mrs. Jiang's decision was due to the fact that Lu Xingzhi was willing to pay for Jiang Yao's education after marrying her. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jiang were intellectuals and it heartened them to know that their daughter would be in good hands.

The Lu family was reputable and prominent in town. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lu were well-respected, thus the Jiang family had no reason otherwise to doubt the Lu family's treatment of their daughter.

That was probably why her parents kept pestering her even though they knew she was unwilling. It was an opportunity that was hard to come by and they felt that if she missed this one, she might never find another exemplary person like Lu Xingzhi again.

She was her parents' darling daughter, they wanted to give her the best of everything, including her marriage into the Lu family.

Yet, she did not understand why.

After countless conversations and discussion with her parents, Jiang Yao was at the perception that they were too traditional and that their thinking was obsolete and old-fashioned.

Lu Xingzhi looked at Jiang Yao, and spoke. "Is that why you relented? Finally persuaded by your parents?"

"Of course not!" Jiang Yao retorted. With her stubborn character, he did not know how much suffering she had him gone through years after their marriage.

Her parents kept urging her to accept the proposal, to her dismay. Her two elder brothers, who loved her dearly, got into fights with their parents over this issue. It was a dark time for the Jiang family.

It was the first time in her life where she was scolded by her parents. That did the trick though. Her rebelliousness was provoked.

Chapter 422: Dumb

In the end, she agreed to the marriage. Although, it was not because of her parents' constant pushing.

"I agreed because my parents used to say that we would make a perfect couple. I was irritated and decided to marry you and prove to them that I would never be happy in this marriage."

Lu Xingzhi never would have thought that this was the actual reason Jiang Yao agreed to the marriage.

Five seconds of silence later, Lu Xingzhi uttered, "Dumb."

"You don't say! That's how I became your wife!" Jiang Yao was a little outraged at Lu Xingzhi's forthright reply. Of course she knew that was not the brightest thing she did, why did he have to remind her again?

He looked at her as if in deep thought and smiled.

Thank goodness for her irrational decision though. If it were not for that, he would not have married her that easily.

Deep down, Jiang Yao knew that she was bonkers and out of her mind back then.

Loved and protected since she was born, one could say that she was spoiled by her parents and brothers. It was very awful of her to do such a thing just to anger her parents. Why did she not realize the reason her parents did that was because they cared for her deeply. They wanted her to always be happy and safe, far from harm's way.

Yet, all she could think of was how to hurt her parents.

"How long did it take for you to actually fall in love with me?" Lu Xingzhi was adamant to know the answer.

"Beats me." Truth to be told, Jiang Yao did not actually know.

She could not recall when she started remembering his voice, his silhouette. That dark and stormy night, she instantly recognized his voice, deep as ever. With just one glance, she knew that the shadow in the dark was him.

She wanted to escape, and wanted nothing to do with him, yet the more she tried, the stronger her feelings for him became. She hid it well though. So well, that she did not notice she had fallen for him.

Lu Xingzhi raised his eyebrows and stopped pondering how long it took for Jiang Yao to reciprocate his feelings. All was well in the end, and that was all that mattered.

She loved him.

It was the answer they were seeking for.

Remembering her moves just now, he asked, "You trained?"

"Yes." Jiang Yao could not tell him about the Medical System. Moe asserted that the Medical System was confidential and the knowledge of it was to be kept hidden from everyone else.

It did not matter anyway, he trusted her.

What would humans be without their own secrets? Plus, in no way would it affect her relationship with Lu Xingzhi, more so her love for him.

Chapter 423: Discharged

“That’s great actually, I feel a little relieved knowing that.” Lu Xingzhi raised his hand and gave Jiang Yao a good head rub. “Promise me not to do something so impulsive again! If anyone ever asks you about it, tell them I taught you the moves. If they have any further issues, get them to come see me.”

Like a cat, Jiang Yao nuzzled against Lu Xingzhi’s palm, and gently responded with a faint yes. She did not move when his lips came pressing down, instead she eagerly welcomed his kiss.

Lu Xingzhi was very pleased with Jiang Yao’s assertiveness. Not getting any action while confined in the hospital, a little teaser of what was to come was good enough for him.

Under Jiang Yao’s care, and coupled with his already excellent health, Lu Xingzhi was discharged from the hospital half a month later to continue his recuperation at home.

The day he was scheduled to go home, Lu Xingzhi woke up with a big smile, his happiness clearly showing on his face.

While Chen Xuyao was off handling the paperwork for his discharge, Lu Xingzhi deliberately went over to the room next door for a goodbye visit. He looked at Colonel Lin, who was still sitting on a wheelchair, with disgust in his eyes.

“I’m leaving today, Colonel Lin,” Lu Xingzhi reported.

Colonel Lin duly acknowledged Lu Xingzhi. Here he was thinking that he could leave the hospital earlier than Lu Xingzhi! Seeing Lu Xingzhi’s rapid recovery, Colonel Lin had no choice but to submit to the ever-powerful effect of aging even though he was only a few years older than Lu Xingzhi.

Lu Xingzhi seemed to have something to discuss with Colonel Lin. Jiang Yao took the cue and went back to their room to get their belongings. Two nurses were in the room cleaning up, not noticing Jiang Yao’s presence as they continued chatting.

“A friend of mine in Jin City Hospital called yesterday and asked if I knew who was behind the surgery for that soldier we had here called Ge. Everyone there was shocked to see his examination results a week after he transferred there. His injured leg was pronounced a loss after initial examinations. Yet, the results after the surgery demonstrated that the operation was done perfectly. By hook or by crook, his leg was saved. She wanted me to ask around and see if I can find out who was the one responsible for that surgery.”

“It’s normal you don’t know what’s actually going on since you just transferred here. Do you know the patients staying in this room and the one next to us? They are the real miracles here. I heard that their surgeries were done by someone incredible, even our director calls her the Divine Doctor, a marvel in the medical field.”

“That amazing?”

“That soldier you were talking about; his leg surgery was done by this Divine Doctor. If you don’t believe me, you can ask Lucy, she was there during the operation. Although she did say that the Divine Doctor entered the operating theater with a surgical gown, a mask and a surgical cap on, only the eyes were exposed. She thinks the Divine Doctor is a lady, that’s all she knows. Also, she heard that the lady came from an influential background. All matters regarding her are forbidden talk, especially enforced by the hospital. A few of our doctors have seen her and know who she is, but nobody dared to disclose the affair to the public.”

“Wow, very mysterious!”

“That’s what I thought too! Anyway, she is extremely capable! Lucy told me that the patient next door, Colonel Lin, came in with an amputation verdict, yet the Divine Doctor was able to reverse things. Look at them now, happy as always, I assume he will have a quick recovery.”

Chapter 424: The Mysterious Divine Doctor

A brief pause later, the nurse pointed at the empty bed and said, “This Sergeant Lu is another miraculous case. Many said that his chances of surviving were slim, little to none. Look at him now, alive and kicking, discharging from the hospital today!”

“That’s just unbelievable! No wonder the director calls her the Divine Doctor. I don’t know who she is, but if only I can meet her, how wonderful would that be!”

“People like us have no chance at all. Do you know how many people are trying to get to the bottom of the Divine Doctor? Do not tell anyone else what I told you today. Someone asked Lucy about matters concerning the Divine Doctor, she did not even dare to disclose the fact that the doctor is a lady. The director made it clear that anyone who dares to reveal the Divine Doctor’s information will be immediately fired. We may be able to keep our lives, but that’s it. Our future would definitely be destroyed, with no possible comeback whatsoever.”

“What do you mean we may be able to keep our lives? Do you mean to say that anyone that reveals anything about the Divine Doctor will meet their end?” The other nurse was shocked.

“Whatever it is, this Divine Doctor has some serious support behind her. Just pretend that we don’t know anything about her, if anyone asks, just say that we only heard of the rumors. We were not part of the operation anyways.”

The protagonist in question was standing at the doorway, startled to hear the revelation. Jiang Yao spent the past fifteen or so days taking care of Lu Xingzhi. She did not know what was going round the hospital.

Who knew she would be given a new moniker in just half a month?

The Divine Doctor?

The corner of her mouth lifted. That was a pretty cool name though.

By chance, she became the mysterious and powerful character that people could not afford to cross.

She smiled. The director did a good job after all. By making sure that she was feared and adored at the same time, it did remove many unwanted troubles.

She stood at the doorway for a while, entering the room only when the nurses had left.

It took just a little while for her to pack everything up. Finding herself out of things to do, she stood at the window taking in the sights and sceneries.

The hospital was well-designed, one could see a big patch of well-tended meadow just by standing in front of the window. Plenty of people could be seen walking past the meadow, some of them were patients being pushed around by their closed ones, enjoying the sunlight.

Jiang Yao's gaze darted around the crowd aimlessly, halting suddenly at the sight of a girl in high heels wearing a skirt. She was quite curious who would wear a skirt in this season.

A wind suddenly swept over her, bringing bits and pieces of a conversation into her ears, to her astonishment.

"Mom, are you saying that cousin brother's leg is incurable?" The girl's voice sounded a little impatient. "They have been visiting doctors periodically for a few years, but it seems that nothing good came out of it. I saw that little brat from the Du family the other day, she was mocking Cousin Chen's leg, calling him a cripple. Almost punched her then and there!"

"Outrageous! How dare she! Get as far away from her as possible the next time you see her; you don't want her to screw you up!" The lady's voice was filled with disgust. "I suppose that's it for Cousin Chen's leg. I pity your uncle and aunt; he is their only child. Your aunt almost lost her life giving birth to your cousin back then. He was unfortunate as well, having gotten himself into a car accident, injuring his leg in the process. It is understandable that your uncle and aunt are often seen in hospitals nowadays, trying to fix Cousin Chen's leg."

Chapter 425: A Ruse

"Mom, don't tell me that Grandpa is snubbing Cousin Chen just because he is confined to a wheelchair? Every time I visit Grandpa, I notice how well he is treating Du Shixian. I feel bad for uncle; grandpa's health is getting worse by the year, I bet he is leaving all his fortune to Du Shixian, neglecting Uncle and Cousin Chen!"

The young lady was getting more and more exasperated the more she talked. "Mom, Dad is not going to treat us well if Uncle is not getting the recognition and trust from grandpa. Look at how well Dad treats Zhou Weiqi! That mutt! He wanted a new car; dad immediately bought one for him!"

Jiang Yao was a little startled hearing that. She looked at a mother and daughter duo chatting beneath a tree. Considering their demeanor and poise, she was sure that it was their conversation she overheard. Were they talking about the Zhou Weiqi she knew?

"Just a wild mutt, he is. Your dad feels guilty, like he owes him something. It's only a car, what's good mulling over it? Don't I give you everything you want? Zhou Weiqi is destined for insignificance, what else can he do? He is acknowledged by others out of respect for the Liang, Gu and Chen family, do you think he is capable of great things?"

Liang family? Gu family? Chen family?

Jiang Yao was taken by surprise. They were talking about Liang Yueze, Gu Haoyu and Chen Xuyao. That meant that it was Zhou Weiqi they were chastising.

Were they related to him?

Jiang Yao listened to the conversation intently, forgetting about how she was able to listen to a conversation out of normal hearing range.

“You are right, Mom! It’s all a ruse by the Liang brothers; if they really treat him like they say, why is he still working at that irrelevant unit? It’s his fault that he is dumb, naively thinking that people are treating him well.” The girl smiled in disdain. “A sloppy guy like him, why is dad treating him well? He’s not going to do anything!”

A brief pause later, the girl laughed softly, “Mom, Big Brother is going to marry Li Tianxin soon, what about Zhang Lanxiang? She is pregnant with Big Brother’s baby; and this time it’s the truth.”

“You have the nerve to say it! I was deceived previously when Zhang Lanxiang was supposedly pregnant with your Big Brother’s child. That’s why I followed your ideas and had her marry Zhou Weiqi instead. Who knew it was just a lie! What is Zhang Lanxiang scheming again? I am not fooled; I know she wants to marry your brother!”

The conversation was getting very interesting. Jiang Yao was pleasantly surprised; she did chew off more than she could swallow, but it was valuable information, nonetheless.

Mrs. Zhou wanted Zhang Lanxiang, who was having Zhou Weiqi’s brother’s child, to marry Zhou Weiqi.

Why?

Things did not seem to add up.

Chapter 426: Entering the Lion’s Den

“Mom, Lanxiang really loves Big Brother. Plus, it was our idea to lie to you, it had nothing to do with her. She is really expecting a child this time; if you don’t believe us, you can bring her to the hospital for a checkup.”

As she was talking, she gently pulled on her mother’s arm and softened her voice, “Mom, Lanxiang is my best friend; plus, you know how Big Brother always listens to you. Even though he likes Lanxiang, he still went ahead and got engaged to Li Tianxin according to your wishes.”

Sensing her mother’s softening temper, the girl continued, “Mom, Zhou Weiqi is just another soft, indecisive character. He’s always been afraid of Big Brother and you. If Dad asks him to marry Zhang Lanxiang, he will not defy his wishes. As long as he marries Zhang Lanxiang, Dad will not be able to find a wife for him. You can have them stay at the Zhou family house after their marriage, with you and Dad around. With this, you can always keep an eye on Zhou Weiqi. Moreover, you can take care of Lanxiang and your future grandchild. If Big Brother misses Lanxiang, it’s very easy for them to go at it. That moron Zhou Weiqi will not notice anything.”

Wicked. Vile. Heinous.

That was all Jiang Yao could think of. No wonder Zhou Weiqi had nothing good to say about his family; it was a mess!

Hearing the girl call Zhou Weiqi a soft character had Jiang Yao chuckling. He was a free spirit, but he was far from soft. For Lu Xingzhi to treat him as his buddy, being soft would never cut it.

Zhou Weiqi had the Zhou family deceived; Jiang Yao was positive about that.

“What are you looking at?”

Lu Xingzhi came back to the room to see Jiang Yao standing in front of the window with a weird look on her face. She was so absorbed that she did not notice Lu Xingzhi’s presence until he spoke.

“There, I was looking at them.” Jiang Yao gestured with her mouth, pointing to the people below them and said, “If I am not mistaken, they are from the Zhou family?”

Lu Xingzhi stood beside Jiang Yao. With his hand around her waist, he looked at the direction she pointed at and recognized the people in question with one glance.

“Yes, it’s Mrs. Zhou and her daughter, Zhou Ning,” Lu Xingzhi said. “You know them?”

“I heard their conversation.” Jiang Yao laughed.

He was not suspicious; he assumed she overheard their conversation on her way back upstairs.

“Weiqi is the Zhou family’s illegitimate child. His sickly mother sent him to the Zhou family and urged him to stay with them; she was probably concerned that Weiqi might hate his birth father. Before she died, she had Weiqi pledge that he would stay in the Zhou family and be filial to his father,” Lu Xingzhi explained. “He is older than Zhou Ning. Mrs. Zhou and both her children treat Weiqi like a thorn in their flesh.”

“What’s wrong with Weiqi’s birth mother?” Jiang Yao was surprised. “She knew that Mrs. Zhou was there with her children, isn’t this like pushing her son into the lion’s den? No wonder Weiqi wanted to move out and live on his own, he is probably suffering in staying with the Zhou family.”

Chapter 427: What Are You Smiling At?

Lu Xingzhi had to admit that it was a pretty foolish move by Weiqi’s mother. Not realizing that she was taken advantage of by a man; deceived by love her entire life and putting her son in peril as she was dying, how naïve could she be?

“Everything’s packed up, let’s go.” Lu Xingzhi had no interest whatsoever in the people downstairs; he knew what they were here for.

Seeing Lu Xingzhi ready with his luggage, Jiang Yao instinctively ran over. “You have barely recovered, I will take it.”

Lu Xingzhi looked at Jiang Yao. “After lying in bed for half a month, are you treating me like a disabled person?” His face turned the darkest of shades. With one hand carrying the luggage and the other hand holding Jiang Yao, he left the hospital.

Zhou Weiqi and Chen Xuyao were waiting for them outside the hospital. From the looks of it, they were extremely happy.

Zhou Weiqi was the driver, Chen Xuyao sat shotgun next to Zhou Weiqi while Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao sat in the backseat. The car left the hospital, heading toward a direction unknown to Jiang Yao.

“Where are we going?” Jiang Yao was excited looking at the view along the way. Her sights landed on a porridge stall, and with a sudden shudder, she looked at Zhou Weiqi.

“Brother Lu says that we are going to Kin City. You are staying there before returning to the platoon,” Zhou Weiqi explained. “Brother Lu has a nice villa over there. Kin City is away from all the hustle and bustle of the city, it’s quiet and perfect for some recuperation.”

“Oh.” Jiang Yao looked at Lu Xingzhi. She assumed they were going straight back to the platoon after leaving the hospital. He did not tell her that they would be staying in Jindo City for a little longer.

She stared at her shoes, remembering the driver’s license that was delivered to her by Zhou Weiqi a few days ago. He did not even ask when she learned how to drive a car.

The porridge stall was only a mere two hundred meters after a right turn out of the hospital. Jiang Yao remembered this stall, as Zhou Weiqi ordered takeaway once from here. The food was just so-so.

It was the day she did acupuncture for Grandmother Liang.

Jiang Yao raised her eyebrows; it was not far from the hospital, yet he came back with the takeaway almost an hour later right when she finished her acupuncture.

Why did he take so long to return when the stall was only a stone’s throw away?

Did he see everything back then, including the acupuncture she did for Grandmother Liang?

That would explain why he backed her fully when she wanted to operate on Lu Xingzhi.

Jiang Yao smiled. How could Zhou Weiqi be a soft and indecisive man with such wonderful traits?

“What are you smiling at?”

Lu Xingzhi looked at Jiang Yao.

“Nothing. I’m just happy that you are finally out of the hospital. By the way, how long are we staying in Jindo City for?” Jiang Yao shook her head, revealing none of her thoughts.

Chapter 428: Amazing

“A few days, maybe.” Lu Xingzhi took Jiang Yao’s hand and put it right on his thigh.

Seeing Jiang Yao’s smile, he added, “I plan to bring you around for some sightseeing since we didn’t get to do it before. There’s a charity event in the afternoon; and another much more interesting event at night, let’s check it out together.”

Jiang Yao did not catch Lu Xingzhi’s drift. On the other hand, Chen Xuyao heard the conversation and laughed out loud in excitement.

“Brother Lu, I received the invitation to the charity event too. I didn’t plan on attending but since both you and Jiang Yao are going, I’m joining too.” He gave Zhou Weiqi a push, “You?”

“Of course, why not?” Zhou Weiqi continued, “Although I’m looking forward to the event at night more.”

He looked at Lu Xingzhi through the rearview mirror and said, “Brother Lu is the man here. I don’t know where he gets his information from.”

“What’s the thing at night?” Jiang Yao was curious.

“The Purple Orchid Garden recently received a batch of new rough stones, from the tiny country of LY. Apparently, the previous batch mined from the same mountain had plenty of good quality stones. Someone spent fifty thousand on a fist-size rough stone; it had emerald in it and was sold to a jewelry merchant for five hundred thousand!” said Zhou Weiqi.

“That’s amazing!” Jiang Yao’s jaws almost dropped in awe. “Fifty thousand to five hundred thousand, that’s some serious luck right there!”

“You think it’s amazing?” Lu Xingzhi rubbed Jiang Yao’s head. He loved her childlike demeanor and her hair, which was as soft as silk.

“Of course!” Jiang Yao nodded.

Lu Xingzhi laughed faintly, although his expression was apathetic as usual. He did not agree with Jiang Yao’s praise.

“Jiang Yao, what about getting seven hundred thousand from a mere three thousand?” Chen Xuyao turned and looked at Jiang Yao. “Brother Lu did just that! We have nothing but respect for him!”

Zhou Weiqi parked the car while the rest were busy talking.

After exiting the car, Jiang Yao asked Chen Xuyao, wanting to know the story behind that amazing feat.

“Brother Lu is very low profile, but he is extremely capable. A chance encounter with stone gambling, had him learning the ins and outs after finding it exciting and interesting. I’m telling you that he is the pro here. In his junior year of university, he bought an unassuming, or some would say ugly, rock for three thousand. After purchasing, he was not in a hurry to open it. Only when Brother Liang was in urgent need of cash did he sell it for seven hundred thousand and give all that money to Brother Liang to start his business.” Chen Xuyao still had the chills talking about the feat from years ago.

Lu Xingzhi’s house at Kin City was a nice villa, renovated and designed exquisitely with complete sets of furniture. It was very clean. It seemed like someone was here earlier and had tidied it up.

Chapter 429: What’s the Difference?

The house was renovated in a minimalist design, heavily utilizing both colors of black and white. It fitted Lu Xingzhi’s personality—clean and functional.

Zhou Weiqi went in first and had the water boiled while Chen Xuyao sat on the couch and continued the conversation with Jiang Yao.

Lu Xingzhi sat listening to the chit chat like an outsider. Enjoying Jiang Yao's look of admiration every now and then.

After listening to Chen Xuyao, Jiang Yao was a little excited to attend the event at Purple Orchid Garden tonight.

Jiang Yao knew that Lu Xingzhi was not very fond of money by the way he gave Golden Harbor to Zhou Weiqi; yet she did not know how extreme he could be, until now.

According to Chen Xuyao, Lu Xingzhi learned stone gambling purely for the fun of it. The ugly stone that he spent three thousand on was, at one time, laughed at by everyone that saw it.

After that transaction, he did not make any purchase of rough stone and thought nothing of stone gambling until Liang Yueze needed money for his new business venture. Giving every single cent of that seven hundred thousand earned to Liang Yueze, Lu Xingzhi did not even care to know how the money was spent.

Liang Yueze would pay Lu Xingzhi yearly dividends from his company. Lu Xingzhi would then use the money earned to buy real estate. Coincidentally, wherever he made his purchases, the price of said property would then shortly rise.

If Lu Xingzhi did not join the military, he would be a very well-respected businessman.

Ironically, they switched their career paths, with Liang Yueze getting into business while Lu Xingzhi decided to join the military. The Liang family then provided Lu Xingzhi with all the resources that was initially allocated to Liang Yueze.

With the Liang family supporting him, Lu Xingzhi's military career was pretty smooth sailing.

"Wow! I had no idea you could just walk away like that." Jiang Yao looked at Lu Xingzhi, awe and admiration filled her eyes.

Lu Xingzhi was very happy to see Jiang Yao's reaction.

"Stone gambling. Anything with even an ounce of gambling involved is just luck. No matter how skillful you are, most of the outcome is determined by pure fortune," Lu Xingzhi explained casually. "In gambling, everyone is there for the money, while the pursuit of money itself easily confuses even the most rational of humans. I, on the contrary, am different."

"What's the difference?" Jiang Yao looked at Lu Xingzhi with doubt in her eyes.

"They are there for the money, while I am not." It might sound phony, but it came from the mouth of Lu Xingzhi; everyone believed him.

They trusted his character.

"I learned the tricks of the trade from an old master only because I thought it was exciting. After learning all there is to learn, the excitement suddenly faded away. I was young then, and a little naïve."

Chapter 430: Zhou Family and Du Family

Lu Xingzhi gently raised his eyebrows. "Most only see the rare cases where people make it big, yet they did not realize that most gamblers lose everything they have and are forced onto the path of no return. Fortunately, I have pretty good self-control."

He saw many instances where people betted their entire fortune on stone gambling. He admired their courage but had no respect for the way they squandered their wealth.

He was never in want since he was little and lived a financially comfortable life. In terms of money, he was easily contented.

When he gave Liang Yueze the money for his business, he did not think of exchanging it for shares in his company. Liang Yueze was the one that came up with the idea. Lu Xingzhi would receive dividends each year, but he did not concern himself with matters of the company.

He was not interested, and he was too busy for it. Plus, he trusted Liang Yueze.

"Which reminds me, Brother Lu. What are you bringing for the charity ball later?" Zhou Weiqi asked, but not after pouring everyone a cup of water.

"I sent a painting over some days ago." Lu Xingzhi passed the cup to Jiang Yao. Before she could take it, he took it back and checked the temperature. Seeing Jiang Yao's confused look after he put the cup back onto the table, he replied, "It's hot."

Lu Xingzhi was very detailed and careful when caring for Jiang Yao, not realizing that she was already an adult and was perfectly capable of doing everything for herself.

He looked at Chen Xuyao and asked, "What about you?"

"I wasn't interested to begin with. However, since I am attending last minute, I don't think anything I send now will make it to the auction in time. I will be sending goods over. I heard that the main beneficiary for today's event are rural elementary schools; I will send some winter clothing and stationaries under my company's name." He looked at Zhou Weiqi after talking.

Zhou Weiqi crossed his legs and rolled his eyes at Chen Xuyao. "Why are you looking at me? Who doesn't know the sloppy son of the Zhou family? I'm just there for the buzz, don't mind me."

"Both the Zhou family and the Du family will be there this afternoon, Weiqi doesn't have to bring anything." Lu Xingzhi nodded.

"What's the relationship between the two families?" Jiang Yao asked.

"The Du family is Mrs. Zhou's natal family; they are as frisky as the Zhou family." Chen Xuyao's reply was full of sarcasm. "Old Master Du is over sixty years old now. His first wife gave birth to a boy and a girl, which are Du Rongzhen, also known as Mrs. Zhou, and her older brother, Du Shihua. Their mother died when they were still teenagers."

Zhou Weiqi chuckled and continued, "When Du Shihua was over twenty years old, Old Man Du remarried. His new wife was only a few years older than Du Shihua. She then gave birth to a son, who was also just a few years older than Du Shihua's son, Du Chen. Old Man Du had always liked Du Shixian, his youngest son, better but treated both Du Shihua and Du Chen well. After Du Chen's accident that kept him in a wheelchair, Old Man Du's partialness toward Du Shixian was intensified, neglecting Du

Shihua and his son. I heard that Old Man Du has plans to pass the patriarch role of the family to Du Shixian.”