

## Chapter 56: A Wolf In Sheep's Clothing

However, would a normal man be so chummy with a woman he just met? Would they be so friendly that he could put his hand on the belly of the pregnant woman? He looked like a father who was expecting his child to come into this world.

Jiang Yao sneered silently. If she hadn't witnessed such a scene today, she would have totally forgotten about the grief and pain Zhao Zhuangzong had brought to Lu Yuqing before rebirth.

She had herself to blame. After rebirth, all she thought about was Lu Xingzhi. She wanted to fill her heart, mind, and soul to the brim with Lu Xingzhi that she paid little attention to others.

Including this silly girl in front of her who was had the purest and most innocent smile on her face. In the subsequent events before her rebirth, she had encountered a tragic accident that wiped her pure smile off her face. She even suffered from depression and attempted suicide several times.

"Jiang Yao, what do you want to eat?" Lu Xiaoxiao handed the menu over to Jiang Yao after placing her orders. "Pick two dishes too! I think everything looks so nice! Too bad that there's only two of us, it would be a waste if we ordered too much. Otherwise, I'd love to try them all."

Jiang Yao was not in the mood right now. She glanced through the menu intently, simply picked two dishes from the menu, and handed the menu back to the waiter.

The Lu children had good upbringing. Although they were from a well-off family, Lu Xiaoxiao didn't have the habit of extravagance and waste.

Jiang Yao found the food tasteless and bland. Her thought drifted to the two people who had just sat in their seats. She felt nauseated and disgusted.

Speaking of Zhao Zhuangzong, she had to talk about the Zhao family.

The Zhao family were from the county but they were not rich. Zhao Zhuangzong had three siblings, two sisters and a younger brother. Only Zhao Zhuangzong and his brother had the opportunity to finish schools. Both the two daughters went to work in factories after graduating from primary school and got married at the age of 18.

Zhao Zhuangzong graduated from a technical high school. She wasn't sure how he and Lu Yuqing had meet. After they were married, Lu Yuqing worked as a financial manager at Lu Haixing's food factory and was in charge of the factory's financial department. As for Zhao Zhuangzong, through Lu Haixing's string-pulling, he worked as a technician in a factory. Lu Haixing had hired someone to personally train Zhao Zhuangzong to master the skills. It was also because of Lu Haixing that Zhao Zhuangzong had been promoted as team leader very quickly. Within a short period of time, he was promoted to supervisor and then became a small-time director of the department.

In the eyes of the Lu family, Zhao Zhuangzong was a very obedient and honest man. He treated Lu Yuqing very nicely and he was very filial to the elders in both families. Sometimes, if Lu Yuqing didn't have time to go home, Zhao Zhuangzong would visit his in-laws on his own and have dinner with them.

The crucial point was that the Zhao family had some unpleasant issues with Lu Yuqing as the couple had not been able to conceive a child after being married for so many years. In spite of that, Zhao

Zhuangzong had always stood by Lu Yuqing's side and had sworn that he would love her for the rest of his life even if she couldn't have a child.

Lu Yuqing married Zhao Zhuangzong at the age of 20. Now, Lu Yuqing was 28 years old. The couple had a childless marriage for eight years but they shared a very compassionate couple life.

If it wasn't for her rebirth and spending eleven more years in her previous life, Jiang Yao would have been deceived by Zhao Zhuangzong, who was a wolf in sheep's clothing.

### **Chapter 57: The Two-Timer Zhao Zhuangzong**

Lu Yuqing actually knew the pregnant woman. She was Lu Yuqing's assistant.

Zhao Zhuangzong was the father of the child! They had probably been in an affair for about two or three years by now.

After Zhao Zhuangzong had a child out of wedlock, he didn't divorce Lu Yuqing to marry the child's mother. Instead, he lied to Lu Yuqing and convinced her to adopt a child to stop his mother's nagging and whining.

Lu Yuqing was moved by Zhao Zhuangzong's consideration. They adopted a baby boy. Sure enough, Zhao Zhuangzong's mother stopped nagging at them anymore. Lu Yuqing felt weird about her in-law's peculiar behavior, but at the same time, she could be rest assured that her mother-in-law would stop her nagging.

Speaking of which, it wasn't that Lu Yuqing didn't want children, but they couldn't seem to have a child after they got married.

Lu Yuqing shifted her attention from work to his family and the child after the adoption. When the child was only a few months old, she discovered that he suffered from congenital heart disease. In order to take good care of the boy, Lu Yuqing quit her job and devoted herself to the boy's welfare. The Lu family spent a hefty amount of money on the boy's treatment and hospitalizations.

When the boy was five years old, his biological mother came to their door and revealed the entire truth, which caused an uproar in the Lu family. Lu Yuqing was devastated and in a wreck due to the truth. She finally realized the main reason why her selfish mother-in-law had been so generous about the adoption. She had known it all along. The boy was her golden grandson birthed by another woman.

Poor Lu Yuqing was kept in the dark along the way. She visited hospitals across the country for the boy's treatment in an effort to ensure the boy grew up healthy. The Lu family even considered sending the boy abroad for better treatment once he was older.

Later on, Lu Yuqing filed for divorce. They went through a bitter divorce due to the financial settlement. However, the Lu family fought a tough legal battle to make sure Zhao Zhuangzong received nothing from the divorce.

Jiang Yao didn't know of what happened later. The treatment for the child's heart disease was very expensive. Without support from the Lu family, Zhao Zhuangzong and the mother of the boy lost their jobs. Jiang Yao didn't pay close attention to what had happened to the family in the end.

Thinking of this, Jiang Yao couldn't help but feel sorry for Lu Yuqing.

Lu Yuqing's bark was worse than her bite. Despite her tough and tenacious outlook, Lu Yuqing was a tender-hearted person.

After taking care of the boy for so many years, they became laughing stocks because of the ridiculous incident. Lu Yuqing must have been devastated.

Her husband, who appeared to be so loving and affectionate, had an affair long ago. Not only that, but he also brought his illegitimate child home blatantly and let his wife and her entire family help raise the child. The child, whom she loved unconditionally, was in fact the product of her husband's affair.

When Jiang Yao heard the news, she suspected that the dreaded man and woman would have definitely mocked and taunted Lu Yuqing for being a foolish woman when they talked about her.

Jiang Yao looked at Lu Xiaoxiao, who was squinting in joy because of the delicious food in front of her. She secretly vowed that since she was given another chance with the rebirth, she was determined to help them change their destiny.

However, it wasn't easy when it involved marriages and families.

### **Chapter 58: Keep Each Other Company**

Jiang Yao wasn't sure of how to approach Lu Yuqing regarding Zhao Zhuangzong's affair without any evidence. The guy wasn't a fool and he didn't leave any trace behind. If she proceeded with the accusation, he could deny everything and simply blame Jiang Yao for stirring up tension within their family.

After pondering the consequences, Jiang Yao felt that she should discuss the matter with Lu Xingzhi. He was Lu Yuqing's brother and his words were more believable and trustworthy.

After coming out of the restaurant, Lu Xiaoxiao and Jiang Yao walked back home. On the way, Lu Xiaoxiao's laughter and chatter echoed across the pedestrian lane. She talked about the popular celebrities recently, and about their songs and acting. She shrieked in excitement upon discovering that Jiang Yao was interested in the topic too.

Lu Haixing was on a business trip. Only the driver and the maid were at home today. It was no wonder Lu Xiaoxiao would love to have Jiang Yao staying with her for a few days.

"Sister, could you sleep with me tonight, please? I'll get you some clean pajamas. They might be a little short on you since you're taller than me, but since it's summer, it shouldn't be a problem, right?" When they entered her room, Lu Xiaoxiao walked into a walk-in closet where all her clothes were stored. As she opened the door, there was a large wardrobe within where she kept all her things.

"It's up to you," Jiang Yao answered. "I'll go downstairs to make a call. I'll come back later."

Lu Xiaoxiao's chirpy answer resonated from the small room. Jiang Yao climbed down the stairs.

The telephone was located in the Lu family's living room. It was the latest modern design that Lu Haixing had specifically ordered from overseas. Lu Haixing liked anything novel and stylish.

She dialed her home phone number and it was Mrs. Lu on the other end of the line. Because the call was from Lu Haixing's house, Mrs. Lu thought it was Lu Xiaoxiao, but she could recognize Jiang Yao's voice over the line.

"Mom, I'll be staying at Uncle's house these two days to keep Xiaoxiao company," Jiang Yao started.

"I know, Xiaoxiao called me at the office this afternoon. You weren't together at the time, were you? It's okay, stay at the county for as long as you like. Your uncle has gone on a business trip, it must be lonely for Xiaoxiao to stay at home by herself." Mrs. Lu didn't stop Jiang Yao and Lu Xiaoxiao from spending more time together. It would be great if they could build a strong friendship and keep each other company.

"Thanks, Mom." After a pause, Jiang Yao continued, "Mom, it must be about time for Xingzhi to arrive at the base, right? Did he call home? Did you tell him that I'll be spending a few days at Uncle's house?"

"No, he hasn't called! Your dad and I are wondering why he hasn't called home yet too. His flight was at nine in the morning, he should be at the base by now," Mrs. Lu said, sounding curious. "Maybe he got caught up with some matters. I think he should be fine. Don't you worry, he is such a big guy now. He won't lose himself, will he?"

Although Mrs. Lu said as calmly as she could over the phone, she was nagging and whining to Mr. Lu regarding Lu Xingzhi's whereabouts.

However, she was over the moon when she heard that her daughter-in-law was concerned about her son. She bet that the main reason the young girl called home was to ask about Lu Xingzhi's phone call, so she offered a few words of comfort.

"I see. Okay then, if Xingzhi calls back, please let him know that I'm at Uncle's house. Please ask him to call me here, will you? Thanks." Jiang Yao and Mrs. Lu spoke for a while before hanging up the phone. She heaved a sigh and muttered, 'Lu Xingzhi is not the absent-minded kind of person, it's unlikely that he would forget to call home. It's possible that he's preoccupied with something urgent that he can't call home immediately.'

## **Chapter 59: She Has Grown Up**

In the Lu family house in town.

After Mrs. Lu hung up the phone, the worried expression on her face was replaced with an amused smile. She walked toward her husband who was watching TV on the sofa and said, "Guess who called on the phone?"

"Yuqing?" Mr. Lu replied nonchalantly.

Mrs. Lu chuckled out loud at Mr. Lu's answer and uttered in a rather excited tone, "No! It's Jiang Yao! She called to ask if Xingzhi has called back home. She even told me to let Xingzhi know, in case he calls, that she's at Haixing's house for a couple of days, and to ask him to call her there."

Mrs. Lu continued delightedly, "Looks like they've spent quality time together this time. Not only did Jiang Yao send Xingzhi off at the airport, but she's also waiting on his call. They look like a newlywed couple who can't stay apart."

“Didn’t I tell you earlier? Jiang Yao is still young, she’s only eighteen years old—what does she know about marriage? At her age, all she would think about is study and friends. When she grows older and more mature, she’ll eventually come to terms with marriage. See? She gets it now, doesn’t she? I saw that Xingzhi wanted to stick to her all day long during his stay and Jiang Yao’s attitude towards him has also changed a lot. They look very much like a loving couple now,” Mr. Lu said with a smile, not surprised at all. “The children have their own minds, let them mind their own business, don’t interfere too much.”

“Yes, you know best!” Mrs. Lu chided. “I didn’t know that you realized how young Jiang Yao is too. If so, why didn’t you stop Xingzhi when he expressed his intention of wanting to marry her? Why did you let me be the bad parent?”

“Don’t you know your son’s temperament? Do you think that you can stop him? I could see that Xingzhi had taken a liking to Jiang Yao. Since we can’t stop him from liking her, why would I have wanted to stop him? Everything is awesome now, isn’t it?” Mr. Lu turned off the TV and took the newspaper on the table. He flipped through the newspaper and was ready to read it.

Mrs. Lu huffed in exasperation. She dashed toward him angrily and snatched the newspaper from his hands.

“Yes, you know your son best!” Mrs. Lu snorted. “At that time, I was a little reluctant because of Jiang Yao’s young age. She’s also the youngest in the family and everyone spoiled her rotten. Before the wedding, Xingzhi was the only one handling the renovations and decorations for the room. She didn’t even come to take a peek once, as if she wasn’t the bride. How many times did Xingzhi return in the year after their wedding? She always showed him a grumpy face.”

“Let bygones be bygones, what’s the use in digging up old stories? Xingzhi doesn’t even mind, what are you worried about? Anyway, Jiang Yao has come around, hasn’t she?” Mr. Lu shook his head in dismay. “Frankly, do you think Jiang Yao has our boy on a tight leash? I think it’s the other way around.”

Mr. Lu chuckled in amusement. “I know my son very well. That boy is very sneaky, as sly as a fox.”

Mrs. Lu laughed out loud. She was actually proud of her son. They didn’t have to worry about his academic achievements since he was young. She was a little anxious about Lu Xingzhi’s love life and she had even arranged a date for him. However, the boy was not at all concerned. He only met her once, told his mother that the girl was fine as long as his mother liked her, and hurried back to the base. He didn’t even come back for the marriage arrangements and proposal.

### **Chapter 60: The Childish Lu Xiaoxiao**

Mrs. Lu could guess Lu Xingzhi’s thoughts at the time. He probably figured that he couldn’t escape from these series of dating nightmares, so instead of fighting against his mother all the time, it was better to marry his mother’s choice of daughter-in-law. Perhaps Lu Xingzhi had even thought about ditching his wife at home with his parents and going to the base to have his own life.

Mrs. Lu didn’t even know how exactly Lu Xingzhi got to know Jiang Yao and when he had fallen for her. Later, Lu Xingzhi used all the tricks up his sleeve to convince the lady to cancel their marriage arrangement and pleaded to his parents that he wanted to marry Jiang Yao very badly. It was as if she was the only one he wanted to be with.

In the beginning, Mrs. Lu didn't like Jiang Yao very much, particularly because of her young age. She just turned eighteen, which was the legal age to obtain a marriage certificate.

Finally, she agreed to the marriage. In addition to Lu Xingzhi's perseverance, she liked Jiang Yao because she excelled academically. As a teacher, Mrs. Lu liked students with good grades. Jiang Yao would one day become a college student, which meant she was on the same academic level as her son. In this way, she was a better choice than the previous lady.

After Jiang Yao ended the call, she walked up the stairs. When she was only halfway through, she encountered Lu Xiaoxiao, who suddenly jumped out to scare her.

"Haha, Sister, you're such a coward!" Lu Xiaoxiao giggled like a mischievous three-year-old brat as she looked at Jiang Yao's surprised and scared look. She moved closer to Jiang Yao and poked her belly as she teased, "It hasn't even been a day yet since Xingzhi has gone back to the base and you miss him already? You even want him to call you here!"

"What? Can't I do that?" Jiang Yao rolled her eyes in a fit of exasperation. "How old are you? Twenty? Two? Why are you so childish?"

"I still managed to scare you, didn't I? It's fun!" Lu Xiaoxiao curled her arm around Jiang Yao's and walked back to her room. "Jiang Yao, tell me, how did you and Xingzhi know each other? I'm so curious about your affairs! I asked Xingzhi, but he didn't say anything. By the way, you have to give me some credit for making your marriage successful. I'm one of your benefactors."

"What credit? What benefactor?" Jiang Yao glanced curiously at Lu Xiaoxiao. "Why don't I know anything about this?"

"I won't say anything because I promised Xingzhi not to. If you want to know so badly, just ask him." Lu Xiaoxiao shrugged. "I take my promise very seriously. If he knows that I've told you, he'd definitely scold me."

"Then, if you want to know about how your brother and I got to know each other, you'd better ask him too." Jiang Yao raised her eyebrows and chuckled. She didn't even know how or when they had met, what could she possibly tell Lu Xiaoxiao?

Jiang Yao was very curious as to what Lu Xiaoxiao meant by her credit and benefactor though. However, if Lu Xiaoxiao insisted on keeping it a secret, she wouldn't get any answer from her.

Lu Haixing was away for five days, so Jiang Yao stayed with Lu Xiaoxiao in the county for five days. When Lu Haixing returned home, he was over the moon when he knew about it. Hence, he personally sent Jiang Yao home by car.

During dinner, Lu Haixing expressed how he was at ease as Jiang Yao was at his house to keep Lu Xiaoxiao company. He didn't have to worry about her whereabouts when he wasn't around. Mrs. Lu chuckled at his remark and suggested that Lu Xiaoxiao stay with them in town whenever Lu Haixing was away in the future.