

Divine 2621

Chapter 2621: Mission 7

Ms. Wang's eyes had lost their sparkle, now dim with a sense of impending finality. The weight of her numbered days bore down on her, sapping her strength and leaving her unable to do much for her children. Hope had all but evaporated, replaced by a singular wish – for her daughter Danqiu to find a smooth path to marriage. At least then, her two daughters might lead comfortable lives; beyond that, she had no other desires.

When conversing with Danqiu, Ms. Wang kept her requests minimal, not wanting to burden her eldest daughter.

Gu Chaoyan's throat tightened with emotion.

She had never known a mother, not in her past life nor in this one. While the Queen treated her as her own, it wasn't the same. Ms. Wang was Danqiu's mother, and now, half of Chaoyan's emotions were intertwined with Danqiu.

Witnessing Ms. Wang's condition, bitterness and heartache overwhelmed Gu Chaoyan.

"Mom, don't dwell on things too much. Your priority now is to recover. Danxia and Dandong will be under our care. You're exhausted, and you just need to rest well," Gu Chaoyan reassured.

She added some Holy Spirit Water from the interspace to Ms. Wang's food and insisted on feeding her.

Despite Ms. Wang's attempts to refuse, Gu Chaoyan was resolute. Eating well was non-negotiable in Chaoyan's eyes.

Ms. Wang's health, it turned out, was not as dire as Gu Chaoyan had anticipated. The prospect excited her, and as she left, a sense of relief washed over her.

The situation surpassed Gu Chaoyan's expectations. Not only was Ms. Wang's physical condition better than anticipated, but her mental state was also surprisingly positive.

Yan Danqiu's two sisters, one displaying great strength and the other showing intelligence, further added to the optimism. Gu Chaoyan believed that with some assistance, they could soon lead comfortable lives.

After tending to Ms. Wang, Gu Chaoyan retreated to rest, and the night swiftly passed. In the predawn darkness, she planned to head into the mountains discreetly, considering the increased attention her family had garnered in the village. She didn't want to complicate matters unnecessarily.

As Gu Chaoyan prepared to leave, Yan Danxia and Yan Dandong, alerted by the commotion, emerged from their abode. The pair stared wide-eyed at Gu Chaoyan.

"Stay at home; I'm going now," Gu Chaoyan reassured them as she shouldered a bamboo basket containing knives and a tool for self-defense.

Equipped and ready, Yan Danxia and Yan Dandong felt a sense of reassurance.

Once Gu Chaoyan departed, the sisters secured the door tightly and reinforced it with various items. This precaution would require considerable strength to breach forcefully.

Yan Danxia proceeded to prepare breakfast, while Yan Dandong kept watch at the door. The sisters took their responsibilities seriously, diligently attending to the tasks assigned by their elder sister.

With the first light of dawn, Gu Chaoyan ascended the mountain quickly.

In the North Village, the villagers earned their livelihood through agriculture and the cultivation of medicinal herbs.

However, their primary source of livelihood was agriculture.

While cultivating medicinal herbs could potentially yield substantial profits, not everyone in the village had suitable fields for such crops. This was the case for the third branch of the Yan family, to which Yan Danqiu belonged.

Yan Danqiu's father owned ten acres of medicinal herb fields, with the remaining five acres designated for ordinary crops. In the North Village, their family held a prominent position due to his expertise in cultivating both types of fields.

Regrettably, over the past two years, Yan Danqiu's father experienced a gradual decline in output. The outlook for the medicinal herb fields became less promising, leading him to venture into the mountains in search of alternative resources, resulting in unfortunate incidents.

Despite the current downturn in medicinal herb production, these herbs remained highly sought after in the northern village. This demand was evident in the intense competition among the Yan family's uncles.

The prosperous conditions in the North Village also extended to the surrounding mountains, showcasing the region's fertility.

However, Gu Chaoyan had a different perspective.

While the mountains near the North Village were lush, she suspected that the real reason behind Yan Danqiu's father's mountain expeditions wasn't solely about fertile soil.

With her cultivation abilities, she didn't need to painstakingly search inch by inch. Alone and unburdened, she effortlessly traversed the mountain, her movements as agile as a swallow, poised to dominate the terrain.

Soon...

She sensed the existence of something that had been around for a long time.

She quickly went to take a look.

As expected, there was a small place that nurtured many good things.

It was beside a small pool. There was actually Tan Longgen here, and there was ginseng not far away.

Enough was enough.

This was sufficient to secure their foothold.

Gu Chaoyan unearthed plants that had aged for hundreds of years, leaving the slightly younger ones behind. Yet, she couldn't just leave them there either. Gu Chaoyan meticulously dug up all the roots, ensuring they could be replanted at home. She carried soil and water to the location, envisioning a future where she could use Holy Spirit Water to nurture them.

The digging consumed a considerable amount of time.

Hours later, Gu Chaoyan returned with a full load, having also caught a wild rabbit during her expedition. Her intention was to enhance their food supplies at home.

Descending the mountain, she paid little attention to the late hour and the villagers she might encounter. She was prepared, hoping fervently that nothing untoward had occurred at home.

Her footsteps were swift, anxious not to be delayed.

As she passed, a crowd gathered around her, engaging in hushed conversations. Some eyes were drawn to the wild rabbit in Gu Chaoyan's hands.

"Danqiu, you caught a wild rabbit? Your family won't be able to eat it, right? And do girls even know how to kill these creatures? Give it to us, and we'll give you some dry food in return. It's more practical for you. What do you say?" a villager remarked, attempting to coax the rabbit from her.

Initially inclined to ignore them, Gu Chaoyan reconsidered. Ignoring them might embolden them to exploit the situation.

Raising the bloody knife, she retorted, “You think I can’t kill it? My mother is gravely ill and needs the nourishment from this rabbit. If I give it to you, what will she eat? If anything happens to my mother...” Gu Chaoyan’s voice trailed off, but the unspoken implication hung heavily in the air.

Examining the wild rabbit closely, the villagers noticed numerous wounds that strongly suggested a violent demise for the creature.

Chapter 2623: Mission 9

Well...

How could Yan Danqiu be expected to know how to hunt? She likely had no choice but to resort to less subtle means.

Given the current predicament in Yan Danqiu’s family, any mishap involving her mother would be highly unfortunate and challenging to explain in the future. Sensing the villagers’ reluctance to become entangled in such matters, those with greedier intentions dispersed. Some who were genuinely hungry went to procure meat, a commodity not scarce in the North Village.

Gu Chaoyan returned home without further incident.

Surveying her home, everything seemed undisturbed.

Feeling more at ease, she knocked on the door, but there was no immediate response. It occurred to her that they might be hesitant to open the door.

“Open the door, it’s Sister,” Gu Chaoyan called out.

After a brief pause, voices from inside signaled their recognition. She brought the items inside, opened the door, ushered Yan Danqiu in, and closed it behind her.

“Did they cause any trouble?” Gu Chaoyan inquired of Dao Seeking, aware of the village gossip.

Everyone was privy to the rumors circulating.

“I went and told them that I had something important to share with you. I invited you to come to my house tomorrow,” Yan Danxia explained. While uncertain about the details, she sensed that significant events were afoot when the villagers ceased their commotion.

Gu Chaoyan shrugged off the speculation. To her, it was likely just trivial matters.

“Today, I had a fruitful harvest. I met an old acquaintance who claimed to be my father. He guided me to that location and taught me how to cultivate these plants. There are herbs that are several hundred years old and some suitable for home cultivation,” Gu Chaoyan shared the events of the day. Despite their differences, they were a family, and she respected that bond.

“....”

“In a couple of days, I’ll head to the county city and seek assistance from the Lin Family,” Gu Chaoyan declared.

“...”

“Go and conceal these items. I’ll skin this rabbit, and Danxia, you can cook it later,” Gu Chaoyan instructed as she placed the basket on the ground and retrieved the rabbit.

Yan Danxia and Yan Dandong were taken aback.

The rabbit, gray and marked by numerous wounds, still bore traces of blood on its fur.

Yan Danxia’s eyes welled with tears. “Elder sister.”

“Don’t cry. We’re improving, and there’s nothing to cry about. The mountains are teeming with wild rabbits and pheasants. Once I’m better, we can go together to catch some pheasants and make soup,” Gu Chaoyan reassured them gently.

“Alright!” The two sisters agreed enthusiastically, sensing that better days were on the horizon.

Yet, they couldn’t help feeling sorry for their elder sister. After all, she, too, was just a girl, now forced to hunt for their sustenance.

While they hid the items, Gu Chaoyan skillfully skinned the wild rabbit.

After finishing, she handed it to Danxia, insisting she take a break without worrying about conserving materials. There was no need to skimp now that they were eating well—everyone’s health took precedence.

Gu Chaoyan served Ms. Wang some tea, and a glimmer returned to her previously dim eyes. Ms. Wang expressed her desire to get up and try.

“Okay.” Gu Chaoyan assisted her, and though weak, Ms. Wang managed to rise, appearing noticeably better than before.

Gu Chaoyan assisted her to sit down at the dining table, ensuring they could share a meal together.

“Mother, we have meat today,” Dan Dong exclaimed joyfully.

“Where did the meat come from?”

“We went to the mountains and hunted wild rabbits. There’s plenty of wild game up there, making it easy to hunt.”

Ms. Wang suddenly fell silent.

After a moment of quiet, her eyes reddened.

Then, she smiled again—a grateful smile.

As a mother, her heart twinged with a bit of pain. However, in that ache, she found reassurance knowing what her daughters were capable of.

All three of them were girls, and she had worried about what would become of them without her. Yet, observing their resilience, she felt a sense of relief.

“I’m very happy that you girls can manage this. However, there’s no need to make things too challenging,” Ms. Wang said, her concern evident. “After all, you are ladies.”

Gu Chaoyan understood Ms. Wang’s underlying worry. She was concerned about their well-being.

Responding calmly, Gu Chaoyan explained, “My father shared some information with me in the past. There are old medicinal herbs on the mountain. Today, I went up and encountered my father’s old friend. He assisted me in digging them up. They are all hundreds of years old ginseng and dragon roots, along with some younger ones that I brought back.”

“...”

“Now, Eldest Uncle and Second Uncle are coveting our 15 acres of fertile land. That’s why they are pressuring us like this. We must protect our field. Beyond safeguarding these herbs, the crucial thing is to secure an escape route.”

“...”

“Ginseng and dragon roots—we’ll sell half of the hundred-year-old ones and keep the other half. We need the money from the sale. Additionally, we’ll rely on the Lin Family’s shop for support.”

“...”

“Keep the remaining half. We’ll use it when the time is right. I’ll figure out a way to cultivate the younger ones,” Gu Chaoyan outlined her plan. “Mom, we won’t face hardship. As long as we stick together, we’ll be fine.”

“...”

“If we truly can’t defend it, we’ll temporarily move out of the North Village and use the funds to secure a place in the city. We can reclaim it in the future. As long as we hold the title deed, there’s nothing to fear.”

Ms. Wang’s eyes brightened progressively, filled with hope and anticipation for the future. If they could execute Danqiu’s plan, she believed there was nothing to be afraid of.

She recognized that the most crucial thing now was for her children to lead good lives. Material possessions were ultimately transient.

Hope permeated the atmosphere within the family.

At that moment, Danxia brought the food over.

The aroma of rabbit meat filled the air.

Danxia’s culinary skills were commendable, nearly on par with Ms. Wang’s. Growing up in a modest household, children learned to take on responsibilities early. By the time they reached their teenage years, they were already adept at various tasks.

“It’s delicious,” Dandong exclaimed, unable to contain her drooling at the scent.

“It hasn’t even reached your mouth, and you already claim it’s delicious?” Danxia teased.

“Second Sister made it. It’s always delicious, especially meat,” Dandong retorted mischievously.

“You’re just fixated on the meat. Luckily, our eldest sister is here, so we have meat to eat,” Danxia agreed.

Gu Chaoyan smiled, a bit surprised.

She had briefed Ms. Wang on the current situation but refrained from mentioning their visit to Yan Danxia’s house tomorrow. She worried that it might weigh on Ms. Wang’s mind, which could impede her recovery.

As for the details, they would naturally unfold after tomorrow. Speculating at this point served little purpose.

There was a lot of rabbit meat. The four of them opened their stomachs and ate, but they did not finish it.

Hence, they kept it. they could still have a meal tomorrow.

If that was the case...

Chapter 2625: Mission 11

It was just that there was enough meat for two meals, and Dandong was overjoyed.

Observing their contentment, Gu Chaoyan remarked, “We’ll have meat frequently in the future. Don’t worry, Dandong.”

Dandong squinted her eyes and smiled in response.

After the meal, Danxia went to boil water. While Gu Chaoyan could assist with many things, household chores and cooking were not her forte.

The family collaborated seamlessly, making life uncomplicated.

Following a shower, they retired for the night. The Yan family's dwelling, neither small nor dilapidated, provided warmth with a comfortable blanket—testament to the father's competence in providing for them.

Gu Chaoyan drifted off to sleep.

The next morning, a knock on the door roused them.

Since Gu Chaoyan was present, she answered it.

It was Ms. Jin, exuding arrogance as she cast a disdainful glance at Yan Danqiu. "Someone from the Jiang Family is here. Tell your mother to come to the old house."

Gu Chaoyan found it peculiar that someone from the Jiang Family had come directly to the old house. She nodded, "My mother isn't in good health and can't get up. I can go in her place. There's no need to bother her."

Ms. Jin seemed about to say something...

Yet, after contemplating Ms. Wang's condition, she let it slide.

In any case, the outcome would be the same regardless of who came. There was no distinction. Who cared about the identity of the messenger?

"Let's go," Ms. Jin instructed.

Gu Chaoyan left after giving some instructions to her two sisters.

The old house wasn't far; the North Village was relatively small.

Upon arrival, Gu Chaoyan noticed a considerable number of people in the old house, most of whom were outsiders from the Jiang Family. Given the Jiang Family's size and the scholar's connection to Yan Danqiu, it wasn't surprising. Apart from the Jiang Family, a few villagers seemed to be there just to observe the situation.

Gu Chaoyan walked in without hesitation.

Reflecting on the past engagement, it was the Jiang family who had initiated the proposal. It took significant effort before Yan Danqiu's father agreed. Now that the engagement was being called off, Yan Danqiu had done nothing wrong, and there was no reason for Gu Chaoyan to feel guilty.

Inside, the Jiang family members occupied the room. Upon seeing Yan Danqiu, they frowned upon not finding her mother with her. "What's happening? Are there no rules? Are you discussing something without your mother being aware?"

"My mother is unwell, bedridden, and unable to rise. She is trying to rest. What rules require her presence for you to discuss breaking off the engagement?" Gu Chaoyan responded without reservation.

The Jiang family's expressions soured further.

"How uncouth. How can Changxiu marry such a woman?" The Jiang family expressed their displeasure, "Today, our Jiang family is here to annul the engagement. Changxiu is a scholar. A woman like you is unworthy of him. Fortunately, we haven't altered the birth dates. Now that the Jiang family has arrived, we are here to formally inform you."

"It is human nature to dislike the poor and love the rich. We are poor, so it is normal that we don't like the scholars. You can cancel the engagement, but you can give back the herbs and money you received from my father, and we will not owe each other anything from now on." Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly.

The eyes of the Jiang family widened in disbelief, not anticipating Yan Danqiu's strong reaction.

While the North Village residents were not impoverished, the scarcity of Elementary Scholars was evident. Among all the villages, there was only one Jiang Changxiu. Which girl in the North Village wouldn't aspire to marry him? Being wed to Jiang Changxiu meant becoming a future official's wife.

Yan Danqiu was considered fortunate to be engaged to Changxiu.

Initially, the Jiang family assumed that breaking off the engagement would lead to Yan Danqiu crying and protesting her unwillingness. They had anticipated such dramatics and prepared accordingly.

Yet, Yan Danqiu's unexpected response caught them off guard. Her words dripped with disdain for Jiang Changxiu, questioning the scholar's penchant for despising the poor and favoring the wealthy. If he wished to call off the engagement, she insisted on returning the silver and herbs.

Her words struck a nerve, portraying Jiang Changxiu and his family in a negative light.

The Jiang family seethed with anger, but in the face of Yan Danqiu's audacious words, they hesitated to retaliate. Their anger simmered beneath the surface as they grappled with how to respond.

"What do you mean by our family accepting your father's silver and medicinal herbs? When did our Jiang family receive such things from you?" a member of the Jiang family retorted immediately. "On the contrary, you accepted them. Return the betrothal gifts from our Jiang family!"

The Jiang family reacted swiftly and engaged in a heated exchange with the Yan family. However, the majority of the Jiang family members were vocal, while only Yan Danqiu from the Yan family responded, creating a noticeable disparity in the argument. It took a considerable amount of time for the Jiang family to formulate a coherent response.

What family did they think they belonged to? They were scholars. Why were they entangled in an argument with a country girl here? It was beneath their dignity.

“Our Jiang family is not unreasonable. Regardless of any additional items, today’s engagement is terminated, and we won’t owe each other anything in the future. Don’t anticipate any favors from our Jiang family,” the elder of the Jiang family hastily declared, eager to conclude the matter.

Yan Danqiu harbored no desire to be a part of the Jiang family. Having severed the engagement, she felt a sense of closure.

With the annulment finalized, the atmosphere in the Yan family’s old house took a turn for the better. Everyone appeared joyous.

The Jiang family, having provided some benefits, left without much ceremony.

Yan Danqiu didn’t spare them a second glance, content that they were gone.

As the Jiang family departed, Gu Chaoyan prepared to leave as well.

However, someone from the Yan family’s old house halted her. “Wait, there’s more...”

It was Old Man Yan who spoke.

After the Jiang family’s departure, Old Man Yan, seated at the head, put on a show, accompanied by a malicious expression on Old Lady Yan’s face.

Members of the Yan family’s first and second branches wore smiles, clearly anticipating what would unfold.

Gu Chaoyan sensed that things were not as straightforward as they seemed.

If the Jiang family came to annul the engagement, it indicated that the people in the old house were no longer holding back and could now mistreat the weaker members of the third branch at will.

Gu Chaoyan could almost predict that their discussion would involve the third branch’s farmland.

“Is there anything else?” Gu Chaoyan inquired calmly.

Old Man Yan appeared displeased. Yan Danqiu had never shown such an attitude before.

“What else could it be?” Yan Tieniu responded.

“Third has been gone for so long.” Old Man Yan said, “Your third branch is all useless.”

Chapter 2627: Mission 13

“The fields in Third’s possession naturally belonged to him while he was still alive. However, now that he’s gone, our Yan family can’t allow those fields to fall into the hands of outsiders. The Yan family’s assets belong to the Yan family.”

“...”

“You’re a good-for-nothing. You’ll have to get married in the future. If you go to someone else’s house, you won’t even be able to keep her.”

“...”

“We don’t care about the people. We can’t take the things away. Third had a total of 15 acres of fields. Bring the land deed over. I’ll be the arbiter and distribute it.”

“...”

“When the fields are distributed, we won’t leave you alone. Until you get married, our old house will take care of your food and drinks,” Old Man Yan declared forcefully.

The members of the Yan family and the allied families nodded in agreement, expressing satisfaction with this arrangement.

Gu Chaoyan sneered.

How could they not be satisfied?

Such an arrangement was nothing short of exploitation.

The three sisters were to provide for themselves until they got married.

Even Dandong and Danxia, not so young anymore, would likely marry within a few years. They could work until marriage, and afterward, the people in their old house could still accept betrothal gifts. Who wouldn't want such a favorable deal?

"I don't agree," Gu Chaoyan firmly rejected the proposal.

"You wretched girl, do you think you have the right to agree or disagree?" Old Madam Yan shouted disdainfully, her face twisted with contempt.

"We've already divided our ways long ago. The farmland now belongs to us, so there's no need to reclaim it. As for us three sisters, our mother is here, so you don't have to worry about us," Gu Chaoyan asserted straightforwardly.

"Your mother? She's an outsider too," Old Lady Yan retorted.

"You have no authority over outsiders. I won't hand over the farmland. If you want to take it forcefully, involve the authorities," Gu Chaoyan asserted firmly, maintaining a serious expression.

"Shut up!" Old Man Yan, who had been silent for a while, slammed the table angrily. "Government interference won't be tolerated in our family matters. In the Yan family, I have the final say. If you don't comply, we'll wash our hands of the third branch's affairs. No matter what challenges you face, we won't come to your aid."

"Then it's settled," Gu Chaoyan responded with satisfaction.

Old Man Yan's face stiffened, clearly caught off guard by her unyielding response.

Old Man Yan had issued the threat assuming they would succumb. In his view, the third branch, consisting entirely of girls, would be vulnerable in the village, especially unmarried ones. He anticipated fear, but instead, he encountered defiant youths.

“Hmph!” Old Man Yan snorted angrily. “If you’re so unyielding, then I’ll invite Li Zheng to be the witness. From now on, our old house won’t involve itself in the matters of your third branch.”

“...”

“With Li Zheng as our witness, no one will question us,” Old Man Yan continued to threaten.

Gu Chaoyan couldn’t be more delighted. She had anticipated the Yan family to be challenging to deal with, but since she was here, she saw an opportunity to assert herself.

“Danxia, go fetch Li Zheng. We can get this certification done today,” Gu Chaoyan instructed Yan Danxia, who was eavesdropping at the door.

Yan Danxia made a face, surprised that her sister had noticed her.

She hurried off to bring Li Zheng to the scene.

Chapter 2628: Mission 14

Old Man Yan looked at Yan Danqiu in confusion.

Did she genuinely run to find the Land Officer?

A little girl who wasn’t afraid at all.

Old Man Yan was annoyed, but not frightened.

Having lived in the North Village for many years, he was well-versed in everything. Given the third branch's situation, as long as Third was around, those fields would eventually return to the old house. It was just a matter of timing. If Third was still alive, they would claim it later. Now that he was gone, it had to be sooner.

In plain terms, Third's family had become extinct.

Without him, it was all over.

Now that this little girl refused to comply, what was the point?

Could they still safeguard those 15 acres of land?

Ignoring the fact that they couldn't keep the assets, their own lives wouldn't be prosperous.

With the protection of the old house, they could still find suitable matches and carry on with their lives. Without that support, who in the village or beyond would care about them?

She was naive.

Old Man Yan didn't mind. There was no need for him to rush to tarnish his reputation. He would let them stir up trouble. When the time came for genuine suffering, he would naturally emerge.

Old Man Yan waited patiently for the Land Officer to arrive, sipping his wine and feeling content with his life.

Yan Danxia quickly summoned someone.

The Land Officer arrived, and many onlookers gathered.

The Land Officer had some understanding of the situation but didn't expect to be summoned. He was feeling irritated.

"What is it again?" the Land Officer asked.

"Third has passed away, and the third branch is without a male heir. Now, even the Jiang family has come to annul the engagement. Third was unfortunate, leaving early without a son. I must take care of Third's affairs. I didn't expect these young girls not to heed my guidance. If they refuse to accept it, that's their choice, but I won't concern myself with it any longer. I won't meddle in the future. Land Officer, you're here to witness. If any issues arise in the third branch later on, we won't interfere," Old Man Yan declared.

As Old Man Yan spoke, those who heard his words formed their own thoughts and opinions.

The third son of the Yan family had a decent life, but unfortunately, he passed away without leaving behind a son. The question arose about the ownership of Third's family farmland. If the young girls from the Third family were to marry within the North Village, the fields could follow them. If they were not to marry within the North Village, it would be impractical to grant them the fields.

Now, the members of the Yan family's old house sought to reclaim these fields.

The girl from the third branch of the Yan family resisted.

This was an unprecedented event in the North Village, and everyone was eager to witness the outcome.

The third branch had already split up, and logically, it should belong to the third branch.

Even the Land Officer found himself in a dilemma.

This was indeed a complicated matter.

In usual circumstances, it would be acceptable to let the unmarried girls be protected by the members of the old house until they got married. Yan Danqiu, however, was unwilling.

Land Officer furrowed his brow and looked at Yan Danqiu. "If you persist in this decision, the rest of the Yan family will truly disassociate from your family. Have you carefully considered this?"

"Yes," Yan Danqiu affirmed.

"Very well," Land Officer conceded. It was a family matter, and he had already agreed to be a witness. He had nothing further to add.

The matter was concluded.

Land Officer departed, leaving the surrounding villagers still observing the situation, eager to see the outcome of this family dispute.

Chapter 2629: Mission 15

Yan Danqiu brought Danxia back, attracting the attention of many onlookers who treated it like a spectacle.

"Danqiu, the Jiang family canceled your engagement. You'll need to marry again, right? Tell me what kind of person you like, and I'll find a suitable match for you," a meddler inquired. "If you can't marry Scholar Jiang, consider marrying a young man from our northern village. Your family owns so much land and medicinal fields. If you bring these with you, everyone will have to provide for you. You won't have to worry."

Gu Chaoyan frowned and replied, "No need," before leading Danxia away.

She was genuinely weary of such speculations.

Even in a less advanced world, things wouldn't be as backward.

With the failed attempt of the old house members to seize the fields, it was likely that the villagers in the northern village would now be eyeing their land.

In that case, a new plan was necessary.

It might not affect her much, but Danxia and Dandong couldn't bear the consequences.

She needed to come up with a solution.

Gu Chaoyan returned with a troubled expression.

At the Yan family's old house, First Yan and Second Yan expressed their dissatisfaction. "Dad, what's happening? After Third Brother left, those belongings were divided among us brothers. Why did you leave them for those useless people?"

"Why shouldn't they have a share? Don't you understand? We need to reclaim the fields. Didn't Third split up? If those good-for-nothings refuse, can you still seize it? Make them willing if they're unwilling. If they resist, force them into agreement. Can't they use their brains to figure something out?" Old Man Yan scolded.

"..."

"Don't they realize they can't live well without our support? Let them suffer. Convince those few people to exert more pressure. After intimidating them for a few days, they'll naturally come back. By then, they might even take the initiative to hand over the fields. Won't they still be ours?" Old Man Yan looked at his sons as if they were clueless.

If it weren't for his son, he would have scolded them earlier.

First Yan and Second Yan suddenly saw the light.

Why hadn't they thought of such a method?

"Father, we understand. We'll handle it now. In less than three days, we'll definitely make them surrender and reclaim the land," First Yan declared.

“Go ahead,” Old Man Yan replied and continued drinking.

Ever since their Third Brother separated from the family, their life had been thriving, but the days in the old house were becoming worse.

Fortunately, things were gradually improving.

Once they got the land, Jiang Changxiu would willingly marry Damei.

With the addition of a field in the old house, life was improving.

After settling the affairs of those girls, Third’s house could be vacated. The old couple could leave, saving them the trouble of squeezing in here.

Old Man Yan still held high hopes for the future.

As for Yan Danqiu, she returned with Danxia.

However, she sensed that things weren’t proceeding as smoothly as expected, prompting her to devise alternative plans.

In the North Village, only sons were acknowledged, and without a male in the house, all eyes were on them.

Gu Chaoyan didn’t consider it a significant issue, but she knew the necessity of finding a solution.

She called Mother Yan and Dandong out, and they began to discuss.

“What happened outside?” Ms. Wang asked.

“The people from the old house want our land, but I refused. Now we’ve asked the Land Officer to be our witness, so we can keep the land, and the people from the old house won’t bother us

anymore,” Gu Chaoyan explained truthfully, choosing not to mention the annulment issue to spare Ms. Wang’s feelings.

Chapter 2630: Mission 16

When her life was gradually improving, and Ms. Wang started to see hope, Gu Chaoyan planned to talk to her about the Jiang family breaking off the engagement. She believed that, at that point, Ms. Wang might be more accepting of the situation.

Gu Chaoyan had this plan in mind, so she refrained from bringing up the matter for now.

Despite the discussion being centered around the fields, Ms. Wang still wore a concerned expression.

With the people from the old house no longer bothering them, the potential bullying from others in the North Village became a real concern. Being orphans and widows without a man in the house, they could easily become targets.

Fifteen acres of fields seemed challenging to defend.

“Danqiu, have you considered it? As orphans and widows, it might be hard to keep so much land. If exchanging some fields for stability is an option, we should think about it,” Ms. Wang suggested, leaning towards a solution involving money.

Yan Danqiu understood the reasoning behind Ms. Wang’s perspective. Having been accustomed to a life of hardship and bullying in the past, it was natural for her to consider such an approach.

However, Yan Danqiu had a different vision for the future. She didn’t want them to settle for less and compromise their principles. If everyone adopted that mindset, their future would be compromised.

“The people from the old house don’t just want some land; they want it all. Moreover, they want to interfere in Danxia and Dandong’s marriages. We can compromise on the land, but what about Danxia and Dandong? I don’t want them to be at the mercy of the people from the old house. You know what kind of people they are. I fear they might dictate their marriages as they please, taking advantage of the betrothal gifts. I’m not willing. As the eldest sister, I am responsible for taking care of them,” Yan Danqiu explained, weighing the pros and cons of the situation.

Danxia and Dandong nodded in agreement.

“Now that we have the land, even if we can’t fully utilize it, we must leverage it to secure the maximum benefits for ourselves,” Gu Chaoyan continued. “Everyone is taking advantage of our vulnerability in the absence of our father and the lack of men in the household.”

“...”

“If need be, we can find a solution to that. Danxia and Dandong are still young, so they can stay by your side. When they get married in the future, they will eventually leave. I am considering the option of adopting a son for you, so that the people from the old house won’t covet our land anymore. Additionally, the adoptive family can offer significant support.” Gu Chaoyan proposed.

Ms. Wang, Danxia, and Dandong were astonished, looking at their eldest sister with wide-opened mouths.

It was indeed a brilliant idea.

Why hadn’t they thought of it? They had been vexed over their predicament, and here was a solution that could potentially liberate their family.

“However, we must handle this matter carefully. We shouldn’t give away everything in the family to the adopted child. We need to choose the person wisely and settle the matter prudently,” Gu Chaoyan continued.

“...”

“Danxia and Dandong must divide the fields at home equally.”

“...”

“As for this new field, we might not be able to cultivate it immediately. We can either rent it out or hire someone to cultivate it,” Gu Chaoyan outlined the necessary arrangements.

Gu Chaoyan’s proactive approach filled Ms. Wang with hope, and she couldn’t help but smile.

After her parents left, Yan Danqiu stood up to begin implementing the plans.