

Divine 2631

Chapter 2631: Mission 17

This situation was highly favorable. Not only did she manage to alleviate concerns regarding Danxia and Dandong's future, but the worries surrounding Danqiu's marriage into the Jiang family also dissipated. With a clear understanding of her boundaries and an ability to handle matters adeptly, everything was falling into place.

"Danqiu, considering my frail health and your father always taking charge of household affairs, I lack comprehension and intellect in these matters. Now that you have a plan, I'll abide by your guidance. I wholeheartedly support you," Ms. Wang conveyed, essentially granting Danqiu both approval and authority within the family structure.

Meanwhile...

Ms. Wang's seasoned experience shone through.

Simultaneously, she offered a perspective. "While renting the fields is an option, most individuals in North Village did so with the intent of exploiting our family. They fear it'll be challenging to reclaim them later. Employing someone to cultivate the land is an alternative, but our yield might be modest. Your father used to hire individuals for the task. We can locate those workers."

Gu Chaoyan felt a surge of joy upon hearing these words.

As anticipated, the family had encountered merely a temporary setback.

They were all individuals who could be fully supported.

Setting aside her two sisters, both intelligent and sensible, their future prospects appeared promising.

Ms. Wang, being a perceptive and broad-minded individual, surprised Gu Chaoyan. She initially assumed Ms. Wang would prefer the simpler route of renting out the land like the other villagers to avoid unnecessary complications. Instead, Ms. Wang opted to hire someone for cultivation. Although it presented initial challenges, the path ahead seemed much smoother.

“The adoption process poses a challenge. Finding a suitable family is no easy task,” Ms. Wang expressed her concern, genuinely unsure about the ideal match. She had observed the North Village residents and wasn’t confident about their suitability.

Just as Ms. Wang concluded her thoughts, a knock echoed on the door.

Dandong, being the youngest, energetically darted outside.

With joy, she swung the door open, revealing Auntie Lianhua.

Ms. Wang greeted her with a smile, “It’s Auntie Lianhua! Please come in.”

Auntie Lianhua, straightforward and warm, entered with a smile, dismissing the need for a formal welcome.

“My husband descended from the mountain and brought a lot of things. He sent one here. Considering your health, use it to make soup,” she casually mentioned. “I heard about the situation with the Jiang family, and I...”

Gu Chaoyan interrupted her, urging her not to say anything further.

Auntie Lianhua promptly understood and fell silent.

She continued, “I heard about the dispute with the residents in the old house. It’s commendable that you’re safeguarding the fields yourself. Those few are unscrupulous. If you don’t stand your ground, they’ll covet your family’s land. Don’t worry. If you need anything in the future, just call us. My husband hunts daily, and he’s quite strong. We’re here to help.”

“...”

“We owe your father a debt. It’s only right for us to do something,” Auntie Lianhua said emotionally.

Ms. Wang expressed her gratitude, “You all are truly honest people.”

After their father’s departure, the people in the North Village either took advantage of their situation or coveted their modest fields. Conversely, Old Tian’s family had consistently been supportive.

Auntie Lianhua exchanged a few more words before departing.

As Old Tian descended from the mountain, the family prepared to sell meat.

Following Auntie Lianhua outside, Gu Chaoyan heard her vent, “How heartless can this Jiang Family lackey be? We won’t be intimidated. Old Tian and Xiao Tian are strong enough to handle them!”

Chapter 2632: Mission 18

Their residence was situated at a distance from the Yan family, and Auntie Lianhua typically refrained from engaging in the local gossip, occupied with her own responsibilities. However, once she learned of the situation, she promptly arrived.

With no support within the Yan family, she took it upon herself to stand by Yan Danqiu.

Yan Danqiu recognized Auntie Lianhua’s family as genuinely kind-hearted. Few were willing to confront an Elementary Scholar for the sake of their family, and, since their father’s passing, Auntie Lianhua’s family had been a source of support.

However, Yan Danqiu couldn’t allow them to bear the burden and get entangled in the matter.

“Auntie Lianhua, the engagement has been called off. Let’s put this behind us. The Jiang family’s Elementary Scholar, Jiang Changxiu, is influential and wealthy. If we seek retribution, it won’t lead to any positive outcomes. In the end, they might accuse us of hindering the Elementary Scholar’s studies,” Yan Danqiu reasoned.

“...”

“The betrothal is canceled. Let’s focus on living well. I appreciate your kindness,” Yan Danqiu expressed.

Auntie Lianhua nodded, casting a sympathetic gaze toward Yan Danqiu.

Though sensible, Yan Danqiu’s life had been marked by bitterness, an unavoidable reality for a family in their circumstances.

“If there’s anything you need in the future, just let us know. We’ll assist if we can,” Auntie Lianhua conveyed before departing.

A notion crossed Gu Chaoyan’s mind.

Perhaps they might indeed require their assistance.

Without outright refusing, she mentioned, “There might be something in the future that we may need your help with, Auntie Lianhua. However, there’s no rush. We’ll personally come to you when the time is right.”

Although Auntie Lianhua harbored curiosity, she refrained from probing further and swiftly returned, knowing there were numerous tasks awaiting her in the countryside.

Gu Chaoyan returned after seeing her off, a mysterious smile playing on her lips. “I thought you were unsure about finding a suitable candidate for adoption? Well, I believe we now have one.”

“Who?” inquired Ms. Wang.

“Auntie Lianhua’s family,” Gu Chaoyan replied with a grin.

Initially elated, Ms. Wang soon composed herself. “Auntie Lianhua is kind, but she already has three sons and a daughter. The youngest is five or six years old.”

In matters of adoption, families with more children typically took on the responsibility. Those with fewer offspring tended to care for their own from a young age.

Ms. Wang hadn’t considered Auntie Lianhua’s family, and now that Danqiu mentioned it, she sensed something unusual.

“It’s not a major issue. Managing newborns requires significant energy, and they won’t dare approach. Auntie Lianhua’s family is a good fit, and both families can support each other in the future. They may not reclaim the children, but with a mother and a few elder sisters, Auntie Lianhua may need some convincing. We should discuss it with her personally,” Gu Chaoyan suggested, still smiling.

“...”

“I brought it up with Auntie Lianhua earlier, but I didn’t delve into specifics. We’ll discuss it face-to-face. It’ll be more convenient for the Lotus family to manage things that way,” she continued.

“That’s a good idea. I hadn’t thought of it that way before, but now that I consider it, it seems quite fitting,” Ms. Wang mused, growing more content with the proposal.

Danxia and Dandong also expressed happiness.

Having always enjoyed playing with Tian Liu, they were thrilled about having her in their home.

“Tomorrow, I’ll head to the city to sell the medicine. We can visit the Tian family when the time is right. Going now might spark gossip,” Gu Chaoyan suggested with a smile.

Simultaneously, she aimed to accrue more resources for her family during the trip.

The joy in the family was palpable.

That night, they dined on some vegetables, a simple meal that didn't dampen their spirits. Tomorrow, they looked forward to enjoying the chicken Auntie Lianhua had brought.

As Gu Chaoyan reflected on the day, she resolved to bring back more provisions for her family during her city visit. While she could manage other aspects gradually, ensuring they had enough to eat was a priority.

The family retired for the night in contentment.

The following morning, Gu Chaoyan headed to the city, her basket laden with ginseng and dragon root, covered by a layer of wild vegetables.

As she approached, curious glances and hushed conversations followed her. The Yan family's third branch had become a village gossip focal point, with one father's demise and the annulment of the engagement.

Unperturbed, Gu Chaoyan paid little attention to the village chatter, proceeding confidently to the ox-cart, where she paid the fare and boarded.

"Why are you going to the city, Danqiu? The Jiang family broke off the engagement. Do you still have the mood to go to the city?" someone inquired, attempting to stir the pot.

"We may have ended the engagement, but we still need to live, don't we?" Gu Chaoyan retorted.

Realizing Yan Danqiu wasn't one to engage in idle talk, the inquirer grew disinterested.

Yet, as glances met, others couldn't resist scrutinizing Yan Danqiu, unable to resist the village's gossip mill.

Gu Chaoyan brushed off the scrutiny, accustomed to the North Village residents' behavior.

Upon reaching the city, she made her way directly to the Lin Family's shop.

The Lin Family's shopkeeper initially assumed Gu Chaoyan came to purchase medicine. "What medicine are you looking for?"

"I'm not here to buy medicine. I'm from the Yan Family in North Village, and I've come to sell medicine. I'd like to see your manager," Gu Chaoyan stated bluntly.

Given the longstanding collaboration between her father and the Lin Family's pharmacy, locating them was relatively straightforward.

Upon hearing it was the Yan family, the shopkeeper promptly informed their manager.

The pharmacy's manager soon emerged, a man of short stature. "Didn't the Yan Family face a mishap? What happened? Do you still have medicine?"

Gu Chaoyan held no ill feelings toward this shopkeeper; their interaction had always been professional.

"Yes, and it's effective. Would you like to take a look?" Gu Chaoyan invited Dao Seeking.

The Lin Family's manager nodded and guided her inside.

The Yan family's herbs were consistently well-cultivated, occasionally featuring rare varieties. He wondered if any remained. Gu Chaoyan seemed more cautious in her approach to selling.

As they reached the backyard, the shopkeeper was about to speak when he turned and was taken aback. A substantial ginseng, exceptionally rare, caught his eye.

It was the kind nobles sent to the palace in the capital.

Selling it there would fetch a high price, and he pondered the profit. Such luxurious items were unheard of from the Yan family in the past.

“Did your father leave this behind?” he inquired.

“Yes,” Gu Chaoyan admitted. “Are you interested, or should I bring something else?”

“Yes, yes, but how much are you asking for it?” the Lin Family’s manager asked Dao Seeking.

“Before that, open it. Let me take a look,” Gu Chaoyan insisted.

“In the capital, this type of ginseng could fetch a hundred taels, but here, I can offer you seventy,” the shopkeeper suggested.

Seventy taels for such a rare ginseng of this age?

Gu Chaoyan was forthright, “Two hundred taels.”

Chapter 2634: Mission 20

The Lin Family’s pharmacy manager found himself momentarily speechless.

He had cautiously proposed 70 taels, anticipating Lin Danqiu to negotiate up to 100 taels. His maximum offer was set at 150 taels of silver. Shopkeeper Lin had a clear strategy in mind.

However, he hadn’t anticipated that the seemingly delicate girl would boldly demand 200 taels straightaway.

While 200 taels seemed reasonable for such a rare ginseng, it was a price that far exceeded the local norms. In the capital, it could easily fetch 2,000 taels, and there was indeed a market for it there.

Shopkeeper Lin pushed back, stating, “Two hundred taels? Miss, no one in this area would accept such a price for ginseng. As a gesture of goodwill to your family, I can offer you a hundred taels.”

Being a savvy businessman, he aimed to secure the best deal, saving every cent possible.

Observing the manager’s reaction, Gu Chaoyan had a strategy in mind.

“Shopkeeper, we brought the ginseng to the Lin Family’s shop first out of respect for my father, but it doesn’t mean we’re obligated to sell it here. If the Lin Family declines at 200 taels, I’ll explore other options. I have plenty of ginseng, and I can make my way to the capital myself,” she stated bluntly, keen on concluding the deal efficiently.

Despite her preference for the Lin Family’s shop and a positive impression of Manager Lin, Gu Chaoyan aimed for a straightforward approach.

“How much do you have? If it’s a substantial quantity, the Lin Family will buy it all for 200 taels,” Manager Lin responded seriously. In this situation, he was willing to overlook minor differences. He sensed that dealing with this girl required careful consideration; if she wasn’t sincere, she might reconsider selling altogether.

Since she possessed it, they were willing to accept it, deeming the price fair.

Gu Chaoyan revealed what she had concealed. “There are three old ginsengs in total, and the rest will take some time. Additionally, I have some dragon roots. If you’re interested, I can sell them to you as well.”

“Dragon root?!” Shopkeeper Lin exclaimed, a mix of surprise and delight evident in his voice as he turned and asked.

The shopkeeper’s enthusiasm for the dragon root surpassed even that for ginseng, a fact apparent in his tone.

Gu Chaoyan refrained from probing further. She presented the dragon root she had brought and handed it to Manager Lin. “There are more dragon roots than ginseng, but I’m uncertain about your interest, so I only brought a small portion.”

“Yes!” Shopkeeper Lin responded with enthusiasm, temporarily setting aside the composed demeanor of a businessman. Overwhelmed by happiness, he forgot the basic protocols required for a merchant. “How much silver do you desire, Miss Danqiu?”

Shopkeeper Lin took the initiative to discuss the terms.

Gu Chaoyan envisioned a long-term partnership with the Lin Family, not just a one-time transaction. Consequently, she aimed to establish a fair pricing arrangement.

Chapter 2635: Mission 21

“The dragon root may not be old, but it’s rarer. I’ll offer you the same price as the ginseng, two hundred taels,” Gu Chaoyan declared.

Shopkeeper Lin observed her and then nodded, recognizing her sincerity. This girl was straightforward—fair in her dealings, not inclined to take advantage of others.

“Alright, I’ll take these. Even though your father is no longer with us, things will continue as they did in the past. Aside from these items, as long as the quality of the other herbs you cultivate is acceptable, I’ll continue to purchase them. How does that sound?” Shopkeeper Lin proposed.

This was precisely what Gu Chaoyan had hoped for. With five acres of herbal fields at home, renting them out could still yield herbs. Bringing them to the Lin Family’s medicine shop would be the ideal outcome.

The three ginsengs and the five-baht dragon root amounted to a total of 1,600 taels of silver. Of this sum, 1,000 taels were in banknotes, and the remaining 600 taels were in silver. This arrangement provided both convenience in storage and practicality in use.

Shopkeeper Lin, with his extensive experience, handled matters meticulously, even in seemingly small transactions.

Before leaving, Gu Chaoyan also asked Shopkeeper Lin to keep an eye out for any available yards or shops in the city. She harbored the intention of purchasing one.

The North Village environment wasn't conducive for the Yan family's third branch, and moving out gradually would be a better option for Ms. Wang and her two younger sisters.

This led Gu Chaoyan to consider the idea of purchasing a yard and a shop.

Shopkeeper Lin naturally grasped her intention.

Having received a considerable sum of money, the most practical move was to invest in these city properties. He admired such a practical approach.

So, he readily agreed.

After leaving the Lin Family's medicine shop, Gu Chaoyan proceeded to the street to make some purchases.

Observing her departure, Shopkeeper Lin hastily picked up the ginseng and dragon root and headed to the backyard.

"Young Master, take a look," Shopkeeper Lin exclaimed with excitement.

The young man in the room glanced over.

Initially indifferent, he showed a hint of surprise upon seeing the items.

"Well..."

“Miss Yan Danqiu sent them over. She mentioned having more goods. Young Master, are you satisfied with this batch?” Shopkeeper Lin inquired joyfully.

“Very good. Keep a close eye on her. Ensure everything is in our favor. Additionally, find out how she acquired these items,” the young man directed, his tone revealing a sense of satisfaction.

“Yes,” Shopkeeper Lin replied solemnly before placing the items and leaving.

Shopkeeper Lin’s good mood persisted.

With these items, the Young Master’s health would likely see improvement.

The Lin Family had no shortage of funds for such necessities.

Having also located the shop and yard, Shopkeeper Lin felt content. If she possessed such a substantial inventory, it would be advantageous if she could establish a connection with the Lin Family, enjoying the benefits of proximity.

Even if she didn’t, Shopkeeper Lin needed to strategize on production.

Unaware of Shopkeeper Lin’s thoughts, Gu Chaoyan, strolling around, contemplated what items she should bring back.

Chapter 2636: Mission 22

“Are you shameless?” Gu Chaoyan questioned directly. “What did you say in front of the Land Officer in the old house? You claimed not to care about the third branch of the Yan family, yet here you are stealing my clothes. Let’s be serious; this is theft and robbery. I could sue you.”

Yan Jinhua remained silent.

“Don’t act so confident. I won’t take legal action against you. Just go, or I won’t hold back.” Gu Chaoyan gestured with the stick in her hand.

Yan Jinhua lacked courage. Having just experienced a setback, she understood its impact and dared not challenge Gu Chaoyan. She hastily retreated.

Left alone was Yan Tieniu, who felt a twinge of irritation.

Yet, for some reason, Yan Danqiu had exhibited a change in temperament lately. Not only was she assertive, but she also seemed indifferent to her own well-being. It was unsettling.

After a brief consideration, Yan Tieniu swiftly made his exit.

With nothing left to witness in the third branch of the Yan family, the villagers dispersed.

Yan Danqiu led the others back, burdened by a headache. A lot had transpired in just one day since her departure, indicating that certain matters needed urgent attention.

“If something like this happens again, just let them be. When I return, I’ll handle it for you. Don’t take a loss,” Gu Chaoyan advised.

They were different from him; most of the time, they struggled to protect themselves. Thus, there was no need for them to stand up for her.

Danxia and Dandong admired their eldest sister, readily obeying her instructions. Disobeying her was out of the question.

Their eldest sister had truly impressed everyone today.

“Did everything go well?” Ms. Wang inquired, getting straight to the point.

“It went smoothly,” Gu Chaoyan replied promptly, presenting the silver. “I obtained two hundred taels each for the herbs and ginseng, totaling one thousand six hundred taels. Henceforth, the Lin Family will manage the herbs and ginseng. Since we have sufficient fields in the North Village, I’ll

request Shopkeeper Lin to keep an eye on available shops and yards in the city. We might consider moving to the city in the future, simplifying our tasks.”

“...”

“However, we must proceed gradually to avoid future gossip affecting Danxia and Dandong’s marriage.”

“...”

“But since these matters will arise in my absence, let’s expedite discussions with Auntie Lianhua,” Gu Chaoyan suggested.

Ms. Wang nodded in agreement.

The actions of the clueless family members had been particularly assertive today.

The family savored the chicken soup solemnly, planning to retire early. Adoption discussions were slated for the following day.

Gu Chaoyan’s city snacks proved useful, and she set out early in the morning.

At Auntie Lianhua’s house, the family was busy skinning prey and preparing to sell the meat later. Upon spotting Gu Chaoyan’s family, Auntie Lianhua promptly halted her work to greet them.

“Why bring something?” Auntie Lianhua, known for her directness, questioned.

“I came today because I have something to ask of you,” Ms. Wang admitted, somewhat embarrassed.

“If you need help, just say it. Why bother with formalities?” Auntie Lianhua responded with a roar.

Gu Chaoyan stepped forward, sensing Ms. Wang’s discomfort and deciding to address the matter herself.

“Auntie Lianhua, this is a delicate matter, so we need to approach it formally,” Gu Chaoyan explained.

Chapter 2637: Mission 23

She didn’t endorse spending money recklessly across two provinces.

She believed in using the money judiciously within her means.

At present, they had the necessary resources, and it was imperative to procure essential items.

Gu Chaoyan purchased some pork for meat, not in excess as there was no need. Recently, Auntie Lianhua had brought over a chicken, and upon her return, Gu Chaoyan could hunt as well. Therefore, a modest amount of pork sufficed.

Additionally, she picked up some snacks for Danxia and Dandong, anticipating their liking.

After a thorough shopping session, Gu Chaoyan found that there wasn’t much to buy. Food and beverages were easily obtainable, and a few clothes were sufficient. They could wait until they had more free time to make custom clothes.

The day progressed smoothly. Gu Chaoyan returned home early, and the shopping excursion took less time than expected.

Upon her return, she brought many items with her.

While sitting on the ox cart, discussions ensued, but Gu Chaoyan chose to ignore them. However, she made a mental note to add a wagon to the household. Apart from the convenience, it would allow her to avoid meddling neighbors. Though money was currently scarce, planning for it in the future was a viable option.

As she approached home, Gu Chaoyan sensed something amiss. Upon closer inspection, she noticed a group of people gathered around the house, engaged in what seemed like a heated argument.

Sure enough...

As Gu Chaoyan approached, she recognized the people from the old house.

Yan Tieniu and his daughter, Yan Jinhua, were among them. Yan Jinhua tightly held something in her hand.

Gu Chaoyan returned and questioned directly, "Danxia, what's going on?"

Yan Danxia's eyes were slightly red, revealing a sense of being bullied and wronged.

"Yan Jinhua stole my clothes. Those are my favorite clothes," Yan Danxia reluctantly explained.

"How is it stealing? Don't you have plenty of clothes? If Jinhua likes it, can't you just give it to her? After all, Jinhua is still your cousin," Yan Tieniu asserted confidently.

"Give it back to her!" Gu Chaoyan's voice resonated with anger.

She wondered what could make Danxia feel so aggrieved.

Now she understood.

The people from the second branch of the Yan Family were truly shameless, even resorting to snatching clothes.

Ms. Wang attempted to make peace, thinking it was just clothes. It was acceptable if Danxia gave it up, but it would be best if nothing else happened. She subtly hinted at Ms. Wang with her eyes.

However, Gu Chaoyan did not comply.

“Jinhua likes it. Why be so petty? Moreover, Jinhua should dress better for herself. Are you jealous of our Jinhua?” Yan Tieniu was agitated, showing reluctance to return the clothes. He could say anything to defend his actions.

“Give it back to her!” Gu Chaoyan reiterated.

Ms. Wang attempted to intervene, but Yan Jinhua clung even tighter to the clothes, unwilling to return them.

Gu Chaoyan picked up a branch from the ground and tapped Yan Jinhua’s hand, causing her to release the clothes in pain. Gu Chaoyan took them back and handed them to Danxia, saying, “What’s yours is yours. If you want to give it to her, we’ll willingly give it. If not, no one can take it away. I’m here to help you.”

Chapter 2638: Mission 24

Auntie Lianhua couldn’t help but chuckle. She took a serious seat and called her husband, Old Tian, over. The two of them listened attentively.

Gu Chaoyan couldn’t help but smile at Auntie Lianhua’s earnest approach to the matter. They were a polite and kind family, and their generosity would surely be repaid in the future.

“Sister, please tell us. As long as our family can assist, we will definitely help you. In the past, Old Yan helped our family a lot. Now that he’s gone, we’ll definitely support you,” Auntie Lianhua said.

She vividly remembered the past kindness.

Their family had been impoverished and had no fields in the northern village. The land was too expensive for them to afford. Old Tian would go to the mountains to hunt, providing seemingly sufficient meat, but with many mouths to feed, the meals were never enough. Old Yan, however,

shared information about wild herbs, enabling them to sell them for extra income, making their lives better and allowing the children to grow up smoothly.

Such favors were not forgotten, and that was evident in their willingness to help now.

Gu Chaoyan looked at them with a warm smile. They were a humble and genuine family.

To ensure that Ms. Wang wouldn't feel too embarrassed discussing the matter, Gu Chaoyan addressed Auntie Lianhua directly, "Auntie Lianhua, you've witnessed our family's situation. The people from the old house keep an eye on our fields, and the villagers are waiting for Danxia and Dandong to marry into their families and bring the fields with them."

"..."

"I don't want them to face such difficulties. However, if they get married in the future, I can't let them take away these fields. My mother is getting older, and I can't burden her with guarding the fields. Even if she does, the people from the old house will still keep a close watch. Unfortunately, no one in our family can endure these pressures," Gu Chaoyan explained with a sigh.

Auntie Lianhua nodded understandingly.

This village differed from the city, where property typically involved houses and fields. In this rural setting, the villagers deemed it acceptable for men in a family to possess such assets.

The Yan family excelled in various aspects, but the absence of a son for Old Yan had created their current predicament. If there were a son, they would be in a slightly better position, recovering within two years. The Tian family could even assist in dealing with those who bullied them in the village.

It was indeed a tough situation.

Auntie Lianhua looked at Ms. Wang with sympathy, recognizing the challenges women faced.

"How can we assist?" Auntie Lianhua inquired.

Old Tian, a man of few words, remained silent, leaving Auntie Lianhua to articulate their sentiments.

Gu Chaoyan felt a sense of relief.

She then explained earnestly, "I wish to adopt a son for my mother. Concerned about the perceptions of others in the village, I propose that Auntie Lianhua adopts a son from your family."

"..."

"Auntie Lianhua, please don't be upset. Although it's an adoption, it doesn't mean we don't recognize your family. The two families will become closer, so just refer to me as Mother."

"..."

"This arrangement will dispel any negative thoughts about the fields and possessions at home."

"..."

"If he decides to stay with your family in the future, he can simply visit us occasionally."

"..."

"As for our family's fields, he can share them equally with Danxia and Dandong."

"..."

"Before my father passed away, he left behind some herbs. Yesterday, I sold them and obtained a considerable amount of silver."

“As for myself, I plan to buy a shop in the city and engage in business. If this child wishes to farm, he can remain in North Village. If he desires a business venture, he can accompany me to the city and assist in managing the shop. Both the shop and the earnings will be shared equally among us sisters in the future.”

“...”

“Of course, if he is inclined towards education, a bright future awaits him,” Gu Chaoyan expressed her family’s sincerity in one breath.

Only then did she feel more at ease, gazing at Auntie Lianhua to discern her thoughts.

After all, Auntie Lianhua’s family wasn’t financially strained to the extent of adopting a child. Moreover, the child had already been raised to such an age, suggesting a certain level of emotional attachment.

This was indeed a complex matter, and Gu Chaoyan felt a bit awkward.

Auntie Lianhua and Old Tian were left in astonishment.

Gu Chaoyan referred to it as a favor, but it seemed more like they were offering significant benefits to the Tian family.

If news of the Yan family’s proposal spread in North Village, it was likely that every family would be willing to agree to such terms.

Having made such a generous offer, Gu Chaoyan looked to Auntie Lianhua, eager to gauge her response.

“It’s not difficult. If you like Tian Jiu, I’ll just pass him on to you. As for those assets, there’s no need. Just give Tian Jiu a meal. In our family, Tian Jiu is already living quite well. Having an extra

meal is already a blessing for him. There's no need to give him so much," Auntie Lianhua asserted, appearing inclined to decline.

The third branch of the Yan family was already leading a comfortable life.

"No, if you are willing, and I am willing to do it myself, treat him like any other child in our family," Gu Chaoyan insisted.

"We're willing. It's decided," Auntie Lianhua agreed directly.

"Aunt, ask Tian Jiu if he is willing. It is a good thing. If he is not, we can't force him," Gu Chaoyan said.

She hoped that this matter could proceed harmoniously. In the future, when she was away, Ms. Wang and her two younger sisters could still be taken care of.

Auntie Lianhua wanted to say that there was no need, but then she felt that Old Yan's family were indeed gentle people. Therefore, she went to call Tian Jiu over.

"Little Jiu, come here," Ms. Wang shouted with a smile.

Ms. Wang enjoyed having Tian Jiu frequently visit the Yan residence to play. Now that she was going to be adopted, she liked him even more.

Tian Jiu hurriedly came over and walked to Ms. Wang's side. He was still very envious of Dandong for having such a gentle mother.

Auntie Lianhua looked helpless.

With this, how could Tian Jiu not be willing?

As soon as he was called, he went straight there.

He was ignoring his biological mother.

However, Auntie Lianhua was not angry. She only found it amusing.

“Little Jiu, are you willing to be Aunt Yan’s son?” Auntie Lianhua asked. If he was unwilling, Auntie Lianhua would explain in detail what Danqiu had just said.

“I’m willing.” Tian Jiu didn’t even hesitate. “I’m willing. If I become Aunt’s son, can I go to the Yan family?”

“Yes.” Auntie Lianhua really didn’t know what to say now.

She really suspected that she had given birth to this child for the Yan family.

“Okay!” Tian Jiu said.

“Then that’s settled. Let’s go to the county to formalize this later,” Auntie Lianhua said.

“Alright, alright, alright. That’s it.” Ms. Wang was also very happy.

At her age, she liked children. Tian Jiu was fair and chubby, and people liked him very much.

Gu Chaoyan was quite happy too, with a smile on her face.

Chapter 2640: Mission 26

After the two families discussed the matter of going to the county tomorrow, they went back respectively. They planned to hold a banquet and inform the villagers after the matter was settled.

Gu Chaoyan planned to go to the county directly because it would be challenging for her to get the job done. She had already observed the Land Officer's biased attitude towards the people in the old house. Given the villagers' lack of literacy and familiarity with county procedures, she preferred dealing with it directly in the county.

Most of the village affairs were typically addressed within the village, and the villagers were primarily farmers with limited literacy. When they reached the county, they struggled with the procedures. Going straight to the county seemed more straightforward.

This was Gu Chaoyan's strategy.

Going to the county was faster, and the main challenge was spending money, which she didn't mind for such matters.

Tian Jiu accompanied them back. Although the adoption was not formalized yet, Auntie Lianhua mentioned that before the formal adoption, she would encourage them to foster a relationship by visiting each other's homes.

Gu Chaoyan agreed directly, as she had some matters to discuss with Tian Jiu.

Upon returning home, Danxia and Dandong went about their tasks, leaving Gu Chaoyan and Ms. Wang behind.

Before delving into the serious matters, Gu Chaoyan asked playfully, "Why is Little Jiu so eager to come to our house? Are you here to play with Danxia and Dandong?"

Tian Jiu nodded.

Having a playmate was one thing, but that wasn't the most important aspect for Tian Jiu.

"Uncle Yan and Auntie are very good to me. They often give me food. Uncle Yan even brought me to the city to play and buy candied hawthorn. You're all good people. However, many people in the village bullied you. I've thought about it. They just felt that there was no man in your family to protect you, so I came to protect you," Tian Jiu said righteously. Then, he added in embarrassment, "It's just that I ate a little too much. I don't know if you will mind."

“At home, she eats a lot. Her mother often talks about him,” Gu Chaoyan said.

“No,” she answered, “We don’t need your food.”

“Little Jiu, you are still young. Do you want to study after you come to our house?” Gu Chaoyan asked.

“Yes,” Tian Jiu answered.

In the village, the Jiang family, with a scholar, could do whatever they wanted. If he studied, he would be able to protect many people. Moreover, reading could allow him to understand more principles and go to a wider place. Of course, he wanted to.

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

Ms. Wang brought some snacks to him.

The hot water was ready too.

After taking a shower, Gu Chaoyan went to bed, while Tian Jiu, being young, slept with Ms. Wang for the time being. Preparing a separate room for him would be on the agenda soon.

The next day, before dawn, the two families set out together. The villagers, curious about the joint departure, couldn’t help but ask questions. Gu Chaoyan had nothing to hide, and she said directly, “We are going to the city to settle the adoption procedures. Tian Jiu from the Tian family is coming to our house.”

“What?”!

The news started to blow up after they left.

The news spread like wildfire. Everyone knew about it very quickly.

Most of the people in the village were watching a good show.

On the other hand, the family with the half-grown young man and the Yan family's old house were starting to feel vexed.

The former hoped to marry a girl from the third branch of the Yan family and gain some benefits.