

## Divine 2641

### Chapter 2641: Mission 27

The latter referred to the fact that these young girls had already been married, and now they were back in the old house. Despite their ability to sit still, they were also able to run to the village.

The Land Officer, however, seemed unhurried.

“Why are you so worried? While the county is responsible for household registration, have I not managed these village matters all these years? The county won’t bother about you as a farmer. You can handle it. Going to the county won’t change anything,” Land Officer reassured.

But they remained unconvinced.

In the past, some villagers were unwilling to provide him with benefits. Even when he went to the county, the county residents paid no attention.

That was the harsh reality.

Despite their anxiety, Land Officer remained calm.

They had the luxury of time.

When they faced obstacles in the county, they would inevitably turn to him.

The third branch of the Yan family was affluent, and he intended to claim compensation.

Upon hearing this, Old Man Yan no longer felt rushed.

Indeed, that made perfect sense!

If they truly adopted him, the affairs of the old house would be irrelevant.

How could he not be anxious?

Any mishandling of the situation would still have consequences for the old house.

Old Man Yan felt a sense of relief.

They were simply waiting for their return.

The village hushed once again, anticipating their return and the unfolding results.

Meanwhile, the two families had already reached the city. Unrushed, they leisurely enjoyed two bowls of noodles before setting out. Gu Chaoyan, before leaving, made a detour to the Lin Family's pharmacy.

Upon her arrival, Manager Lin emerged.

"What's this about?" Manager Lin inquired.

"The ginseng delivery will come on another day. We're here in the city for some household registration. Since Manager Lin is in the county, you might be more familiar with the process. Could you direct us to the right place?" Gu Chaoyan asked.

Manager Lin considered it a minor affair. "Registration? That's simple. I'm free right now; I can guide you. It won't take much time."

Gu Chaoyan felt a twinge of awkwardness. "Well, we can manage on our own."

"You can, but it might take longer," Manager Lin replied with a friendly smile.

In today's world, those with some influence tended to be accommodating.

Gu Chaoyan nodded, comprehending the situation. "Thank you, Manager Lin." After a moment's thought, she produced some silver. "Is this sufficient?"

“That’s too much,” Manager Lin responded directly. “Usually, one tael is already considered generous for such matters. Household registration isn’t a high-ranking position.”

“Don’t worry, it’s just for this,” Gu Chaoyan insisted with a smile.

Manager Lin said nothing more.

She must have her own reasons for taking this course of action.

Manager Lin guided them to the registration office.

Upon reaching the household registration office, the process was completed within fifteen minutes. Tian Jiu retained his name, but now “Yan” preceded it as the family name.

Gu Chaoyan discussed the next steps with Manager Lin, then proceeded to purchase a substantial amount of vegetables. Planning to host a village banquet after the wedding, she needed ample provisions. With Auntie Lianhua’s expertise, they faced little concern.

All these tasks were efficiently accomplished.

Upon their return to the village, anticipation hung in the air. The Land Officer, too, awaited news eagerly.

Upon seeing them, he inquired with a smile, “Has the adoption been finalized?”

“Yes, we will host a dinner at our house the next day,” Gu Chaoyan announced generously.

The villagers were taken aback by this revelation.

Word quickly spread, with some rushing to inform the Land Officer.

How could it be so straightforward to resolve matters by going to the county? In the village, there were individuals unwilling to provide proper compensation. In such cases, they would usually resort to the county themselves. However, if the county visit proved unfruitful, returning with frustration, it might be more practical to address the issue within the village. Offering a reasonable settlement could often bring resolution.

Adopting was a considerably more complex process compared to household registration.

The residents of the north village were skeptical about their ability to navigate the county's bureaucracy effectively within the 500 meters. They eagerly anticipated observing the unfolding events and deciphering the logic at play.

But...

Did she just claim it was already done?

The surprising revelation left them astonished.

The Land Officer, aware of their skepticism, had only anticipated witnessing a spectacle. It was widely known that he harbored disdain for the third branch of the Yan family.

As Gu Chaoyan and her sisters returned home, she confidently affirmed the successful completion of the adoption process.

Furthermore, she displayed generosity, treating everyone in the village. Those willing to partake in the banquet were welcome, and she intended to make it a grand affair. Considering Tian Jiu a good child, she wanted to ensure his positive reception.

Meanwhile, the residents of the Yan family's old house, along with the Land Officer, couldn't sit idle any longer. They all gathered to confront Guo Jin.

Old Man Yan, filled with hostility, barged in, questioning Guo Jin with disdain. "You're adopting that kid from the Tian family? Have you sought my permission? How dare you adopt so casually? Does the first son not have a son, or can't you adopt within Second Brother's family? Must you find someone else to adopt? Isn't this embarrassing our Old Yan family?"

Old Man Yan, naturally assertive, even intimidated Ms. Wang.

Gu Chaoyan pulled Ms. Wang aside and confronted Old Man Yan. “You claimed not to care about us, and now you talk about needing your permission and Uncle’s son? Are you senile or just out of your mind?”

Gu Chaoyan showed no deference to Old Man Yan, who had not been supportive of the third branch of the Yan family. He had been a hindrance in various ways, and she had no inclination to tolerate his criticism.

This elderly man had not contributed anything positive to the well-being of the third branch, and Gu Chaoyan had no desire to associate with such a person, let alone allow him to censure her in this manner.

“You, you good-for-nothing. Leave. Third was my son. His possessions belong to me. How can I stand by and let you claim victory here?” Old Man Yan exclaimed, his emotions running high.

Gu Chaoyan remained unruffled, standing her ground. She spoke slowly, “Don’t forget, we have already severed ties. The old house didn’t allocate anything to my father back then, declaring that our paths would diverge. Why is everything now presumed to be yours?”

“...”

“My mother is still here, and my sisters are still here. You asserted that our third branch lacks a male heir. Now that Father has a son, Yan Tianjiu fills that role. You need not worry about anything. Everything is in order.”

Gu Chaoyan faced challenges with composure, rendering Old Man Yan incapable of gaining any ground in her presence.

Old Man Yan was infuriated and on the brink of exasperation. He had never been fond of these perceived ‘good-for-nothings,’ and true to his expectations, they were not individuals who would provoke him to the point of angering him to death.

“You... you...” Old Man Yan struggled for words.

Gu Chaoyan, maintaining her calm demeanor, addressed him, "If there's nothing else, you can go home. Our family is ready to retire for the night."

"You..."

Just as Old Man Yan found himself at a loss for words, the Land Officer arrived.

## Chapter 2643: Mission 29

The Land Officer arrived accompanied by numerous villagers, harboring skepticism about the successful transfer of ownership. He believed that the claim might be a ploy to deceive the villagers, and as long as the Tian family collaborated, they could easily fall for the ruse.

Expressing such bias towards him, the Land Officer appeared dismissive, almost disdainful. It seemed as if he had grown tired of living.

"I've heard that you've completed the adoption," Land Officer inquired condescendingly. His tone hinted that if they were found to be dishonest, he wouldn't be as accommodating when they sought registration in the future.

"Yes," Gu Chaoyan responded calmly.

The Land Officer chuckled, maintaining an air of skepticism. However, he shifted to a more serious tone, saying, "Words alone won't suffice. Show us the documents."

The Land Officer exhibited no urgency, simultaneously signaling to Old Man Yan that there was no need for anxiety. He seemed confident that they had not executed the process adequately and felt no haste to address the matter.

Gu Chaoyan produced the document bearing the county's stamp.

The Land Officer's eyes widened in disbelief.

"Well..."

It was, indeed, an authentic county document. How could they have accomplished it?

Impossible.

Even for him, such a task would be challenging, let alone for ordinary villagers.

Gu Chaoyan explained deliberately, “The manager of the Lin Family’s pharmacy has always been in contact with my family. I consulted him, and Manager Lin guided us through the process. It was completed swiftly. The county officials mentioned that if any issues arise in the future, we can directly seek their assistance.”

“...”

“It’s just an adoption document. There’s nothing to be ashamed of. Why should it be challenging?” Gu Chaoyan remarked, maintaining a composed demeanor, as if the whole situation were trivial.

Her nonchalant attitude conveyed a sense of capability.

With such influence in the county, any attempt by the villagers to mistreat them would likely be met with resistance.

The passing of the third son of Yan hadn’t left a lasting impact. He had been influential both in the village and the county. Even after his demise, many of his old acquaintances continued to show respect.

Manager Lin, in particular, had demonstrated this respect.

Some villagers indirectly inquired, “Danqiu, since Manager Lin of the Lin Family’s pharmacy is in contact with you, does that mean we can sell the herbs we grow through your family?”

They discussed instances of mistreatment by various villagers.

There were valid reasons for such grievances.

Previously, they had sold herbs to the Lin Family at a stable price. However, with the departure of the third son of Yan, the business ceased. The Lin Family's pharmacy no longer accepted herbs, forcing them to sell to smaller shops. This proved not only inconvenient but also less profitable.

Gu Chaoyan pondered the situation.

While they could leave the village, Ms. Wang and her younger sisters had deep roots there. There was no need to sever ties completely; it might not be beneficial in the long run.

So, she nodded. "Certainly, if you have herbs, just give them to me. I'll sell them to the Lin Family's pharmacy at the same price as before."

"..."

"In the past, lacking a male figure and backbone in the family was a setback. Now that Tian Jiu is adopted by Mother, our family is back to how it used to be."

"..."

"In addition, for the upcoming banquet, apart from treating everyone to a meal, we also need a few helpers. We're offering 100 copper coins as compensation for their hard work. If any uncles or aunts are willing to help, let us know. We're looking for five or six people."

Chapter 2644: Mission 30

The introduction of the herb arrangement improved the atmosphere, fostering a sense of camaraderie with the third branch family for the future.

The news of a 100 copper coins assisting fee suddenly heightened everyone's excitement. A hundred copper coins represented more than half a month's earnings for someone working outside. With that amount, it was practically a small fortune, and anyone unwilling to participate would seem impractical.

"I'm in!"

“Danqiu, count me in.”

Enthusiastic shouts erupted from the villagers.

The Land Officer found himself pushed forward.

Old Man Yan seethed with anger at the thought of someone else receiving that much money.

“You’re useless. Always squandering money. If you need help, why not call a few aunts instead of paying an outsider a hundred copper coins? Don’t you understand the principle of not letting the benefits of one’s own work go to others?” Old Man Yan promptly took responsibility for the eldest and second son’s families.

“We agreed that you wouldn’t interfere in our family matters, so we dared not invite you,” Gu Chaoyan responded candidly.

The villagers echoed their discontent. “Exactly. You’re the quickest to sever ties.”

“Danqiu, ignore him. Choose us.”

“Alright, the seven of you will do. My mother isn’t in the best health, and my sisters are still young, so we’ll need your assistance. Let’s meet at our house tomorrow morning to discuss,” Gu Chaoyan stated with a smile.

She managed the situation diplomatically, avoiding offending anyone.

The selected individuals were pleased with the arrangement. What more could they ask for?

After the others left, only the Land Officer and Old Man Yan remained. Gu Chaoyan politely asked them to leave, stating, “It’s getting late, and we need to rest. You can go back now. Join us for the banquet when the time comes.”

With that, she closed the door, feeling a sense of relief.

“Sister, you’re amazing!” Danxia exclaimed in admiration.

“As long as we don’t cause any trouble, and don’t worry, nothing will happen,” Gu Chaoyan replied casually.

Danxia understood her sister’s approach, so there was no need for further discussion.

Ms. Wang also expressed happiness at the prospect of a better future.

Instead of taking a break, Gu Chaoyan remained seated. “After the banquet, it will be time to start the planting process. Hiring people is a concern.”

“...”

“I’m thinking that Tian Jiu still has two brothers. The Tian family still has hunting to do, but we can assign one of them to take care of the fields. We can find a few suitable individuals in the village and have Tian Jiu’s brother oversee them.”

“...”

“Our main goal is to venture into the shops in Luo City.”

“....”

“Fight for it. We can establish a good shop for Danxia and Dandong before they get married.”

Gu Chaoyan was planning ahead.

Danxia and Dandong were slightly taken aback. “We won’t get married. We’ll stay with Sister and Mother.”

“Hahaha, there are women who choose not to get married. Don’t worry about me. With Tian Jiu here and your frequent visits, I’ll be content,” Ms. Wang reassured.

Danxia and Dandong weren't rebellious.

"Alright, let's take a break for now. The cook will be here tomorrow morning."

"Okay."

Everyone dispersed to get some rest.

Gu Chaoyan smiled, sensing that things were progressing well, and her mood naturally lifted.

The following morning, everyone assembled promptly.

With a meal at a rate of 100 copper coins, no one dared to be tardy.

Gu Chaoyan discussed with them the menu, what ingredients to purchase, and the quantities needed.

She intended to handle the shopping herself; if she wanted things done right, she would have to depend on these individuals.

This time...

Gu Chaoyan brought Tian Jiu along. As a young boy, he needed to broaden his experiences and see more of the world.

Chapter 2645: Mission 31

Although Gu Chaoyan planned to send Tian Jiu to school, she didn't want him to become a mere bookworm. Her intention was to nurture someone who could contribute to both business and family matters. This, she believed, would ensure a better future for Ms. Wang and her two sisters.

This was the underlying reason behind her decision to adopt Tian Jiu.

However, Gu Chaoyan had initially only intended to take Tian Jiu with her. To her surprise, Danxia and Dandong expressed a desire to join as well.

Gu Chaoyan found herself facing a headache.

While Danxia and Dandong were sensible, they were still children, prone to occasional mischievousness.

After some consideration, instead of rejecting them outright, Gu Chaoyan said, “Dandong, you’re still young. This time, you’ll stay at home with Mother to take care of her. Danxia will come with us first. I plan to buy a carriage when we go to the city, making it more convenient and faster for us. Once the carriage is purchased, can you bring Mother and Dandong along? I’ll take you to the city to play and buy candied haws.”

Gu Chaoyan addressed Dandong, considering her young age and fearing she might miss out on important moments while busy with her purchases.

Although Dandong’s face displayed a hint of regret, she quickly regained her composure. Her eyes sparkled as she nodded in agreement. “Okay.”

“...”

“If my sister had a carriage, she would surely take me out to play every day. I’m not in a hurry to go now.” Dandong explained, ensuring her sister didn’t feel any pressure.

Gu Chaoyan smiled.

The child, Dandong, demonstrated remarkable consideration, intelligence, and an ability to see the bigger picture. Gu Chaoyan admired her foresight and long-term vision.

Following their discussion, the next day Gu Chaoyan took Tian Jiu and Danxia into the city. With no one else sharing the ox cart, Gu Chaoyan paid for the round trip, understanding that the cart might not return empty when bringing people back to the village.

Upon entering the city, their first task was to purchase a carriage. Bulls were already expensive, and horses would be even pricier. The entire carriage amounted to 20 taels of silver, a considerable sum in the North Village. Fortunately, Gu Chaoyan, thanks to her ginseng sales, was financially well-off and didn't need to worry about the cost.

After booking the carriage, she instructed Tian Jiu to inform the ox cart to return. It could pick up passengers on its way back to the city.

Now equipped with a carriage, they started their shopping. Both Tian Jiu and Danxia, despite their young age, were smart and diligent, making the process efficient. They concluded their purchases late into the day.

For the return journey, Gu Chaoyan took the reins of the wagon. While she couldn't rush, she was fully qualified to drive the carriage.

During the ride back, Gu Chaoyan contemplated the wagon. While she could manage it in her presence, she realized that once her mission was complete and she left, someone else needed to be capable of handling it.

Her attention remained on the Tian family.

Alternatively, she could find someone trustworthy in the village.

In any case, she aimed to gradually address these matters during this period.

It was almost dark, and there was no one in the village, so their carriage went back smoothly.

When Ms. Wang and Dandong heard the voice, they hurriedly came over to welcome them.

Chapter 2646: Mission 32

Ms. Wang couldn't help but break into a radiant smile as she laid eyes on the approaching carriage.

However, at this moment...

Her life had surpassed even the joy she experienced when Third Yan was still present. How could she not revel in happiness and contentment?

“Mom, everything is prepared; we can commence tomorrow,” Gu Chaoyan exclaimed, leaping down.

“Alright, alright, alright,” Ms. Wang responded with sheer delight.

The following day, those eager to showcase their culinary skills gathered. Upon their arrival, they beheld the Yan family’s carriage, sparking envy and admiration. Their thoughts already wandered to the day when they too could enter the city, following their family’s carriage.

The Tian family had arrived early.

Auntie Lianhua, Tian Jiu’s father, and his two robust brothers exuded an air of authority. Everyone treated them with respect, hesitant to provoke them.

The midday banquet was on the verge of commencing.

Attendees streamed in one after another.

As the majority of villagers arrived, so did the Land Officer and individuals from the old house.

Being locals, Gu Chaoyan had no intention of excluding them from the celebration. As long as they didn’t stir up trouble, they were welcome to stay.

Old Man Yan surveyed the scene with evident dissatisfaction.

It seemed like he harbored intentions to disrupt the proceedings.

The Land Officer shared a similar sentiment.

Just as Old Man Yan was about to cause a scene, he abruptly halted his meal, fixing his gaze on the elderly figure.

It appeared that Old Man Yan was gearing up to create complications.

Then, several carriages approached Third Yan's house. In that moment, Old Man Yan became an afterthought; all attention shifted to the newcomers. Speculation ran wild about the identities of those arriving, given that only affluent individuals could afford such grand carriages.

As the carriages came to a halt, figures emerged.

Manager Lin of the Lin Family's pharmacy descended first, accompanied by the county magistrate and a young man.

Manager Lin was familiar to many, and the county magistrate was a recognizable figure, appearing annually in official portraits. However, the identity of the young man puzzled several attendees, particularly the women.

"Who are they? They seem quite well-off," murmured some Eight Trigrams women.

"County Magistrate, who's the young man?" inquired some men in quivering voices. This was the county magistrate— an unprecedented proximity for them.

"Oh my god," exclaimed a few, startled enough to lose their balance and topple off their stools.

Those who fell quickly scrambled to their feet, eager to kneel. However, the county magistrate gestured to dispense with the formal bow.

Most present were ordinary villagers, with the Land Officer holding the highest local office. He promptly stood, eager to make a favorable impression. "Sir, I'm Land Officer from the North Village. Your presence is an honor..."

Land Officer attempted to ingratiate himself, but a group of individuals strolled over and claimed empty seats without acknowledging him. A wave of embarrassment washed over Land Officer.

Despite the awkward situation, everyone recognized that the county magistrate had no familiarity with Land Officer and wasn't inclined to extend any courtesy.

With the county magistrate in attendance, the atmosphere lost its festive flavor. The collective discomfort stemmed not from reverence but from sheer intimidation.

Who were they to dine with the county magistrate?

Old Man Yan refrained from causing any further trouble.

Some members of the Jiang family wished they had brought Scholar Jiang along.

Gu Chaoyan emerged from the room and was taken aback by the presence of Manager Lin and the others.

“Manager Lin, what brings you here?” Gu Chaoyan expressed her surprise, sensing an unusual level of humility from him.

They had come to the village for a banquet.

“Coincidentally, I have a matter to discuss with you. The shop’s affairs have been settled. Moreover, there is something they wish to discuss with you later. Be prepared in the coming days; you might have to make a trip to the capital. There are influential individuals in the capital highly impressed with your family’s herbs.”

Chapter 2647: Mission 33

Manager Lin didn’t delve into specifics, but he made no effort to conceal the support they had from influential figures in the capital, including the lords.

These words carried weight, particularly because the county magistrate was present.

Manager Lin’s presence was a clear endorsement of their cause. It sent a strong message that, in the future, no one in North Village would dare to hinder their business endeavors in the city.

As expected...

These words instilled fear in the villagers of North Village.

However, Gu Chaoyan remained composed.

The approval of the adults in the capital for the ginseng and dragon root would undoubtedly prove beneficial in the long run.

“Manager Lin, thank you; I understand,” Gu Chaoyan acknowledged. “Please enjoy your meal, and we can continue our discussion afterward.”

While Gu Chaoyan was familiar with Manager Lin, the identities of the other two individuals eluded her. Nevertheless, she extended polite greetings, recognizing that those in Manager Lin’s company held a respectable status.

Without any indication from Manager Lin, Gu Chaoyan refrained from probing further. Instead, she maintained a courteous demeanor.

“Feel free to proceed; our main purpose here is to partake in your family’s subsequent banquet,” Manager Lin stated with a smile.

Gu Chaoyan returned to her duties.

Following this exchange, Gu Chaoyan remained calm, but anxiety gripped the villagers of North Village.

Observing the county magistrate’s apparent indifference, Yan Danqiu speculated on the connections he might have. The realization dawned that the county magistrate might not only have ties with him but could also hold influence with officials in the capital. The implications were unsettling, leaving them in a state of fear and confusion.

Fortunately, Third Yan’s family was spared from bullying.

It became apparent that the county magistrate had played a role in facilitating the adoption, explaining his earlier assertion that it wasn't a challenging process. The county magistrate had already taken steps, potentially making the ownership transfer less cumbersome.

Internally, they wanted to voice their frustrations.

The current atmosphere was subdued, with everyone eating cautiously.

Land Officer's complexion shifted to a shade of green.

In the prevailing circumstances, his position looked unfavorable.

The capabilities of the Yan family surprised him.

He shot an irritated look at Old Man Yan, holding him responsible for the hostilities with Third Yan's family. If not for them, Land Officer wouldn't have found himself in this adversarial situation.

His dissatisfaction with Old Man Yan knew no bounds. He harbored resentment, convinced that their misfortune was a direct result of Old Man Yan's actions.

Old Man Yan, at this point, had withered completely, clueless about the unfolding dynamics.

It seemed apparent that the people from their old house not only failed to seize the coveted 15 acres of land but were also denied a share of the newfound glory.

Presently, everyone seated had divergent thoughts.

The Jiang family, in particular, found it hard to sit still. They abandoned their meals, and a few discreetly left.

Their purpose?

To inform Jiang Caixiu's family.

As a scholar, if Jiang Caixiu could establish a connection with the county magistrate, his future career prospects would undoubtedly be smoother.

The prospect of Jiang Caixiu attaining an official position held the promise of better lives for those with the surname Jiang.

After the banquet, everyone immersed themselves in their own contemplations.

In contrast, the Tian family adopted a more pragmatic approach.

They focused on practical actions, such as adding more dishes to Manager Lin's table, without overthinking the situation.

Gratitude played a significant role. Tian Jiu's improved life was indebted to Danqiu's family, and they were more than willing to reciprocate the favor.

Danqiu's family, in turn, remembered the Tian family when benefits arose. For instance, if they acquired a carriage, they could allow Tian Jiu's brothers to learn from it, creating opportunities for mutual assistance in the future.

For the Tian family, this newfound reality felt like a dream. They had unexpectedly found themselves leading a much-improved life.

Meanwhile, a considerable number of people from the Jiang family were present.

Chapter 2648: Mission 34

Even Jiang Caixiu's mother had attended, displaying a certain level of audacity.

While Jiang Caixiu was unable to rush back from the city, he had made arrangements for someone to keep him informed.

Upon identifying the county magistrate's table, Jiang Caixiu's mother aimed to get closer.

Auntie Lianhua intercepted her. “There’s a seat over there. Sit properly. We’re here for a banquet; can’t you show some decorum? Why must you insist on sitting there when no one else has a designated seat?”

“What right do you have to stop me?” Jiang Caixiu’s mother retorted, displeased that even a hunter dared to confront her in such a manner.

“Why not? My Tian Jiu is here. The Yan family acknowledges that Tian Jiu still considers me his mother. You can’t act insolent here,” Auntie Lianhua’s tone held no softness.

Jiang Caixiu’s mother refrained from provoking further. A heated argument might tarnish the family’s reputation, especially concerning the Scholar. A Scholar’s most vital asset was their reputation.

Suppressing her displeasure, Jiang Caixiu’s mother settled down.

Some found amusement in the situation and teased, “Scholar Mother, now that the county magistrate has shown respect to Yan Danqiu and mentioned the satisfaction of the capital’s adults with Third Yan’s herbs, there’s a chance they might be summoned to the capital. If that happens, Third Yan’s family will undergo a transformation. Do you regret breaking off the engagement with the Scholar?”

For them, it was mere entertainment. There was nothing to lose for these onlookers, unlike the Scholar who had suffered significant setbacks. Thus, they relished in witnessing the unfolding drama.

A lord in the capital?

The Scholar’s mother’s expression shifted noticeably.

Had it been just the county magistrate, she might not have thought much of it. She, being far-sighted, doubted the county magistrate’s ability to influence their Scholar’s future. After all, their Scholar was destined for even greater power in the future.

However...

A lord in the capital?

The prospect of establishing connections with influential figures in the capital and potentially securing an official position there was an enticing thought. The glory that could accompany such a position fueled Scholar Mother's aspirations.

"Is that true?" Scholar Mother inquired, eager for confirmation.

"Everyone heard what I said earlier," replied the informant.

Scholar Mother absorbed the information, contemplating that perhaps Yan Danqiu's decision to break off the engagement might not have been wise. However, the situation could still be salvaged, as he hadn't entered into a new engagement. There was no shortage of suitors for her son Caixiu, the only Elementary Scholar in the neighboring villages, known for his good looks and willingness to marry.

Scholar Mother's attitude toward Yan Danqiu's family softened. Spotting Dandong, she even summoned him with a smile, though the child promptly fled. While Scholar Mother felt a momentary embarrassment, she dismissed it, attributing it to the child's youthful exuberance.

When Danqiu approached with some tea, Scholar Mother greeted her with a smile. "Danqiu."

Turning around, Gu Chaoyan encountered Scholar Mother.

People like her wouldn't attend their family's banquet without a reason. If she hadn't seen anyone else, it meant she was likely there because of Manager Lin.

Observing the expressions on their faces, Gu Chaoyan was unimpressed. She chose to ignore Scholar Mother and continued with her tasks.

Scholar Mother felt a twinge of embarrassment, exacerbated by the teasing from onlookers. She reasoned that she might not have a choice but to have Caixiu return and engage in a discussion with Yan Danqiu's family. The outcome would likely be the same.

As Caixiu entered into marriage, Scholar Mother anticipated witnessing the reactions of these individuals. Simultaneously, she prepared to make a fuss about it.

## Chapter 2649: Mission 35

Jiang Caixiu's mother composed herself, harboring no anger. She sat there peacefully, having come primarily to make an appearance and see if she could engage with the county magistrate later. As for Yan Danqiu, she reasoned it could wait for another time.

Her son's status as one of the rare Elementary Scholars held promising prospects for the Imperial Examination and potential future officialdom. Even the county magistrate, recognizing his significance, would have to show respect. The thought of possible encounters with influential figures in the future filled Jiang Caixiu's mother with confidence.

She patiently awaited the right moment to speak.

Desiring to approach, she found herself blocked by Lianhua, and the individuals accompanying the county magistrate appeared formidable. Despite the extended wait, no opportune moment presented itself.

As the banquet concluded, Jiang Caixiu's mother contemplated approaching, but circumstances intervened. The county magistrate, along with Yan Danqiu's family, detained them, expressing a desire for a private discussion.

Feeling somewhat unfortunate, Jiang Caixiu's mother reluctantly withdrew.

She decided to bide her time until Caixiu's return.

After everyone departed, Yan Danqiu took his seat and inquired respectfully, "Manager Lin, the county magistrate, and this Young Master, what is it that you wish to discuss with me?"

Manager Lin chuckled, sidestepping a direct answer as he introduced, "This is the young master of the Lin Family's pharmacy."

"..."

“Your ginseng and dragon root are exceptional. The boss is highly satisfied. We hope you can continue providing them gradually. There’s no specific quantity requirement; we simply want consistent production.”

“...”

“Today, the young master has brought the county magistrate to express support for you.”

“...”

“From now on, no one in your North Village will dare to harass your family. If they do, just seek assistance from the county magistrate.”

“....”

“With these distractions out of the way, you must focus on your work. The success of the ginseng and dragon root will depend on your efforts,” Manager Lin elaborated.

The county magistrate chuckled on the sidelines.

The young master mentioned by Manager Lin remained silent.

Gu Chaoyan finally grasped the situation.

Expressing her gratitude, she said, “Thank you, Young Master, and thank you, County Magistrate.”

“I intend to cultivate the ginseng and dragon root diligently. However, there may not be an abundance of them in the future. Nevertheless, I will take proper care of the newly planted ones. Additionally, I’ll regularly venture into the mountains to find them for you. If you’re fortunate, you may encounter these items more frequently,” Gu Chaoyan shared sincerely.

Manager Lin didn’t press her; he simply nodded in satisfaction.

Gu Chaoyan felt a bit apprehensive, considering the support they were receiving.

“I’ll send over some ginseng and dragon root tomorrow morning as well,” she added.

“Alright, it’s getting late. We should return,” Manager Lin remarked.

Yan Danqiu’s family bid them a respectful farewell.

After they departed in the carriage, Manager Lin and the county magistrate returned.

Leaving the family behind, Auntie Lianhua was even more apprehensive. “Danqiu, why are the county magistrate and manager showing you so much respect?”

“Although Father is no longer with us, our family’s foundation remains. This is only natural. It’s just that the people in the old house lack foresight and fail to see it,” Yan Danqiu explained.

## Chapter 2650: Mission 36

Gu Chaoyan was uncertain about the extent of Manager Lin’s friendship with Third Yan. While they might have been close, she doubted that Manager Lin would offer such significant support solely out of friendship. It likely stemmed from the value of the hundred-year-old ginseng and dragon root.

Recognizing the substantial favor Manager Lin was extending, Gu Chaoyan was not inclined to squander this valuable resource. She emphasized Third Yan’s family background, sending a clear message to the Tian family that the members of Third Yan’s family were not to be mistreated.

This assertion was particularly crucial for Danxia and Dandong, being girls. With Tian Jiu joining them, the Yan family was poised to strengthen, and it was vital to discourage any unwarranted aggression from the Tian family. Gu Chaoyan couldn’t remain in their midst to provide assistance, so she sought to establish a foundation for their protection.

Aware of the complexities of human nature, Gu Chaoyan viewed this as a form of intimidation, a precaution against unforeseen future challenges.

Members of the Tian family and Auntie Lianhua acknowledged this message with solemn nods. They expressed gratitude and recognized the fortunate turn of events. The Yan family's willingness to allow Tian Jiu to pass under these circumstances was seen not just as respect for Tian Jiu but also as an acknowledgment of the Tian family.

In light of this, the Tian family resolved to repay this favor earnestly in the future. They understood the importance of this gesture and pledged to reciprocate with sincerity whenever the opportunity arose.

"Third Yan indeed excelled in growing herbs, and the Lin Family's pharmacy holds him in high regard. Many villagers depended on him for their livelihoods. We were aware of his skills, but the extent of his expertise still surprises us."

"..."

"With Third Yan's legacy, the troublemakers from the old house won't dare to cause any issues here. No one in the village would dare to make things difficult for you."

"..."

"Tian Jiu is now under your care. We don't seek anything in return, as long as he has enough to eat and warm clothes to wear."

"..."

"And these two—whenever there's work, just assign them. We'll compensate them accordingly," Auntie Lianhua stated.

"It's already a rare blessing that our Tian family can benefit from being associated with you," she added, a hint of embarrassment coloring her tone.

Yan Danqiu sensed the sincerity in their words and recognized the honesty of their family. In similar circumstances, others might have sought additional advantages, but the Tian family seemed genuinely appreciative.

Gu Chaoyan, employing her unique approach to interpersonal relations, responded, “Auntie Lianhua, you’re being too polite. Tian Jiu is now part of my family since he’s adopted. As I mentioned before, everything in the Yan Family is shared equally among all the children. This includes Tian Jiu. Regarding Tian Liu and Tian Qi, if they choose to work with us in the future, they can select roles based on their preferences. We won’t shortchange their wages. If they have personal aspirations, we’ll do our best to support them.”

Her aim was harmony, and she hoped both families could prosper through a mutually beneficial relationship. However, as a Yan, she naturally prioritized the well-being of the Yan family.

“Danqiu, I’d like to learn herb cultivation. Third Uncle’s herbs were renowned for their quality, but our family’s financial constraints never afforded us such an opportunity in the past.”