

Chapter 121: The Gu Family Hotel

The Gu Family Hotel was a well-known hotel in Xing Yin County.

In the past, the hotel's head chef was Uncle Chen or Chen Yunshan. The business was extremely good. However, after he retired, things were not the same anymore.

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In the hotel kitchen, the new head chef, Gu Rufeng, looked at the vegetables on the kitchen rack with a worried expression.

His disciple reported, "Master, the customer said that this stir-fried cabbage is not good. They want us to redo it, or they will lodge a complaint! They have paid for the service, but they are not being treated fairly."

Gu Rufeng frowned. "It'll be the same even if we make it again. The ingredients are dehydrated, so the taste will be bad."

"Then, what should we do? Master Wei was the one who made all the vegetables in the past." Wang Yang, his disciple, then added with an angry expression, "This Wei Xilin is really a scumbag. It's one thing for him to leave, but how can he take our supplier with him? Green Source is also ridiculous. They have cooperated with us for decades, but due to Wei Xilin, they decided to cut off cooperation with us without any warning!"

"That's right! How can these people be so heartless?" The other disciples concurred.

Since the head chef had left, Gu Rufeng had to return to the kitchen to take up the post. He could handle the other dishes just fine, but he would be in trouble if the customers asked for anything made with vegetables. He could try his best, but he couldn't make miracles.

This was the era when people started to care about personal health. Of course, for now, it was only limited to the rich people.

The vegetable dishes served at Gu Family Hotel were horrendous. Naturally, the customers were not satisfied. This would impact the impression and business of the hotel. Their business went downhill fast, especially since their competition, the Yi Family Hotel, could offer the clients what they wanted.

Gu Rufeng asked the kitchen helper, "Liu Dacheng, has Manager Wang found a new supplier?"

Liu Dacheng shook his head and said, "No. He has been to many vegetable farms lately. Either they have bad quality or not enough quantity. Master Gu, President Gu, and Manager Wang are looking for a solution. We shouldn't worry."

Gu Rufeng shouted, "How can I not worry? Can't you see the dropping number of clients at our hotel? How long must we wait for the solution? Will it come after the hotel shuts down?"

Liu Dacheng and the other disciples lowered their heads. They didn't dare to make a sound. However, they understood Master Gu's fury. The constant complaints from the customers didn't help.

"Third uncle!" At that moment, Gu Ziyue came in shouting. He was excited. "Third uncle, I have it..."

"What do you have?" Gu Rufeng was already in a bad mood. It worsened when he saw Gu Ziyue. Gu Ziyue was the hotel president. Instead of helping out to find a new supplier, all he did was eat!

Gu Rufeng said unhappily, "Gu Ziyue, what do you have? A child? I'm warning you. The Gu Family will never admit a bastard child. If I find out you've been fooling around, I'll break your legs."

Gu Ziyue and Wang Zhimin each carried two large bags and hurried in.

Gu Ziyue didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "Third uncle, what are you talking about? I have found new ingredients for us!"

Gu Rufeng didn't look happy. He frowned and said, "You've said that so many times already. In the end, I was always disappointed." Gu Ziyue felt defeated when his third uncle brought up his past failures, but he quickly recovered. He opened the plastic bags and revealed the fresh vegetables inside. He said excitedly, "Third uncle, look! I'll not fail you this time!"

The purple eggplants were glistening, the spinach was tender, the tomatoes were red and smooth.

"Wow, they are really fresh." Gu Rufeng's disciples said excitedly, "Master, these vegetables will save us!"

Gu Rufeng's expression softened, but he still said, "You people say the same thing every time. What did the customer say last time when Ziyue came back with bags of vegetables? The customers called them rubbish!"

Gu Ziyue took out a tomato and handed it to Gu Rufeng, "Third uncle, try this. The taste will definitely surprise you."

Gu Rufeng took the tomato in confusion, then took a bite. In an instant, his eyes revealed a look of disbelief. He said in surprise, "Ye 'Er, this..."

Gu Ziyue smiled and said, "Third uncle, I know we will rise from the ashes this time!"

Gu Rufeng finished the tomato and ordered, "Wang Yang, Liu Dacheng, start prepping immediately!"

"Okay!" The disciples immediately answered.

There were only a few customers in the hotel restaurant. The business was very poor.

Gu Ziyue took a seat in the restaurant. Soon, three young men arrived.

Zheng Haiyang took off his suit and put it on the chair behind him. He said with a smile, "Ziyue, why did you call us to come here for a meal? Are you sure there is still any good food left? To be honest, I wouldn't have come if you're not my good friend."

Yuan Xuanhao also nodded in agreement and said, "Ziyue, it's not that we don't want to give you face. It's just that the food made by your hotel kitchen is really..." Hard to swallow.

The other young man, Qian Yifan, didn't say anything, but his expression clearly showed that he agreed with the two.

Gu Ziyue wasn't angry. He smiled. "Remember what you said. Later, don't fight for the food with me!"

The three looked at each other and then at Gu Ziyue suspiciously.

Qian Yifan asked, "Ziyue, what do you mean by that?"

Gu Ziyue spread his hands and said with a smile, "It's nothing. I just want you to remember to keep the disdainful look on your faces later!"

The three were confused. They had no idea what Gu Ziyue was trying to do.

They were young masters who had eaten all the good food in the world. There was no way they would be fighting for food with Gu Ziyue! It was preposterous.

Suddenly, Zheng Haiyang wrinkled his nose. "What smells so good?" The other two picked up the fragrance, and they looked puzzled. "You're right."

Then, something dawned on the three. They looked at Gu Ziyue in unison, trying to get some answers from him.

Gu Ziyue shrugged his shoulders and raised his eyebrows. He repeated, "Remember what you said. Don't fight with me for the food!"

Then, a customer around them gasped, "What dish is this? Why does it smell so good?"

"I think it's eggplant!"

"I smell cole too!"

"I was feeling quite depressed earlier, but this fragrance cleared up my mind!"

"I have the same feeling!"

"Did the kitchen hire a new head chef?"

When Gu Ziyue heard this, he had a feeling that his family's hotel would be saved. In fact, the business might just get better than before.

However, this time, he had to make sure that Xiao Lingyu wouldn't be stolen by the Yi Family Hotel like Green Source! He had to treat her well so that their cooperation would last.

While Gu Ziyue was pondering these things, the waiter served the food. The fragrance became more pronounced.

"It's so delicious!"

"Daddy, it smells so delicious in there. Let's go in and eat..."

"Okay, Daddy will bring you there!"

Zheng Haiyang, Yuan Xuanhao, and Qian Yifan looked at the dishes with their eyes wide open, looking very incredulous.

Stir-fried rapeseed, braised eggplant, tomato salad, sauteed Chinese cabbage, and braised beans. They were basically vegetarian dishes. However, the vegetarian dishes made them salivate.

The three of them swallowed their saliva and asked, “Ziye, these are all vegetarian dishes?”

“Yes!” Gu Ziye did not show it on his face, but he was very proud. ‘Finally, it’s my turn to laugh at you!’ He snorted. “You promised me you wouldn’t fight for the dishes with me!”

This reminded the three to start moving. The three grabbed the food they liked. Once they munched on the food, their jaws almost dropped. Their eyes were wide open.

“Ziye, this dish...” Zheng Haiyang wanted to ask where Gu Ziye got the ingredients from. However, he noticed his friends were too busy cleaning up the table to answer. Therefore, he had no choice but to join in the food fight.

Gu Ziye, who had eaten his fill at Uncle Chen’s place, smiled. “Hey, you guys fail to keep your words.”

“Yuan Xuanhao, you know this is my favorite dish. Why are you stealing it?”

“Qian Yifan, what do you mean? You are a proclaimed exclusive meat-eater! So why are you fighting with us over vegetarian dishes?”

“Guys, remember what you said earlier? There’s no good food at my hotel restaurant...”

“Shush!” The three turned to Gu Ziye and ordered.

Chapter 122: Gong Tianhao Entering the Village

Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao were driving to Taoyuan Village. They frowned as they studied the road, which got increasingly remote.

“Tianhao, this road is full of potholes. It’s so hard for cars to navigate.” Li Yuanhang said, “The condition here is very bad. It’ll be torture for the old master to come and leave here every time.”

“Park the car!” Gong Tianhao order. Li Yuanhang parked the car, and both of them got down.

“Ah!” Li Yuanhang wasn’t paying attention, and he stepped on cow dung. Looking at his pair of leather shoes which were stained with cow dung, Li Yuanhang wanted to cry. He turned to Gong Tianhao.

“Tianhao, this place is too remote and dirty. Are you sure we can send the old master here?”

Gong Tianhao’s lips curled coldly, seeing his friend’s ruined shoes. “But look at the beautiful scenery! The traffic condition is not so good, but the place is perfect for grandfather’s recovery!”

Li Yuanhang said with despair. “Are you sure?”

Gong Tianhao nodded. “Yes!”

“Fine, if you say so.” Li Yuanhang looked around and saw a small stream not far away, “Tianhao, wait for me. I’ll go wash up in that stream! This is too smelly. It’ll kill me if I don’t wash this off.” Li Yuanhang had a bit of obsession with cleanliness.

“I’ll go with you!” They jumped down from the roadside into the field. It was seeding season. The field had been plowed and filled with water.

Some of the fields already had paddy seedlings in them. They were growing and taking root. Some looked yellow and dwarfed, but in a few days, they would grow tall and strong.

Li Yuanhang looked at the seedlings in the field and asked, “Tianhao, what are these?” Well, the man lived in a big city since he was young, so he had not seen a paddy seedling before.

“They look like paddy seedlings!” Gong Tianhao said with some uncertainty. This was yet another city boy.

“Paddy seeds?” Li Yuanhang asked suspiciously, “How come you sound so not confident?”

Gong Tianhao didn’t respond. He needed to maintain his aloof appearance.

Regardless, the two studied the seedlings curiously. Suddenly, Li Yuanhang pointed at a leech and said in surprise, “Tianhao, is this a leech? The kind that can suck blood?”

Gong Tianhao rolled his eyes at Li Yuanhang’s surprised look and said coldly, “Isn’t that a given? Are there leeches that don’t suck blood?”

Li Yuanhang walked for a while and saw something resembling a string of pink pearls hanging on a paddy seedling. It looked quite cute. “What is this?” He asked.

“I believe they are river snail eggs!” Gong Tianhao had a good memory. He remembered reading about them in his biology class.

“Oh, so these are river snail eggs!” Li Yuanhang gasped, “I’ve eaten river snails, but I haven’t seen their eggs! They are quite cute.” He paused and looked around. His eyes colored with contention. “Tianhao, it does seem like life here wouldn’t be so bad!” It was a pity that they couldn’t shed their responsibility and move here just like that.

“The air is naturally fresh. The mountains are beautiful, the water is clear. The birds are singing, and the flowers are blooming. This scenery can make anyone feel relaxed.” Li Yuanhang looked at the cow dung on his shoes, and he said regretfully, “It’s a pity that the traffic is so inconvenient. The cow dung along the road doesn’t help either!”

Gong Tianhao said, “The big cities will have good roads and no cow dung, but do you think you can find this beautiful nature there?”

“Of course not!” Li Yuanhang said.

“There are two sides to everything!” Gong Tianhao’s deep and sharp eyes looked at the clear mountain ahead and sighed lightly, “There’s a gain for every loss! The grass is always greener on the other side.”

Li Yuanhang also sighed, "Yes! The rural people envy the city people for their money, but the city people envy the rural people for their leisure."

The two of them walked toward the small river silently.

Seeing the clear river, Li Yuanhang exclaimed, "I can actually see the bottom of the river!"

Gong Tianhao didn't say anything. He walked to a stone step, squatted down, washed his hands and his face.

Li Yuanhang squatted down and studied his shoes. He looked around and found a piece of hay. He grabbed the hay and returned to the river. He used the hay to scrape the cow dung off his shoes. Accidentally, the hay also scratched his shoes. It made Li Yuanhang's heart ache.

After a long time, Li Yuanhang finally got his shoes cleaned. However, his pair of shoes, which cost around ten thousand RMB, had new scratch marks.

After that, the two of them returned to the car.

"How long is it before we reach Taoyuan Village?" Gong Tianhao asked.

Li Yuanhang checked the navigation and said, "About half an hour! What's Wrong?"

"Nothing!" Gong Tianhao sat down in a serious manner. "Let's continue driving!"

Actually, he was quite hungry. Before they departed, he calculated the schedule, and they believed they should be able to return to the city around noon. Therefore, other than two bottles of water, there was nothing to eat in the car.

However, too many accidents happened along the way. The bumpy road shook the car. If it weren't for the high quality of the car, they would be shaken dizzy.

The navigation said it would take them half an hour to arrive at Taoyuan Village. However, due to the bumpy road, when they arrived, it was already one hour later.

It was 1.30 pm. The two men were hungry that their bodies felt weak.

Li Yuanhang touched his stomach and said, "Tianhao, I think we should find a place to fill our stomachs first, or else I don't think I have the strength to walk."

Of course, Gong Tianhao did not object. They looked around and frowned. They didn't know where to find food. They felt rather conflicted when they saw the mud houses. Rural people were honest, but many of them also didn't care that much about hygiene.

For these two city men who were obsessed with cleanliness, finding food was a difficult problem. They were hungry, but they couldn't settle for anything. They wouldn't be able to eat stuff covered in dirt.

"Tianhao, what do you think?" Li Yuanhang felt a little repulsed. In his impression, rural people didn't care about hygiene. "Let's drive a little further in." Gong Tianhao said, "We'll take a look around."

"Okay!"

Once the car entered the village, it attracted the attention of many villagers. After all, no one in the village had their own car. Therefore, many curious children crowded over. They followed the car as it moved ahead.

“Little Loach, come on. There’s a car in the village. Let’s go take a look!” Xiao Xiaohui was going to the river to catch some fish when he was stopped by the boys.

Xiao Xiaohui was immediately interested, “Really?”

“Of course!” Little Charcoal said, “The car is black and shiny. It’s very beautiful.”

“Let’s go then!” Xiao Xiaohui immediately said. The boys were very curious about the car.

The car got the attention of both children and adults. Some adults followed behind the children to examine the car.

The two inside the car frowned when they saw the crowd. ‘Why are they surrounding our car?’

After driving slowly for who knew how long, Gong Tianhao suddenly said, “Stop the car!” His eyes saw a house with a flower wall.

Li Yuanhang was confused. He turned around to ask, “What’s wrong?” Then, he followed his friend’s gaze. Based on the house’s appearance, this should be a respectable family in the village.

Gong Tianhao said, “Let’s get down to ask!”

“Okay!” Li Yuanhang got down. He looked around and hesitated when he saw the gate of the house was locked. He hesitated.

At this moment, Xiao Xiaohui walked over and asked, “Uncle, are you looking for my second aunt’s house?”

The others thought so too. In Taoyuan Village, other than Xiao Lingyu, who would know someone from the city? And these two men were clearly from the city.

Li Yuanhang saw Xiao Xiaohui’s tanned face, dark eyes, and dirty body.

“Who is your second aunt?” Li Yuanhang was confused.

Xiao Xiaohui pointed to the house in front of him and said, “This is my second aunt’s house. I notice you’ve been staring at it for a long time.” At this point, Xiao Xiaohui asked again, “Are you from a big city? Are you my eldest cousin’s friends?” Without waiting for Li Yuanhang’s reply, he said, “You must be. Because in the entire Taoyuan Village, only my eldest cousin would have friends in the big city.”

Hearing this, Li Yuanhang immediately said with some interest, “Oh, your eldest cousin has friends in the big city?”

“Of course.” Xiao Xiaohui said very proudly, “My eldest cousin is a famous university student and has worked in the big city for a few years. She is the only university student from Taoyuan Village.”

Li Yuanhang was immediately reminded of the girl Jiang Tao mentioned. “What is your eldest cousin’s name?” Li Yuanhang guessed, “Is it Xiao Lingyu?”

“Yes!”

Chapter 123: Gong Tianhao is Hungry

In the end, Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao decided to ask Xiao Lingyu’s family for food.

When Xiao Xiaohui heard the two men were his eldest cousin’s friends, he told the two men, “Uncle, wait a minute. I’ll go get my eldest aunt!”

Li Yuanhang nodded. They were starving. And this was really destiny. Yesterday, they just heard Jiang Tao mention Xiao Lingyu, and today, they had found their way to her house.

Based on their observation, Xiao Lingyu’s family had a higher standard of living compared to the other villagers. It was probably because Xiao Lingyu had worked in the big city for a few years. A famous university student could get a job in a big company. Even a normal clerk’s salary was higher than a rural farmer’s.

Li Yuanhang noticed the villagers were looking at him as if he was a monkey, so after Xiao Xiaohui left, he crawled into the car. Li Yuanhang smiled and told Gong Tianhao, “Tianhao, do you know whose house this is?”

Gong Tianhao said nothing. His face was cold. He had already heard the conversation between Li Yuanhang and Xiao Xiaohui.

“This is Xiao Lingyu’s house, the girl Young Master Jiang is pursuing.” Li Yuanhang muttered to himself, “Hehe, what a coincidence.

“I heard that Xiao Lingyu used to be the top scholar of the county and worked in a big city.” Li Yuanhang said, “I wonder how she looks like. How beautiful must she be to move Young Master Jiang? I wonder if she’s home and if we can meet her.” Jiang Tao didn’t tell them Xiao Lingyu was still in the county town.

Gong Tianhao didn’t respond.

Li Yuanhang looked around at the scenery outside. “This village is really nice. The air is fresh, and the people are nice. It’s indeed a good place for the old master to recuperate. The only imperfection is the traffic.”

Gong Tianhao said, “That will be fixed!”

Li Yuanhang was shocked and said, “Tianhao, what do you mean?”

Gong Tianhao was silent. However, it still explained a lot.

Li Yuanhang tapped the steering wheel with his fingers. He said, “Tianhao, this place is not bad. It can be developed into a tourism spot. What do you think?” They were businessmen, so they had sharp business acumen.

“No.” Gong Tianhao said, “It is perfect like this!” This place was like a hidden Shangri-la. It shouldn’t be tainted by the outside world.

Li Yuanhang thought for a moment and said, "Indeed. If this place is developed into a tourism hotspot, it probably won't be a paradise anymore."

While the two of them were talking, Xiao Xiaohui had found his second aunt. Xiao Xiaohui ran to a field not far away and shouted from afar, "Second aunt, there's a guest at your house!"

Mother Xiao, who was pulling grass in the field, stood up and asked, "Xiaohui, who is it?"

Xiao Xiaohui said, "They are two men from the big cities. They came in a nice car. They said they are eldest cousin's friends!"

Mother Xiao immediately washed her hands and feet. As she did so, she asked, "Is your eldest cousin back from the county town?"

"No!" Xiao Xiaohui shook his head.

Mother Xiao frowned. "They're your eldest cousin's friend, but they come when Yu 'Er is not around? Why don't they contact her if they're coming?"

"Second aunt, I don't know." Xiao Xiaohui answered.

"Okay, I'll go back and ask!" Mother Xiao said.

Inside the car, Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao were so hungry that their stomachs were growling. They had never been so hungry before.

Li Yuanhang looked down the distance. He couldn't find the boy from earlier. He asked, "Tianhao, should we find another place?"

Gong Tianhao did not answer.

Li Yuanhang rubbed his stomach and could only continue to wait.

Fortunately, he did not need to wait for long. The child returned, followed by a woman in her forties. Li Yuanhang narrowed his eyes. He felt that this woman looked somewhat familiar. But, he knew this was definitely the first time they had met.

While Li Yuanhang pondered, Xiao Xiaohui and Mother Xiao arrived before the car. Li Yuanhang got out.

Xiao Xiaohui said, "Uncle, this is my second aunt, my eldest cousin's mom!"

"Hello, Auntie!" Li Yuanhang said very politely, "I am Xiao Lingyu's friend, Li Yuanhang."

Mother Xiao looked at Li Yuanhang suspiciously and asked sharply, "Are you really Xiao Lingyu's friends?"

"Of course!" Li Yuanhang met Mother Xiao's suspicious gaze. He thought to himself, "It's not easy getting this meal. I have to face an interrogation!"

"Since you're Yu 'Er friends, why don't you contact her since you're coming?" Mother Xiao asked.

The man's clothing and the car proved that they were very rich. This reminded Mother Xiao of something Xiao Lingyu said.

In order to take revenge on Chen Ran, the girl had casually taken a man off the street to pretend to be her boyfriend. The man was actually the most powerful man in City Z, and he had taken an interest in Yu 'Er. Yu 'Er only decided to come back home to avoid that man.

Mother Xiao looked at the expensive car and the well-dressed man, and they were similar to Xiao Lingyu's description of the man who helped her.

It was why Mother Xiao was so vigilant.

Li Yuanhang had no idea why Mother Xiao was so cautious. But since he had lied once, he needed to lie again. He coughed and said, "Auntie, we lost Xiao Lingyu's number."

"Really?" Mother Xiao only became more suspicious. "In that case, how did you find her house?"

"Erm..." Li Yuanhang had no idea how to answer that. This was the first time he encountered such a clever woman.

He felt a little pity for Jiang Tao. 'Young Master Jiang, do you know that your future mother-in-law is so intuitive?'

As Mother Xiao was about to pepper him with more questions, the car door opened, and a tall and handsome man walked out. His facial features were sharp, and he had a domineering aura.

The moment he appeared, he attracted the attention of the people around him.

"Wow, this man is so tall!" This was mostly the voice of the children.

"This man is really handsome!" This was the voice of the women.

"This man has an unapproachable aura!" This was the voice of the men.

Ignoring the others, Gong Tianhao walked towards Mother Xiao. "Auntie, we came to Taoyuan Village for business. We heard about Xiao Lingyu from a friend. We didn't mean to disguise to be her friend, but we were too hungry. We have been traveling for a long time, and we haven't had a bite. We mean no harm. We just want something to eat. Don't worry, Auntie, we will pay."

Even when he was apologizing, the dignified young master could make it sound so matter-of-factly.

Mother Xiao relaxed after she heard his explanation. Furthermore, when she heard this tall and handsome man confess that the subterfuge was because he was hungry, Mother Xiao found him honest and charming.

"Uncles, so you're hungry!" Xiao Xiaohui cut in. "You've found the right person then! My second aunt is the best cook in the village."

Mother Xiao smiled and said, "Okay, come in then. I'll cook for you. You don't need to pay me. It's just a meal."

Mother Xiao took the keys and opened the courtyard door. She glanced at the car and said, "You can drive the car in!" Mother Xiao was worried about the children accidentally breaking the expensive car.

“Okay!” Li Yuanhang was still reeling from the shock from Gong Tianhao’s confession. He never thought Young Master Gong would admit to a rural woman that he was hungry. This was even more shocking than bloody rain.

Li Yuanhang realized Young Master Gong had changed a lot since they arrived at Xing Yin County. Li Yuanhang drove into the yard. Gong Tianhao walked behind the car. Gong Tianhao expected a messy yard like most country houses so he was surprised.

The walls were covered with flowers. The flowers also bloomed around the courtyard. There was a stone table and a few stone chairs. The surroundings were especially clean and orderly.

Mother Xiao smiled, “We rural people are relatively simple and crude. Sorry about everything. Please sit down! I’ll get something for you to fill your stomach. Then, I’ll go cook.”

“Thank you, Auntie!” Li Yuanhang said very sincerely.

Gong Tianhao also nodded and said, “Thank you!”

Mother Xiao waved her hand and said, “You’re welcome!”

Xiao Xiaohui and his friends walked in and asked Li Yuanhang, “Uncle, can we touch your car?” It was their first time seeing such a beautiful car, so they were really curious.

Li Yuanhang looked at these four cute and sincere eyes. He really couldn’t refuse them.

“Sure!” Gong Tianhao answered for him.

“Yay, thank you.” Xiao Xiaohui jumped up in joy.

From inside the house, Mother Xiao shouted, “Xiaohui, the car is very expensive. Be careful when you touch it or you might break it. You won’t be able to pay if it broke, okay?”

Xiao Xiaohui asked doubtfully, “Second aunt, the car will break from a touch?”

“Of course!” Mother Xiao tried to scare the kids because she was worried that they might dirty the car.

However...

“Touching the car won’t break it!” Gong Tianhao clarified.

Li Yuanhang, “...” Where is Young Master Gong, and who are you?

Mother Xiao, “...” This young man is surprisingly nice and honest.

Xiao Xiaohui and his friends, “...” Then, they cheered happily.. “Yay, let’s go touch the car then!”

Chapter 124: Too Delicious

At that moment, Xiao Lingyu had no idea that the person she didn’t want to see in her life ever again was eating at her house.

Since she had an agreement with Gu Ziyue, she teleported to the farming space to take a look. With the stock she had, she could only sell for three more days before her next harvest. She had to calculate her daily harvest so that she had enough to provide for the Gu Family. She would provide the Gu Family Hotel with 300 catties of vegetables every day and store the rest.

This was her plan. After she found a shop, she would sell her stock. Then, she would purchase some seeds and sow them. If her past experience were correct, they would bear fruits in three days.

However... Xiao Lingyu looked around and wondered. 'How long it'll take for a fruit tree to grow and bear fruit?' Yes, Xiao Lingyu planned to raise some fruit trees in the farming space. Currently, she had mostly vegetables for sale. In the future, she wanted to offer more varieties of fruits. Well, there was no easier way to find the answer than to attempt it.

Xiao Lingyu exited the farming space and went to the seedling market. Xing Yin County's geography meant that it was only suitable for fruits grown in Southern China. Fruits found in Northern China, like apples, couldn't be farmed.

When Xiao Lingyu arrived at the seedling market, she didn't waste time. Xiao Lingyu bought a dozen of fruit trees. They were all local fruit trees like tangerines, grapes, peaches, and so on. When she returned to her rental, she teleported to the farming space and transplanted all the fruit seedlings.

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While Xiao Lingyu was fiddling with her fruit trees, changes were happening at the Gu Family Hospital. This started with Gu Ziyue's invitation to his good friends for a meal. When the dishes were served, the fragrance not only attracted Zheng Haiyang, Yuan Xuanhao, and Qian Yifan but also the surrounding customers.

"Waiter, I want a stir-fried cabbage!"

"Waiter, I want a braised eggplant!"

"Waiter, I want a tomato salad!"

"Waiter, other than these, do you have anything else to offer?"

"Yes!" The waiter made the recommendation.

After the order was made, the food fragrance wafted out of the kitchen again. Once the dishes were served, the customers couldn't wait to dig in.

"Wow, they taste even better than they smell!"

"That's right. I've never eaten such a delicious cole salad before! Waiter, I need a few more orders of this!"

"I'm sorry, Sir, but we have limited ingredients for today. Each customer can only order two servings of the same dish per table!"

"Ah, why?" Some customers immediately complained.

"I'm sorry, but we have limited ingredients." The waiter apologized again.

“Can we order one more set? Just one more, please!”

“I’m sorry, Sir.”

“This food is delicious. Daddy, I want more!”

“Boy, we can only order two servings per table. We’ll come back tonight, okay?”

“Daddy, I want it now! I want it now!” The five-year-old was still hungry after he had the tomato salad. The father looked at the waiter and said, “Can you give me another order of the tomato salad? You wouldn’t let my son cry like this, right?” The father was actually hankering for another serving too.

The waiter hesitated. “Erm, this...”

At that moment, Gu Ziyue stood up. “Dear respected guests, I am Gu Ziyue, the president of this hotel.”

A guest immediately shouted, “President Gu, I haven’t visited a restaurant where the customers can only order a limited amount of food! Plus, I can see there are more than two servings of dishes on your table. This is too unfair!”

“Exactly!” Another guest echoed. “President Gu, I have heard of special dishes that need early booking, but they are definitely not for normal vegetables like cabbages and tomatoes. Are you doing this to drum up the hype?”

“Hype! Hype!” The five-year-old cheered. He quite enjoyed the rowdy room.

For the adults, they wanted to have more of these heavenly dishes. Plus, they were the customers. President Gu had the responsibility to satisfy their needs.

Gu Ziyue sighed helplessly. “Respected guests, these are not common vegetables. I have to use my silver tongue to persuade the supplier to cooperate with the Gu Family Hotel. Today is our first day of cooperation. The supplier can only provide us with 100 catties of vegetables. To ensure that we have enough food for every customer, we have to limit your order limit!” At this point, he paused before adding, “But from tomorrow onwards, you can order as much as you want!”

“President Gu, that’s a promise!” Some customers laughed.

“Yes, you can hold me to it!” Gu Ziyue chuckled, “But today, I will make an exception and offer this child an extra serving of tomato salad.”

“Since President Gu has said so, we’ll come back tomorrow and eat to our heart’s content!” A customer said.

“Of course. Thank you for patronizing the Gu Family Hotel!” Other than the kid, the other guests slowly left. They planned to come back that night and then tomorrow morning.

When Gu Ziyue sat back down, his three friends were licking the plates. Gu Ziyue rolled his eyes and mocked, “Aren’t you guys ashamed?”

“Shush!” The three said. After they finished the meals, they licked their lips and rubbed their round stomachs. Zheng Haiyang asked, “Gu Ziyue, tell us the truth. Are the dishes really vegetarian? Did you sneak some meat in?”

“That’s right. How can there be such delicious vegetarian dishes?”

“They are the best vegetarian dishes I’ve had. They are better than meat!”

“I’ve decided. I’ll bring my parents here tonight to enjoy them again!”

“I have the same idea!”

“I’ll bring my grandparents! If they like it, we’ll come every day!”

Gu Ziyue spoke again. “Guys, I need to inform you in advance. The dishes are vegetarian, but they are more expensive than meat. Even if I give you a 20 percent discount, you’ll think that I’m overcharging you.”

“The vegetables are so expensive?” Qian Yifan asked suspiciously.

Gu Ziyue nodded. “Yes! Other than the tomatoes, the other vegetables are very expensive!”

His friends found it unbelievable. But when they thought about the taste, they realized it was acceptable.

Zheng Haiyang wanted to ask something else, but after looking around, he swallowed the question.

After the meal, the four of them went to Gu Ziyue’s room. Instantly, Gu Ziyue’s friends congratulated him. “Ziyue, with this, you’ll definitely turn your hotel business around.” Gu Ziyue thought back to the reception earlier, and he felt a burst of confidence.

Qian Yifan reminded him, “Ziyue, we won’t ask you the identity of your new supplier, but you have to be careful of the Yi Family Hotel. Don’t let the same thing happen again.”

“Yes!” The other two concurred, “Zhou Huaming from the Yi Family hotel is despicable and shameless. When they find out about this, they will try their best to poach your new supplier.”

Gu Ziyue nodded. “This time, I will not let Zhou Huaming stand in my way again.”

However, internally, he was uncertain. Xiao Lingyu hadn’t signed an official contract with the Gu Family Hotel. That would happen one month later. In this trial period, she promised to give them 300 to 500 catties of ingredients daily.

Gu Ziyue was afraid that the Yi Family Hotel would get the news and use underhanded methods to steal Xiao Lingyu away from him.

‘No, I have to think of a way to get Xiao Lingyu to sign a contract with us as soon as possible. Then, I can feel more relaxed. It looks like I need to rely on Uncle Chen.’

...

Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao sat at the dining table like starving ghosts. They swept the food into their mouth. Even Gong Tianhao, who had been trained in table manners since he was young, was moving faster than usual.

“Auntie, your food is really delicious!” Li Yuanhang kept praising Mother Xiao, “This is the best food I’ve ever eaten. Auntie, how can your cooking be so good?”

Mother Xiao looked at the two young men and said with a smile, "It's because you're hungry. Everything tastes better when you're hungry. I'm just an average cook."

Li Yuanhang said, "Auntie, you're too modest. The boy from earlier also said you're the best cook in the village." He swallowed and continued, "But I realize he's wrong. You're the best cook in the world! Your cooking is much better than some five-star chefs. Am I right, Tianhao?"

"Yes!" Gong Tianhao nodded as he ate.

Mother Xiao laughed. "You kids are exaggerating. I believe you are used to eating luxury goods, so you find these simple dishes novel and delicious. Eat your fill. I have more in the kitchen!"

Li Yuanhang's praises were sincere. This was the first time they had such fragrant rice. Even though they were served mostly vegetarian dishes, the taste was impeccable. Even luxury ingredients like abalones couldn't compare.

Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao both touched their bellies. They were starving earlier, but now they were full and satisfied.. They had never allowed themselves such gluttony before.

Chapter 125: Heart-wrenching!

After the two men had their fill, Mother Xiao cleaned up the table and began to ask questions. "Kids, why did you come to our Taoyuan Village?" There had to be a reason, especially since Li Yuanhang lied about being Xiao Lingyu's friend. However, since that was a lie because they were too hungry, Mother Xiao let it slide. Li Yuanhang was also ashamed by that lie. Thankfully, Mother Xiao was a generous person and still fed them.

"Yes." Li Yuanhang cleared his throat and explained, "Auntie, we heard about how beautiful Taoyuan Village is, so we came here to look around."

Mother Xiao stared at him. Clearly, she didn't believe him. She said directly, "Kids, you wear luxury clothes and drive a high-end car. You are not short on money. Your vacation locations should be more developed tourist hotspots. Why would you come to a backward village like ours?"

Li Yuanhang choked. It was evident that Mother Xiao didn't believe him. Li Yuanhang felt like the boy who cried wolf. He had only lied once, but Mother Xiao already lost confidence in his words even though this time, he wasn't lying. However, he knew arguing would only make things worse.

Gong Tianhao said, "Auntie, Yuanhang didn't lie to you this time. We really think this village is pretty and wonderful. It has a very good environment. However, we are not here specifically for a vacation."

Mother Xiao asked, "Then why?" She had more trust in Gong Tianhao. This made Li Yuanhang feel stifled. 'Why doesn't Auntie believe me, but she believe Gong Tianhao? Is the word liar painted on my face? Auntie, don't be fooled by him because he's handsome. The man is actually a ruthless pirate in the business world.' If people knew Li Yuanhang was mocking Young Master Gong for the sake of an Auntie, people would laugh their heads off.

Gong Tianhao explained, "My grandfather suffers from ill health, so he needs a quiet place to recuperate. Taoyuan Village had good air, a quiet environment, and freshwater. It's perfect for him."

Mother Xiao was impressed. "What a filial child!"

"Auntie, the old master will be staying here for a long time. Do you know if there are any houses for rent?" Li Yuanhang asked.

Mother Xiao frowned, "There are empty houses, but they are quite shabby. I don't think your grandfather will be able to recuperate in them." It was clear that the men were children of rich families. They wouldn't live comfortably in old houses.

Gong Tianhao thought for a moment and said, "Auntie, can we build a house in the village?" Gong Tianhao also only wanted the best for his grandfather.

Mother Xiao said, "If you plan to do that, you'll have to get permission from the village chief. How about I get someone to invite him over now?"

"Thank you, Auntie!" Gong Tianhao agreed.

"Xiaohui, go to the fields and get the village chief. Tell him he has a guest!" Mother Xiao instructed Xiao Xiaohui, who was still crawling on the car. When she saw the kids climbing around the car, Mother Xiao added, "Children, be careful. Don't ruin the car, and don't hurt yourself."

"Okay!" The children replied.

Xiao Xiaohui quickly rushed to get his mission done. He still wanted to climb the car. He ran back after about ten minutes.

He said loudly, "Second aunt, the village chief will be here soon!" Then, he went back to play with the car with his friends.

Li Yuanhang saw the children crawling around the limited edition Maybach, and his lips twitched. The car worth ten million was now a children's toy...

Soon, Xiao Taiyang arrived. He wore a straw hat on his head, and he walked in with his pants rolled up. He shouted as he entered the front yard, "Qiuqing, I heard someone is looking for me. Who is it?"

Mother Xiao said, "Village chief, come in and have a drink first!" She poured a cup of tea for Xiao Taiyang.

Xiao Taiyang removed his hat and placed it on the firewood rack beside the front door. He entered the house and picked up the cup of tea. He gulped noisily, which made Li Yuanhang and Gong Tianhao frown.

Xiao Taiyang said, "Qiuqing, how can your tea be so fragrant? I miss them whenever I'm at home. It's better than wine!"

Of course, this was because of the spring water.

Mother Xiao said, "Village chief, you're welcome to come for tea any time." Then, she introduces, "Village chief, these two are guests from big cities. They are friends with my Yu 'Er. They came here today because they want to find a quiet place for their grandfather to recuperate."

Xiao Taiyang smiled immediately. He grabbed Li Yuanhang's hands. "So you're Lingyu's friend. Nice to meet you!"

Li Yuanhang saw the mud on Xiao Taiyang's hands and the dirt in his nails. Li Yuanhang felt rather disgusted, but he was polite enough to smile and say, "Village chief, Hello! My name is Li Yuanhang!"

"Brother Li, nice to meet you!" Then, Xiao Taiyang made to turn to shake Gong Tianhao's hands. Li Yuanhang immediately grabbed Xiao Taiyang's hands. "Village chief, my brother has serious mysophobia. He doesn't like to be touched. Please forgive him!"

Li Yuanhang stared at the cracking mud on the back of Xiao Taiyang's hand. Li Yuanhang had an obsession with cleanliness too but his condition was not as serious as Gong Tianhao.

If Gong Tianhao acted up, he might kick the village chief. That would be very awkward. Plus, it would be very difficult for the old master to mingle with the villagers should he move here in the future. Therefore, Li Yuanhang had to sacrifice himself.

Xiao Taiyang heard Li Yuanhang's words, and he understood the underlying meaning immediately. He saw the mud on his hands. He was gracious enough not to take offense.

Mother Xiao saw the two men's expressions, and she quickly cut in. "Village Chief, stop holding his hands. Come and have some tea before we talk!" She quickly poured another cup.

Li Yuanhang sighed in relief. If the village chief continued to grab his hands, he might get angry.

Mother Xiao continued, "Village chief, these two kids want to bring their old master to stay here for a period of time. For that, they wish to build a house for him. That's why I have you brought over."

Xiao Taiyang's expression immediately became serious. "They want to build a house? Isn't that too wasteful if the old master is only staying for a period? Can't they rent a house or stay with one of the village families?"

Li Yuanhang explained, "Village chief, we have no idea how long the old master will need to stay here. It could be a month or a year. Besides, the old master likes to be alone. Plus, we wouldn't want to infringe on others with his illness." In other words, they would prefer the old master not to stay with the other villagers. "After some thought, we believe it's more convenient to buy a house for the old master. What are the procedures required?" Li Yuanhang asked.

"If that's the case, you need to find the building spot first." Xiao Taiyang said, "After that, you need the government's approval. Then, you can start building."

Li Yuanhang nodded. "I see. Village chief, does this mean we can build anywhere around the village?"

"Of course not!" Xiao Taiyang said, "You can't use the farmlands to build houses!"

"Of course!" Li Yuanhang nodded. "Village chief, we will need to trouble you to show us around the village then, to see which land can be used."

"It's no trouble!" Xiao Taiyang waved his hand. 'These two are clearly wealthy, and they are Yu 'Er's friends. They might bring more benefits to the village.' After that, Xiao Taiyang brought them on a tour of the village.

...

That night, the normally deserted restaurant at Gu Family Hotel was very lively.

Zheng Haiyang, Qian Yifan, and Yuan Xuanhao had all brought their families here for dinner.

“Haiyang, didn’t you say that you were going to treat us?” Mother Zheng said and looked around. She whispered, “Why did you bring us to the Gu Family Hotel? I know Gu Ziyi is your good friend, but I heard the food here...” She didn’t finish, but everyone understood.

“That’s right, Haiyang. You’re sacrificing your parents to bring business to your friend?” Father Zheng had similar doubts.

Zheng Haiyang was rather speechless. “Mom, Dad, what are you talking about? Since I said I’ll treat you to a delicious meal, that is what I will deliver. Just be patient.”

At that moment, Zheng Haiyang saw Qian Yifan’s family at the entrance.

“Yifan, Uncle, Auntie, Grandpa, Grandma, you’re here!” Zheng Haiyang greeted them.

Grandma Qian said with a smile, “Haiyang, it’s you! Yifan said he wanted to bring us to a delicious feast, so our whole family came.”

“Haiyang, Yifan, you two are earlier than me!” Yuan Xuanhao appeared with his family then.

Members of the three families looked at each other.. They had serious doubts regarding the promise their sons made.

Chapter 126: Coincidence

Xiao Lingyu studied the fruit trees in the farming space. As soon as the seedlings were planted, the branches grew thicker and wider. Before long, they grew from small seedlings to small trees. However, the growth stopped there. After waiting for a while, Xiao Lingyu exited the space. It was already late at night. She went to sleep.

The next day, she woke up at 5:30 am. She heard movement outside the house. It sounded like two men, so it frightened her. She walked to the yard and shouted through the iron gate. “Who is it? Who is outside?!”

“Miss Xiao, it’s us, Gu Ziyi and Wang Zhimin!” The voices answered.

Xiao Lingyu’s heart was relieved. She said, “Oh, it’s President Gu and Manager Wang. Please wait a minute!”

“Okay!” Gu Ziyi replied. Xiao Lingyu immediately ran to the warehouse and released all the vegetables that she promised the Gu Family Hotel. Then, she ran back to open the gate.

Xiao Lingyu smiled. “President Gu, Manager Wang, you’re so early. The sun is not even up yet.”

Gu Ziyi said, “I was too excited to sleep. So I decided to come early.”

Wang Zhimin yawned and said, "Miss Xiao, you have no idea, but President Gu woke me up at four o'clock, and we have been waiting outside your house ever since."

Xiao Lingyu was a little surprised, "You came at four o'clock? Doesn't that mean you've been waiting for more than an hour already?"

"You're right." Wang Zhimin said, "And it's mosquito season. I've been standing there feeding them for more than an hour already."

Gu Ziyue said a little embarrassedly, "I was worried that the vegetables would be sold out, so I had to come early just in case."

Xiao Lingyu was a little speechless. She said, "President Gu, do you not trust me? I promised you 300 catties, so that is what I'll give you. I will not lie to you."

Gu Ziyue touched his head in embarrassment, "Miss Xiao, it's not that we don't trust you. I don't trust my competitor. He is a despicable person. He will resort to anything to snatch people's business. You're a very good supplier, so I can't afford to lose you to him!" Gu Ziyue paused and added, "Miss Xiao, can we sign the contract now? Don't worry. I will not take advantage of you." Without the contract, Gu Ziyue was very insecure. He wanted to get the contract with Xiao Lingyu as soon as possible.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head, "President Gu, it's not that I don't want to sign the contract with you, but currently, there are too many things on my mind I haven't figured out."

Gu Ziyue frowned and asked hesitantly, "Miss Xiao, if you don't mind me asking, what are those things? Perhaps I can help you."

Since the cooperation with Gu Ziyue was on the way, Xiao Lingyu felt she owed him an explanation. "I plan to open a vegetable and fruit shop. I'm looking for a storefront to rent."

"Oh?" Gu Ziyue didn't expect this. "Miss Xiao, you have more vegetables to sell? If so, the Gu Family will buy all of them from you. Sell them to me."

Xiao Lingyu said, "President Gu, I don't have the stock now. But I will have more after a month. I can increase the supply to the Gu Family Hotel then. That's why I hope to sign the contract after one month."

"But why one month?" Gu Ziyue was confused.

Xiao Lingyu said with a smile, "Because my farm will need about a month before the vegetables can be harvested!"

"Miss Xiao, you are growing these vegetables yourself?" Gu Ziyue was shocked.

"Yes!" Xiao Lingyu said, "So, President Gu, you'll not be the only one I'll work with. I can't provide my supply exclusively to you."

Gu Ziyue and Wang Zhimin were anxious when they heard that. This meant that Xiao Lingyu might also work with the Yi Family Hotel, and they'd be fighting again. What should they do?

They couldn't ask Xiao Lingyu to supply them only. That was unreasonable. Gu Ziyue didn't know what to say.

Other than promising a constant supply of her crops to the Gu Family Hotel, Xiao Lingyu couldn't go further than that. As a businesswoman, she had to put profits first. Xiao Lingyu had heard about the competition between the Gu Family Hotel and Yi Family Hotel. However, that was between the two families. What did it have to do with her?

Xiao Lingyu thought about it and said, "President Gu, I can only promise that I will provide an exclusive supply to the Gu Family Hotel for this one month. After that, I can't tell what will happen myself." That was the biggest favor Xiao Lingyu could give Gu Ziyue.

Gu Ziyue calculated in his mind. 'One month? That should be enough. One month is enough for the hotel to bring back its clientele base. By then, we will have a fixed number of clients. Furthermore, Xiao Lingyu will still be providing us with her supply after one month. We would have reestablished ourselves by then. We might not have exclusivity anymore, but we have a headstart to perfecting the recipes with Xiao Lingyu's ingredients.'

Gu Ziyue smiled. "Miss Xiao, thank you!"

"It seems that President Gu has finally stopped worrying." Xiao Lingyu commented with a smile.

Gu Ziyue rubbed his head in embarrassment and said, "The Yi Family Hotel has been giving me a hard time for the past few months. I am so lucky for meeting Miss Xiao. I really don't know how to thank Miss Xiao for this opportunity."

Wang Zhimin was still too confused, but it was not his place to interrupt anyway.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "President Gu, perhaps this is fate."

"Yes, fate!" Gu Ziyue nodded.

Xiao Lingyu turned to the boxes of crops in the warehouse. "There are many small boxes. The tomato boxes have 50 tomatoes each; the eggplant boxes have 40 eggplants each; the cucumber boxes have 40 cucumbers each; the cole and spinach boxes have 20 catties each..." Xiao Lingyu explained. "I promised you 300 catties of vegetables. You can pick any type you want and weigh them on the way out!"

Gu Ziyue remembered that the 100 catties of vegetables disappeared in an instant yesterday. Even though their business was slipping, the Gu Family Hotel was still a famous hotel in Xing Yin County. They had a larger clientele than normal hotels. After yesterday's breakfast, there was a larger dinner crowd. And theoretically, there would be an even bigger crowd today.

Gu Ziyue knew he had to ride on this wave and continue the promotion. 300 catties of vegetables should be enough.

Gu Ziyue and Wang Zhimin made their selection. They grabbed 300 catties.

Since they were buying in bulk, Xiao Lingyu sold them the tomatoes, eggplants, and cucumbers in boxes. She didn't sell them individually like she would normal customers. Xiao Lingyu even threw in some extra crops. She gave them 20 extra tomatoes and 10 extra eggplants and cucumbers.

Gu Ziyue thought of the boy from yesterday, and she asked, "Miss Xiao, can you sell me more of those tomatoes?" They had taken 70 tomatoes, but Gu Ziyue still thought it wasn't enough.

Xiao Lingyu thought and said, "Okay, I'll sell 30 more to you to make it a 100."

"Thank you!" Gu Ziyue said. Gu Ziyue and Wang Zhimin put their purchase on the tricycle and left.

"Yu 'Er!" At 6 am, Grandma Song and Grandma Li showed up on time. As they walked into the courtyard, the two grannies were surprised to see the two young men. Gu Ziyue and Wang Zhimin nodded at the two elders.

"Grandma Song!" However, when he got a closer look, Gu Ziyue gasped in surprise.

Grandma Song was equally surprised. "Wait, you're the kid from the Gu Family!"

"Grandma Song, why are you here so early?" Gu Ziyue asked.

Grandma Song said with a smile, "I'm here to buy vegetables from Miss Xiao." Then, she noticed another tricycle and the purchasing manager of the Gu family hotel. She said, "Xiao Gu, are you here to buy vegetables too?"

Gu Ziyue nodded. "Miss Xiao's vegetables are too delicious. My clients like them, so I'm cooperating with Miss Xiao."

Grandma Song nodded. "Miss Xiao's products are indeed extraordinary. Xiao Gu, I need to tell you something. Miss Xiao is a good person with a kind heart. Grandma hopes that you treat her kindly in the cooperation, understand?" Grandma Song meant that Gu Ziyue shouldn't be too greedy and try to scam Xiao Lingyu. "Your Grandpa Song, and I like Miss Xiao a lot!" Grandma Song added. Xiao Lingyu had their support.

Gu Ziyue wiped the sweat off his forehead and thought to himself, 'Xiao Lingyu is smart and cunning. Who can deceive her? Besides, she has the support of Jiang Tao, the Chief of Xingyin County Police Station. Who would have the guts to scam her?'

Gu Ziyue smiled, "Grandma Song, you watch me grow up. Do you think I would take advantage of people? Besides, Miss Xiao is very smart. If I try to lie to her, she can just stop selling me her crops. Then, I would have shot my own foot!"

Grandma Song nodded. "It's good that you know that!"

Gu Ziyue, "... Am I that untrustworthy?"

Xiao Lingyu, "... Grandma Song is such a good person!"

Chapter 127: Sold Out!

By the time everyone left, there were no more vegetables in Xiao Lingyu's warehouse. Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and retrieved a small portion from the farming space.

As Xiao Lingyu approached the tree where she normally stopped, she saw many people standing or sitting there. Some had small carts with them. The crowd was larger than before.

Someone saw Xiao Lingyu and shouted, "The miss is here!" Then, the crowd rushed over to swarm Xiao Lingyu.

People noticed there was less stock on the tricycle than before. Someone asked, "Miss, why are there so few crops today?"

Xiao Lingyu smiled apologetically, "I had already sold some before I arrived! So this is all that's left today."

"How much did you sell earlier? Most of your tricycle is already empty!"

"It was around 400 catties!" Xiao Lingyu said.

"So much?!"

"Today will be my last day setting up stall for a while. I'll return to the county town sometime later." Xiao Lingyu announced.

"What? Then, I need to stock up. If my children don't have your vegetables to eat, they will lose their temper."

"Same here!"

Instantly, the crowd's shopping list grew. The vegetables were quickly snatched away.

"Hey, I got that first. Don't steal it from me!"

"I got it first."

"No, I did!"

People started to fight for the vegetables like they were gold. The vegetables were expensive, but they were delicacies for children and pregnant women. They were worth every penny.

After someone got their portion, they said, "Miss, when will you be coming back?"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "That's hard to say." She had more stock in her farming space, but she didn't want to attract unnecessary attention. Her three consecutive days of conducting business had already attracted some people's attention. Therefore, she would keep the crops in the farming space for now.

Moreover, Xiao Lingyu wanted to go back to Taoyuan Village to see how their gardening sheds were coming along. Also, she had to deal with the strawberry seedlings. She kept a small portion of the strawberry seedlings in the farming space. She planned to grow them there for a while. When the shed was ready, she would transplant them.

Before Xiao Lingyu reached the market, she had already sold out.

Xiao Lingyu had no idea there was a conspiracy waiting for her at the market. Two UMALE officers were sitting inside a vegetable shop. The younger of the two took out a notebook and looked around. Then, he asked a short and fat man, "Big Brother, where is the person you mentioned?"

Li Daqiang glanced at the spot where Xiao Lingyu normally set up her stall. There were some people standing there. They were probably waiting for Xiao Lingyu to arrive.

Li Dajiang narrowed her beady eyes. "She's not here yet."

Li Dazhi glanced at his watch. "It's already so late. Brother, is she not coming?"

Li Daqiang said, "She will come. She has been here for two days already. Dazhi, you have to teach her a lesson for setting up by the roadside and scamming people with expensive vegetables!"

The girl had crowds fighting for her vegetables despite their crazy prices. This meant that Li Daqiang had no business left. Therefore, she needed to be taught a lesson. It was why Li Daqiang called his younger brother, who was a UMALE officer. They would confiscate her stock and give her a heavy fine. That would teach her a lesson for trying to provoke him by setting up a stall in front of his shop!

However, Xiao Lingyu's tricycle was actually parked more than ten meters away from his shop. On top of that, she was across the street from his business. The man was just jealous. Seeing how good Xiao Lingyu's business was, he assumed Xiao Lingyu had stolen his customers and decided to do something about it.

"Don't worry, big brother." Li Dazhi said, "I will give her a severe punishment!"

"Thank you, little brother!" Li Dazhi looked into the distance with a vicious gaze. They waited for another half an hour. Li Daqiang looked at the clock. He frowned.

Li Dazhi asked in puzzlement, "Brother, it's already so late, and she is still not here. Is she not coming today?"

Li Daqiang wasn't sure anymore.

At that moment, the crowd, who was waiting, started to get anxious too. "Is the Miss not coming? She was already here yesterday morning."

"Right, the Miss said she would stop up the road before coming here. Could she be there now?"

"I remember she did say that. I'll go there to take a look. It's not that far anyway."

"Yes, let's go!"

Li Dazhi and his colleague, who wandered over, heard their conversation. Li Dazhi was delighted. He told his colleague, "Penghua, let's go too!" Penghua obliged. They would get extra money from catching unscrupulous vendors.

When Li Dazhi and Peng Hua followed the crowd to Construction North Road, they heard someone mutter, "Where is the Miss? We haven't seen her!"

"Let's go look around. If we still can't find her, we'll ask the people here!"

“Okay!”

They reached the end of the junction, and they still didn’t see Xiao Lingyu.

“We’re at the end of the road. There’s still no sign of the Miss. Let’s ask someone!”

“There are a few fruit vendors over there. Let’s go ask them!”

“Boss, I want to ask. Have you seen a girl selling vegetables around here?”

The boss was too busy packing up to answer. It was another vendor who said, “Yes, she was here. She has returned because her stuff has sold out.”

“Ah, she has sold out?” The people were surprised. “So fast?”

The fruit vendor said, “Please move. The UMALE people are here. We need to leave!”

“Huh?” The crowd was confused. Then, they turned around and saw two UMALE officers coming their way. The crowd quickly parted. As the crowd saw the fruit vendors running away, they sighed, “The Miss sold out too quickly. It’s still so early. To think I purposely I woke up early today.”

“I should have come here instead of waiting at the market.”

When Li Dazhi and Peng Hua heard that the unscrupulous vendor scamming people with expensive prices had already returned, they were also disappointed.

Penghua said, “Li Dazhi, what should we do now?”

Li Dazhi said somewhat irritably, “We’ll come back tomorrow.” The two turned around and left.

As soon as they left, the three fruit sellers appeared out of nowhere and quickly set up their stalls again.

These passers-by were dumbfounded.

The fruit seller told them kindly. “You guys can stop waiting too. The girl said this was her last day selling and she won’t be coming back for the next few days. So, her customers quickly snatched up her stock. After she sold out, she left.”

“How can this be?!” The crowd was disappointed.

“What should we do now? Without those vegetables, my children won’t eat during meals!”

“My family is the same. In the past two days, my children have gained such a big appetite for vegetables. It’s a miracle.”

The fruit vendor said, “Everyone is a good parent. The customers earlier also bought a lot because they had children or pregnant women to take care of. Her vegetables are so expensive, normal people like us wouldn’t be able to afford them.”

The fruit vendor’s words struck a chord with the crowd.

“Indeed, if not for my children, I wouldn’t be waiting here so early in the morning.”

“But what can we do since our children like her vegetables? They won’t eat the vegetables we buy from elsewhere. For their health, the extra price is worth it. They are still growing after all.”

The fruit vendor was curious. “Her vegetables are so pricey. Are they worth the price?”

“Of course they are. If not, how did she get sold out so soon?”

The crowd was sad that they couldn’t get Xiao Lingyu’s vegetables. They could only return disappointed to the market to purchase the normal vegetables.

After having comparisons to Xiao Lingyu’s stock, the other vegetables looked so pale and yellow. They complained a lot. This angered Li Daqiang but since they were paying customers, he could only endure the grievances.

Of course, Xiao Lingyu didn’t know about these things. After she sold out, she rode her tricycle home.

Once she arrived at the rental, she teleported into the farming space. She wanted to check on the fruit trees she planted yesterday.

The fruit trees didn’t grow like the vegetables. They didn’t ripen and bear fruit overnight. They had grown bigger than before, but they hadn’t reached the flowering period.

Xiao Lingyu believed it had to do with the fruit trees’ growth cycle. Most fruit trees needed three years to grow from seedlings to mature trees and then another three years to bear fruits.

Therefore, even in the farming space, the fruit trees would take longer to grow than vegetables. It might not take three to five years, but it would take at least a few months.

Thankfully, Xiao Lingyu was not in a hurry.

She could transplant the trees when they were at flowering age. With that in mind, Xiao Lingyu believed she could buy a few more fruit tree seedlings. The farming space still had some empty plots.

As she exited the farming space, Xiao Lingyu’s phone rang.

Chapter 128: Misunderstanding

Gu Ziye was waiting for her at the entrance of his hotel when Xiao Lingyu arrived.

“Miss Xiao!” Gu Ziye was very happy to see Xiao Lingyu. “Please come in!”

Xiao Lingyu followed Gu Ziye to his private room. When they arrived, Xiao Lingyu was surprised to see three other young men.

Zheng Haiyang, Qian Yifan, and Yuan Xuanhao were stunned at first when they saw Gu Ziye bringing a young woman to the private room. Then, they became excited.

Zheng Haiyang sat up in his seat and asked mysteriously, “Ziye, who is this woman? Is she your girlfriend?”

“Ziye, when did you get a girlfriend? How did you hide it well?” Qian Yifan suddenly asked.

“Ziye, you’re evil for not telling us about this!” Yuan Xuanhao grumbled, “Do you still consider us your friends?”

Then, the three pushed Gu Ziye aside and greeted Xiao Lingyu, “Hello, sister-in-law! I’m Zheng Haiyang, Gu Ziye’s good brother!”

Gu Ziye was older than Zheng Haiyang, so naturally, he had to be respectful to Gu Ziye’s girlfriend.

Since it was the first time they met, Zheng Haiyang naturally had to be polite.

“Hello, sister-in-law! I’m Qian Yifan.”

“Hello, sister-in-law! I’m Yuan Xuanhao.”

Gu Ziye was so anxious that his face turned red when he heard his three brothers. He stammered, “You... You...”

Xiao Lingyu was not offended. She smiled. “Hello, everyone. But I’m afraid there’s a misunderstanding. I’m not President Gu’s girlfriend!”

“Huh?” The three were dumbfounded. Then, they turned to Gu Ziye to ask for confirmation. Gu Ziye was still blushing. He looked at his three friends and said shyly, “Miss Xiao and I are just ordinary friends. We’re not boyfriend and girlfriend!”

The three were awkward. The girl was not even Gu Ziye’s close friend, and they were already rushing to call her their sister-in-law. It was really embarrassing.

Zheng Haiyang said angrily, “Gu Ziye, why didn’t you explain that earlier?”

“That’s right!” The other two echoed.

Gu Ziye rolled his eyes. “As if you people gave me time to do that. Once Miss Xiao walked in, you assumed she is my girlfriend and kept calling her sister-in-law.”

The three were embarrassed and quickly moved to the sofa to sit down.

Zheng Haiyang smiled and said, “Ziye, you can’t blame us. You are never around a woman. Since you’ve brought a woman here, it’s normal for us to think she’s your girlfriend!”

Gu Ziye huffed. “That’s enough!” Then, he turned to Xiao Lingyu, “Miss Xiao, please don’t mind them. They are never serious.”

Xiao Lingyu shook her head with a smile. “It’s okay. I understand these are jokes between friends.”

“Haiyang, Yifan, Xuan Hao, this is Miss Xiao Lingyu. Miss Xiao, this is my three good friends, Zheng Haiyang, Qian Yifan, and Yuan Xuanhao,” Gu Ziye introduced officially.

“Hello, Miss Xiao!” The three of them greeted her formally.

Xiao Lingyu nodded to them and said, “Hello!”

Then, Xiao Lingyu asked, “President Gu, you said that there is a shop in the city center for rent. Where is it located?”

She was going to the seedling market when she received a call from Gu Ziyue. Gu Ziyue had found a shop for rent in the city center, and he planned to show it to her. Why was Gu Ziyue willing to help Xiao Lingyu? Of course, it was to cement their relationship!

But, his friends assumed they had the other kind of relationship.

Gu Ziyue answered, "It's Number Three, Building Five, Salvation Street!" Salvation Street was the county town's commercial center. It had high foot traffic and thus a high shop rental price.

"Number Three, Building Five, Salvation Street?" Zheng Haiyang was confused, and he frowned, "Ziyue, isn't that my shop? The one that has been giving me problems?"

Gu Ziyue said, "That's why I told Miss Xiao to come to meet you." He was reminding Zheng Haiyang to do him a favor. The shop lease was almost up. The current owner had not said if they still wanted to continue the lease, and Zheng Haiyang had some issues with the owner.

Zheng Haiyang was finally certain that Gu Ziyue and Xiao Lingyu were just ordinary friends. They were very formal around each other, referring to the other as Miss Xiao and President Gu. However, Gu Ziyue was clearly trying to gain favor with Xiao Lingyu. Perhaps Gu Ziyue wanted to pursue her? Either way, Zheng Haiyang would do this favor for Gu Ziyue.

Xiao Lingyu was a little puzzled. When she went to look for a suitable shop to rent yesterday, she didn't see any available shop at Salvation Street. Then again, people would not post rental ads for shops with existing leases, even though it was expiring. After all, the current renter might continue the lease.

Zheng Haiyang said, "Miss Xiao, the lease term for my shop is almost up, and the owners owe me several months of rent. Since you have the need, I'll end the lease with the current renter and rent it to you!"

For Zheng Haiyang, it didn't matter who the new renter was. But since Gu Ziyue was clearly trying to win brownie points with Xiao Lingyu, naturally, Zheng Haiyang would help his friend first.

"But, Gu Ziyue, you haven't even told us what your relationship with Miss Xiao is?" Zheng Haiyang asked excitedly, his eyes flashing with gossip.

Gu Ziyue looked at his good friends, who were grinning too brightly, and he sighed. "Miss Xiao is my business partner. She is the new supplier for my hotel." His three friends were not in the hotelier business, so he was not worried about a conflict of interest.

Once they heard that, Gu Ziyue's three friends' eyes glowed.

Qian Yifan said, "Miss Xiao, you're the person behind those delicious vegetables? Can you sell some to me? Don't worry. Money is not a problem."

Zheng Haiyang and Yuan Xuanhao also said, "Yes! Miss Xiao, can you sell them to me too?"

Gu Ziyue's face darkened. He stood protectively in front of Xiao Lingyu and said, "Hey, what are you guys doing? Are you trying to scare Miss Xiao by jumping on her like this?" Then, he turned to Xiao Lingyu and said, "Miss Xiao, please don't mind their rudeness. They are just too excited!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "It's okay, I won't mind!"

“Good, please sit down!” Gu Ziyue offered. For Gu Ziyue, Xiao Lingyu was his Goddess of Fortune. He needed to treat her well so that luck would remain on his side.

“Yifan, sit over there!” Gu Ziyue nudged Qian Yifan over to the four-seater so Xiao Lingyu could have the single sofa.

Xiao Lingyu sat down and smiled, “President Gu, you have such cute friends.”

In her previous life, she did not have many friends. Any friend she had started to alienate her. Now that she thought about it, that should be Chen Ran’s doing. In the end, she didn’t have any friends left, much less a confidant. Thinking of her past, Xiao Lingyu wanted to cover her face in shame.

However, this time, she would change everything. She was jealous of Gu Ziyue’s good friends, but that only made her more determined to make new friends.

Zheng Haiyang and the others blushed when they heard a woman their age call them cute. It had been such a long time since they received a compliment like that.

Zheng Haiyang’s face was a little red as he said, “Miss Xiao is also very cute!” Then, he became serious. He stared at Xiao Lingyu with burning eyes and continued to ask, “Miss Xiao, can you sell us some of your vegetables too? They are really delicious. But we can’t bring our family here to eat every day.”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and shook her head.

Zheng Haiyang and the other two looked a little disappointed.

Zheng Haiyang asked sadly, “Aren’t your vegetables for sale? Or you can only provide for the Gu Family Hotel?”

Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, “It’s not that. I simply do not have enough stock. I only have just enough to supply the Gu Family Hotel.”

“We don’t ask for much. We only need a little bit.” Zheng Haiyang pleaded.

“That’s right. We only hope to have enough to cook them daily. Don’t you even that small amount?” Qian Yifan and Yuan Xuanhao also asked.

Xiao Lingyu shook her head, “I’m sorry, but my production is limited. Before I cooperated with President Gu, I sold around 300 catties daily. After the cooperation, I really don’t have much excess.”

The three of them were disappointed.

Gu Ziyue said, “Haiyang, when I went to grab the vegetables this morning, I ran into Grandma Song!”

“Huh? You saw my grandma?” Zheng Haiyang was surprised.

“Grandma Song is your grandma?” Xiao Lingyu was surprised too. “Grandma Song is my landlady!”

‘Grandma Song has been purchasing from me. Has Zheng Haiyang not tasted them? That has to be it. Or else Zheng Haiyang would have known immediately that his grandma got the vegetables from the same place as Gu Ziyue.’

At that moment, Zheng Haiyang also remembered something. ‘That’s right. My cousin told me that Grandma recently bought some very delicious vegetables. I didn’t think much of it at the time. I even denied Grandma’s invitation to join her for dinner. Oh my God, what have I done?!’

Zheng Haiyang got over the regret and asked, “Miss Xiao, you mean my grandmother will go to your house to buy the vegetables every day?”

If that was the case, it was awesome. From then on, he would go to his grandmother’s place to eat daily!

Chapter 129: Found A Shop!

However, Zheng Haiyang’s happiness didn’t last for long. Xiao Lingyu explained, “I don’t have the stock to sell daily. However, whenever I do have excess stock, Grandma Song will come to buy every time.”

Zheng Haiyang frowned. “Miss Xiao, does this mean my grandmother might come back empty-handed since you have limited stock?” He felt bad for his grandmother.

Xiao Lingyu quickly clarified. “Oh no. I will always reserve some for Grandma Song. If I have excess stock, I will call Grandma Song in advance, and she will come to pick up the vegetables very early in the morning.”

“Good!” Zheng Haiyang was relieved. “In the future, I shall get grandmother to buy more of your crops. That way, I won’t have to come to this hotel to fight for food with others!”

Xiao Lingyu smiled but said nothing.

Gu Ziyue cut in, “Haiyang, will there be a problem for you to rent that shop to Miss Xiao?”

Zheng Haiyang answered, “Of course. It’s not a problem. The lease is expiring next month. I’ll stop renewing the lease with the current renter and rent it to Miss Xiao instead.”

Xiao Lingyu was worried, “Is that okay?”

Zheng Haiyang waved his hands. “They are not a good renter in the first place. Since they’ve violated the contract, I have the right to kick them out. Since Miss Xiao has the need, I’ll get to save myself the trouble of finding a new renter. Moreover, my grandmother has rented her house to you. It means that she likes you. For both Gu Ziyue and my grandmother, I have to rent that shop to you.”

Zheng Haiyang added, “Miss Xiao, do you know the house you’re currently renting was built by my Grandpa when he married Grandma? He gave it to her as a wedding present. Grandma and Grandpa only moved after my uncle had his grandson! They were very reluctant to leave. It was a waste for the house to sit there, but they couldn’t bear to sell it. So they wanted to rent it, but they were afraid that they wouldn’t find a good renter. Therefore, the house had been worrying them. Grandma must have believed in your character to rent the house to you.”

Xiao Lingyu did overhear the conversation between Grandpa Song and Grandma Song before she rented the house. However, she didn’t expect Grandma Song actually build the house as a wedding present for Grandma Song. No wonder they cared so much for it. This house was a testament to their love and affection for each other.

Zheng Haiyang said, "Miss Xiao, would you like to see the shop now? It's about 100 square meters. Will that be too small?"

Xiao Lingyu chuckled, "100 square meters is still too small? Then what is big?" Then, she added with more seriousness, "A shop of that size is enough." She was not going to start a vegetable market. She was going for quality over quantity.

"Then, shall we go now and have a look together?" Gu Ziyue suggested. "The shop is in the city center. If you're not satisfied with the shop, we can look at the others."

Xiao Lingyu was concerned, "But it's business hours now. Won't we be interrupting the owners?"

Zheng Haiyang huffed, "They should be thankful that I've not kicked them out! I'm bound by the lease to let them stay until the end of this month. Then, I'll send them packing!" He added, "Plus, the shop is mine. The lease is almost up, so it's within my right to end the lease and find a better renter."

"Alright then." Xiao Lingyu was persuaded.

This was her first step into the business world, so she had to be prepared.

The group left the hotel.

They had no idea the storm they had left in their wake.

...

"Master Gu! Master Gu!" A waiter rushed into the kitchen.

Gu Rufeng frowned and scolded, "Xiao Lin, why are you in the kitchen when you should be outside working?"

Xiao Lin smiled mysteriously, "Master Gu, guess what I saw earlier?"

Master Gu said unhappily, "You shouldn't be looking at anything but the customers and their needs!"

"Master Gu, it's not that. I saw President Gu walking around and laughing happily with a girl. She might be his girlfriend." Xiao Lin revealed.

Master Gu stopped cooking. He said excitedly, "What did you just say?"

Xiao Lin repeated, "I saw President Gu walking around and laughing happily with a girl. She might be his girlfriend."

"Are you sure you didn't see wrongly?" Master Gu asked suspiciously.

"Yes!" Xiao Lin confirmed. "President Gu brought her to his private room. President Gu's friends are there too. Master Gu, do you think President Gu was introducing his girlfriend to Young Master Zheng and the others?"

Master Gu's face darkened. "Okay. You should get back to work."

Xiao Lin huffed, "Master Gu, President Gu has a girlfriend. Aren't you going to take a look? President Gu's girlfriend is very beautiful. She's tall and fair-skinned. She is very pretty." At this point, his eyes shone with starlight as he fantasized, "If I had such a beautiful girlfriend, I would definitely be so happy."

Master Gu said, "Sadly, you don't, so get back to work, or I'll deduct this month's bonus."

Xiao Lin quickly ran back to work.

Master Gu chopped the vegetables angrily. 'Gu Ziyue, that brat! How can he not tell me about it when he has a girlfriend? And to think, he'd introduce her to his friends first before his third uncle! No, I need to go take a look.'

Everyone in the Gu Family was concerned about Gu Ziyue's marriage. After all, he was already 26 years old. 'If the girl is really that brat's girlfriend, I have to bring her back to the family for everyone to see.'

Gu Rufeng instructed his disciples to take over and left the kitchen. He headed to Gu Ziyue's private room.

On the way, Gu Rufeng asked a passing waiter, "Is President Gu in the private room?"

The waiter shook his head, "No, President Gu has just gone out with Young Master Zheng and the rest."

Gu Rufeng asked, "Did President Gu bring a girl with him?"

The waiter answered truthfully, "Yes." Then, he smiled, "Master Gu, that girl is very beautiful. She matches President Gu."

Gu Rufeng's face darkened, and he said, "Alright, I got it. Go back to work!" He felt so left out. Everyone at the hotel knew about Gu Ziyue's new girlfriend but not him. He would have to interrogate Gu Ziyue when he returned.

...

Xiao Lingyu followed the guys to Zheng Haiyang's shop at Salvation Road.

The shop was currently a boutique. There were some customers inside. Business was good. Xiao Lingyu had no idea why the owners didn't want to pay rent. They probably thought Zheng Haiyang didn't need the money and thus were trying to take advantage of him.

Beside the shop was a large supermarket and so it had a large parking lot in front of it. Nearby were the high-end residential areas like Mountainside Residence, Epicenter Residence, and Happiness One Residence.

Xiao Lingyu couldn't be more satisfied with the shop location.

Zheng Haiyang asked, "So Miss Xiao, what do you think? This place is not bad, right?" He added proudly, "The shop rental is quite high, and that's why the owners haven't been paying. They said they didn't have enough profit to cover the rental... But look at their customers! Regardless, I'll just get what they owed from their lease. But, I swear I'll be careful with my next renter, so I won't get scammed again!"

Gu Ziyue coughed twice to warn Zheng Haiyang. 'Why would you say those things? What are you insinuating? Are you really doing me a favor or not?'

Zheng Haiyang immediately fell silent.

Xiao Lingyu caught their quick interaction, but she didn't mind.

She smiled and nodded. "Young Master Zheng, don't worry. I won't evade the rent. I plan to start an organic vegetable and fruit store. Plus, I have the cooperation with the Gu Family Hotel as capital. Therefore, I will have the rent available for the starting months. After the business takes off, I'll pay the rent on time too. Plus, the shop is in such a good location, so it's expected that the rental will be high." However, based on Xiao Lingyu's knowledge, the rental for this shop would skyrocket even more a few years later. So, technically, setting up her shop here at this moment was a strategic move.

Zheng Haiyang coughed embarrassedly, "Miss Xiao, you're being too polite. Of course, I believe you. You have my grandmother's vote of confidence. I know you are an honest person... unlike my current renter. By the by, you should just call me Haiyang. Young Master Zheng sounds so weird and uncomfortable to me."

"Yes, Miss Xiao, you can call me Ziyue too." Gu Ziyue added. Only then did he realize Xiao Lingyu had been referring to him as President Gu. "We're friends now, so you should stop calling me President Gu. It's so strange."

"Miss Xiao, you can call me Yifan!"

"Miss Xiao, and you can call me Xuan Hao!"

Xiao Lingyu was overwhelmed by their show of friendliness. She nodded and smiled, "Okay, then. Please don't call me Miss Xiao either. You can just call me Lingyu!"

"Okay!"

Zheng Haiyang said, "Lingyu, since you like this shop, I'll have the owner move out within the month so you can move in as soon as possible."

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Okay. Call me when you need to sign the contract."

"Of course!" Zheng Haiyang replied.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Thank you, Haiyang."

"No, Lingyu, thank you for solving my problem." Then, Zheng Haiyang added shyly, "Lingyu, can you reserve some of your vegetables for me in the future? I don't need much, only some to snack on."

Xiao Lingyu's vegetables were too delicious. He couldn't get enough of them.

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Does Grandma Song know you're such a foodie? But, alright, I'll try to save a small batch for you in the future."

After Xiao Lingyu settled on the shop, she parted from the men. She had something else to attend to.

...

After Xiao Lingyu left, Zheng Haiyang and his friends asked Gu Ziyue, "Ziyue, where did you find Xiao Lingyu? And does she have a boyfriend?"

Gu Ziyue shook his head and said, "I've only known her for two or three days. As for her relationship status, I'm not sure. But I know she is close to Chief Jiang Tao from our police station!"

"What?!" Zheng Haiyang and the other two were shocked..

Chapter 130: Buying a Car

Xiao Lingyu needed to provide crops to the Gu Family Hotel daily, but she wouldn't be staying at the county town every day. Xiao Lingyu considered booking a car to travel between Xing An Town and Xing Yin County, but the fee would be too high. Xiao Lingyu was at a loss.

This problem would be solved if she had a car. While she was at City Z, she got her driver's license because she was given a company car. Therefore, she knew how to drive. However, cars were expensive. Even with her current savings, she couldn't afford one.

'What should I do?' Xiao Lingyu pondered, 'But it'll be so inconvenient without a car! It looks this investment is necessary.' If a new car were too expensive, then she would check out the second-hand cars. A second-hand car of around 25,000 RMB should be good enough. However, her knowledge of cars was limited to how to drive them. She didn't know how to choose and appraise them. She was afraid of being scammed.

In the county town, the only people she knew were drivers were Jiang Tao and Gu Ziyue's group. However, it was inconvenient for her to trouble either party.

Xiao Lingyu thought about it and decided to go to the secondhand vehicle dealership first.

Xiao Lingyu came to Teng Fei car dealership.

Teng Fei car dealership was the largest car dealership in the entire Xing Yin County. They dealt with both first-hand and second-hand cars.

"Hi, may I help you?" As soon as she entered, a salesperson came to her.

"I want to look at the used cars." Xiao Lingyu said directly.

"Okay, what is your budget?" The salesperson asked.

"It's between 20,000 and 30,000 RMB!"

"Alright, please follow me!"

...

In the office of Teng Fei car dealership, Zheng Haiyang, Yuan Xuanhao, and Qian Yifan were chatting.

"Ziyue received a call from his third uncle. He sounded quite anxious. Could something have happened?" Qian Yifan said with some worry. "Should we go and take a look?"

Zheng Haiyang said, "What else could it be? It's probably about Ziyue's marriage."

"Huh?" Qian Yifan was confused.

Zheng Haiyang grinned. "How can you not realize it? When Ziye brought Xiao Lingyu to the private room, we all mistook her for his boyfriend. There were other clients at the hotel. Someone must have noticed it too and reported it to Third Uncle Gu. Naturally, he's going to skewer Ziye for details."

"Oh!" Qian Yifan instantly understood. "Hmm, Xuanhao, what are you looking at?"

Yuan Xuanhao frowned slightly and said, "I think I saw Xiao Lingyu."

"Ah, Xiao Lingyu?" Qian Yifan followed Yuan Xuanhao's gaze, but he didn't see anything. "Are you sure?"

"He's right. That is indeed Xiao Lingyu!" From Zheng Haiyang's angle, he could see Xiao Lingyu examining the cars.

"Is she here to buy a car?" Qian Yifan stood up to have a better view. "It does look like it. But, is she selecting a used car?"

"Let's go and take a look!" Yuan Xuanhao said.

"Okay!" The other two echoed. The three men had a good impression of Xiao Lingyu but not in a romantic way. They felt Xiao Lingyu was a friend worth having. Furthermore, Xiao Lingyu had helped their friend, Gu Ziye, in his time of need.

Xiao Lingyu heard someone call her name when the salesperson introduced her to the car. "Lingyu!"

The salesperson saw the new arrivals and greeted respectfully, "President Yuan, Young Master Zheng, Young Master Qian!"

Yuan Xuanhao said, "You can leave now. I'll serve this customer."

The salesperson felt conflicted. That meant he couldn't get the commission anymore. Then, Yuan Xuanhao said, "Don't worry. The customer's sales will still count as yours."

The salesperson said happily. "Okay then, President Yuan. I'll go do something else."

After the salesperson left, Xiao Lingyu smiled and said, "What a coincidence."

Zheng Haiyang said, "Lingyu, do you think it's fate for us to meet twice in a day?"

Xiao Lingyu chuckled. Xiao Lingyu was wondering if she should call these people to help her before she came to the car dealership. She didn't, but these people appeared on their own. She felt her luck had improved greatly since her rebirth. Perhaps it was God making up for her or for Xiao Tong.

Qian Yifan asked, "Lingyu, are you going to buy a car?"

"Yes, I need a car!" Xiao Lingyu nodded.

"But, why are you looking at second-hand cars?" Zheng Haiyang frowned and asked.

Xiao Lingyu admitted, "I can only afford a second-hand car for now."

Yuan Xuanhao frowned and said, "Like houses, you can pay in installments. Lingyu, I suggest you buy a new car. There are some models that you can purchase with a low down payment."

Zheng Haiyang nodded. "Lingyu, it's better to buy a new car than a used one."

Most people didn't know about the inside information behind the second-hand cars industry, but as the President of the car dealership, Yuan Xuanhao definitely did. Xiao Lingyu and Gu Ziyue might be long-term partners, and they were friends with Xiao Lingyu. They didn't want to lie to her.

Xiao Lingyu was startled when she heard she could pay in installments. Why didn't she think of that?

In the future, many big purchases like houses and cars would be paid in installments. She was probably too muddle-headed earlier.

"Then, I'll have to trouble President Yuan to show me those models!" Xiao Lingyu said. "A car around 100,000 RMB should be fine." Even though she could pay in installments, she knew not to go overboard. A car around 100,000 RMB wouldn't be too good or too bad.

Of course, 100,000 RMB was already a lot for rural people. For Xiao Lingyu, it was acceptable.

"Lingyu, don't worry. Teng Fei belongs to President Yuan. He will definitely give you the best discount, "Zheng Haiyang said with a smile.

Qian Yifan nodded, "That's right. You are in good hands!"

Xiao Lingyu smiled. "Then I shall thank President Yuan in advance." Of course, Gu Ziyue's friends would come from extraordinary backgrounds.

Yuan Xuanhao introduced Xiao Lingyu to a few types of cars. In the end, Xiao Lingyu chose a silver-white SUV that cost 108,000 RMB. However, Yuan Xuanhao did give her a big discount of 40,000 RMB. In other words, the car only cost 68,000 in the end. She would pay in a three-year installment program and thus 2000 RMB per month.

With the car, Xiao Lingyu wouldn't waste too much time on traveling and transportation anymore. However, since this was more of an impulse buy, Xiao Lingyu didn't bring her driver's license with her. She left the car at the dealership for now. When she returned with her documents, she could drive it away.

...

An anxious Gu Ziyue rushed to Gu Rufeng's office.

"Third Uncle, why did you find me in such a hurry? Is there something wrong?" Gu Ziyue asked.

Gu Rufeng ignored Gu Ziyue. His eyes were fixed on the door. No one came in after Gu Ziyue. Gu Rufeng couldn't help but stand up to look outside. "Where is she?"

Gu Ziyue asked with confusion, "Third uncle, who are you looking for?" His third uncle urged him to come back to the hotel. However, now that he was back, his third uncle didn't look anxious at all. What was going on?

Gu Rufeng said unhappily, "You have the cheek to ask me that? Where have you hidden her?"

Gu Ziyue was confused, "Third uncle, who are you talking about? Who have I hidden?"

"How can you not know who I'm talking about?" Gu Rufeng said sternly, "Are you going to show us when she's pregnant?"

Gu Ziyue immediately thought of Xiao Lingyu's arrival at the hotel this morning. His three friends mistook her for his girlfriend. The other people at the hotel probably made the same mistake and imported that false impression to Gu Rufeng.

Gu Ziyue knew how much the Gu Family cared about his marriage. They would grab onto the smallest rumor. It was why Gu Rufeng had summoned him back so urgently. Now, Gu Ziyue realized his third uncle was talking about Xiao Lingyu.

Gu Ziyue did not know whether to laugh or cry, "Third uncle, you misunderstand. Xiao Lingyu is not my girlfriend. She's just my ordinary friend and business partner."

"Ordinary friend? Business partner?" Gu Rufeng stared at Gu Ziyue suspiciously, as if he was trying to find a flaw in Gu Ziyue's face.

Gu Ziyue nodded, "That's right!"

"What business partner?" Gu Rufeng still couldn't believe it.

Gu Ziyue turned around and looked outside, then turned around and closed the door. He explained, "Third uncle, Xiao Lingyu is the one who has been supplying the vegetables to the Gu Family Hotel."

"Oh!" Gu Rufeng was quite disappointed. He thought that the eldest grandson of the Gu family had finally found a girlfriend. But it was a fluke.

Gu Ziyue ignored Gu Rufeng's disappointed face. He coughed. "Third Uncle, since there's nothing else, I'll be leaving!"

Gu Rufeng glared at him with his sharp eyes and said, "If you have time to go play, you should get yourself a girlfriend first!"

Gu Ziyue rolled his eyes.. "There are the younger brothers to do that!" Before Gu Rufeng could get angry, he quickly ran away.