

Chapter 191: Changes

In a luxuriously decorated living room, a middle-aged man in his forties and a young man in his twenties were sitting on the sofa. One was watching TV, while the other was playing with his mobile phone.

“Bang!” Chu Mingjiao opened the door with great force and then stormed into the kitchen.

The father and son looked at each other.

Sun Xudong looked at his father, Sun Hai, and said carefully in a low voice, “Dad, who provoked mom this time?”

Sun Hai shook his head and said with a wry smile, “In this neighborhood, who dares to provoke your mom?”

Sun Xudong glanced at the kitchen. There were a lot of loud crashes. He whispered, “Dad, I think Mom is entering menopause. Her temper is raging, and she gets angry so easily. Maybe you should take her to the doctor, or I might need to run away from home.” Sun Xudong was about to adopt schizophrenia living under constant stress and violence.

At that moment, Chu Mingjiao walked out of the kitchen. When she saw the father and son sitting on the sofa, she couldn’t help but get angry.

She said loudly, “Play, play, play. All you know how to do is play. Will you die if you don’t play games?” Then, her eyes moved to the pile of garbage on the coffee table. She shouted, “Eat, eat, eat. All you know how to do is eat. Look at the mess you’ve made on the ground. Clean it up yourself! Or are you waiting for me to serve you? Can’t you see that I still have much housework to do? Or do you think I’m your maid?” She glanced at Sun Xudong, who had his head lowered. “Sun Xudong, you’re already over 20 years old. Can’t you find a proper job? All you do is hold the phone all day long. Are you going to find a job in there?”

Sun Xudong immediately defended himself, “Mom, how many times have I told you? I have a job. I am an online game designer. I play games on the phone to find inspiration. I have a job, okay?”

“Do you think that is a job?” Chu Mingjiao said angrily, “How come I haven’t seen you take a penny home then? Why do you keep asking us for money? Since you’re working, where’s the money?”

Sun Xudong said loudly, “Mom, I’ve told you. I’ve invested in a gaming studio with a few friends. My money is all there. Mom, you have to stop criticizing everything I do. To save you the trouble, I’ll leave so that you won’t get angry anymore.”

Then, Sun Xudong stood up and took his phone, intending to leave.

“Stop!” Chu Wanjiao immediately stopped her son. “If you leave this house, don’t ever come back again.”

“Fine!” Su Xudong got angry too. He was fed up already. He was really considering leaving the house.

At that moment, Sun Hai sniffed and asked, "There is something burning. Honey, what are you cooking?"

Chu Mingjiao immediately reacted. "Goodness, I left the cabbage burning on the stove!" She quickly ran back into the kitchen.

Sun Hai and Sun Xudong immediately heaved a sigh of relief.

Sun Xudong immediately relaxed. He wiped the sweat off his forehead and sincerely suggested, "Dad, I beg you to do something. If Mom continues like this, she will drive me crazy. Oh, I might really be forced to run away from home. Dad, you won't let your son be homeless, right?" He paused for a moment and asked, "Dad, why does Mom rarely get angry with you, but she treats me like I'm not even her son. Am I adopted?"

"Nonsense!" Sun Hai flicked Sun Xudong's head and sighed softly, "Your mom is probably going through menopause. You should be considerate of her. After a while, she'll be back to the loving mother you know." Sun Hai couldn't do anything about his wife's temper either. Maybe this was the state of a menopausal woman.

Sun Xudong said suspiciously, "But Dad, do you really think that version of Mom can return?"

"I don't know either." Sun Hai shrugged.

"Hmm, what smells so good?" Sun Xudong suddenly wrinkled his nose and said, "Dad, what is Mom cooking? It smells so delicious." Then, Sun Xudong frowned. "Did Mom get takeaway? Such a delicious smell hasn't come from our kitchen in a long time already."

People say cooking is a reflection of a person's heart. Since his mother's temper became irritable, her cooking skills became so-so. They were either too salty or tasteless. They were either overcooked or raw.

This was the first time in months since the father and son smelled something fragrant from the kitchen.

Sun Hai nodded. "It does seem to come from the kitchen."

Sun Xudong said, "It already smells so good. It must taste greater."

While the father and son discussed in the living, Chu Mingjiao, in the kitchen, was also puzzled. At first, she was regretful that she bought such an expensive purchase on impulse. However, she couldn't return it. In that case, she had to cook with it.

She had already made up her mind that if the vegetable weren't worth the price, she would get the people from the Commerce Bureau to seize the vegetable store.

She poured the burnt cabbage into the trash can. She picked up the leeks, washed them, and pan-fried the eggs with leeks.

After pouring the eggs into the pan, she added the leeks. The moment the leeks touched the pan, the fragrance immediately assailed her nostrils. It cleared up her muddled mind. She felt cleansed by a refreshing spring.

Chu Mingjiao's mood immediately brightened up as she said in a low voice, "The leeks are really amazing. The dish is not even done, but it's already so fragrant. No wonder they are so expensive."

She then realized why the other customers had reacted that way when she accused them of being actors. They told her that she shouldn't question them when she hadn't tasted the vegetables. Now that she thought about it, the vegetables were really expensive for a reason. Soon, the fried egg was ready.

Sun Hai and his son couldn't stand the temptation of the aroma, so they ran into the kitchen.

"Mom, what are you cooking?"

"Honey, why does it smell so good?"

The father and son asked almost at the same time.

Chu Mingjiao smiled and said, "I made fried eggs with leeks! You guys should ready to the dining room. I'll make the other dishes, and we can eat."

Sun Xudong saw his mother's smile, and his mouth opened wide in disbelief. He poked his father's arm and said, "Dad, am I seeing things? Mom seems to be smiling. How long has it been since mom last smiled?"

Sun Hai was also stunned and said, "You're not seeing things. Your mom is indeed smiling." His wife hadn't smiled in a long time already.

"Why are you two standing here like idiots?" Chu Mingjiao said, "Hurry up and take out the bowls and chopsticks. The food will be ready soon."

The father and son immediately reacted after being yelled at. One of them quickly went to get the bowls, while the other went to get chopsticks and spoons.

The father and son were in disbelief after they left the kitchen. Sun Xudong said, "Dad, What's wrong with Mom? Is this a new trick to deal with me? Dad, I'm scared. Is Mom really trying to drive me away from home?"

Sun Hai said very loyally, "Son, don't worry. If your mom really wants to drive you away, Dad will accompany you."

Sun Xudong rolled his eyes and said, "Dad, why don't we both run away from home. Let Mom stew in worry for a while."

Sun Hai smacked his son's head. "Your Mom is not feeling well lately. If both of us are gone, we'll drive her crazy. Son, we need to stay by her side and be understanding of her. She needs somewhere to vent her internal fire. Otherwise, all that heat might cause her to get ill."

Sun Xudong said in surprise, "Dad, is it that serious?"

"Yes, it is that serious!" Sun Hai said very seriously, "I read a lot of books about women going through menopause. Son, we'll have to soldier through this. Things will get better."

Sun Xudong nodded. "Okay. I'll be her punching bag until she returns to normal." Well, he was her son, after all.

“What are you two whispering about?” Chu Mingjiao walked out with the rice. She told Sun Xudong, “Go and bring the other dishes from the kitchen.”

“Yes!” Sun Xudong immediately ran into the kitchen and came out later with a dish in each hand. As he walked, he sniffed the plate of eggs with leeks and said, “Mom, this dish is amazing! Your cooking skills have improved again.”

Chu Mingjiao was in a good mood. She smiled. “This has nothing to do with my cooking skills. The ingredients are amazing.”

Seeing her smile again, the father and son looked at each other. They were sure that they weren’t mistaken.

When Chu Mingjiao saw this, she said suspiciously. “What are you two doing? Hurry up and sit down to eat!”

“Okay, okay!” The father and son immediately nodded and then sat down to eat.

Unsurprisingly, the first dish they picked was naturally the fried egg with leeks.

“Wow, the leeks are delicious!”

“Mom, did you prepare the leeks differently? Why are they so delicious?”

“It’s not me. It’s the ingredients.” Chu Mingjiao said, “Do you know how much the leeks cost?”

“Mom, we don’t frequent the market. How would we know?” Sun Xudong said.

“Ten RMB per catty,” Chu Mingjiao said. “The leeks in the market are only sold for three RMB per catty.”

“What?! So expensive!” The father and son said in disbelief.

“But there’s a reason!” Chu Mingjiao was now a fan. She was excited like she had found a new world.

“You have no idea how good the business the vegetable store had. Even if the vegetables are ridiculously expensive, many people rush to buy them. I was suspicious of them. I thought the boss hired these people as actors, so I went to challenge the owner. I said I would get the people from the Commerce Bureau to seize the shop for its ridiculous prices.”

Sun Hai and his son were dumbfounded. Why was their mother/wife acting like that? So what if the store’s product was expensive? What did that have to do with her? She could just walk away. Why did she need to find trouble when there was none.

Chu Mingjiao said, “But now, I realize how ridiculous I was. The boss has marked the price of everything, so why should I be indignant and angry? Thinking back, I really can’t tell.”

The father and son were speechless.

The father and son looked at each other again, and the doubt in their eyes grew.

When did their mother/wife change? Or turn back to her previous gentle self?

“No, I have to apologize tomorrow!” Chu Mingjiao said decisively.

Sun Xudong instantly asked in disbelief, “Mom, who are you? Are you still my Mom?”

Chu Mingjiao hit his head with a chopstick and said, “What nonsense are you talking about? If I’m not your Mom, who am I?”

Chapter 192: The Boss is too Lazy

At the same time, there were other customers pulled by their friends to Xiao Lingyu’s shop and bought some vegetables on their friends’ advice. They still didn’t think the vegetables should be so expensive.

Around noon, they started to cook. Instantly, the fragrance immediately filled the room.

“Wow, why does it smell so good?”

“It just went into the pot, and it already smells so good. It’ll be better when it’s cooked!”

People were excited. After the lunch was ready, the students came back from school.

“Mom/Grandma, what did you make today? It smells so good. I’m drooling already!”

“Grandma, I want to eat vegetables!”

“Okay, Grandma will get some for you!”

That afternoon, many picky eaters, who didn’t like vegetables, filled their bowls with vegetables.

Some families had children facing the university entrance exam. The students were under a lot of pressure as the date approached. They couldn’t sleep or eat well. That day, a high school student smelled the fragrance when he returned home. His mind cleared. He ran into the kitchen and asked, “Mom, what are you making? I’m so hungry!”

The lady in the kitchen wanted to cry. Lately, her son had developed anorexia from too much stress. He could not eat anything. If he ate, he might even vomit. It had been so long since she heard her son actively ask for something to eat.

The mother wiped her tears and said with a smile. “Okay. Yong ‘Er, have a seat. I’ll serve the food in a minute!”

Yong ‘Er smiled. “Mom, let me help you.” He served the dishes and prepared the table. After he sat down at the dining table, his stomach growled even louder. He picked up a piece of cabbage and put it into his mouth. He thought he would feel nauseous, but he didn’t. If anything, the sweetness of the vegetables lifted his appetite.

When his mother noticed his son didn’t spit the food out, she immediately picked up a piece of eggplant and put it into his bowl. She said excitedly, “Yong ‘Er, try the eggplant. You used to love eggplant.”

Yong ‘Er ate the eggplant. It was amazing too. He picked the other dishes and started to dig in.

The mother noticed her son didn’t show any anorexic reaction, and she was so happy. “This is great. Yong ‘Er, you should hurry up and eat. After you’re done, I’ll go buy more vegetables.” The woman

didn't buy that much that morning. They were expensive, so she didn't want to waste money. However, since the vegetables could help with her son's anorexia, she would pay the world for them!

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All one thousand catties of vegetables were sold out around 1 pm. Xiao Mingyang and Liu Chunhua were incredulous. The expensive stock was all gone. The cheapest vegetable on sale was 3 RMB per catty, and the most expensive was 20 RMB per catty. Even calculated using the cheapest price, Xiao Lingyu would have three thousand RMB in profit. And that was the minimum price!

They couldn't even earn that much in a year, but Xiao Lingyu managed that in a day.

This... was a huge blow to them.

"Yu 'Er, the vegetables are all sold out?" Liu Chunhua couldn't hide her excitement.

"Yes, fourth aunt. We can close the shop and go home to rest now!" Xiao Lingyu said with a smile. Xiao Lingyu predicted this. Xing Yin County was not that rich, but even the poorest county had a few rich families.

Her vegetables were expensive, but as long as they were worth the price, people would buy them. Furthermore, her vegetables were not only delicious but also had other special effects.

Liu Chunhua was shocked. "Yu 'Er, we're closing shop already?"

Xiao Mingyang saw the silly look on his wife's face, and he laughed. "We are all sold out! Why should we stay open? Besides, we've all woken up early today. We should go back to rest."

Mother Xiao nodded. "That's right. We will go to Yu 'Er's place to rest for a while. We'll depart for the village around three or four."

Xiao Lingyu rented a bungalow with many rooms. The four tidied up the shop and went back to the rented house to rest. They woke up early and worked through the day. They were tired already.

When people returned to the shop to make some more purchases for dinner, they were shocked to find the place closed.

"They've closed already? They've sold out?"

"It should be. Otherwise, why would they close shop so early? Vegetables aren't fresh the next day!"

"It looks like we'll have to come back tomorrow."

"Based on the situation today, we'll have to come early tomorrow, or we might miss everything!"

"That's right. But when does the shop open?"

"It was their grand opening today, so they had to follow an auspicious time. I believe the opening time will return to normal tomorrow."

"Seriously. Why didn't the boss put up a notice to tell us the opening hours?"

"I've frequented Miss Xiao when she sold her produce on a tricycle. Unlike the other vendors, she didn't start selling at 5 or 6 am. Instead, she started her business at around 8 or 9 am. I suppose her shop will be the same."

"8 or 9 am? How can the boss be so lazy? Every vegetable vendor wants to get up as early as possible, but she does things as she pleases."

"Haha. Others need to worry about having not enough sales, but Boss Xiao needs to worry about not having enough stock. So why should she hurry?"

"You're right!"

Of course, Xiao Lingyu didn't hear all these.

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Old Master Gong took the fishing rod and went to the river to fish.

The guard Xiao Wang stood by his side.

At this moment, Old Master Gong asked, "Xiao Wang, I heard the girl harvested the vegetables to have them sold today?"

Xiao Wang nodded. "Yes, I heard from the villagers that they had picked over 800 catties of vegetables. And she would sell them in the county town."

Old Master Gong sighed, "The girl was the top scorer, a famous university graduate. But now, she has to grow and sell vegetables. What a waste of her talent!"

Xiao Wang said, "Everyone has their own aspirations. Plus, I heard Xiao Lingyu had to do this because of her ex-boyfriend."

Old Master Gong had been in Taoyuan Village for a while already, so he had heard of Xiao Lingyu's failed relationship.

"Xiao Lingyu is such a good girl. To think she would run into such a scumbag." Xiao Wang sympathized with Xiao Lingyu, "Fortunately, karma is always watching. The scumbag and his family got their retribution."

Old Master Gong said in amusement, "Haha, it sounds like you care for the girl."

Xiao Wang scratched his head and said with an embarrassed smile, "Xiao Lingyu is such a good girl, but she met such a scum, causing her to live in this small village to farm and sell vegetables. I think it's a pity."

Old Master Gong nodded and said, "It's indeed a pity!"

However, he felt that Xiao Lingyu's attitude towards him was a little strange. It felt like she wanted to curry favor with him but also wanted to push him away at the same time. However, she didn't curry favor with him because of his background, but something else.

Old Master Gong asked Xiao Ling, "Do you feel that this girl's attitude towards me is a little strange?"

Xiao Wang was a little confused and asked, "Is it? I think Xiao Lingyu treats old master quite normal."

"..." Old Master Gong waved his hand and said, "Forget it. You are as unobservant as usual."

Then, Xiao Wang looked at Old Master Gong with hesitation in his eyes.

"Just say what's on your mind. Don't tell anyone you're Gong Zhen's personal guard since you don't even dare to say something." Old Master Gong ordered.

Xiao Wang stood up straight and immediately said, "Old Master, Auntie Chen went to the county town. Are we supposed to eat on our own today?"

Old Master Gong, "..."

Old Master Gong said with a dark expression, "The girl and her mom are both at the county town. Zhengyang is the only one at home. If you want to eat his cooking, then go ahead."

"..." Xiao Wang immediately shook his head. "Old Master, I'll follow you wherever you go!"

Mother Xiao's cooking skills were superb, and Xiao Lingyu's cooking was also passable. However, Father Xiao's cooking skills... were very hard to describe.

The dishes he cooked were like pig's food. Perhaps even pigs wouldn't want them. It was too horrible!

They were from the same family. How could there be such a huge difference in their skill level?

At that moment, Xiao Zhengyang came over. He asked, "Elder Gong, are you going to my house for meals today?"

Xiao Wang was nervous when he heard that.

Old Master Gong shook his head and said, "Zhengyang, I had already asked my chef to cook before I left home. I won't be visiting you today."

"Oh, that's great!" Xiao Zhengyang nodded. Then, he said, "Old Master, can you ask your chef to cook more? I'm planning to go over to your place for lunch today."

Old Master Gong, "..."

Little Wang, "..."

What is this twist of fate?

Old Master Gong nodded and said, "Okay."

Then, he instructed, "Xiao Wang, go and tell Xiao Zhao to cook more."

"Yes!" Xiao Wang obeyed.

Xiao Zhengyang smiled and said, "Elder, let me accompany you!"

Chapter 193: Unanimous Objection

“Do you think Qiuying’s family will be able to sell all the vegetables they picked today?”

“That’s more than 800 catties! Even if they are selling it in the county town, how many people will buy from them?”

“But I heard Xiao Lingyu specially rented a shop in the county to sell vegetables!”

“Is it a shop or a stall?”

“It’s a shop!”

“A shop rental won’t be cheap. A good shop location costs several thousand per month and profit from selling vegetables is low. Will she get enough for rent?”

“Maybe she can find a way to make money? Otherwise, why would Xiao Lingyu rent a shop?”

“Hey, isn’t that Xiao Lingyu’s car? They’re back so soon? They’re already sold out?”

“That is Xiao Lingyu’s car. The vehicle behind is Xiao Mingyang’s truck. Both of their families have a vehicle. How impressive!”

“The car costs more than 100,000 RMB. Even Xiao Mingyang’s truck costs 70,000 to 80,000 RMB. It looks like Xiao Zhengyang and Xiao Mingyang have earned a lot over the years that they are willing to spend on luxury items like vehicles.” The villagers didn’t know about the installment payment method.

“Xiao Lingyu contracted land and built shed. She bought a car and rented a shop. She must have spent a lot. Just how much money Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Zhengyang have earned over the years. They seem to have endless money.”

“The girl is a university graduate. She knows how to earn money. I heard if you work in the big city, someone like Xiao Lingyu could earn up to ten thousand RMB per month. Xiao Lingyu had worked outside for years already, and she must have saved a lot of money.”

“So what? Money can’t buy her a husband. Xiao Lingyu got herself ruined while working in the big city. She won’t find a good family to marry in the future.”

“She can stay with her parents.”

“That’s easier to say than done. A girl needs to get married. It’s fine now since Xiao Lingye hasn’t gotten married. After he got married and his parents were old, do you think Xiao Lingye’s wife and children wouldn’t have comments about Xiao Lingye staying with them? Do you think they wouldn’t mind an old spinster leeching off them?”

“You’re right. Sigh. That brat Chen Ran has really ruined the girl’s future.”

“Chen Dahua and his wife are both in jail. No one in the Chen Family is willing to take Chen Ran in. He was sent to the rescue station.”

“That’s quite pitiful!”

“Is it really though? He brought this upon himself.”

“That’s not true. Xiao Lingyu took revenge on him. Xiao Lingyu is really capable. Chen Dahua and his wife were powerful people, but she managed to topple them over. She didn’t even show them any mercy.” She was implying that Xiao Lingyu was ruthless and cold-blooded.

No one dared to say anything after that. The villagers understood that they couldn’t afford to offend Xiao Zhengyang’s family.

Xiao Jun was bitten by a poisonous snake not too long ago. If Xiao Lingyu didn’t offer to drive him to the county hospital, who knew what might happen to the young man. The villagers couldn’t guarantee that they wouldn’t need the Xiao Family’s help in the future.

Xiao Zhengyang’s family was not saints. They wouldn’t allow people to insult them without retribution.

Furthermore, Xiao Lingyu had contracted a big farm. She would need to hire people from time to time. If they had a good relationship with the Xiao Family, they would be considered first. Xiao Lingyu paid well too.

Therefore, no one agreed with the villager who slandered Xiao Lingyu. At that moment, Xiao Lingyu’s car passed by.

Everyone immediately greeted Xiao Lingyu and the others. “Qiuying, Lingyu, you’re back so early. are the vegetables sold out?”

Mother Xiao replied, “Yes!”

Liu Chunhua said excitedly, “We were sold out around noon! We rested at Lingyu’s place in the county town before we returned home.”

“Sold out around noon?” The villagers were shocked. “That’s so early! All 800 catties are gone just like that?” Did vegetables sell so well in the county town?

“Yes. You have no idea, but we don’t have enough stock to sell!” Liu Chunhua chuckled.

“800 catties of vegetables are not enough?” The villagers were even more surprised.

Liu Chunhua nodded and said. However, she didn’t go further than that. The most impressive thing was Yu ‘Er sold the vegetables at a high price, and she had earned several thousand RMB that day.

Money shouldn’t reveal itself.

Xiao Lingyu was capable because she was able to earn a lot. However, Liu Chunhua knew that it has caused some villagers to be jealous and envious. It would be bad if they decided to sabotage the farm.

Some of the villagers thought about bringing their own vegetables to the county town to sell once they heard that. Now that the road had been repaired, it was convenient to move between the two locations.

Chen Qiuying and Liu Chunhua chatted with the villagers some more before they returned home.

Xiao Lingyu was exhausted when she reached home. She laid down on the bed to rest.

In the same house, Mother Xiao and Liu Chunhua were preparing dinner. They chatted. Liu Chunhua began, "Second sister, I have no idea vegetables can sell so well. We should pick more to sell tomorrow! We barely have enough to sell today!"

Mother Xiao nodded. "But that depends on how large the harvest is. We are doing a daily harvest, but we only have six Mu of land."

"You're right." Liu Chunhua nodded. "In the past, when Yu 'Er revealed she was going to plant six Mu of vegetables, many villagers mocked her for wasting money. They said this would be a losing business. It was an insult to her education but look at things now..." Liu Chunhua laughed. "Yu 'Er is wonderful! She managed to sell all the vegetables that normally would be left to rot in the fields. If others found out the truth, they would be so jealous."

Mother Xiao was not as happy as her sister-in-law. If this happened before she knew about the farming space, she would be ecstatic. But now she knew the vegetables sell so well because of the spring water. Therefore, she was worried that the farming space would be found out and her daughter would be captured.

The better the vegetables sold, the more worried she was. They were becoming more well-known. It might attract the wrong attention. However, there was nothing she could do but be careful.

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Xiao Lingyu already calculated the account when she was in the county town. She earned a total of 6776 RMB that day. It was a lie to say she was not excited. However, she knew she couldn't gloat about it.

Perhaps it was because she was too tired. She fell asleep immediately.

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"What? All 800 catties of vegetables are all sold out?" Father Xiao could not believe it.

"Haha. Second Brother, it's not 800 catties but 1000 catties!" Xiao Mingyang was in a good mood. "The prices are not low, but people go crazy for them!"

Father Xiao would think this was a joke if it didn't come from his brother. The vegetables sold well despite their high prices. This sounded like a joke.

"Oh right, Yu 'Er, how much shall we harvest tomorrow?" Xiao Mingyang asked Xiao Lingyu.

"We'll try to go for 1000 catties." Xiao Lingyu said, "We'll try to get that much every day. If we can't, then we'll sell as much as we have." She couldn't control plant growth after all.

Mother Xiao thought for a moment. "We should be able to get 1000 catties. However, after a few harvests, the amount will decrease. Yu 'Er, once we finish picking these six Mu of land, what are we going to sell?"

Xiao Lingyu answered, "Mom, we'll plant new vegetables to replace the ones that have been picked."

Mother Xiao nodded. "There is going to be a down period, but it should be fine."

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "It seems that six Mu of land is too little."

Mother Xiao and the other three immediately looked at each other. Then, Father Xiao asked, “Yu ‘Er, do you plan to contract more land?”

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, “That’s right. Six Mu is too small. It’s barely enough to supply the county town. If we want to expand our business, we need to have a greater production capacity. We need at least ten to twenty Mu of land.”

“Yu ‘Er, you want to expand the business? You want to sell further than the county town?” The four were shocked.

Xiao Lingyu said very seriously, “That’s right. I want to sell our vegetables across the nation!”

“Ah?!” This was a huge ambition. The four thought it was impossible. How huge must the farm be to supply the entire nation? Furthermore, the vegetables might not sell well in the other parts of the country.

It was unfathomable.

“We need to think bigger than renting land. I think we should try renting a few mountains,” Xiao Lingyu said after thinking for a while.

For most farmers, unless they had no other choices, they wouldn’t rent out their fertile land. This was because the farmers relied on the land for their livelihood. Once they rented out their land, what would they eat? After all, they farmed the land, not to sell but to feed themselves.

“Rent a few mountains?!” The four were stunned. They thought Xiao Lingyu was confused by the good start. She was getting too over-confident.

Mother Xiao immediately tried to dissuade her, “Yu ‘Er, we have to think about this matter carefully.”

The others immediately nodded, “Indeed, we have to think about it carefully. Renting mountains is not as simple as renting land.”

“Yu ‘Er, we really have to think about this matter carefully.” Father Xiao said very seriously. The biggest issue was the money involved. Renting a whole mountain wasn’t cheap. Then, they had to find people to develop the wilderness into farms. All of that would cost money.

Xiao Lingyu said the strawberries could sell for a million, but that was just a prediction. People had planted strawberries in the past. The fruits were often small and sour. No one wanted to buy them. Even if Xiao Lingyu’s harvest was good and sweet, how did she expect to sell several thousand catties at once? Did she plan to sell them at the shop over a long period? However, strawberries couldn’t be kept for long!

Therefore, Father Xiao didn’t think it was realistic to rely on the strawberries. Right now, he only hoped that his daughter would get back her capital.

Xiao Lingyu nodded. “Don’t worry.. I’ll think about this carefully!” However, she had already decided to rent some mountains once her first batch of strawberries was sold.

Chapter 194: Strong Backing

“Hmm, why isn’t the boss here yet?”

A large group of customers gathered outside Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables early in the morning.

Someone checked the phone for the time and said, “It’s already past seven am. Why isn’t the shop open yet? I came at 6 am to wait. I was afraid that the vegetables would be sold out if I was late.” But, she had waited for an hour and the shop was still not open.

“Shouldn’t vegetable shops be open as early as possible? The other vegetable vendors came so early in the morning. In the summer, they came to sell at around 5 am. But this place is still not open even though it’s already 7 am.”

“Haha. We know Boss Xiao is quite lazy.”

“But, she has a reason to be lazy. Her stuff sells so well. Which other shop sells better than she does?”

“That’s true. But how come the vegetables here are so different from the others?”

“The vegetables here are very fragrant and have an unforgettable taste.”

“Miss Xiao said it’s because their vegetables are all organic. They don’t use pesticides and chemical fertilizers. That is why they are so different from the others.”

“But many countryside farmers also grow organic vegetables. However, the taste is still wildly different from Boss Xiao’s.”

Since Xiao Lingyu’s vegetables tasted so special, there were naturally some doubts.

“You’re right. Also, Boss Xiao’s vegetables can make you feel refreshed and energized. It can improve people’s appetite. I suppose Boss Xiao has her secrets why her vegetables are so different.”

“Indeed. My rheumatism would kill me whenever it rained. However, after having Boss Xiao’s vegetables, the pain is not that bad anymore.”

“So that is why? I was wondering why my muscles don’t feel so sore anymore lately. Even my in-laws said their bones didn’t hurt as much as before. We all thought it was the change in the weather!”

“Oh! I used to get colds easily. But since I had Boss Xiao’s vegetables, there is this constant warmth in my stomach.”

The customers shared their experiences. When Chu Mingjiao heard this discussion, she immediately thought about the heat flashes she had been having recently. She was angry for no reason, and there was like a ball of fire in her body. She roared at her husband and son. However, after having the leeks from this shop yesterday, the fire was doused. It felt like a gentle spring was washing through her.

It was the effect of the leeks!

Chu Mingjiao immediately joined in the discussion. “I have the same experience. Recently, I can’t stand anything. I couldn’t control my temper at all. Everything just doesn’t look right to me.”

“Hmm, that sounds like menopause to me.” An old lady pointed out.

“Oh?” Chu Mingjiao was confused. “Is that menopause?” She had heard about that before. She didn’t think she would be going through it.

“Hey, aren’t you the one who came to cause trouble yesterday?” A customer recognized Chu Mingjiao. “You accused us of being actors, and you wanted to get the people from the Commerce Bureau to seize the shop!”

“Yes!” Someone said angrily, “What are you doing here so early today? Are you here to confirm whether we are hired actors or not? Where are the people from the Commerce Bureau?”

“Exactly. What are you doing here? Let me tell you. It’s useless even if the Commerce Bureau is here. All the vegetables in Boss Xiao’s shop are clearly priced! She isn’t scamming anyone!”

“We’ll tell you again that we are not hired actors! We are Miss Xiao’s old customers. We started to buy from her a month ago. You can leave now.”

Facing the public ire, Chu Mingjiao smiled awkwardly and said, “Please forgive me. It was my fault yesterday. I came here today to apologize to all of you and to Boss Xiao. I finally understood that you were right. There is a reason why Boss Xiao’s stuff is expensive. She is not deceiving her customers.”

“You get it now!”

“Yes. Boss Xiao’s vegetables are too delicious, and they have many benefits, so I came here early to wait for her to open too.” Chu Mingjiao then added with embarrassment. “I’m now an official fan of this shop.”

“A fan?” Some were confused. Then someone immediately concurred, “Yes, I’m a fan too!”

Everyone became fans of Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables!

“The prices here are high, but we can skimp somewhere else to buy more vegetables here.”

“Yes, I do the same thing!”

The vegetables here were good for the body.

“I really want to know how Boss Xiao grows these vegetables. If everyone can grow similar vegetables, then they’ll be cheaper.”

“Haha. You really have high hopes. Boss Xiao must have used some technical methods to grow her vegetables. They are not easily grown, or else, we would have similar vegetables on the market already.”

“You’re right.”

Someone said, “Boss Xiao must have her secrets to be able to grow such beautiful, fragrant, and nutritious vegetables. Do you think Boss Xiao will share her trade secrets openly with others?”

“Correct.”

“I heard the Gu Family Hotel has their vegetable supply from Boss Xiao.”

“The Gu Family Hotel’s business was horrid last month. People said the hotel would close down. But once the hotel released their vegetarian sets, the hotel revived in a few days! Their business was unprecedentedly good!”

“Actually, Mr. Gu from the Gu Family Hotel came yesterday to congratulate Miss Xiao on her shop’s grand opening.”

“Not only that, even Young Master Zheng from our biggest real estate developing company, and Boss Yuan from Teng Fei Car Dealership were here. There were also a few elders who looked very familiar. Oh right, Chief Jiang Tao was here too!”

“Wow, Boss Xiao has some strong backing.”

“Haha. And someone wants to complain about her to the Commerce Bureau!”

The customers brought this up because they wanted to give some people present some reminders. Boss Xiao’s vegetables were expensive. Only those who were rich and powerful could afford her high-grade vegetables.

Boss Xiao came from a farming family, and she grew all the vegetables herself. In essence, she was a farmer.

People would be envious of Boss Xiao’s business, and they’d think they could easily take down a farmer.

Gu Ziyue and his friends thought of the same thing. It was why they came in person yesterday. It was to remind these people with ill intentions that Boss Xiao had very strong backing.

At that moment, two vehicles arrived.

“Hmm, is that Boss Xiao?”

“That is Miss Xiao!”

Xiao Lingyu was so surprised to see the large crowd at her shop. She glanced at her watch. It was 7.30 am. She was late again. But she had a valid reason. She was pregnant, and she was extremely sleepy. If Mother Xiao didn’t come to wake her, she would continue to sleep.

After Xiao Lingyu got out of the car, the crowd gathered around her. “Boss Xiao, you’re late again. We’ve been waiting here for more than an hour already.”

“Boss Xiao, unlike other vegetable vendors, you’re so relaxed. You were late on opening day, and you’re also late today.” Someone joked. “You’re the most chill vegetable seller I know.”

Xiao Lingyu said with embarrassment, “Sorry, everyone, I didn’t know you would come here so early.”

“Boss Xiao, what time does your shop open?” Someone asked, “At first, we thought your shop opened at five or six am like the others.”

Xiao Lingyu considered her health condition and said, “I’ll open at eight am in the future. So you don’t need to come so early anymore.”

“Haha. Boss Xiao, you really are the most relaxed vegetable seller!” Someone laughed.

Xiao Lingyu just smiled, took out the key, opened the door, and said, "Please wait. I'll open once I set up the shelves, okay?"

"Boss Xiao, you can unload directly on the corridor. You don't need to arrange them on the shelves."

Xiao Lingyu looked around. The corridor in front of her shop was large enough. Plus, she was embarrassed that she had so many people waiting for her.

However, this was a large crowd. What if people snatched her stock and ran away without paying? That was every business owner's concern.

Someone saw Xiao Lingyu's hesitation and immediately said, "Don't worry, boss Xiao. We are all very self-aware. We won't steal from you!" They were not offended. After all, Boss Xiao's vegetables were expensive. Someone could get a huge profit running off with a full bag.

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Okay!" Then she looked at her fourth uncle. "Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle, can you help me move the vegetable boxes? Place them on the corridor. The customers can pick themselves. Mom, I need you to man the weighing station."

Liu Chunhua looked at the large crowd and was worried. Would someone take the opportunity to steal from Yu 'Er? Then again, since they would be unloading, they could keep an eye on things.

Liu Chunhua and Xiao Mingyang moved the boxes. Some of the customers couldn't wait anymore and came to help.

There was strength in numbers.

Soon, all the boxes were arranged neatly on the corridor. Then, the customers picked what they wanted.

When An Ming, Sun Li, and Zeng Yanhong rushed over, they saw such a bustling scene.

Zeng Yanhong found it unbelievable. She said in surprise, "Wow, why are there so many people?"

Sun Li said, "Let's hurry up. Otherwise, these vegetables will be sold out again."

"Ah, so soon?"

"Of course! Can't you see the crowd? I need some cucumbers. Oh, we also tried some tomatoes yesterday. They are really delicious. We need to grab some today! An Ming, you're on tomato duty! Yanhong, you're on radish duty! I'll handle the cucumbers!"

This was divide and conquer!

"Okay!"

Chapter 195: Fourth Uncle and Fourth Aunt Knowing

After a busy morning, Xiao Lingyu and the others returned to the rental. Along the way, they bought some meat. Since it was still early, they decided to cook. The food at the county town was expensive and not as tasty.

Xiao Lingyu was in a unique state, so she shouldn't eat out too much. Mother Xiao planned to buy some chickens and raise them here so she could make chicken soup anytime.

However, while the yard looked big, it was not suitable to raise chickens. The smell would be horrible, and the yard would get dirty. Xiao Lingyu couldn't be exposed to the bacteria. If she were infected, she would suffer greatly. Mother Xiao thought about it and denied that idea. She would kill the chicken in the village and directly make it into stews at home. Xiao Lingyu could drink chicken soup whenever she wanted. That was not a bad idea.

After a busy morning, the four of them were tired, especially Xiao Lingyu. She was extremely sleepy all the time. When they were at the shop, they noticed that she was dozing behind the counter. However, miraculously, she didn't miss anything and she only calculated slower than normal. Many customers found this interesting. They had not seen a sleeping person do mathematics before.

Xiao Lingyu didn't have the appetite, so she wanted to lay down to sleep. When Mother Xiao heard that, she tried to stop her. After all, Xiao Lingyu hadn't eaten for the whole morning.

At the dining table, Xiao Lingyu continued to eat with her eyes half-open and half-closed. This made the other three speechless and amused.

Liu Chunhua had been through this before. She noticed something was wrong with Xiao Lingyu and immediately had a guess. However, it was not appropriate for her to ask now. She planned to ask her second sister in private.

A moment later, Xiao Lingyu put down her chopsticks and said, "Mom, I'm full. You guys eat. I'm going to sleep." As she said this, she yawned.

Mother Xiao nodded and said, "Okay."

After Xiao Lingyu left, Liu Chunhua couldn't help but ask, "Second Sister, what is wrong with Lingyu?"

"She's pregnant!" Mother Xiao said directly.

"Ah?!" Xiao Mingyang and his wife were shocked.

"It's already been more than four months."

"Four months, so that means..." Xiao Mingyang immediately connected everything in his mind. This was when the Chen Family kid drugged Xiao Lingyu. Then, Xiao Mingyang said angrily, "Second sister, how can we keep this child? If Yu 'Er really gives birth to this child, how will she marry in the future? What are you and second brother thinking?"

The child in Xiao Lingyu's stomach was, to put it bluntly, a bastard child. How could she get married carrying a bastard child?

From his second sister's reaction, she knew about the pregnancy a long time ago. If that was true, then she should have asked Lingyu to abort the child. The earlier the abortion was done, the least harm it would cause the mother's body.

Now that Xiao Lingyu was more than four months pregnant, they could see her protruding belly. Xiao Mingyang and his wife did notice that, but since their second brother and sister didn't say anything, they didn't bring it up either.

But now that his second sister did, Xiao Mingyang knew there had to be a reason why. However, he still couldn't understand why they allowed Lingyu to keep the child.

Mother Xiao said, "Yu 'Er wants to keep the child. She cried and begged your second brother and me. She said that if we did not agree, she would run away from home!"

"She'd run away from home?" Hearing this, fourth uncle and fourth aunt took a deep breath at the same time and said in disbelief, "Has Yu 'Er gone crazy? Why would she keep the child? How will she get married in the future?"

Xiao Mingyu lectured, "Second sister, Yu 'Er is still young, so she is impulsive. So you and second brother should guide her to the right way."

Mother Xiao said very calmly, "Yu 'Er had a dream. She dreamed of a child who often questioned her why she didn't want him. If she refused to take him, he would haunt her forever."

"Ah?" Xiao Mingyang and his wife were a little dumbfounded again. The rural people were still quite superstitious. For example, the elders would tell the gender of a baby from the mother's dream. Or someone who had been childless for a long time would dream about Bodhisattva, and then not long after, she would be really pregnant. All these were superstitions.

Xiao Mingyang and his wife were real rural people. So they were also superstitious. When they heard Mother Xiao, they felt shocked and incredulous.

"Second Sister, how can that be?" Xiao Mingyang asked in disbelief.

Mother Xiao calmly shook her head and said, "But that's the truth. This child is fated to be with Yu 'Er. If we insist on aborting this child, it will be a sin."

Xiao Mingyang and his wife were silent. Then, Xiao Mingyang asked worriedly, "What about Yu 'Er's future?"

Mother Xiao said, "If a man really loves Yu 'Er, he won't mind the child. If he does mind, then he never loves Yu 'Er. Instead of marrying Yu 'Er to someone who doesn't love her, I'd rather keep her by my side forever." Mother Xiao paused and said, "Mingyang, Chunhua, your second brother and I have decided to protect the child in Yu 'Er's stomach. If Yu 'Er can't marry because of it, then we'll keep her by our side forever. After we're too old, she still has her little brother."

Xiao Mingyang sighed and said, "If that's the case, Chunhua and I will help shield Yu 'Er and her child too. When Xiao Xiaohui grows up, he'll look after his eldest cousin."

Mother Xiao was touched, "Ming Yang, Chunhua, thank you so much!"

"Second Sister, we're family. Why so formal?" Xiao Mingyang said seriously, "Yu 'Er is my niece. Chunhua and I only have one son, Xiaohui. So we treat Yu 'Er like our daughter. Naturally, we have to protect her."

Liu Chunhua nodded. "That's right, second sister. We are a family. We care about Yu 'Er like she's our daughter. So her child will be our grandchild too. We'll definitely look after them."

Mother Xiao nodded with tears in her eyes.

Liu Chunhua thought of something and immediately said with a serious expression, "Since Yu 'Er is pregnant, she shouldn't tire herself out. We'll help her do as much work as we can."

"That's right. Yu 'Er shouldn't drive so often either." Liu Chunhua added, "Mingyang knows how to drive now. He can drive her anywhere she wants to go."

Xiao Mingyang nodded. "That's right. Yu 'Er can depend on me. I wouldn't want any accident to happen to Yu 'Er and her child when she was driving."

Mother Xiao said, "You're right. In the future, we'd better let Yu 'Er drive less."

Xiao Lingyu felt refreshed after sleeping for an afternoon. She got up from the bed and stretched. She realized that the room was a little dark.

She thought the sky had fallen, so she immediately walked out. Then, she realized it was already nighttime. She looked around the house and realized the house was home. Mother Xiao, Liu Chunhua, and Xiao Mingyang had returned to Taoyuan Village.

Xiao Lingyu combed her mind, and she believed she heard her mother mumble something about them going back home first. They didn't want to bother her since she was sleeping. They would bring the harvest tomorrow. Mother Xiao had left some food in the fridge. If Xiao Lingyu was hungry, she could heat them up on the stove.

Xiao Lingyu felt a little speechless. 'So I'm abandoned? Then again, it is too late to drive home now. I might as well stay here.'

She rubbed her stomach and felt a little hungry. She took out some vegetables from the fridge and heated them up in a steamer.

After she had her dinner, Xiao Lingyu felt a little tired again. She yawned and went back to bed. After a while, she fell into a deep sleep.

Xiao Lingyu muttered to herself, "Why am I so sleepy when I'm pregnant? I don't think this was the case in my previous life..."

...

When Old Master Gong arrived at Xiao Zhengyang's house, he saw the happy faces and asked, "Mother Xiao, the vegetables are all sold out again?"

Mother Xiao nodded and said, "Yes!" Then, she asked, "Elder Gong, what do you wish to eat tonight? I'll cook some for you!"

"Then, I won't be polite with you." Old Master Gong said, "Can you make me a braised pork?"

Xiao Wang immediately said, "Old Master, you can't eat too much meat, especially fatty meat."

Old Master Gong was immediately unhappy. He said, "Why can't I eat meat? I feel much better already. I can control my own diet."

Xiao Wang had always been very serious about Old Master Gong's health. He insisted, "Old Master, you need to listen to Doctor Huang. Doctor Huang came yesterday and said that even if your physique had improved, you shouldn't eat too much meat yet."

Old Master Gong, "..."

I want to slap this man!

Chapter 196: Straight to Taoyuan Village

Due to the big sales, more people knew about Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. More importantly, people knew that the vegetables sold here were magical.

With the huge sale of vegetables, many people became aware of the green and fresh fruit and vegetable shop in Taoyuan Village. It could fix picky eaters and anorexic patients. It helped people sleep better and feel better.

Once the parents of the students sitting for the exam found out, they spread it among other parents. All the parents came and squeezed the store to its bursting point.

"It's only five or six days left to the university entrance exam. More people came to patronize us. Those who failed to get the vegetables went crazy and made a scene. There were even a few close fights. We can't allow this to continue." Mother Xiao said with a frown. Other vendors had to worry about not having enough stocks to sell, but they had it the other way round.

"1000 catties per day is not enough. The parents are crazy." Liu Chunhua said.

They had been selling for more than ten days already. They were used to the large crowds by now. It was common for the shop to be crowded daily.

"Yu 'Er, what should we do?" Liu Chunhua said nervously. "Even though the fights didn't really happen, they are not good for our reputation."

Xiao Lingyu frowned and thought for a moment, then said, "We'll start limiting the purchases from tomorrow!" She chose to open on the 21st because it was close to the exam.

"Limit the purchases?" The other three were shocked. Then, they nodded, "Yes, that is the most appropriate way to deal with this."

"But, Yu 'Er, how do you plan to do that?" Xiao Mingyang asked, "If you limit too much, we might have leftovers; if you limit too little, it'll not change anything."

Xiao Lingyu smiled, "Fourth uncle, even if we limit too much, there won't be leftovers." At this point, her expression became serious, "I've sat through the university entrance exam before. The students are anxious and stressed. They can't sleep or eat well. It'll affect their performance. So, what we can do is to help them get through this difficult period."

“However, we have a limited supply. Every parent only wants the best for their child. They will do everything for their child. Thankfully, our vegetables will work their wonders even if the portion is small.”

Mother Xiao nodded and said, “Then how much should we limit per customer each day?”

“Four catties!” Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, “They can only get four catties of vegetables each, no matter the type. We won’t sell any extra.”

“Okay, we’ll try that tomorrow.” The other three agreed unanimously.

Before they could put that into action, someone had directly driven to Taoyuan Village to buy the vegetables.

“I have to buy as many vegetables as I can to stock up. Or else, I’ll be too late when I get to the shop.” A fashionably-dressed mother said. “Yue ‘Er is taking the exam soon. I’ll cook for him daily to nourish his spirit. He will definitely do well in the exam.”

Miao Fangfang thought the road to Taoyuan Village would be rough so she was surprised by the tarred road. ‘Taoyuan Village is quite rich,’ She thought. ‘Or else why would they have a tarred road?’

Since she was unfamiliar with the drive, Miao Fangfang departed from Xing Yin County around noon but only arrived at Taoyuan Village around 2 pm. When she reached the entrance of the village, she stopped and asked a man who was herding the crows. “Hello. May I know how to get to boss Xiao’s house?”

Xiao Xiaohui had study so the job of the cowherd fell on Xiao Zhengyang. He was leading Big and Little Light back home when a car stopped beside him. Then, a woman got out to ask him about Boss Xiao. Xiao Zhengyang noticed the woman’s way of dressing. He knew she was definitely not from another village. He asked confusedly, “Which Boss Xiao you’re talking about? Everyone here has the surname Xiao!”

“It’s Boss Xiao who owns a fruit and vegetable shop. She’s a girl in her twenties,” said Miao Fangfang.

The only family in Taoyuan Village who owned a fruit and vegetable shop in the county town was his Yu ‘Er.

Xiao Zhengyang nodded and asked, “I’m that Boss Xiao’s father. Do you need anything?”

Miao Fangfang’s eyes lit up. She didn’t expect her luck to be so good. She found Boss Xiao’s family directly. She said, “Hello. I’m from the county town. My name is Miao Fangfang.”

“Yes, Miss Miao. Hello!” Xiao Zhengyang greeted politely.

Miao Fangfang said, “It’s like this, Mr. Xiao. I actually came here to buy vegetables.”

“Buy vegetables?” Xiao Zhengyang frowned in confusion. “You’re from the county town. Don’t they have vegetables in the county town? Why did you drive here to buy vegetables?”

Miao Fangfang smiled awkwardly and said, “Actually, boss Xiao’s vegetables sell out too easily in the county town. I don’t even have the time to grab them. Therefore, I came directly to the village. That way I can buy more.”

Xiao Zhengyang nodded. "Oh! In that case, Miss Xiao, do you mind driving to follow me? Or can you wait here while I drive the cattle back? Then, I'll come back to lead you to the fields."

Miao Fangfang looked around and said, "I'll wait here then."

"Okay! I'll be back soon!" Xiao Zhengyang drove the cattle away. The cattle were very obedient. It was as if they could understand Xiao Zhengyang's command.

After Xiao Zhengyang left, a villager passed by and saw a parked car with a woman in a red dress standing beside it. He asked curiously, "What's the matter?"

Miao Fangfang said, "I'm here to buy vegetables."

Xiao Chengcai asked curiously, "You're here to buy vegetables? Where did you come from?"

Miao Fangfang assumed everyone in the village knew each other, so she said, "Boss Xiao's vegetables sell too well in the county town. I can't get them, so I came here directly to buy it from the source."

Xiao Chengcai was shocked. "You mean Xiao Lingyu had sold all her vegetables in the county town? Xiao Lingyu's family harvested 1000 catties every day but that was still not enough? People actually came directly to the village to buy from them?"

Miao Fangfang explained, "Yes. The crowds are so large every time Boss Xiao's shop is open. In fact, there have been a few fights already."

This was the first time Xiao Chengcai heard about that. He admired Xiao Lingyu. The girl had been smart since she was young and had good grades. That was why she became a famous university student.

The villagers felt it was a pity that she had to come back. However, Xiao Chengcai was surprised that she managed to even make a success out of selling vegetables. The top scorer was definitely different. She managed to accomplish things others couldn't!

Xiao Chengcai offered, "Shall I take you to her house?"

Miao Fangfang shook her head and said, "Thank you, but I just met Boss Xiao's father. He asked me to wait here for a while. He'd come back for me after he drove the cattle back."

"Okay." Xiao Chengcai nodded and left.

Soon, Xiao Zhengyang walked over. He had the vegetable basket in his hand. He walked up to Miao Fangfang and said, "Miss Miao, you should park your car here. The field is too narrow for cars."

"Okay!" Miao Fangfang nodded.

"Remember to lock the car properly!" Xiao Zhengyang reminded her again. Even though only Xiao Lingyu and Xiao Mingyang knew how to drive, it was still better to be safe than sorry.

After Miao Fangfang locked the car, she followed Xiao Zhengyang to the fields. However, along the way, she received a lot of scrutiny from the villagers. People were suspicious when they saw a beautifully dressed woman walking with Xiao Zhengyang. After all, Chen Qiuying had been absent recently. Xiao Zhengyang wasn't cheating on his wife, was it?

Sensing the strange gazes, Xiao Zhengyang explained to a passing villager. "This is Yu 'Er's client from the county town. She came to buy vegetables."

"A client?" The village nodded. "She came from the county town to buy vegetables? That's unbelievable!" But that was the truth.

When Xiao Fangfang arrived at the field, she was surprised. The fields were more like greenhouses. No wonder they tasted so different.

Some villagers heard Xiao Zhengyang had brought a city woman over so they came to check on them.

When they reached the vegetable shed, Xiao Zhengyang asked, "Miss Miao, these are the vegetables. May I know what you want and how much you want?"

Miao Fangfang said, "I want leeks, tomatoes..."

She told Xiao Zhengyang all the types and quantities of vegetables she needed.

"Ten catties of leeks, 20 catties of tomatoes..." Xiao Zhengyang counted them one by one. "This is already 300 catties."

'So much?' Xiao Zhengyang asked, "Miss Miao, are you buying these for yourself or planning to sell them?"

Miao Fangfang was confused. "I'm buying them for myself. What's wrong?"

Xiao Zhengyang explained to her, "My family brings 1000 catties of vegetables to the county town daily. But you've bought more than 300 catties in one go. I'm afraid this means my family won't get a 1000 catties harvest tomorrow. If Miss Miao is buying these for yourself, then I can sell them to you, but if Miss Miao is buying them to do business, then I'm sorry. We don't supply other vendors."

They didn't even have enough to sell, so how could they supply others?

Miao Fangfang immediately reacted. She didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "Mr. Xiao, I'm really buying them for my family. I have a son who is sitting for the university entrance exam. I need to cook for him daily. I will stock up on the vegetables too."

Xiao Zhengyang was a little puzzled. "Can't you go to Lingyu's store to buy them? And why the need to hoard them?" Hoarded vegetables wouldn't be fresh.

Miao Fangfang laughed, "Mr. Xiao, I'm afraid you don't know how hard it is to get vegetables in Boss Xiao's store. The stock flies off the shelves like they are free. Many people fight for them. I did try to go a few times, but I always came back with only a little. That was why I thought to come to Taoyuan Village directly."

The other villagers were shocked when they heard Xiao Lingyu had really opened a vegetable shop and her business was exceptionally good. They couldn't believe it.

However, what this woman said next made them even more incredulous and shocked.

Miao Fangfang said, "And that is despite the fact your vegetables are ten times more expensive than the vegetables on the market."

“Ah?” The villagers widened their eyes in shock. Someone then calculated, “We sell cabbages for 3 cents per catty. If it’s ten times as expensive, isn’t that 3 RMB per catty? Doesn’t this mean Lingyu is exceptionally rich now?”

Miao Fangfang smiled. 3 RMB was actually the cheapest price at the shop. Miao Fangfang was smart. From the reaction of the villagers, she knew they didn’t know the prices of the vegetables sold at Boss Xiao’s shop. She decided she should stop talking lest she offended Boss Xiao.

Xiao Zhengyang knew the price of the vegetables in the shop.

He didn’t say anything.. He asked someone to carry the vegetables and went back to weigh them.

Chapter 197: Limited Purchase

This news soon spread to the entire village. The villagers chatted loudly while they worked the fields.

With people shouting back and forth, the whole village knew someone came from the county town to buy Xiao Lingyu’s crops. Plus, the person bought more than 300 catties at one go, and Xiao Zhengyang was not that willing to sell.

This was a huge blow to the villagers.

“Xiao Lingyu’s vegetables really sell that well in the county town? They bring a big truck every day with 1000 catties of vegetables. All of them are sold out?” This was unimaginable for most of them.

“I guess so.” Someone said uncertainly. “Chen Qiuying has been coming home early these few days. Why would she come back so soon if the stock was not sold out?”

“If that’s true, then they are so rich! The cheapest cabbage sells for 3 cents per catty. If they sell 1000 catties every day, they’ll earn at least 300 RMB every day.”

“Chun Yan, that’s where you’re wrong. Didn’t you hear from the city woman that Chen Qiuying sells the cabbages much more expensive in the county town? It’s at least ten times as expensive. In that case, they will earn at least 2000 RMB per day.”

“2000 RMB?!” The villagers’ jaws dropped. “We can barely earn that amount in a year, but Chen Qiuying and her family earn that in a day?”

“That’s the power of education. No matter what she does, she does it better than us rural people. Even the vegetables she grows are different from the rest.”

“That’s right. We laughed at Xiao Lingyu for abandoning her high-paying job in the city to come back to the farm. Now, it looks like we’re the fools for laughing at her. She can earn 2000 RMB daily just from selling vegetables. It’ll accumulate to several ten thousand in a month and hundreds of thousands in a year!”

However, these people had no idea Xiao Lingyu’s daily income was actually not 2000 RMB but 7000 RMB per day. Regardless, this was already enough to make people talk and some jealous.

...

“Ah, someone came from the county to buy vegetables?” Chen Qiuying and the others were a little surprised to hear that. They didn’t think someone would do something like that!

“Yes, she bought more than 300 catties. Oh, she just left,” Xiao Zhengyang said.

“So that has to be the red car we saw at the village entrance.” Xiao Mingyang said.

“That’s right. She drove a red car.”

Mother Xiao frowned and said, “What should we do? Yu ‘Er has just decided to limit the customer’s purchase of the vegetables. We barely have enough with 1000 catties, but you’ve sold 300 catties.”

“Ah?” Xiao Zhengyang was stunned. “Limited purchase?”

“That’s right, second brother. You have no idea how crazy these customers are! They snatch the vegetables. If some buy more, then the others wouldn’t get to buy any. There were fights because of it. To not let this impact the shop, Yu ‘Er decided to introduce a limited purchase system. This way, everyone will have the same amount.”

Xiao Zhengyang, “...” This was only needed for free things. They were selling vegetables at high prices, but they were still so popular?

Xiao Zhengyang nodded. “Yes, Yu ‘Er’s idea is not bad.”

“However, Yu ‘Er was working with an estimation of 1000 catties. But we’ll have less tomorrow.” Mother Xiao said, “And most of our customers are parents with children sitting for the university entrance exam.”

“...” Xiao Zhengyang. ‘I seem to have done something wrong.’

Xiao Mingyang said, “Second sister, we’re a business. We can’t pick our customers. Plus, the woman has driven so far to come here, we can’t let her leave with just a few catties, right?”

Mother Xiao shook her head. “I’m not thinking about that. I’m more worried about this news spreading. Since one came today, more would come tomorrow. If everyone came to buy several hundred catties...” Then, they wouldn’t need to go to the county town anymore.

Everyone, “...”

Their problem was their stock sold too well, and they didn’t have enough. This was a big problem.

They couldn’t just open a shop in the county town and have nothing to sell.

Liu Chunjiao thought and said, “Second Sister, why don’t you call Yu ‘Er and ask her what we should do?”

“Okay!”

...

When Xiao Lingyu received a call from her mother, she was instantly speechless. Who knew selling too well would be a problem.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Mom, I'll go back tomorrow and take a look."

Xiao Lingyu hung up the phone and sat quietly in her room. She was also very surprised that someone actually thought of going directly to Taoyuan Village to buy vegetables. Her mother was right. This customer would start a trend. More people would come to Taoyuan Village directly to buy from the source. They operated a business, so they couldn't chase people away. So what should they do?

Xiao Lingyu then thought of something. Many people in the village had picked her cow dung to grow vegetables. Although the taste of the vegetables was a little different from hers, it was much better than the dishes from other places.

Xiao Lingyu thought of a few families. They were benefactors of her cow dungs. However, she still needed to go back and check their tastes first.

...

"Hmm? There's a limited purchase?"

Early in the morning, many people crowded here waiting for the shop to open. Then, the owner announced with a loudspeaker that there was a limit to the number of vegetables they could buy. Each person could only buy four catties at most.

"Four catties are too little!" Someone exclaimed, "I used to buy ten to twenty catties every time."

"Yeah, I also bought at least ten catties every time. Now I can only buy four catties. How can that be enough?"

"Sigh, four catties it is. At least it's better than nothing." Someone said. "After all, Boss Xiao's vegetables get sold out too easily. And people have been quarreling over them. That must have affected Boss Xiao too."

The parents of the students became more anxious as the date of the exam drew closer. They were like monsters fighting for the treasures in the shop. Then again, for their children, the parents were willing to do anything.

"Four catties of vegetables is just right. That's enough for two or three meals." Someone commented, "That should satisfy everything."

"You're right. After all, there are many students sitting for the exam soon."

At the weighing station, Mother Xiao said very politely. "I'm sorry, but from today on, the vegetables in our shop are sold in limited quantities. You can only take four catties each day, but you have more here."

The customer said, "Boss Xiao, I have a big family. Four catties is not enough! Plus, does it matter who you sell the vegetables to? Why do you need to set the limit?"

Mother Xiao shook her head firmly, "Sir, what you said makes sense. We'd be happy if we could sell everything sooner and go home. However, we've been stopped many times because some couldn't get the vegetables they want. To be fair, we have to set a limit."

The customer smiled embarrassedly. "It's the first time I've heard a talk about fairness when doing business."

Mother Xiao sighed lightly, "There's nothing we can do about it. We don't want to do this but look at my daughter. She's pregnant now. We don't want people to get into arguments and cause accidents." Mother Xiao's hidden meaning was clear.

Mother Xiao asked, "Sir, what do you wish to take out?"

The customer examined the vegetables in the basket, and he was conflicted. He had bought more than ten catties of vegetables. They were favorites of his different family members. In the end, he gritted his teeth and only kept the vegetables meant for his children. "That's all."

Mother Xiao weighed them immediately. "That's four catties."

The customer nodded and took the vegetables to pay the bill.

Most of the customers also focused on the vegetables meant for the children. The atmosphere was lighter since no one was fighting for vegetables anymore.

Even though there was some grumbling, Mother Xiao was firm but cooperative.

The four were in a good mood as they tidied up the shop. Liu Chunhua heaved a deep sigh of relief and said with a smile, "Things went rather well."

Xiao Mingyang smiled, "Yup." The atmosphere was friendlier than before.

Mother Xiao commented, "We still sold out today. Even though we still have some customers who miss out, the number is less than before."

Liu Chunhua added, "And I notice we have more new customers."

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "This is just a phase. The new customers are here because they have students sitting for the exam. After the university entrance exam is over, the business will slow down."

Liu Chunhua was shocked. "Yu 'Er, you mean the business will soon die out?"

Xiao Lingyu shook her head. "It won't be that bad. But things won't be so crazy anymore. Xing Yin County is only so big, and our prices are high. There are not many people who can afford our vegetables daily."

Xing Yin County was a poor county in the country, and its overall economic level was relatively low. The average salary of ordinary people was around 1,000 to 1,200 RMB. For example, the salary of a hotel attendant was around 1,200 RMB, even the salary of a high school teacher was only around 1,800 RMB.

For many customers, if they bought dozens of vegetables every day, they had to pay 1000 to 2000 RMB per month, which was more than the salary of an ordinary person. In other words, an ordinary family couldn't afford her vegetables daily. But they would be reserved for special events.

Only relatively wealthy families could afford to buy from her daily. However, not every wealthy family knew about Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.

Their current client base still consisted of students' parents. After the exam was over, the business should return to normal.

"Speaking of the exam, isn't Ye 'Er on holiday?" Mother Xiao remembered, "There are still four more days to the exam."

The school gave the students a holiday before the exam for home revision and relaxation.

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Yes. Ye 'Er will begin his holiday tomorrow."

"I'll need to cook Ye 'Er good food for the next three days!" Mother Xiao said, "Even though he's in the elite class, the food at the school canteen isn't that good." The others agreed with Mother Xiao.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Since it's a holiday, we should let little brother have fun in the next few days and rest up to prepare for the university entrance exam."

With Xiao Lingye's level, there was no need to cram at the last minute. So he should relax and clear his mind.

"I'll take Ye 'Er home in the afternoon," Xiao Lingyu said.

"Okay. We can go back home together," Liu Chunhua said.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Fourth uncle and fourth aunt, you've helped out a lot at the shop. We barely have time to walk around the county town. Since we have time this afternoon, we should take this opportunity. You can buy anything you want. Consider it a treat from me!"

"Haha. Thank you.." Xiao Mingyang and Liu Chunhua thanked her.

Chapter 198: Helping the Village

"Sis, you have no idea, but my friends are all talking about Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables!" Sitting in the passenger seat, Xiao Lingye was very excited.

"Our vegetables are incredibly popular in school. They said they felt different after eating our crops. They feel inspired and energetic.

"Many students heard about this and decided to buy from our store during this holiday.

"Some of them found out I came from Taoyuan Village and wanted to befriend me so that I could source some crops for them!"

Mother Xiao, who sat in the back row, asked, "But when you go back to school, it's going to be the day of the exam. How will they have time to cook the vegetables?"

Xiao Lingye shrugged. "I don't know. In any case, I rejected all of them."

Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and said, "Brother, how about this? When you go back to school, I'll give you some crops that can be eaten raw like cucumbers and tomatoes. You can share them with your friends."

Xiao Lingye nodded. "Okay. But, Sis, how much do you plan to bring to school?" His sister's vegetables were delicious and had miraculous effects. His dorm mates often joked, "Ye, your sister's crops are like ginseng. Perhaps, they even have better effects than ginseng!"

Xiao Lingyu thought and said, "I'll bring 200 tomatoes, 200 cucumbers, 200 white radishes, and 200 carrots."

"Ah? So much?" Xiao Lingye said, "Sis, do we need that many? That is already 800 catties. We don't even have that many students sitting for the university entrance exam. How do you plan to sell them? One by one? Or are you going to give them away for free?"

Xiao Lingyu laughed, "Actually, that's not a bad idea! I'll leave this to you. You can decide who you want to give them to and how much!" That way, those students would owe Xiao Lingye a small favor.

"Okay!" Xiao Lingye nodded.

Mother Xiao and the others had no objections at all. These things would nab around two thousand RMB when sold, but they were glad to help the students. The university entrance exam was an important turning point for many students. Once they survived this, most would have a bright future. They would change the country and world.

Xiao Lingyu knew helping them now would be a good thing for Xiao Lingye. Connections were important in life.

The Xiao Family didn't ask Xiao Lingye about his studies because they knew these questions would only add to his pressure.

Back when Xiao Lingyu took the exam, she treated it like it was nothing special. Xiao Lingyu's parents and the others never placed any pressure on her by peppering her with questions. They only cooked delicious food for Xiao Lingyu when she returned home to replenish her energy. They were doing the same for Xiao Lingye.

Even if Xiao Lingye didn't do well, he could repeat the exam next year.

Xiao Lingyu remembered that in her previous life, her brother managed to get the science top scorer during his repeat exam. However, Xiao Lingyu believed her brother wouldn't need to sit for the repeat exam this time. He'd ace it the first time. With his results, getting into Beijing University should be no problem at all. So, she was not worried.

When they returned home, Father Xiao told them that three more people came to Taoyuan Village to buy vegetables. After the lesson yesterday, Father Xiao didn't sell them too much but only 50 catties each. 50 catties was enough for a big family to last for three days.

After dinner, the Xiao Family had another family meeting.

"Dad, many villagers plant vegetables, and some of them use Little Light's manure as fertilizer." Xiao Lingyu said, "Even though the taste of their crops is different from ours, it's still much better than those on the market."

"Yu 'Er, you mean..." Father Xiao caught on immediately. The others as well.

Xiao Mingyang and his wife didn't grow many vegetables. Xiao Mingyang often worked outside and only came back during the paddy planting season. Liu Chunhua had to look after Xiao Xiaohui, so she only planted a small vegetable garden. Furthermore, her second sister would always supply them with vegetables.

Xiao Lingyu said, "I wish to buy their vegetables. When we signed the land contract, we did say I would be able to buy their harvest."

Xiao Mingyang nodded. "That's a good idea. However, I don't think there are many families who actually farm vegetables."

"We'll take as many as we can get! We'll buy everything the other villagers can offer!" Xiao Lingyu said, "These days, there will probably be more people coming here to buy vegetables. We can suggest for them to try the vegetables from the other villagers. Of course, the price will be lower compared to ours." Xiao Lingyu thought and added, "Many people will come because of their children. The crowd will die off after the university entrance exam is over, so I believe the villagers should have enough."

Xiao Zhengyang nodded. "Yu 'Er, if people come in the next few days, we should direct them directly to the other villagers' farms, instead of us purchasing the crops from the other villagers. What do you think?"

The fact that Yu 'Er's vegetables were selling well in the county town had already attracted the jealousy of some villagers. If they could share the wealth, the Xiao Family would turn that jealousy into gratitude. After all, if they bought the vegetables from the villagers, they might suspect them of taking the middle-man fee.

Xiao Lingyu nodded. "Yes, Dad, that is a better idea! We'll go and talk to the village chief about it later!"

"Why not go now?"

"Okay!"

...

The village chief was surprised when he heard their plan. "You intend to get the other villagers to sell their vegetables too?"

"Yes, village chief!"

"Haha, that's a good thing!" The village chief laughed. "I'll announce a meeting and see which family has vegetables to sell."

"Village chief, wait!" Xiao Lingyu stopped him. "The vegetables sold must be grown using Little Light's manure, and they must be free from pesticides." Xiao Lingyu brought up the conditions, "The customers are here for my family's vegetables. My family's crops are organic, non-polluting green vegetables. Therefore, the other villagers cannot cheat my customers with vegetables treated with pesticides. If I find out, they will not be allowed to pick Little Light's manure anymore."

"But..." The village chief was a little hesitant. "Lingyu, there are not that many villagers who don't use pesticides. This will not go over well with the villagers."

Xiao Lingyu said firmly, "Village chief, this has to be done. We're creating a brand. In the future, I plan to help the whole village sell their crops.

"In that case, why don't you help me and ask how many villagers don't use pesticides for farming their vegetables first?"

When the village chief heard Xiao Lingyu, he was excited. "Lingyu, you're serious? You're going to help invigorate the economy of the whole village?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "Village chief, that will depend on the villagers of Taoyuan Village."

The village chief nodded. "I understand what you mean. I'll gather all the villagers for a meeting now."

Xiao Lingyu was offering the villagers a way to get rich.

The village chief immediately announced the meeting. Not long after, everyone gathered at the village committee.

"What's wrong with Xiao Taiyang? Why have a meeting so late at night?"

"It must be something important. Let's go and take a look."

After receiving the notice from the village chief, most of the 180 families in Taoyuan Village came over. Of course, some families pretended to be deaf and stayed at home to watch Tv. When they received the news the next day, they were filled with regret. If they had known earlier, they would definitely have gone for the meeting.

Soon, the villagers gathered. Someone asked nervously, "Village chief, is there something urgent? It's already so late at night!"

The village chief smiled and said, "Everyone, don't be anxious. It's good news!"

Good News? The most recent good news was about road construction. They didn't expect another good news so soon. Many people looked at each other.

"Village chief, can you tell us what's going on? What's the good news?" Someone asked curiously.

The village chief patiently said, "Let's wait. After ten minutes, when everyone is here, we can talk about it."

The villagers curled their lips and didn't say anything else. They found a seat and sat down. However, there wasn't enough space in the village meeting room. Many people brought chairs from their homes. People spread up into groups to discuss the purpose of this sudden meaning.

Then, everyone discovered Xiao Zhengyang and his daughter had been there before all of them. They guessed that the good news might be related to Xiao Zhengyang and his daughter. This guess was quickly confirmed ten minutes later.

"Everyone, quiet down. The meeting is starting!" The village chief held the megaphone and said loudly, "We've gathered everyone here because we have something to tell everyone. As I said, this is good news."

“Village chief, don’t keep us in suspense.. Hurry up and tell us. What exactly is this good news?”

Chapter 199: Taoyuan Village Brand!

“Yes, village chief, hurry up and tell us. What’s the good news?”

The atmosphere at the center was lively, and the mood was good.

The village chief didn’t keep them in suspense anymore. He directly said, “Everyone should know that there have been people coming from the county town to Zhengyang’s house to buy vegetables for these past two days, right?”

“This matter has gone crazy. Who doesn’t know about it?” Someone immediately said with a smile, “Village chief, are you helping Zhengyang’s family with the publicity? This is such a huge blow to the rest of us. Zhengyang’s family doesn’t have enough vegetables to sell, but no one wants to buy our vegetables.”

“Yes, village chief, you shouldn’t be so biased.”

“Haha. All we can do now is to watch Zhengyang make money.”

“Lingyu, you’re so capable. We can’t sell any of our vegetables, but you’ve managed to sell Mu after Mu of vegetables. You must be counting money at home!”

“That’s right, Lingyu. You should share some tips with us. So that we can learn together!”

“Zhengyang, you have such a good daughter.”

Everyone said jokingly. Of course, there was also some jealousy and envy in their words.

The village chief raised his hand, signaling for everyone to quieten down.

The village chief smiled and said, “The good news is not only Zhengyang’s family, but also everyone will be making money together.”

“Huh?” Everyone was a little confused. However, the village chief didn’t elaborate further. This made the villagers extremely anxious.

“Village chief, hurry up and say it!”

“Village chief, what do you mean? You need to hurry up! Or the sun is coming up already!”

The village chief coughed twice and said, “You should not rush an old man. Everyone knows that Zhengyang’s family is selling vegetables in the county town, but do you know what is their store’s name?”

“The store’s name?” Everyone was puzzled.

The road was fixed, but not everyone would go to the county town.

For one, they didn't have the money. Going to the county town meant spending money. For example, they had to pay for the ride and food. If they wanted to buy something, they had to spend money too. For them, unless it was necessary, they wouldn't go to the county town.

For two, they were scared. The county town was scary with its many high-rise buildings. They felt like county deer caught in the headlights. They preferred to stay in the village. If they needed something, they would visit Xing An Town.

Therefore, no one actually knew the name of Xiao Lingyu's store.

The village chief said very seriously, "Their shop's name is Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Do you know what that means?"

"Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?" Someone repeated. "It's just the name of the shop. What does it mean? Just because it has the name Taoyuan Village, it has something to do with us?"

"You're right," The village chief said seriously, "Xiao Zhengyang's shop is called Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. It creates a brand for Taoyuan Village. When this brand is known, it will benefit all of us."

However, these rural people didn't know anything about branding.

"Village chief, just tell us directly. We don't know what branding is." Someone said loudly.

"Okay!" The village chief nodded, "It's like this. Zhengyang's family's vegetable shop is getting famous in the county town. In the past two days, people from the county town came here to buy vegetables because of their shop's name. However, Zhengyang's family didn't have that many vegetables to sell. They only had six Mu of land. That is not enough to satisfy the entire county town. Therefore, Zhengyang's intention is to direct the customers who came to our village for vegetables to the other villagers."

Most people got it then. Some of the vegetable farmers stood up excitedly, "Village chief, Zhengyang, is this true? We'll have people coming to buy our vegetables in the future?"

Only Xiao Lingyu could answer this question.

She nodded and said, "That's right. In the future, there will be customers who will be directed to the other farming families. I will recommend the customers to buy from the other villagers. However, I have conditions."

At this point, her expression was very serious. Her sharp gaze swept across the entire crowd in the meeting room.

Then, she continued, "The vegetables sold must be raised with Little Light's manure, and they mustn't be treated with pesticides. Otherwise, I will not let my customers buy them."

Boom!

Upon hearing Xiao Lingyu's two requests, the entire meeting immediately exploded.

“Lingyu, why can’t we use pesticides?” Someone immediately asked in confusion and anger. Of course, the main reason was that her family’s vegetables had been treated with pesticides. Xiao Lingyu’s requests meant that her family’s vegetables couldn’t be sold.

Xiao Lingyu ignored that person’s anger and explained, “I opened a shop in the county town. My shop’s main goal is to sell organic, non-polluting green vegetables. The only reason the people came from county town is because of my family’s vegetable, my family’s brand. To put it bluntly, these people are my family’s customers. Therefore, I will only introduce them to the best the village has to offer. I will not recommend them to substandard vegetables to ruin my family’s reputation. Do you understand now?”

“So, the reason is since your family doesn’t use pesticides, you don’t allow the rest of us to use pesticides? You are so selfish!” Someone sneered, “Why don’t you ask the people here how many of them don’t use pesticides?”

Xiao Lingyu said, “That’s right. I’m doing this for myself, But...” She stared at that person with her sharp eyes. She then glanced at everyone present and said sternly, “I’m also doing this for everyone in Taoyuan Village.”

“What do you mean by that? Why can’t we understand?” Someone frowned and asked in confusion. At the same time, many people felt that Xiao Lingyu was being a little arrogant. She was doing this for her own benefit, but she phrased it in a way that sounded like she was doing this for the whole village. It made her look arrogant and untrustworthy.

“Do you know why I named my shop Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables?” Xiao Lingyu asked, “What do the first two words represent?”

People thought for a moment, “Taoyuan Village, Taoyuan Village. Well, we are Taoyuan Village.”

“That’s right.” Xiao Lingyu explained, “I use that name because I want my customers to know my family’s vegetables are from Taoyuan village. When people see vegetables, they will think of Taoyuan Village.”

Some villagers caught on. Their eyes immediately lit up as they said with some excitement, “Lingyu, you mean you want to establish Taoyuan Village as a vegetable-farming village? We can start farming vegetables to sell?”

“That’s right!” Xiao Lingyu nodded, “Once Taoyuan Village’s branding takes off, more people will come to us to buy vegetables. And I promise you that as long as you grow the vegetables following my two requirements, I can sell all the vegetables you grow. Moreover, the price of the vegetables sold will definitely not be lower than specialized vegetable farms!”

The news was another bomb.

If what Xiao Lingyu said was true, then they could all grow vegetables and sell them in the future. It would lead them to riches.

“However, to enable the vegetables to have a good price, we need to establish the brand of Taoyuan Village first.” Xiao Lingyu said seriously, “And we have to start building the brand now. We have to look long term and not be concerned about short-term benefits!”

"I don't want to destroy a great future prospect for a small profit. The true and only way to ensure that something sells is good quality!"

"Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in the county town sells my family's vegetables. Who has seen me use pesticides before? Since my family hasn't relied on pesticides, I can confidently say that the stock at Taoyuan Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetables is all organic and pesticide-free."

"Currently, people come to Taoyuan Village for my family's vegetables. I will start recommending them to the other villagers. Therefore, if you want to sell your vegetables, you must meet my requirements. I can guarantee you that your vegetables will be sold at a high price! Alright, does anyone have any questions?"

After Xiao Lingyu finished speaking, the scene quieted down.

Xiao Lingyu had made a very tempting promise. She said their vegetables could be sold at a high price, but her request was the vegetables had to be grown using her cow dung and no pesticide. The first request was not difficult, but the second one...

Xiao Chengbang thought for a moment and said, "Lingyu, if we don't use pesticides, what if the vegetables grow worms or get sick?"

Xiao Lingyu said, "If there are worms, we can only catch them manually. During the growth period of my family's six Mu of vegetables, there were worms too. I hired 20 people to capture the worms for me. The vegetables still come out perfect." Of course, the spring water helped too.

"That's true!" Someone stood up and said, "At that time, Lingyu hired me."

"I also went to catch bugs."

"Same here. At the time, I was laughing. The worms could be wiped out with a dose of pesticide. Why would Lingyu waste time and money to hire us to catch them? Now I understand why."

Xiao Lingyu waved her hand and said, "Manually dealing with the bugs and worms takes time and effort, but you reap what you sow. It is why my vegetables can be sold at a high price!"

"No wonder." People nodded.

"But what if the vegetables get sick? We have to use pesticides then!" Someone asked.

Xiao Lingyu said, "You can get rid of it and replant it. Or you can use pesticides and sell them at a lower price. You can explain to the customers that the vegetables have been treated with pesticides. I'm sure they'll understand."

"This..." It was another hard choice for the villagers. If the vegetables could be sold at a high price, who would sell them at a low price?

"So, let me make it clear. If someone sells vegetables treated with pesticides at a high price, it'll damage the brand of Taoyuan Village and everyone's interest. I will not allow anyone to destroy Taoyuan Village's brand. A rotten apple is not going to ruin the whole harvest!" Xiao Lingyu appeared especially stern and serious.

In the future, her crops would be sold all over the country. Therefore, she needed the backing of the whole village. Honesty and integrity were important in business. She would not allow anyone to destroy the integrity and brand she had built up.

Therefore, she had to ensure that a good foundation was laid!

Chapter 200: The Responses

Hearing Xiao Lingyu's words, many of the villagers immediately became excited.

"Lingyu, are you sure? Our farmed vegetables can really get sold in the future?" Someone asked doubtfully.

Xiao Lingyu said very seriously, "If you do as I say, I guarantee that all of your vegetables will be sold!"

At this moment, the village chief stood up and said, "We've known Lingyu since she was a little girl. When has she broken her promise before? Since she said our vegetables can get sold, then it will happen, provided that we follow her instructions." The village chief added excitedly, "Don't you all want to grow vegetables and get rich?"

"Of course we do!" Many people echoed. However, many still had doubts and didn't dare to take the first step. If they put all their money into growing vegetables, and they fail to sell, what are they supposed to do? Find trouble with Xiao Lingyu?

"How about this?" Xiao Lingyu thought for a moment and offered. "If you are worried about the vegetables not selling, I can buy all the vegetables you have planted. This was also one of the conditions I raised when I allowed the villagers to gather Little Light's manure for free."

Everyone's eyes lit up. If Xiao Lingyu was willing to buy their vegetables, then they didn't need to worry about the vegetables rotting on the farm. They also remembered the condition that Xiao Lingyu raised when she contracted the land. If someone planted something for sale, she would have the priority as the first-hand buyer.

Everyone discussed for a while, and most of them agreed to sell the vegetables to Xiao Lingyu.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Since everyone has agreed to sell the vegetables to me, the requirements for those vegetables will remain the same. They have to be grown using Little Light's manure, and they must not be treated with pesticides. If you have used pesticides, you have to inform me beforehand. Are there any objections?"

"No!" Everyone agreed with Xiao Lingyu's words.

They were just farmers from the countryside. They wanted to make money but were also afraid of taking risks.

Now that Xiao Lingyu was willing to take risks for them, of course, they were glad to accept it. They knew Xiao Lingyu was capable, and she would be able to turn a profit with their crops.

The matter was thus decided. Both parties could be considered to have reached an agreement.

Xiao Lingyu said, "Since everyone has already agreed to sell their vegetables to me, then I will draw up a cooperation contract later. After I draft the contract, I'll need the villagers who are willing to grow and sell vegetables to come to me to sign the contract. The contract will have two copies, and it will take effect from the moment it is signed.

"Let me emphasize that after signing the contract with me, you must sell your vegetables to me in the future. Otherwise, it will be treated as a breach of contract, and you will have to pay compensation. Of course, if I refuse to buy the vegetables you've grown even though you've followed all of my requirements, then I'll be punished too."

Xiao Lingyu understood the nature of the people at Taoyuan Village. She did this to prevent some villagers from going back on their words. This was the foundation for her future plan, so she had to use contracts to make sure a good foundation was laid.

No one had objections to the contract. They still didn't know much about the vegetable market, so they handed everything over to Xiao Lingyu.

"Alright, Lingyu, I don't have any problems!" Xiao Chengbang was the first to express his stance.

"I don't have any problems either."

"Same!" More joined in.

All of them began to express their stance.

Xiao Lingyu nodded and said, "Since everyone has no objections, then it's settled." Then, she returned to the first topic. "For now, is there any family who has vegetables that haven't been treated with pesticides? Once the customers come, I'll recommend the customers to them."

"My farm hasn't used any pesticide." Zhou Yan said, "After the Little Cattle King took a walk around my field, the crops had grown so well that I didn't need to rely on pesticides. Other than the tomatoes, my family has also grown other vegetables like cole, white radish, celery, spinach, and coriander. They can all be sold. Lingyu, don't worry. The fertilizer is the cow dung picked from your house."

"Okay!" Xiao Lingyu nodded. She believed in the character of Xiao Chengbang and his wife. If they said that they didn't use pesticides, then they definitely didn't use pesticides.

"My vegetables aren't sprayed with pesticides either," Zhang Qiuxiang said loudly. "You can recommend people to me too, right?"

"Zhang Qiuxiang, I saw you sprinkle pesticides around your farm three days ago. Are you trying to harm the whole village with your lie?" Immediately, some villagers refuted.

Xiao Lingyu was creating a brand for Taoyuan Village. After her explanation, the villagers understood what she meant. They wouldn't allow someone to destroy the brand because it would benefit all of them in the future.

"Exactly, Zhang Chunxiang. Your vegetable has been sprayed with pesticide, and you still say you didn't. Do you think everyone is blind?"

Taoyuan Village was only so big. Everyone knew everyone.

Zhang Qiuxiang was embarrassed and angry at being exposed. She said loudly with a red face, "This is none of your business. Why do you have to be so nosy?"

"Nosy? Lingyu said that we are building a Taoyuan Village brand. Plus, the recent customers are coming because of her family's vegetables. If you sell them vegetables sprayed with pesticides, you'll ruin both the reputation of Lingyu's family and Taoyuan Village. In the future, who will have faith in Taoyuan Village's brand anymore?"

"None of you have planted anything yet, but you're already worried about something so far in the future? Don't you think that your worries are too far-fetched?"

"This is a precaution."

Zhang Qiuxiang was scolded to death. She sat down angrily. But when she looked at Xiao Lingyu, there was clearly some resentment in her eyes. It was all Xiao Lingyu's fault that she was scolded.

Then, a few other families said their farms had pesticide-free vegetables.

Xiao Lingyu announced, "I have methods to verify if the vegetables have been treated with pesticide or not. Aunties and uncles, please forgive my rudeness!"

The spring water would turn black when it encountered something unclean. Therefore, the easiest way to test a product was to dip them in the spring water.

"It's no problem at all! This is to protect the Taoyuan Village brand!" The villagers were very understanding and did not mind at all.

The meeting ended after a while.

When Xiao Lingyu and her father returned home, they updated the rest of the family. Since Xiao Mingyang and his wife were there, Xiao Lingyu told her mother that they were going to verify the vegetables with medicinal liquid. Mother Xiao caught her meaning.

Mother Xiao and Liu Chunhua went to the few families and picked some random vegetables. A few families came along to the Xiao Family home. The vegetables were all free from pesticides!

...

On the second day, Xiao Lingyu and her family went back to the county town. Xiao Lingye wanted to go help, but he was forbidden because he needed to focus on his exam.

At around 9 am, a few cars came to the village. The villagers were not that surprised by cars in the village anymore.

Xiao Zhengyang followed Xiao Lingyu's request and sold some of his own vegetables to the customers. Then, he recommended the customers to the few selected villagers.

Of course, Father Xiao offered samples to help push things along.

The customers were satisfied with the tomatoes from Xiao Chengbang's farm, so they bought a lot of them. Some also bought the other vegetables. Xiao Lingyu set the prices for them.

They were cheaper than the ones sold by Xiao Lingyu's family, but they were still more expensive than the ones on the market. For example, the county town market sold tomatoes for 2 RMB per catty, Xiao Lingyu's family sold tomatoes for 4 RMB per catty, while Xiao Chengbang's family sold tomatoes for 2.5 RMB per catty.

This made Xiao Chengbang and his wife so happy that they couldn't stop smiling. Previously, their tomatoes were supplied to a restaurant in Xing An County. They were only offered 80 cents per catty, but even so, they were already very happy. However, now that their tomatoes were selling for 2.5 RMB per catty, how could they not be happy? The customers also bought more than 10 catties at one go.

Of course, Xiao Chengbang and his wife were kind people. They gave a lot of vegetables away for free too.

After these customers left, the villagers immediately gathered, and their expressions were filled with disbelief.

"Chengbang, Zhou Yan, your family's tomatoes were sold at 2.5 RMB per catty, small cole at 1.5 RMB per catty! The prices are high, but the customers are still willing to buy them! I can't believe it!"

"The cole would only sell for several cents per catty at Xing An Town. But you're selling it for 1.5 RMB!"

The villagers were very excited as they discussed this. They could see their future harvest having the same price.

"Chengbang, why did you set such a high price anyway? But to think the customers are still willing to buy them! Are they crazy?" Someone said with a smile.

Xiao Chengbang shook his head and said, "I didn't set this price. Lingyu did."

"Lingyu did?!" They were shocked. "How did she know the customers would buy them?"

They were sure of Xiao Lingyu's ability, but they didn't expect the girl to be able to predict the future!

Xiao Chengbang shook his head and said, "I have no clue. She told us to follow these prices. She said the customers will buy them." Then again, those who would drive to the countryside to buy vegetables wouldn't care about the small change.

"I heard the other families had their vegetables sold at high prices too."

"Yes, they earned several hundred in a day. Normally, those vegetables would be left to rot in the field!"

"Lingyu, this child, is really capable!" Someone praised, "She's good at studying and now is even a great vegetable seller!"

"Zhengyang and Qiuying really have a good daughter."

"Since this is happening, I should go back to grow some vegetables." someone said excitedly.

"Yes, me too. But when will the contract be signed? Lingyu said that we need to sign a contract with her before we grow vegetables."

"Lingyu isn't home now, but let's go ask Zhengyang."

“Yes, let’s go and ask.”

The news of Xiao Chengbang’s family selling vegetables at a high price caused a ripple through Taoyuan Village. These people spent their whole lives working the paddy fields. Money was never really featured in their lives. They never thought of any other way of earning money either.

However, now that a new path was shown to them, they wanted to take it.

The changes to Taoyuan Village began then.

The people of Taoyuan Village knew that their changes were intricately linked to Xiao Lingyu.

And that was true.. Without Xiao Lingyu, the Taoyuan Village in the future wouldn’t have existed.